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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 25 October.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Small Boat Channel Crossings

Desmond Swayne (Conservative): What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat channel crossings. (903760)

David Evenett (Conservative): What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to reduce the number of small boat channel crossings. (903770)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove): ... Illegal entry to the UK via small boats is unsafe, unfair and unacceptable. We are working tirelessly to make the route unviable through a comprehensive package of measures — there is no one single answer.

Our new plan for immigration and the Nationality and Borders Bill will address the challenge of illegal immigration by increasing maximum sentences for people smugglers and making it easier to swiftly remove those who enter the UK illegally.

Desmond Swayne: What urgency does my hon. Friend attach to the implementation of offshore processing along the Australian model?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: My right hon. Friend will know that the provisions in the Bill are comprehensive, many and varied. As I said, there is not one single answer to the challenge that we face in relation to illegal channel crossings. We must make the route unviable and, of course, in the Bill we reserve the right to do exactly what my right hon. Friend advocates.

David Evenett: Does my hon. Friend agree that the Nationality and Borders Bill is key to preventing the vile people-smuggling gangs from continuing to facilitate channel crossings and putting so many lives at risk?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As ever, my right hon. Friend gets to the nub of the issue. I make the point again, because it bears repeating, that there is no one single answer to resolve the challenge that we face. In swift order, we require the comprehensive measures set out in the Bill, which are there to tackle dangerous crossings. Of course, we also need global assistance to help us to achieve our aims. We must put these evil criminal gangs out of business once and for all and preserve human life, which is exactly what the measures we have proposed seek to do.

Afzal Khan (Labour): ... Last week, Sir David and I were part of a parliamentary delegation in Qatar. During the visit, we met the unaccompanied child refugees who had been evacuated from Afghanistan and are now being housed in temporary accommodation in Qatar. As many as 13 of those children have family members in the UK and are desperate to be reunited with them. Will the Home Secretary now take steps urgently to facilitate the reunion of those children with their families?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... We are working across Government on these matters. I know that engagement is going on through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office with the authorities that he describes. We have a proud record and tradition in this country of providing sanctuary to those who find themselves in desperate circumstances. That absolutely continues to be the case. That is a firm commitment of this Government and it is perfectly in line with this country's proud traditions. People across our country would expect us to continue to do that, and that is exactly what we will do.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... At the last Home Office questions, the Home Secretary suggested that I had not read the Nationality and Borders Bill when I said that it would see Uyghurs, persecuted Christians and Syrians fleeing war prosecuted and sentenced to prison, but I have read it and that is precisely what clause 37 will do. I welcome the Minister to his place, but if he does not want to see Uyghurs, persecuted Christians and Syrians prosecuted and imprisoned, will he take that clause out of the Bill?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I would expect nothing less from the hon. Gentleman given that we are beginning line-by-line consideration of the Bill tomorrow in Committee. I have no doubt that he will have studied every single clause very carefully and will be interrogating me on each of them. We do not want to see anybody persecuted. As I have said previously, as a country and as a Government, we are absolutely determined to make sure that there continue to be safe and legal routes, so that people who qualify can continue to access sanctuary in this country. Also, of course, through our international engagement, we always press home that human rights must be respected and upheld at every turn.

John Baron (Conservative): I warmly welcome the Minister and, indeed, the Government's forthcoming legislation on this issue, but may I urge on him the utmost haste and speed in delivering it to this House for our consideration? The trade, as it were, of

human trafficking is a hideous crime. Lives are being lost now. It is making a laughing stock of the two systems on both sides of the channel. We need to put a stop to it. It should not be beyond the wit of the Government to do so.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I am grateful to my hon. Friend who has consistently raised these matters. He is right to say that we want to deliver the provisions of the Nationality and Borders Bill as quickly as possible, because we believe that they are fundamental to preventing these dangerous channel crossings as part of an overall package to deliver on that. I hope that the Bill will command support across the House.

My hon. Friend is also right to raise the issue of collaboration with our international partners; of course, the French are integral to that. We have an arrangement with the French. It is bearing results, but there is clearly still more to do. This issue cannot be resolved entirely without that collaboration.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-18/debates/C2683452-D6AF-4B8E-9EFB-4790FFAD13C2/SmallBoatChannelCrossings>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Asylum: Afghanistan

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [51895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees have arrived in the UK since the UK military's final evacuation from Kabul airport.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: None of the Afghans evacuated during Op PITTING are considered refugees within the international law meaning. Those resettled in the UK via the ARAP scheme, and those provided with LOTR in advance of their admission to the ACRS have indefinite leave to remain under the appropriate resettlement scheme. An individual is only considered a refugee by UNHCR for the purpose of our UK Resettlement Scheme or once their claim for asylum in the UK has been assessed and accepted.

Since the end of the evacuation we have relocated a small number of Afghan nationals to the United Kingdom under other schemes, but the figure for ARAP and others is around 7000. Locally Employed Staff and their family members have been relocated to the UK, since the first ARAP flight on 22 June.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-20/51895>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy (ARAP), referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [53185] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many (a) individual Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) applicants and (b) ARAP applicants including their families, have been relocated to the UK each week since 28 August 2021.

Reply from James Heapey: Since the conclusion of Operation PITTING on 28 August, we have relocated 27 ARAP eligible individuals to the UK. 29 dependants have accompanied these individuals as permitted by the policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53185>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [58398] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many successful applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme have been relocated to the UK since the conclusion of Operation Pitting.

Reply from James Heappey: Between the conclusion of Operation Pitting on 28 August and 19 October 2021, 91 individuals have been relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), including primary applicants and their dependants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/58398>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Resettlement: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [53269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will implement a specific resettlement scheme to (a) relocate to the UK and (b) support unaccompanied children from Afghanistan.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the UK will relocate up to 20,000 people. It will provide those put at risk by recent events in Afghanistan with a route to safety and will be one of the UK's most ambitious resettlement schemes.

Under the ACRS, unaccompanied children may be offered resettlement where it is determined to be in their best interests, and where they have been identified as eligible for the scheme. The best interests assessment will be made with expert partners. Where a child is unaccompanied it may be in the child's best interest to remain in the region, where they are more likely to be reunited with their family.

Further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53269>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [58399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice her Department has provided to hon. Members on how to support Afghan nationals who are eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is not yet open. Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme, amid the complex and changing international context.

There will not be a formal application process for the ACRS. Instead, eligible people will be prioritised and referred to the UK. Further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

Honourable members should refer individuals who contact their offices to the relevant scheme information available on gov.uk rather than seek information or updates on their behalf.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/58399>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [58383] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will open for applications; and when initial decisions on applications to that scheme will be made.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, amid the complex and changing picture.

The Home Office will continue to work closely with other government departments, non-governmental organisations, charities, local authorities and other partners and relevant organisations in the development and implementation of the ACRS.

Further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/58383>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [52415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to (a) open the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme and (b) publish the eligibility criteria for that scheme.

Lillian Greenwood (Labour) [52477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department will open the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and what her timescale is for commencing processing of referrals from people currently (a) in Afghanistan (b) in other countries outside the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the UK will relocate up to 20,000 people at risk, including women and girls and minority groups, so they can rebuild their lives in safety.

The first to be resettled through this scheme will be those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk – including women's rights activists, prosecutors and journalists.

We are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme, amid the complex and changing picture. We are working closely across government and with NGOs, charities, local authorities and civil society groups to ensure support is provided to people who are resettled through this route.

Further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-21/52415>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-21/52477>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [53932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have arrived under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme to date.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the UK will relocate up to 20,000 people at risk, including women and girls and minority groups, so they can rebuild their lives in safety.

The scheme is not yet open. However, the first to be resettled through this scheme will be those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk – including women's rights activists, prosecutors and journalists.

We are working urgently to open the scheme, amid the complex and changing picture. We are working closely across government and with NGOs, charities, local authorities and civil society groups to ensure support is provided to people who are resettled through this route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53932>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [52503] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her timeframe is for opening the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the UK will relocate up to 20,000 people at risk, including women and girls and minority groups, so they can rebuild their lives in safety.

Information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement

The scheme is not yet open. However, the first to be resettled through this scheme will include those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk – including women's rights activists, prosecutors and journalists. The ACRS is being developed at pace and further details will be released in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-21/52503>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [46919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether places on the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme will be prioritised according to the degree of risk faced by applicants; for what reason at-risk applicants accepted for inclusion in the scheme will not all be brought to the UK during its first year; and by what means at-risk applicants for the scheme who are still in Afghanistan will be expected to keep themselves safe while awaiting the second and third years of the scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: On Monday 13 September the Government published a policy statement which set out further details on the policy and operation of the

ACRS, and the package of integration support that will be offered to those arriving through the scheme.

This policy statement confirms that the following groups of people will be prioritised through the ACRS:

- those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law; and
- vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+).

To help identify those most at risk, the Government is working closely with the UN's Refugee Agency, UNHCR, to identify and resettle refugees who have fled Afghanistan based on their protection and humanitarian needs. The Government is also working with international partners and NGOs in the region to implement a referral process for people inside Afghanistan, where safe passage can be arranged, and for those that have recently fled to other countries in the region.

Further details on eligibility and selection can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-10/46919>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

Aaron Bell (Conservative) [903769] What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to help ensure the effective implementation of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Reply from Priti Patel: We owe a huge debt of gratitude to interpreters and other staff who risked their lives working alongside UK forces in Afghanistan.

It is why we have introduced a generous funding package, covering healthcare, accommodation, education, and integration. We are committed to working with local authorities and NGOs to ensure Afghans who are resettled in the UK are fully supported.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/903769>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [58873] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the impact of excluding dependents over the age of 18 as part of Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy on eligible family's wellbeing; and what support is being offered to families affected by that policy.

Reply from James Heapey: Under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), an eligible applicant can be accompanied by a spouse over the age of 18 and their dependent children under the age of 18, however we will always consider exceptionally compelling and compassionate circumstances for additional dependants on a case-by-case basis.

The ARAP Leave Outside The Rules (LOTR) scheme is enduring, and under this the ARAP team continue to consider and accept additional family members of ARAP eligible individuals for relocation where those family members are highly vulnerable, at risk and dependant on the primary applicant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-19/58873>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [53937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to enable people in Afghanistan to be reunited with family members in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Family members of British citizens and settled persons, including those with humanitarian protection in the UK, who were not called forward for evacuation as part of Op PITTING, will need to apply to come to the UK under the existing economic or family migration and reunion rules. They will be expected to meet the eligibility requirements of their chosen route, which may include paying relevant fees and charges, and providing their biometrics.

The British Embassy in Kabul has currently suspended in country operations and all UK diplomatic and consular staff have been temporarily withdrawn.

The UK is working with international partners to secure safe routes out of Afghanistan as soon as they become available, but while the security situation remains extremely volatile, we recommend people in Afghanistan do not make applications and pay application fees at this time as they will not be considered until biometrics are provided. Those Afghans who are outside of Afghanistan and able to get to a Visa Application Centre to provide their biometrics can make an application in the usual way.

A full policy statement on this matter published on 13 September 2021 can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53937>

Immigration: Afghanistan

Hilary Benn (Labour) [56794] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to suspend the requirement for spouses from Afghanistan to pass the English language test in order to be able to enter the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government believes those seeking to enter and make a permanent home in the UK should be equipped to integrate successfully in UK society, with an appropriate level of English and an understanding of British life. There are no current plans to suspend the requirement for spouses specifically from Afghanistan to pass an English language test to enter the UK.

However, under the current Rules an applicant can already be exempted from the English language requirement to enter the UK if a decision maker considers there are exceptional circumstances preventing the applicant from meeting the requirement.

The applicant must demonstrate, as a result of exceptional circumstances, they are unable to learn English before coming to the UK or it is not practicable or reasonable for them to travel to another country to take an approved English language test.

Each application for an exemption on the basis of exceptional circumstances will be considered on its merits on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56794>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Afzal Khan (Labour) [56184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

pursuant to the Answer of 28 September 2021 to Question 51839, by what process Afghan nationals already in the UK with limited leave under (a) the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy or (b) Afghan Locally Employed Staff are expected to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain, and if this process will be (a) online and (b) free of charge.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office has established a dedicated caseworking team, which is working jointly with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the Ministry of Defence. This team will contact all those who recently arrived to discuss their leave arrangements and ensure they get the right form of leave.

(a) Those who are here with limited leave under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy can apply to convert this to indefinite leave to remain at any time before their limited leave expires. This application is a free application and can be applied for online.

(b) Locally employed staff who meet the eligibility criteria for relocation under the ARAP scheme will have the opportunity to apply for limited leave to enter the UK. Locally employed staff already in the UK with temporary status under ARAP can apply, free of charge, to convert their status to indefinite leave to remain. This can be applied for online.

Details of the type of leave to be granted to those arriving from Afghanistan, and how they will be supported in obtaining that leave, can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration policy statement. ...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

Further information regarding Locally employed staff, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-locally-engaged-staff>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56184>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-20/51839>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Asylum

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [52610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to provide assistance to LGBTQI+ Afghans seeking asylum.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Whilst we acknowledge the increasingly complex situation in Afghanistan, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

While we do not allow asylum claims from abroad, all asylum claims that are lodged from within the UK, including those from Afghan nationals that are based on sexual orientation or gender identity, will be carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Those who need protection will normally be granted five years' limited leave, have full access to the labour market and mainstream benefits, and can apply for settlement after five years.

We do not remove asylum seekers who have had to leave their countries because their sexuality or gender identity has put them at risk of persecution and no one who is found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in Afghanistan will be expected to return there. Enforced returns of those who have been refused asylum and have exhausted all rights of appeal are also currently paused while we consider the situation.

The UK's new resettlement scheme will, however, offer a route welcoming Afghans most at risk who have been forced to flee the country. We will work with UNHCR and partners in the region to prioritise those at risk, such as women and girls at risk, and ethnic, religious and LGBT+ minority groups at risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-21/52610>

Children: Afghanistan

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [53222] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure effective support for refugees arriving from Afghanistan, including the enrolment of school aged children.

Reply from Robin Walker: Work is underway across government departments, and with charities and local authorities, to ensure refugees arriving from Afghanistan are properly supported so they can rebuild their lives. Local authorities will receive a funding package to support the resettlement of these families.

We are prioritising making sure that children of all ages have access to education, including by working with local authorities and other networks to make sure this can happen as soon as possible.

We are providing at least £12 million in extra education funding, which prioritises additional school places for children and young people, but also covers school transport, extra English lessons, specialist teachers and more.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53222>

Dental Services: Refugees

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [42068] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the availability of emergency dental treatment for refugees who have been resettled in the UK from Afghanistan as part of the UK's military withdrawal from that country.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: Refugees, including those arriving from Afghanistan, can access emergency dental treatment via NHS 111.

Many individuals arriving from Afghanistan are doing so as part of the Afghanistan Relocation and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme. A separate process applies in these cases, which includes linking with urgent care services. Where commissioners have made additional resources available this offer may be more comprehensive and include an enhanced health assessment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42068>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [53223] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to provide (a) mental health support and (b) other health support for refugees arriving from Afghanistan.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: On 27 August, NHS England and NHS Improvement

advised all local commissioners to facilitate general practitioner registration for all individuals arriving from Afghanistan and an enhanced health assessment to identify and manage families' immediate health and care requirements.

The assessment should cover trauma and safeguarding concerns, mental health needs, women's and children's health, long-term conditions, areas of public health concern, vaccinations and ensuring pathways to other priority services such as maternity, child health services, dental and eye care. Individuals requiring more specialist or extensive mental health support will be referred onto relevant services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53223>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

Nationality and Borders Bill 2021-22

Patrick Grady (SNP) [57107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the Borders and Nationality Bill with (a) the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and (b) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Nationality and Borders Bill, which is part of our New Plan for Immigration, seeks to build a fair, but firm asylum and illegal migration system. The Bill complies with all our international obligations. In addition, on 16 September, we published an Equality Impact Assessment for the policies being taken forward through the Bill. This includes an assessment of potential impacts on children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/57107>

Migrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [56753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish its proposals on additional information on No Recourse to Public Funds change of conditions applications, including on repeat applications and on reasons for refusal; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Information on No Recourse to Public Funds change of conditions applications, including on repeat applications and on reasons for refusal has been set out in revised guidance which was published on 18 October.

The information can be accessed from page 88 onwards of the Family life (as a partner or parent), private life and exceptional circumstances guidance and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-life-as-a-partner-or-parent-private-life-and-exceptional-circumstance>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56753>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [56649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU family permit applications have been received since 1 January 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on EU Settlement Scheme family permits in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' which can be found at:

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

Data on the number of EU Settlement Scheme family permit applications are published in table Vis_D01 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 the year ending June 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56649>

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

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [56648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the current average processing time is for EU family permit applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The published service standards for EEA and EUSS family permits can be found at [Visa decision waiting times: applications outside the UK](#) which states; *If you are applying for an EEA family permit or an EUSS family permit you will get a decision as soon as possible after proving your identity and provided your documents.*

Therefore, there are no time-bound service standard attached to these routes.

Our aim is to process all applications for an EUSS Family Permit as soon as possible.

The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on EEA Family Permit and EU Settlement Scheme family permit applications and outcomes are published in table Vis_D01 and Vis_D02 of the [entry clearance visa detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56648>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [58821] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the administrative requirements on EU citizens with Settled Status to prove their status without physical documentation when accessing essential services.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [58822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department is providing to (a) banks and (b) mortgage lenders on (i) EU Settled Status and (ii) accepting digital proof of that status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are enabling other government departments and public authorities to be able to automatically access immigration status information. Currently, this includes the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and NHS England and Wales.

The data made available is specific to the need of each department and contains only the necessary information to inform their decision making. By making data available in this way, we are reducing the number of occasions on which an individual has to prove their status in the UK. The Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Privacy Notice provides information about how we share data with other government departments.

When applying for banking services, all individuals are required to provide proof of their identity as part of anti-money laundering, regulatory 'Know Your Customer (KYC) checks.

We have produced guidance for financial providers to help them understand the documents we issue, including eVisas, and how they can be used as proof of identity for the purposes of KYC checks. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biometric-residence-documents-information-for-financial-providers>

As detailed in this guidance, financial institutions can check someone's identity, using the online 'View and Prove' service at:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status>.

This enables checks to be conducted without physical documents changing hands or the checker having to assess the authenticity of the documents and whether the person presenting it is the rightful holder.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-19/58821>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-19/58822>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Tom Hunt (Conservative) [54022] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend human rights legislation in order to prevent the unsafe crossings across the English channel by illegal immigrants.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Nationality and Borders Bill, which is part of our New Plan for Immigration, seeks to build a fair, but firm asylum and illegal migration system.

The Bill will tackle unsafe crossings of the Channel by giving enhanced powers to Border Force, introducing longer sentences for illegal entry and increasing the maximum penalty for people smuggling to life imprisonment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/54022>

Refugees

Helen Hayes (Labour) [56174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce safe and legal routes for refugees arriving to the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As set out in the New Plan for Immigration, we will strengthen our safe and legal routes to the UK for refugees in need of protection.

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those most in need. Overall, since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees through safe and legal routes direct from regions of conflict and instability - around half of whom were children.

On 18 August 2021, the Prime Minister announced the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will see up to 20,000 people at risk resettled to the UK, with 5,000 in the first year.

The UK will maintain its long-term commitment to continue to resettle refugees from around the globe as capacity allows, alongside a fair but firm asylum system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56174>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

UK Visas and Immigration: Asylum

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [53334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of asylum case applications being handled by UKVI that are yet to be resolved and were made (a) five, (b) four, (c) three, (d) two and (e) one years ago.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Information regarding the number of asylum claims which are yet to be resolved which were made in each of the last 5 years, is routinely published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda and can be found at tables Asy_02 and Asy_03:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-protection-data-q2-2021

This data shows the number of asylum cases awaiting an initial decision, post

decision, appeals outstanding and further leave which is broken down by case age.
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53334>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [53923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants referred into the National Referral Mechanism received (a) refugee leave, (b) positive conclusive grounds status and (c) both statuses since April 2016.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: Figures on the number of asylum applicants who have been referred into the National Referral Mechanism and received refugee status, a positive conclusive grounds decision or both are not currently published. Statistics on the number of individuals referred into the National Referral Mechanism who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision can be found at

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

and the number of individuals granted refugee status can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53923>

Asylum

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [53938] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that asylum cases are determined on the basis of need rather than the route by which people arrive to the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

However, we have been clear that people should claim asylum in the first safe country that they reach and should not seek to enter the UK illegally. They should not put their lives at risk by leaving those safe countries and making unnecessary and dangerous onward journeys to the UK.

Inadmissibility is a longstanding process designed to prevent secondary movements across Europe. If an individual has a connection to or has passed through a safe country before arriving in the UK, we can declare their claim as inadmissible to our asylum process, and we will seek to return them to a safe country. If we cannot return an inadmissible claimant to a safe country within a reasonable period of time, we will consider their claim in the UK.

For claims admitted for consideration under the UK asylum process, decision makers carefully consider the claimant's protection needs by assessing all the evidence provided by them in light of published country information guidance. Decision makers receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance.

Each case that is admitted to our asylum process, irrespective of how the individual arrived in the UK, is carefully considered on its own merits. Protection is normally granted where a claimant has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or their circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 (ECHR). Those who qualify are granted five years' limited leave and have access to the labour market and welfare support.

Those found not to need protection are refused, and the decision can be subject to legal challenge where appropriate either via appeal to the independent court or through a judicial review, depending on the decision in question. Once their appeals rights are exhausted, they are required to leave the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53938>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [53924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government has (a) reached any agreements with countries to remove people it considers inadmissible to the asylum procedure and (b) identified any locations for offshore processing of asylum claims to the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: In response to part (a), we have several bilateral agreements with key third countries that assist in expediting the return of individuals we consider inadmissible. This includes within the EU and other international partners.

In response to part (b), 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 offshoring, we are in discussion with a number of international partners but will not comment on the detail of individual negotiations. We would only ever work with countries that we know are safe and will treat asylum seekers in accordance with the Refugee Convention and relevant international human rights laws.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53924>

Asylum: Social Security Benefits

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [53933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish its consultation on possible changes to asylum support entitlement, via commencing provisions within Immigration Act 2016; whether officials in her Department have engaged with representatives of local and devolved governments in respect of its plans during 2021; and whether her Department has prepared an equalities impact assessment on those plans.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office plans to consult on the implementation of the support provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 later this year. There will be engagement with representatives of local and devolved governments as part of the process.

An equalities impact assessment was completed at the time the measures were considered by Parliament in 2015 and this will be updated in light of the consultation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53933>

Asylum: Children

Neil Coyle (Labour) [58411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to lift No Recourse to Public Funds conditions on unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Children are unable to apply for public funds themselves; therefore, the no recourse to public funds policy is not relevant to the consideration of support provided for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/58411>

Free School Meals: Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [53165] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate his Department has made of the levels of take-up of free school meals among families with No Recourse to Public Funds in 2019-2021.

Reply from Will Quince: We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

At present, data is not available regarding the take up of free school meals by no

recourse to public funds groups during the temporary extension.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-22/53165>

Asylum: LGBTQ+

Olivia Blake (Labour) [903774] What assessment [has the Minister] made of trends in the level of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse and assaults faced by LGBTQ+ asylum seekers in processing centres (a) in the UK and (b) offshore.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Nationality and Borders Bill seeks to build a fair, but firm asylum and illegal migration system. We published an Equality Impact Assessment for the policies being taken forward through the Bill, and the potential impacts on people who are LGBTQ+ are considered throughout.

The welfare and dignity of all claimants forms a central platform of our decision-making processes and robust safeguarding measures will continue to ensure that all cohorts of asylum seeker are protected from bullying, harassment or discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/903774>

Asylum: Housing

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [53939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the amount of suitable asylum seeker accommodation.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The current global pandemic along with high intake 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 is a short-term measure and we are working with our accommodation providers to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

The Home Office is working closely with asylum accommodation providers, Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships to increase the amount of accommodation available for asylum seekers so we can eliminate the need for the use of contingency accommodation.

We are grateful to those local authorities who participate in the dispersal scheme and will continue to work in partnership with them to procure suitable accommodation. Sadly, many local authorities do not currently participate in the dispersal scheme, making it harder to procure sufficient dispersal accommodation. I would encourage them to step up and play their part in the UK-wide effort to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum who would otherwise be destitute. We have established the Local Government Chief Executive Group (HOLGCEX) group to bring together senior representatives from Home Office, Local Government Association and local authorities with the aim of working in partnership to improve the asylum dispersal process for the people who use this service and the communities in which they reside.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53939>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [56179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the volume of suitable accommodation in which people seeking asylum are housed.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have established the Local Government Chief Executive Group (HOLGCEX) group to bring together senior representatives from Home Office, Local Government Association and local authorities with the aim of working in partnership to improve the asylum dispersal process for the people who use this service and the communities in which they reside.

With the support of local authorities we, and our housing providers, are continuing

to engage with areas which to date have not participated in asylum dispersal with a view to negotiating voluntary agreements to do so.

We are grateful to those local authorities who participate in the dispersal scheme and will continue to work in partnership with them to procure suitable accommodation.

Sadly, many local authorities do not currently participate in the dispersal scheme, making it harder to procure sufficient dispersal accommodation. I would encourage them to step up and play their part in the UK-wide effort to provide accommodation to those seeking asylum who would otherwise be destitute.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56179>

Asylum: Employment

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [58852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing asylum seekers to apply for employment in sectors which are experiencing labour shortages.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our New Plan for Immigration works in the interests of the whole of the UK, by attracting the skills we need, whilst supporting the domestic labour market. Recognising the extraordinary circumstances business are currently facing, the Government is providing visas as a time-limited, temporary measure for the food and fuel sector.

We allow asylum seekers to work if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL).

But it is important to distinguish between those who need protection and those seeking to work here, who can apply for a skilled work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider policy would be undermined if people could bypass work visa Rules simply by lodging unfounded asylum claims here and working whilst they are dealt with. It would also act as an incentive for more to travel into the UK via unsafe and dangerous journeys, rather than claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-19/58852>

Detention Centres: Prisons

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [57489] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to end the use of prisons for the purpose of immigration detention.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are no plans to end the limited use of prisons for the purpose of immigration detention.

The Government is committed to a fair and humane immigration policy that welcomes those here legally, but tackles abuse and protects the public. Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity, and since January 2019 we have removed 8,441 foreign national offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/57489>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL2842] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for (1) settled, and (2) pre-settled, status have been granted under the EU Settlement Scheme, broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on

the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in the 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics'. The latest published information on EUSS applications received and applications concluded to 30 June 2021, by Local Authority can be found in tables EUSS_LA_01, EUSS_LA_02 and EUSS_LA_03 (see attached) available at: EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, June 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[Tables - EUSS LA 01, EUSS LA 02 and EUSS LA 03](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-04/hl2842>

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

Press Releases

Continued support for EU citizens wishing to stay in Wales

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-continued-support-eu-citizens-wishing-stay-wales>

Human trafficking: UK urged to better identify and assist victims, convict traffickers

https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680a4358a

Secretary General highlights poverty and trafficking as human rights violations

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/secretary-general-highlights-poverty-and-trafficking-as-human-rights-violations>

New Publications

A short inspection of reporting events at Becket House Immigration Reporting Centre based on onsite observations

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1026905/A_short_inspection_of_reporting_events_at_Becket_House_Immigration_Reporting_Centre_based_on_onsite_observations_October_2021.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report: A short inspection of reporting events at Becket House Reporting Centre

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-reporting-events-at-becket-house/the-home-office-response-to-the-independent-chief-inspectors-report-a-short-inspection-of-reporting-events-at-becket-house-reporting-centre>

News

Home Office minister Victoria Atkins pleads with Scotland to help resettle more Afghan refugees

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19658356.home-office-minister-victoria-atkins-pleads-scotland-help-resettle-afghan-refugees/>

UK Government plea to councils and businesses to help resettle evacuated Afghans

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-plea-to-councils-and-businesses-to-help-resettle-evacuated-afghans-3425346>

Afghan refugees may be housed in UK hotels for up to a year, say councils

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/21/afghan-refugees-may-be-housed-in-uk-hotels-for-up-to-a-year-say-councils>

'We've heard it could be months': Afghan refugees await UK homes

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/22/afghan-refugees-hotels-await-uk-homes>

Afghan child refugees suffering 'alarming' mental health problems

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/10/22/afghan-child-refugees-suffering-alarming-mental-health-problems/>

Covid curbs hamper Channel migrant screening

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/covid-curbs-hamper-channel-migrant-screening-337w9q33q>

Jumping onto trucks to get to Britain: A migrant's day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/calais-britain-police-france-english-channel-b1940858.html>

Migrant traffickers step up Channel crossings to beat Priti Patel's new laws

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/10/19/migrant-traffickers-step-channel-crossings-beat-priti-patels/>

Trafficked, exploited and abused: hundreds of child refugees go missing in Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/trafficked-exploited-and-abused-hundreds-of-child-refugees-go-missing-in-britain-zq83mx8v8>

Asylum decisions made under flawed procedure not necessarily null and void

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-decisions-made-under-flawed-procedure-not-necessarily-null-and-void-kf69xnbwh>

Brexit and UK immigration policy 'increasing risks to trafficking victims'

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/oct/20/brexit-and-uk-immigration-policy-increasing-risks-to-trafficking-victims>

Thousands of potential trafficking victims held in immigration centres, data shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/18/thousands-potential-trafficking-victims-held-immigration-centres-data-uk-detain-government>

Asylum accommodation deaths 'twice as high' as Home Office admitted

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/24/asylum-hotel-deaths-twice-as-high-as-home-office-admitted?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Scottish Refugee Council response to devastating figures on loss of life in the asylum system

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-devastating-figures-on-loss-of-life-in-the-asylum-system/>

'People felt threatened even by a puppet refugee': Little Amal's epic walk through love and fear

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2021/oct/18/threatened-puppet-refugee-little-amals-epic-walk>

Scottish Refugee Council year in numbers

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-year-in-numbers/>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Met chief: Black women's trust in policing has worsened in last year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cressida-dick-black-women-trust-policing-b1941840.html>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Domestic Abuse: Ethnic Groups

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [54027] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training is provided to police officers on specific issues affecting Black victims of domestic abuse.

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [54028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of mandating specialist training for police officers who support Black women and girls affected by domestic abuse.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: This Government is committed to ensuring that all victims and survivors of domestic abuse get the support they need, including those from Black backgrounds. We know that domestic abuse affects a wide and disparate group and that a “one size fits all” approach is not appropriate to support all victims, especially those with specific needs and vulnerabilities, including ethnic minority victims.

The College of Policing’s Authorised Professional Practice on domestic abuse sets out that victims may have specific needs or issues relating to their cultural background or immigration status which should be considered when understanding risk and vulnerability of the victim. The Government continues to encourage forces to take on the College of Policing’s Domestic Abuse Matters training, which includes specific training on intersectionality and the different impacts of domestic abuse on black and minority ethnicity communities. This is part of their continued development, therefore, the Government does not feel it necessary to mandate such training.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/54027>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/54028>

Press Releases

Welsh Government Initial Teacher Education Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Recruitment plan

<https://gov.wales/initial-teacher-education-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-recruitment-plan-html>

Black and mixed heritage boys receiving poor support from youth offending services
<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/media/press-releases/2021/10/black-and-mixed-heritage-boys-receiving-poor-support-from-youth-offending-services/>

New Publication

The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system
<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/10/The-experiences-of-black-and-mixed-heritage-boys-in-the-youth-justice-system-thematic-report-v1.0.pdf>

News

Police Scotland urged to take 'bold position' on diversity after staff survey
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/police-scotland-urged-to-take-bold-position-on-diversity-after-staff-survey-3427002>

Sunak must fund mental health system to tackle racial inequalities, psychiatrists warn
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racial-inequalities-mental-health-system-b1940591.html>

AI projects to tackle racial inequality in UK healthcare, says Javid
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/20/ai-projects-to-tackle-racial-inequality-in-uk-healthcare-says-javid>

Black boys are being let down by youth offending services, inspectors find
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-boys-youth-offending-services-b1942396.html>

'School-to-prison pipeline': youth justice services failing black boys
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/oct/21/youth-justice-services-still-failing-black-and-mixed-heritage-boys-finds-report>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News

Social media executives will be prosecuted for hatred and abuse online
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/social-media-executives-will-be-prosecuted-for-hate-and-abuse-says-boris-johnson-pxf6hspdh>

Facebook failed to remove 'banned' Nazi profiles
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/facebook-failed-to-remove-banned-nazi-profiles-9dps83j3l>

Pandemic has spurred engagement in online extremism, say experts
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/19/covid-pandemic-spurred-engagement-online-extremism>

Teenage neo-Nazi jailed for planning terror attacks in Britain

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-terror-attack-uk-b1941194.html>

Royal Opera House to review classic works as it makes overture to Black Lives Matter

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/10/19/royal-opera-house-pledges-review-classic-works-cultural-sensitivities/>

Royal Opera House to root out racism in classic works

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/royal-opera-house-to-root-out-racism-in-classic-works-rxmk0b85>

Black music artists should call out racism within our industry. They've got the power

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/oct/23/black-music-artists-racism-industry-white-people-creators>

Black hair discrimination must be banned, equalities watchdog told

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-hair-discrimination-watchdog-equalities-b1941567.html>

Pride in London responds to calls for inquiry following racism allegations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pride-london-racism-b1942917.html>

A-level textbook withdrawn over 'shocking' Native American question

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-59024961>

Newcastle launch investigation into alleged racist gesture at Tottenham game

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/northumbria-police-premier-league-st-james-park-newcastle-b1940576.html>

Eddie Marsan has received 'relentless' antisemitic abuse over role as Jewish activist in Ridley Road

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/eddie-marsan-antisemitic-abuse-ridley-road-b1940919.html>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Black History Month

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-21/debates/5C5E5DD9-FE4B-46E3-8822-0D390B7E14DA/BlackHistoryMonth>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Honour Based Violence

John Howell (Cpmervative) [56940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of the debate on so-called honour crimes at the Council of Europe on 28 September 2021.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: So called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) is a terrible

form of abuse, and we are clear that we will not allow political or cultural sensitivities to get in the way of tackling it. No-one should suffer because of who they are or what community they are born into.

Our focus remains on preventing these crimes from happening, supporting and protecting survivors and those at risk, and bringing perpetrators to justice. The Home Office is providing up to £150,000 to the charity Karma Nirvana this year to run its national HBA helpline; between April and September 2021 the helpline provided assistance to 1,212 users of the service. The joint Home Office/Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Forced Marriage Unit has provided advice and support for thousands of victims of forced marriage and delivers regular training to police officers and social workers.

The Government's recent Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy set out a number of further actions to tackle HBA, including that the Home Office will seek out community advocates who can talk to community audiences to explain why HBA practices are wrong, that the College of Policing will produce advice for police officers to advise both first responders and investigators on how to deal with cases of HBA, and that the Department for Health and Social Care will work to criminalise 'virginity testing' to send a clear message that this practice is wholly unacceptable in our society.

We welcome the insights communicated in the debate at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe last month. The Government pays close attention to the experiences of our international partners in tackling HBA and works closely with them in tackling it. For example, in 2018 the Government signed a protocol on female genital mutilation (FGM) with the United States to increase collaboration and the sharing of intelligence between the two countries. This enabled the UK and the United States to run Operation Limelight (a joint operation between border staff and the police which seeks to raise awareness of FGM and forced marriage at the border in order to safeguard potential victims) concurrently at several ports in the two countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56940>

A transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2021-09-28/pm/en#theme-1021>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy>

Students: Finance

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [53884] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help ensure that Muslims can access student finance.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government understands the concerns held by some Muslim students and their families about student finance. The department have been carefully considering an alternative student finance product, alongside wider reforms to the higher education system, and an update will be provided alongside the conclusion to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding. The interim conclusion of the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding was published on 21 January 2021, and we will conclude the Review in full at a future date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53884>

Sikhs: Curriculum

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [56200] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of increasing education around the Sikh faith in Key Stage 1 of the national curriculum.

Reply from Robin Walker: There are no plans to introduce teaching about specific faiths in any of the subjects of the national curriculum at any of the key stages. The teaching about the Sikh faith by any school would be expected to be part of the religious education (RE) curriculum. The RE curriculum must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in the UK are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the principal religions represented in the UK, including Sikhism.

The RE curriculum is part of the basic curriculum, rather than one of the subjects within the national curriculum. In addition, the RE curriculum is compulsory in all state-funded schools from age 5 to 18, which includes Key Stage 1.

Schools have the freedom to include content about specific faiths as part of their teaching of the subjects in the national curriculum, such as history or citizenship, but this would need to be in line with the purpose and aims of the subjects themselves.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56200>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [56354] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure the Jewish community's supply of kosher meat is uninterrupted.

Reply from Victoria Prentis: The Government is committed to protecting the rights of the Jewish community to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs. This is a fundamental issue of religious freedom and belief, which the Government upholds. As the global economy has rebounded from the pandemic, we have seen pressures placed on supply chains across sectors and across countries. The UK has a highly resilient food supply chain which has coped well in responding to unprecedented challenges and we have been taking decisive action to ease these pressures where immediate interventions have been required, including making available temporary visas in some sectors such as HGV drivers and the poultry sector. We have well-established ways of working with the food industry to address potential food supply chain disruptions and that hasn't changed. As such we are confident the supply of kosher meat will continue uninterrupted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56354>

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [56802] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure the Jewish community is able to continue performing Shechita.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Government is committed to protecting the rights of Jews to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs. This includes slaughtering animals by the shechita method. This is a fundamental issue of religious freedom and belief, which the Government upholds.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56802>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [543] **Black History Month 2021** – That this House notes that this month we celebrate Black History Month 2021 and welcomes the many events and initiatives across the UK that highlight the successes and contributions of Black British people to British history; gives special thanks to all teachers and education staff who are taking steps to put Black history on the curriculum this month and all-year round; notes the theme of this year's Black History Month, Proud to Be; recognises the significance of such

a theme and the importance of ensuring that Black and Brown people are made to feel proud of their ethnic heritage, cultural history and the language of their ancestors; and further notes that teaching about Black history is integral to this; and calls on the Government to take steps to ensure that Black history is acknowledged, taught and celebrated all year round and not restricted to just one month in the year.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59023>

Press Releases

The country invited to a major celebration of creativity across the UK in 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-country-invited-to-a-major-celebration-of-creativity-across-the-uk-in-2022>

Environment Agency encourages Sikh community to reduce plastic waste

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-agency-encourages-sikh-community-to-reduce-plastic-waste>

New Publication

Legislative Scrutiny: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, Part 4 (Unauthorised Encampments): Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7550/documents/79450/default/>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

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>

Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

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/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Vaccine certification enforcement gets underway

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-certification-enforcement-gets-underway/>

Update to vaccine certification Apps

<https://www.gov.scot/news/update-to-vaccine-certification-apps/>

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/>

UK Government Press Release

Prime Minister issues vaccine call to arms ahead of winter

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-issues-vaccine-call-to-arms-ahead-of-winter>

UK Government Publication

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

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New Publication

Muslim Council of Britain 6 Step Guide to Keeping Mosques Safe & Secure

https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/MCB_MosqueSafetyGuidance_19.10.21.pdf

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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/2995>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

**** Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/c39ae4c1-325a-4447-8341-417aba6de9a3/NationalityAndBordersBill\(FifthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/c39ae4c1-325a-4447-8341-417aba6de9a3/NationalityAndBordersBill(FifthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/69c8f9cb-4500-4595-bae4-3b06d5823063/NationalityAndBordersBill\(SixthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-19/debates/69c8f9cb-4500-4595-bae4-3b06d5823063/NationalityAndBordersBill(SixthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-21/debates/c792c024-a3aa-41de-b23d-14714a8a6be6/NationalityAndBordersBill\(SeventhSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-10-21/debates/c792c024-a3aa-41de-b23d-14714a8a6be6/NationalityAndBordersBill(SeventhSitting))

Evidence sessions, Joint Committee on Human Rights
<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2848/html/>
and
<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2849/html/>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

The impact of the ending of freedom of movement on the adult social care sector
(closing date 29 October 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-the-impact-of-the-ending-of-freedom-of-movement-on-the-adult-social-care-sector>

**** An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the higher education sector**
(closing date 15 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-immigration-system-as-it-relates-to-the-higher-education-sector>

**** Windrush Lessons Learned Review progress update** (closing date 21 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review-information/windrush-lessons-learned-review-progress-update-call-for-evidence>

**** The future of recorded crime and police activity statistics** (closing date 10 December 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-future-recorded-crime-police-activity-statistics/>

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Funding Opportunity

** new or updated this week

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2021/2022 Small Grants Fund

closing date for St Andrew's Day events: 19 November 2021

closing date for Burns Night events: 17 January 2022

Scottish Government / BEMIS grants of up to £2,000 are available to constituted, charitable and non-profit organisations or community groups to host an event for St Andrew's Day and/or Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, and Burns Night celebrations. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so BEMIS want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals. For information and to apply, see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

Throughout October 2021

Black History Month encompasses the history of African, Caribbean and Asian people in Scotland, and focuses on people whose sacrifices, contributions and achievements against a backdrop of racism, inequality and injustice are often forgotten about. For information, including the full programme of events, see

<https://www.blackhistorymonthscotland.org/whats-on>

**** this week!**

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

26 and 27 October 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

9 and 10 December 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

3 and 4 February 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

**** this week!**

No Recourse to Public Funds

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>

**** this week!**

Know Your Rights Workshop – Exploitation and Employment

27 October 2021 (online, 11.00–12.00)

Migrants Rights Network workshop on exploitation, including pay and working conditions and how to get advice on workplace rights. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/nf3sueuf>

**** this week!**

New Scots Storytellers media training: Dealing with difficult questions

27 October 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

**** this week!**

Transparency and Trust

27 October 2021 (online, 1.00–2.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar to help charity trustees and advisors to charities think about what they can do to help boost public confidence in charities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y99b8av3>

**** this week!**

Respect & Recognition: The contributions of minoritised social workers

27 October 2021 (online, 4.00–5.30)

University of Edinburgh Social Work Department and Scottish Association of Social Workers panel discussion for Black History Month to explore the contributions of social workers from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/9jmvdmndy>

**** this week!**

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), and the theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet. Event submissions are now open and can be registered on the [Scottish Interfaith Week website](#). Sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#) to receive updates.

New Scots Leadership Programme

Module 1: November 2021 (dates tbc) (online and face-to-face)

12 day leadership programme from the Scottish Refugee Council and Scottish Enterprise Academy to equip refugees living in the Glasgow area with practical skills to help them understand themselves better; lead, motivate and inspire others, and consider how they can take a more strategic approach to lead in their community, whether this is their community of refugees or the geographical communities that they find themselves in. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=710>

**** Scotland's Census 2022 – Minority Ethnic**

3 November 2021 (online, 11.00–11.30)

Scotland's next census will be held in March 2022. This Scottish Government webinar will give you information on how the census will be delivered, and how you can help get messages to and support Minority Ethnic communities to take part and be counted. For information see <http://register.scotstat.org/s/213f49>

Scotland's Human Rights Report Card: Race and Human Rights

8 November 2021 (online, 3.30–5.00)

Scottish Human Rights Commission workshop on Scotland's performance around race and human rights, to inform submissions to the UN Universal Periodic Review. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/56yfmyzm>

New Scots Storytellers media training: Working with journalists

10 November 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

On and off screen diversity: Why does it matter?

11 November 2021 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity event to explore diversity in the media and creative industry, why diversity matters, and what can we do about it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/52jw2vbb>

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Interpreters

23 and 24 November 2021 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bilingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

New Scots Storytellers media training: Representing your organisation/community

24 November 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

New Scots Storytellers media training: Mock interviews

8 December 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

Supporting Refugee Integration

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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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/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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