



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

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

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The UK Parliament will be in recess from 9 to 15 November 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Adult Dependent Relative Visas

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-03/debates/EAAE3C28-2875-45F2-8EC7-A77AF5266230/AdultDependentRelativeVisas>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [58935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether the Afghanistan citizens' resettlement scheme is by invitation only; and what the criteria are for people to be invited to apply.

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 some of 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.

There will not be a formal Home Office owned application process for the ACRS. Instead, eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement 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

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

All updates on the ACRS can be found on gov.uk at [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme). Further communications will be published in due course.

I provided an update to the House of Commons in a Dear Colleague letter last week and I will continue to update the House at regular intervals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-19/58935>

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

The letter referred to above is not yet available online

Refugees: Afghanistan

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) 62567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many invitations to apply to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme have (a) already been sent to potential applicants and (b) will be sent to potential applicants in the future.

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.

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/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/62567>

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

John Healey (Labour) [56783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 September 2021 to Question 44194, on Afghanistan: Refugees, whether applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme that are already in the UK will be settled before the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme opens.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is separate from, and in addition to, the Afghanistan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP). Whilst the ACRS is not yet open, some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which prioritised individuals who were considered to be at particular risk will be the first to be resettled under the ACRS. Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme, amid the complex and changing picture.

Further information on both the ARAP and 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/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56783>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-07/44194>

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

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

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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [65396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the proportion of the 11,000 people in bridging hotels following Operation Pitting who will gain Indefinite Leave to Remain through (a) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, (b) the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme and (c) other immigration routes; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: As set out in the 'Afghan Resettlement & Immigration Policy Statement', all those evacuated during Operation PITTING that are part of the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (once open) or family members of British Citizens (and settled persons) will be granted Indefinite Leave to Remain. This will provide them all with full access to work, benefits and services.

Further information on the grant of leave for those evacuated is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September 2021, available at

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65396>

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

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

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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [53931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities have expressed a willingness to accommodate Afghans arriving under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy or Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme; how many local authorities have offered accommodation; and how many accommodation units have been offered to date.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [53931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hotels are being used across the UK to accommodate Afghans under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy or Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme; how many people are residing in those hotels as at 23 September 2021; and what regions, as defined in asylum accommodation contracts, those hotels are in.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We continue to work with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation as quickly as possible for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. So far, over 300 local authorities across the UK have offered to house Afghan families. We would strongly urge every council across the country to contribute to this national effort. We are working across government and with local authorities to realise appropriate accommodation opportunities to meet the demands of this urgent national response.

There are around 11,000 individuals accommodated in bridging hotels across the UK who had been evacuated as part of Operation Pitting.

The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme has not yet opened, however, we publish statistics on resettlement by local authority at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53930>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-23/53931>

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>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Owen Thompson (SNP) [63780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Afghan refugees qualify for rehousing in the UK.

Owen Thompson (SNP) [63781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Afghan refugees have moved from temporary accommodation to permanent residences.

Owen Thompson (SNP) [63782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her timeframe is for Afghan refugees to have left temporary accommodation for permanent residences.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: There is a significant cross Government effort underway to ensure Afghans arriving in the UK receive the support they need to rebuild their lives. This includes working at pace with NGOs, local authorities and the commercial sector to secure housing and ensure they have the support they need, while also making sure that local services aren't put under undue strain.

There are around 11,000 individuals accommodated in bridging hotels across the UK who had been evacuated as part of Operation Pitting. Permanent accommodation is being sourced and will be provided for all Afghans evacuated to the UK. We will publish relocation figures in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63780>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63781>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63782>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [59945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of Afghans evacuated under Operation Pitting who remain in (a) temporary accommodation and (b) hotels.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We can confirm that on 19 October, there were more than 11,000 individuals accommodated in bridging hotels across the UK who had been evacuated as part of Operation Pitting.

The information provided is from provisional locally held data, subject to change and is not assured to the standard of official statistics.

It should be noted that individuals evacuated under Operation Pitting which concluded overnight on 28/29 August, included families relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), British Nationals and their families, and Third Country Nationals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/59945>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [67232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) hotels and hostels are placed in each local authority and (b) asylum seekers are currently living in hotels and hostels in each local authority.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 22 August 2021. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in November 2021

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67232>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [57015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support is available to British citizens and residents who were evacuated from Afghanistan and returned to their own homes, which are now overcrowded or otherwise unsuitable due to additional family members and dependents who were evacuated with them.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: A significant cross Government effort is underway to ensure the thousands of Afghans and British nationals who were evacuated to the UK receive the support they need to rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education, and integrate into local communities.

We are working at pace to source appropriate accommodation as quickly as possible for those evacuated from Afghanistan. In the interim we have ensured that support is provided to all evacuees, including British nationals, temporarily accommodated in bridging hotels.

British Citizens are provided with bridging accommodation for as long as is needed. We encourage any British Citizens who have left bridging accommodation to return so that support can be provided to them.

In bridging accommodation, we are providing all new arrivals from Afghanistan, including British Citizens with cash cards to give them subsistence support whilst their Universal Credit claim is processed.

In the social rented sector, Local Authorities (LAs) are advised to allocate properties in line with current statutory bedroom standards to avoid overcrowding. By law, LAs must ensure that certain groups receive 'reasonable preference' (priority) when

allocating social housing, including people who are homeless, in overcrowded housing or who need to move for medical and welfare reasons. They can also give 'additional preference' (high priority) to people in urgent housing need, including people occupying overcrowded housing which poses a serious health hazard.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/57015>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [67175] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of Afghan children who have been relocated under Operation Warm Welcome are now in school.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [67176] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what support the Government has put in place to ensure that Afghan children who have arrived in the UK under Operation Warm Welcome are able to access a school place; and by what date all of those children will be in school.

Reply from Robin Walker: Children who have recently arrived from Afghanistan are entitled to full time education and one of the department's priorities is to ensure they receive it. The duty to provide sufficient education for all school-age children rests with local authorities and the government is working closely with local authorities where Afghan families reside to ensure they can access education as soon as possible.

The department is urgently making available additional funds to local authorities to provide educational support and help Afghan children and young people settle into their local schools and communities.

The department cannot set an end date as Afghan families continue to come into the UK. We are working with departments across government and local authorities to ensure the availability of school places are taken into account as new families arrive and are settled into the country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67175>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67176>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Douglas Chapman (SNP) [64645] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what counselling services have been provided for Afghan personnel and their families who (a) assisted British Forces in Afghanistan and (b) have since been repatriated to the UK.

Reply from James Cleverly: There is significant work underway across the whole of Government to ensure the Afghans who stood side by side with us in conflict, their families and those at highest risk who have been evacuated, are supported as they now rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education and integrate into their local communities in the UK. This includes healthcare support, where the Government is providing £3 million of additional NHS funding so that Afghans arriving under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme can access healthcare and register with a GP. The plans, dubbed 'Operation Warm Welcome', are being overseen by Victoria Atkins as the new Minister for Afghan Resettlement at the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-27/64645>

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>

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

Immigration: Standards

Ruth Jones (Labour) [61202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration applications are decided within (a) six and (b) 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Damian Hinds: The Home Office is committed to ensuring all applications are considered without unnecessary delay. Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

If an application is deemed complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next. The published information on processing times for complex/ non straightforward visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-22/61202>

Students: Finance

Damien Moore (Conservative) [63869] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that family members of migrant workers are aware that they qualify for full student finance support.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: From the 2021/22 academic year, migrant workers from the European Economic Area and their family members who are covered by the Withdrawal Agreements, and meet the ordinary residence requirement, can access tuition fee loans, loans for living costs and targeted grants. This arrangement is set out in the department's guidance which was published in August:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009789/EU Exit Student Finance Policy - Aug 21.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009789/EU_Exit_Student_Finance_Policy_-_Aug_21.pdf)

The information is also contained in the following Student Finance England publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-how-youre-assessed-and-paid>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63869>

Windrush Compensation Scheme: Offenders

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [63654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her letter to the Home Affairs Committee of 16 February 2021, in how many instances a claimant to the Windrush Compensation Scheme has had their compensation award reduced or declined on the basis of previous criminality.

Reply from Priti Patel: Fewer than 10 claimants have had their compensation award for Impact on Life declined or reduced because of previous criminality.

All decisions to withhold or reduce compensation for Impact on Life due to previous criminality are signed off by Ministers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63654>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4739/documents/48321/default/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [62869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will replicate the use of Secure QR code technology used in the Government's Covid certification for EU citizens who wish to have printed proof of their immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Home Office officials have already met with the 3million group to discuss the use of a QR code system for this purpose.

We are actively considering the feasibility of the suggested approach and will respond more fully to the suggestion in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/62869>

European Convention on Human Rights: Undocumented Migrants

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [63640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the (a) extent to which UK borders are sovereign and (b) the effect of the European Convention on Human Rights on the Government's ability to return illegal migrants to safe countries from which they came to the UK; and what policy options other than withdrawal from the ECHR his Department has assessed in order to facilitate that ability.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government is taking back control of its borders. The New Plan for Immigration, and the Nationality and Borders Bill currently in Parliament, will ensure that if somebody claims asylum in the UK having previously made, or having had the opportunity to make, a claim for asylum in a safe third country, we will consider treating their asylum claim as inadmissible, and removing them to a safe country. Any such removal must be compliant with our ECHR obligations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/63640>

Asylum: Glasgow

Ian Murray (Labour) [67123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on the settlement of and provision for asylum seekers within the Glasgow City Council area.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There is no direct routing of asylum seekers to Glasgow. Currently the only asylum intake source for Glasgow is from in-region presentations within Glasgow. The Home Office has established a weekly Regional Delivery Group at which the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government are represented, regarding the planning of support for asylum seekers in Glasgow.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67123>

Asylum: Interviews

Stephen Timms (Labour) [64529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers in the UK are waiting to be called to their substantive asylum interview, having completed their initial screening interview as at 27 October 2021; and what that figure was (a) one and (b) two years ago.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is unable to state how many asylum seekers in the UK are waiting to be called to their substantive interview, having completed their initial screening interview as at 27 October or one and two years ago as this information is not held in a publishable format and to gather it would incur disproportionate cost. The Home Office publishes data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only. This data can be found at Asy_04 of the published Immigration Statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [66250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were living in contingency accommodation across the UK as at 1 October 2021.

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [66251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were living in (a) hotels, (b) hostels, (c) military barracks and (d) other types of temporary or contingency accommodation as at 1 October 2021.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [66252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in hotels or hostels were (a) single men, (b) single women, (c) accompanied children with parent or guardian and (d) unaccompanied minors on 1 October 2021.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [66253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in hotels or hostels had been in contingency accommodation for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than 12 months, (f) more than 18 months or (g) more than two years, as at 1 October 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 22 August 2021. The next quarterly figures are due to be released later this month.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation, as these figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66250>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66251>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66252>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66253>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [66254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum-seeking unaccompanied or accompanied children were living in hotels or hostels had been in contingency accommodation for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than one year or (f) more than two years, as at 1 October 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The transfer of minors from hotel accommodation or contingency accommodation into Local Authority care is fluid and evolving and data is not held in a reportable way, to provide them could only be done at a disproportionate cost. We publish statistics on how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors are transferred into Local Authority care at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66254>

Asylum: Death

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [67177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people (a) whose registered address was in asylum accommodation and (b) on subsistence-only asylum support have died since 1 April 2016; and how many serious incident reports on deaths of asylum seekers her Department has received from asylum accommodation contactors since 1 April 2016.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Deaths in asylum support and accommodation do occur, and in general, mortality rates do not exceed that of the general UK population. This includes deaths from natural causes or long-term terminal illnesses.

The Home Office, through undertaking its statutory duties towards asylum seekers and working with other agencies and organisations, takes a great many steps to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of those whom we support. We continue to work closely with a range of organisations to provide support to those that need it and, where necessary, will fully cooperate in any investigation into the cause of an individual's death.

The specific information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67177>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [59834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the time taken to assess potential victim of human trafficking cases.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: There is no target timeframe in which to make conclusive grounds decisions in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). A decision can only be made fairly and reasonably once sufficient information has been made available to the competent authority for it to complete the decision.

When the competent authority has received sufficient information for it to complete a decision it should seek to do so. This is done as soon as possible once a potential victim has been provided with a minimum of 45 calendar days of the recovery period they are eligible for, during which they may access the support and protections of the NRM. Timescales on individual decisions can vary according to the relative complexity of each case and on sufficient information being made available to the competent authority by the parties involved.

The Home Office is mindful of the substantial increase in referrals into the National Referral Mechanism in recent years, with 10,613 referrals made in 2020. To address the time taken to make decisions in the NRM, we have already introduced a digital referral and casework system to increase the efficiency of decision making in the system. We are also undertaking work to better ensure that first responders are providing quality information that can better enable prompt decisions from the Home Office. As part of wider work to identify sustainable models for the NRM, in June 2021 we launched a series of pilots across the United Kingdom, including in Glasgow City Centre, to test devolving the responsibility to make NRM decisions for child victims of modern slavery from the Home Office to local authorities for 12 months.

Further, in the course of the last year the Home Office has been recruiting a significant number of new decision makers across the UK to increase capacity for NRM decision-making and bring down decision making timescales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/59834>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Refugees: Status

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relation to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and in particular regarding the principle that asylum seekers must apply for refugee status in the first safe country they have reached.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Nationality and Borders Bill, which is part of our new plan for immigration, seeks to build a fair but firm asylum and legal migration system. Those in need of protection should claim in the first safe country they reach. That is the fastest route to safety. The plan complies with our international obligations and we continue to engage with our partners, including the UNHCR, with whom we have a positive and constructive relationship, as we take the plan forward.

Lord Dubs: Is the Minister not saying, in effect, that the Government know better than the UNHCR, the UNHCR being the guardian of the 1951 convention? By what right and by what argument are the Government saying that the UNHCR is wrong on this?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the first safe country principle is widely recognised internationally; for example, it is the fundamental feature of the common European asylum system. Without enforcement of this principle, we simply encourage criminal smugglers to continue to exploit very vulnerable migrants.

Lord Lilley (Conservative): Does my noble friend agree that it is time to renegotiate the original Geneva convention on refugees, which was passed when there was a finite problem of displaced persons in Europe and was subsequently extended worldwide before anyone realised that cheap mass transport and communications would make mass movement of economic refugees between continents possible? The scale of the mass movement is indicated by the US's offer of 50,000 visas every year to a handful of countries on a lottery basis. It receives applications from 13% of the population of Albania, 9% of the population of Armenia, 8% of the population of Ghana and 15% of the population of Liberia. It is time to recognise that the scale of this problem exceeds anything the original treaty was designed to deal with.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly concur with my noble friend that not only are migration patterns changing because of the nature of access to travel but that the figures all over the world are massively increasing from what they were. Renegotiation of the 1951 convention is a bit above my pay grade, but I certainly say that this country has always tried to give refuge to those most in need. To that end, we have been extremely generous.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, given that geography alone means that the UK will rarely be the first safe country an asylum seeker has reached, could we not at least designate especially vulnerable groups of people, such as Yazidis subject to genocide, or Afghan women judges, 60 of whom have been given temporary refuge in Europe, to have their asylum applications processed at our embassies and, in addition, ensure that Afghans with UK evacuation letters, including five women judges who are now in Greece and have been waiting for weeks, are now transferred to the United Kingdom without any further delays?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ...The noble Lord mentioned Afghan judges. They are among those who have been granted leave to come to this country. The UK Government—the MoD, the Home Office and the Foreign Office—are doing all they can to enable people who need our refuge to come here. The noble Lord also mentioned some very vulnerable groups, including the Yazidis. Of course, our immigration system is based on need. I will certainly take back his point about the

embassies. He and I have discussed this in the past.

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Labour): My Lords, for the avoidance of doubt, can the Minister indicate when the Government next hope to meet the UNHCR? As my noble friend Lord Dubs has said, it is the guardian of refugees worldwide.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can certainly take back the point the noble Baroness makes. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, we meet with the UNHCR on a regular basis. It is a very important body and a well-regarded partner, with which we work closely.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, may I remind Members here of the arid desert there will be as climate change takes its effect? In the coming years, there will be a massive movement of peoples who will be looking for somewhere to sustain them. What conversations are taking place to try to obtain some agreement on a humane response to this crisis? Which countries are we discussing this with? Which organisations are we talking to? It is high time that we looked to the future to try somehow to alleviate the worst of any crisis.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord makes a very pertinent point about the effects of migration during the last few years. Different climate events in different countries are accelerating this process and the conflicts to which it might lead. Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 men, women and children who have sought refuge from persecution across the world. Some 36,000 visas have been issued under the refugee family reunion rules. We aim to resettle 5,000 people a year under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme and a further 5,000 a year under the global resettlement scheme. We have been extremely generous. All of us must play our part.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, we support the view of my noble friend Lord Dubs on this issue. However, if it is the Government's view that asylum seekers must apply for refugee status in the first safe country they reach, is it therefore also their view that asylum seekers reaching—or trying to reach—this country via France, cannot be sent back there without French agreement, if it was not the first safe country they had reached or through which they had travelled?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we are making the point that France is a safe country.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, what are the Government doing about unaccompanied minors who want to join their families in this country?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the noble and learned Baroness makes a really important point about unaccompanied minors. I pay tribute to the work of the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, in this area. We will always try to give unaccompanied asylum-seeking children refuge where it is needed. There will always be scope for an exemption from temporary protection status if it could not have been reasonably expected that they would come directly or claim without delay. All UASCs will be exempt from any no recourse to public funds requirement.

Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the noble Lord, Lord Lilley, was perhaps at risk of confusing the issue somewhat. He appeared to be talking about economic migration, which is not the same as asylum seeking. Does the Minister agree that the two are different, and does she agree that it is the right thing to do to offer asylum to all those who reach our shores claiming asylum if they have a genuine case?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think my noble friend was confused at all. I think he was saying, if I interpret him correctly, that the nature of migration has hugely changed over the last 70 years, and is it time to look again at our obligations under the 1951 refugee convention?

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, the involvement of external powers, whatever their motives, dramatically increases the number of refugees, and this can place an unfair burden on neighbouring safe but poorer countries. Does the Minister agree that

external powers involved, directly or through the sale of arms, have a moral obligation to accept refugees that they have helped to create?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... He makes a pertinent point about conflict and the cause of migration and refugee issues. Certainly, some of the countries that he talks about might not be suitable to send refugees to.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-02/debates/139732C0-47BA-4F11-8C14-DE939580BB8E/RefugeesStatus>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL3324] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities have taken on Afghan refugee families; and how many of these families are still in (1) hotels, or (2) guest houses; and how many children in these families have not yet been found school places.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We continue to work with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation as quickly as possible for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK.

There are more than 11,000 individuals accommodated temporarily in bridging hotels across the UK, who were evacuated as part of Operation Pitting. Children who have recently arrived from Afghanistan are entitled to a full time education and one of our priorities is to ensure they receive it. The duty to provide sufficient education for all school-age children rests with local authorities and the government is working closely with local authorities in whose areas Afghan families are resident to ensure they can access education as soon as possible.

In addition, we are urgently making available additional funds to support local authorities to provide educational support and help Afghan children and young people settle into their local schools and communities.

The Minister of State for Prisons and Afghan Resettlement provided an update to the House of Commons in a Dear Colleague letter last week, and she will continue to update the House at regular intervals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-21/hl3324>

The letter referred to above is not yet available online

Napier Barracks: Coronavirus

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3148] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases of COVID-19 there have been at Napier Barracks since April.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Twelve people have tested positive for coronavirus whilst accommodated at Napier Barracks since April 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/hl3148>

Napier Barracks: Coronavirus

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3149] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all residents at Napier Barracks have been offered a COVID-19 vaccination.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers, including those resident at Napier, have the same access to the Covid-19 vaccination as the general UK population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-18/hl3149>

News

The Nationality & Borders Bill: what is it and what comes next?

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/the-nationality-borders-bill-what-is-it-and-what-comes-next/>

Priti Patel urged to justify claim that most boat migrants are not real refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/02/priti-patel-urged-to-justify-claim-most-boat-migrants-not-real-refugees>

Priti Patel accused of 'incompetence' as Channel crossings pass record of 20,000

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrants-priti-patel-b1950507.html>

Number of Channel migrants to reach UK hits record 20,000

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/02/number-channel-migrants-reaching-uk-hits-record-20000/>

Record number of people cross Channel to UK in small boats

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/05/record-number-of-people-cross-channel-to-uk-in-small-boats>

Record 853 migrants reach UK in single day

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/05/record-853-migrants-reach-uk-single-day/>

More than 850 migrants cross Channel in single day

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nearly-900-migrants-cross-channel-in-single-day-0j8slq7pv>

Sixfold increase in migrants crossing Channel last month

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sixfold-increase-in-migrants-crossing-channel-last-month-lqmlj0gsn>

Border Force refusing to turn back migrant boats

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/border-force-refusing-to-turn-back-migrant-boats-8mv9mbjqw>

Channel ferry stops to rescue migrants on sinking boat and return them to Calais

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/03/channel-ferry-stops-rescue-migrants-sinking-boat-return-calais/>

Manslaughter enquiry opened after migrant dies trying to cross Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-migrants-crossing-death-missing-b1951255.html>

Two migrants die amid record numbers of people attempting to cross English Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-channel-crossing-migrants-death-b1952306.html>

Migrant attempting to reach the UK feared dead in Channel crossing

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/03/migrant-attempting-to-reach-the-uk-feared-dead-in-channel-crossing>

Migrant drowns as hundreds cross Channel in single day

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patel-starts-paying-france-the-54m-she-promised-to-stop-migrants-crossing-the-english-channel-cn276f7zk>

Home Office yet to provide funding for Afghan evacuees, say councils

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/02/home-office-yet-to-provide-funding-for-afghan-evacuees-say-councils>

Afghan refugee in Aberdeen 'physically here but mentally not'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-59063452>

Home Office plans to use X-rays to age assess asylum seekers branded 'regressive'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/age-assessments-children-home-office-uk-b1947970.html>

Cross-party MPs say asylum seekers should be given right to work after six months

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seekers-right-to-work-priti-patel-uk-b1949819.html>

Asylum seeker who died fleeing immigration raid 'was just asking for safety in UK'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-death-mustafa-dawood-b1949287.html>

Immigration officers contributed to death of asylum seeker, inquest finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/05/immigration-officers-contributed-to-death-of-asylum-seeker-inquest-finds>

Home Office to deport non-criminals to Jamaica for first time since Windrush scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-jamaica-deportation-flight-windrush-b1951625.html>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

John Mason (SNP) [S6M-01894] Scottish Interfaith Week 2021 – That the Parliament welcomes Scottish Interfaith Week 2021, which is taking place from 31 October to 7 November; notes that this year's theme is Together for Our Planet, which ties in with COP26 hosted in Glasgow; acknowledges Interfaith Scotland's belief that climate action is important for people of all backgrounds, faiths and cultures to get involved in; believes that the work being done to spread climate awareness is key to the survival of the planet; understands that Scottish Interfaith Week brings people together while promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures, and encourages everyone who wishes to take part to participate.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01894>

TOP

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Domestic Abuse (Support for Ethnic Minority Women)

Bill Kidd (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken, and will take, to support the mental and physical health of ethnic minority women who are victims of domestic abuse. (S6O-00306)

Reply from the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care (Kevin Stewart):

We continue to invest significant levels of funding in specialist front-line services. Through our new delivering equally safe fund, we recently confirmed allocations to 13 projects that specifically support minority ethnic women who have experienced domestic abuse and gender-based violence.

Following our mental health and transition recovery plan, we commissioned research from the Improvement Service to help us to better understand and address the mental health and wellbeing needs of women and girls who are experiencing gender-based violence. That has included engagement with minority ethnic groups. A final report with recommendations will be published this winter.

Bill Kidd: Anyiso is an organisation in my Anniesland constituency that supports women in those difficult circumstances. It has been reported that the domestic abuse of women in ethnic minority communities often goes unreported in Scotland due to religious or cultural reasons. What measures are in place, or can be put in place, to ensure that those women are able to access the support that the minister has outlined?

Reply from Kevin Stewart: Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on victims and we continue to encourage all those who experience such crimes to report them and seek support. We remain committed to raising awareness of domestic abuse. Later this month, we will launch a campaign to reach those who are most at risk and ensure that survivors are aware of the support that continues to be available. We support Scotland's domestic abuse and forced marriage helpline, which is there to support anyone who has experience of domestic abuse. The helpline is available 24/7 and offers translation services for service users who prefer to use a language other than English.

I launched the communities mental health and wellbeing fund at Saheliya, here in Edinburgh, which seeks to promote the mental health and wellbeing of communities, with a particular focus on local at-risk groups, including ethnic minority women. The Government funds research that explores south Asian women's end-to-end experiences of criminal justice in the context of domestic abuse, including when seeking support during and following domestic abuse. We expect that report to be published in December 2022.

Pauline McNeill (Labour): A quarter of cases in the sheriff court are domestic abuse cases. The main barrier to victims of domestic abuse taking their abusers to court is the cost of, and access to, a lawyer who specialises in domestic abuse. Has the minister had, or will he have, discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans about how access to legal aid can be improved to ensure that women can access a lawyer who specialises in domestic abuse?

Reply from Kevin Stewart: As Ms McNeill rightly pointed out, that is more a matter for my justice colleagues. I, of course, have conversations with them regularly and will pick up with them the points that Ms McNeill made.

I am sure that all of us in the chamber are extremely supportive of Scotland's equally safe strategy, and that we want to make sure that women and girls who face domestic abuse have all the recourse that they can.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13381&i=121413#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [62871] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the recommendation of the Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries report, published in January 2021, what steps he has taken to help identify and meet the specific needs of Black and Asian populations in the context of reproductive and pregnancy healthcare provision.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: In summer 2021, the Department commissioned the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to carry out a pilot survey of women's reproductive health experiences in England. The sampling strategy included working with advocacy organisations to try to maximise participation from women from ethnic minority groups, including black and Asian women. Data from the survey will contribute to evidence around the specific needs of black and Asian populations in reproductive healthcare provision.

The Department is developing a new Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy, which will be published early next year. The Strategy will include an overarching focus on identifying and addressing health inequalities, including those faced by black and Asian populations, in relation to sexual and reproductive healthcare.

On 6 September, NHS England and NHS Improvement published 'Equity and Equality: Guidance for Local Maternity Systems'. Local Maternity Systems are asked to undertake interventions to understand the specific needs of black and Asian populations through the local population's maternal and perinatal health needs; map community assets which help address the social determinants of health; conduct a baseline assessment of the experience of maternity and neonatal staff by Workforce Race Equity Standard indicators; and plan to co-produce interventions to improve equity for mothers, babies and race equality for staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/62871>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrace-uk/reports/perinatal-report-2020-twins/MBRRACE-UK_Twin_Pregnancies_Confidential_Enquiry.pdf

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/C0734-equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems.pdf>

UN Climate Conference 2021: Ethnic Groups

Stuart Anderson (Conservative) [64740] To ask the President of COP26, what steps have been taken to help ensure that people from ethnic minority backgrounds are represented at COP26.

Reply from Michael Ellis: We want a broad range of diverse voices at COP26. This includes Indigenous Peoples, women, people with disabilities, youth, older persons, faith and frontline groups. This is to amplify and learn from those most affected by climate change and to inspire increased climate ambition.

In line with the UK's commitment to inclusivity, we are determined to ensure Glasgow is as inclusive as possible - despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. Through our diverse programme of events, as well as the efforts we have put into getting delegates to Glasgow, all participants will be able to benefit from the very best in climate leadership. To facilitate participation:

- We offered free vaccinations to those from other countries who could not otherwise access them.
- We provided free visas to registered attendees with UNFCCC accreditation.
- We funded the required Managed Quarantine for delegates coming from 'red

list' countries.

- We also worked with transit countries for Pacific Small Island Development States (SIDs) to identify solutions to overcome barriers to travel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-27/64740>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Gypsies and Travellers

The Lord Bishop of London: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the availability of places for nomadic Gypsies and Travellers to legally and safely stop; and what plans they have to address any identified shortage of places.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling UP, Housing and Communities (Lord Greenhalgh): The Government do not undertake an assessment on the availability of places for nomadic Gypsies and Travellers to stop. It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to make their own assessment of need for both permanent and transit site provision and to identify land to meet this need in their local plan. Authorities are best placed to make decisions about the number and locations of sites locally.

The Lord Bishop of London: I thank the Minister for his Answer. He may be aware that, in areas such as Leeds and Durham, a model of negotiated stopping has been piloted. This is where there is an agreement between Traveller communities, local authorities and other agencies that allows temporary stopping on sites, having discussed the duration of their stay and, sometimes, a contribution towards costs. Will Her Majesty's Government consider implementing a negotiated stopping programme across the country to enable this community to retain their cultural identity? If so, what department will be responsible?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The right reverend Prelate should know that, when I was Communities Minister, I was someone who encouraged the use of negotiated stopping throughout the Covid-19 pandemic by writing to local authorities. Having negotiated stopping sites avoids the need for enforcement of unauthorised encampments through the courts and we think it is a great way forward. But it is also a matter for local authorities, and we will continue to encourage them to use this.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour): My Lords, the Labour Government enacted legislation that obliged local authorities to assess the housing need of Gypsies and Travellers. Successive Governments have prayed this in aid as an improvement. The noble Lord the Minister will be aware that very few local authorities comply. What steps will Her Majesty's Government take to monitor and enforce this legislation, which is of course the prerequisite for providing enough sites?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, the Government expect local planning authorities to assess the need for Traveller sites in their area and to plan accordingly. We are not looking to introduce a statutory duty, as currently operates in Ireland; we do not see that as a necessary step.

Baroness Greengross (Crossbench): My Lords, what steps will the Government take to work with local authorities to increase the number of sites for Gypsies and Travellers? Statistics from the charity Friends, Family and Travellers show that only eight local authorities out of 68 in the south-east of England have identified a five-year supply of specific, deliverable sites for Gypsies and Travellers. What steps will the Government take to improve this situation?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we will continue to encourage all local authorities to access funding for both permanent and temporary sites through the affordable homes programme of some £11.5 billion. I reiterate that it is the responsibility of local planning authorities to make an assessment of need for both

permanent and transit sites and to identify sites in their local plan. Of course, these local plans are independently assessed by an inspector.

Baroness Blake of Leeds (Labour): My Lords, earlier this year, reports emerged that Pontins had used a blacklist of common Irish surnames allegedly to attempt to prevent Traveller families staying at its holiday parks. What recent assessment have the Government made of levels of similar discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers? Can the Minister say what steps are being taken to end this?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we have previously discussed this in the House and it is an absolutely disgraceful example of discrimination. No one should be discriminated against because of their race and ethnicity, and we have invested in a programme of some £150,000 to tackle discrimination. We will continue to challenge companies such as Pontins, and I think the media did a fair job of ensuring that this does not happen again.

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, if every local authority provided permanent and transit sites serviced with water, sanitation and waste disposal, families would have somewhere to bring up their children, get them into school and look after their elderly. There is no fear that they will overwhelm social services, as they always look after their elderly themselves. Why do the Government not help them to do this by enforcing the responsibility of local authorities to provide sites?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I answered that question in my answer to a previous supplementary: there are no plans to bring in statutory provision, because the previous introduction of a statutory duty simply did not work. We will continue to encourage local authorities to fulfil their duties under their local plans. ...

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated): Would it not be helpful to have a national website that identifies temporary sites? Indeed, would it not be quite possible for local authorities to be able to live-time the number of vacancies on those sites so that everyone can see what is available and where?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, that is a really helpful suggestion that I will take back to officials in my department. The statistics on this are positive, in that we have seen an increase in the number of sites in the last 10 years but, obviously, knowing where those vacancies are would be very helpful indeed.

Lord Dubs (Labour): My Lords, am I to understand that the Government's policy is simply to say, "Nothing to do with us, leave it all to local authorities"? Is not the difficulty that if one local authority moves ahead of the others, the demand in that area will increase, and adjacent local authorities will not share the responsibility? Surely we need a proper national approach of co-operation between the Government and local authorities to move forward.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I think that is what we have. We are working with local authorities and encouraging them to assess their local need. We have seen, through this policy, an increase in site provision and we feel that responsibility rests in local government. As someone who spent 20 years in local government, I do not think everything should be directed from Whitehall.

Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister has just said that there has been an increase in authorised encampment pitches. The reality is that there has been an overall 8.4% decrease of pitches on local authority Traveller sites over the last decade. There has been an increase in unauthorised encampment sites not run by local authorities. It seems extraordinary, at a time when this Government propose to criminalise Gypsy and Traveller families who cannot find authorised encampment pitches, that they are not doing more than "encourage" local authorities to fulfil their duties. Please will the Government reconsider that and ensure that local authorities provide enough sites for the community?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I can provide only the statistics that I have been given, which are that since 2010 there has been an increase of 1,291 new affordable permanent pitches, and in the January 2020 Traveller caravan count there were 354 transit pitches, of which 138 were vacant transit pitches. We

recognise the need to increase supply, which is why we are providing the affordable homes grant that local authorities can bid into. I also point out that there is a very high bar for criminality—members of the community committing actual harm—before criminal proceedings begin.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, I refer the House to my interests as set out in the register. Does the noble Lord accept that the lack of places for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities is a huge problem? This is a community that is expected to abide by the law, as we all are, but it also needs to be protected by the law. Its members need to be treated with respect, to be free from discrimination and to be able to live their lives peacefully. What are the Government doing to support that? So far, all he has said is that it is a matter for the council.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: I have also said that there is a high bar for criminality, that no one should be discriminated against because of their race or ethnicity, that we are investing in measures to reduce hate crime and that we recognise that the Government play a part, particularly in funding. That is why there is funding available in the affordable homes grant, and I am sure there will be further announcements of funding that will increase the supply of authorised permanent sites and transit provision. We will continue to encourage negotiated stopping as another way of dealing with these issues.

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Labour): My Lords, in order to copper-fasten additional sites, what determined steps will the Government take to ring-fence funding for local authorities to build Gypsy and Traveller sites as part of the levelling-up agenda and to respect human rights provisions?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I am not a great fan of ring-fencing: that is not always the way to achieve something. We have £11.5 billion in total for a programme of affordable housing, but that can also be bid for to build these additional sites. We continue to think that the right way is for councils to assess against local need and make their bids accordingly.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-04/debates/49417CE5-6CA1-4800-8049-E112DFD7E2B8/GypsiesAndTravellers>

News

Remembrance Sunday: 'Don't erase' ethnic minorities

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-59149200>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Local Government: Equality and Racial Discrimination

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [62762] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what support he plans to provide to councils that have agreed to make their city anti-racist and inclusive to advance their work on anti-racism and inclusivity.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The UK Government welcomes proactive work which tackles not only racism but all forms of discrimination. Local leaders should decide how best to take this forward in their communities, and in a way which complies with the Equality Act and The Seven Principles of Public Life.

We encourage local authorities to build on and strengthen a shared local and national identity across class, colour and creed and ensure all activities provide value for money for council taxpayers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/62762>

The Seven Principles of Public Life, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Mental Health Services: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL3259] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle racial inequalities in the mental health system.

Reply from Lord Kamall: Under the NHS Long Term Plan, all local health systems are expected to set out how they will specifically reduce health inequalities by 2023/24.

In 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement published the *Advancing mental health equalities strategy* which sets out actions to create more equitable access, experience and outcomes in mental health services in England. Specifically, the strategy includes the development of the patient and carers race equality framework to support mental health services to improve ethnic minority communities' experience of care. A copy of the strategy is attached.

As part of our plans to reform the Mental Health Act 1983, we are also developing culturally appropriate advocacy for people of all ethnic backgrounds, as well as conducting research that aims to support the improvement in mental health outcomes for people from ethnic minority communities.

[Advancing Mental Health Equalities](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/hl3259>

New Publications

Employment Tribunal Judgement: Ms S Tesfagiorgis v Aspinalls Club Ltd

The Employment Tribunal found that a casino racially discriminated against one of its staff by allowing a client's request not to have black dealers at their table.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6183fe468fa8f5297a62a373/Ms_S_Tesfagiorgis_vs_Aspinalls_Club_Limited_.pdf

Antisemitic Discourse Report 2020

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/6/d/Antisemitic%20Discourse%20Report%202020.pdf>

News

Home Office sued over 'racially disproportionate' new stop and search rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-sued-stop-search-b1950653.html>

Humza Yousaf discrimination complaint against Dundee nursery upheld

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-59150355>

Humza Yousaf's complaint against nursery upheld by inspectors

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/humza-yousafs-complaint-against-nursery-upheld-by-inspectors-2djfgxtp0>

Black History Month should not become 'Racism History Month', says equalities minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/10/31/black-history-month-should-not-become-racism-history-month-says/>

'Weed out' police misogyny and racism with phone checks, says UK watchdog

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/06/weed-out-police-misogyny-and-racism-with-phone-checks-says-uk-watchdog>

Neo-Nazi terrorist group's co-founder called for 'traitors' to be gassed in speech

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-ben-raymond-gas-traitors-b1950941.html>

Alleged co-founder of neo-Nazi group coined term 'white jihad', court hears

<https://www.faith-matters.org/alleged-co-founder-of-neo-nazi-group-coined-term-white-jihad-court-hears/>

Teenager charged with planning far-right terror attack

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/teenager-charged-with-planning-farright-terror-attack-b1951616.html>

Edinburgh university donors desert after racism and trans rows

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-university-donors-desert-after-racism-and-trans-rows-pzjkw977>

'Females with fair skin': Mayfair casino guilty of race discrimination, tribunal finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/02/mayfair-casino-guilty-of-race-discrimination-tribunal-finds>

Mayfair casino Aspinalls let gamblers demand white dealers only

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mayfair-casino-aspinalls-let-gamblers-demand-white-dealers-only-0wg27tr7>

Black men are sharing their racist night club experiences on social media

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/black-men-racism-nightclub-bouncers-b1950576.html>

Out-of-step Nutcracker gets update to end 'racist' stereotypes

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/out-of-step-nutcracker-gets-update-to-end-racist-stereotypes-gg3nsz98s>

England captain Eoin Morgan wants cricket to tackle Yorkshire racism row 'head on'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-racism-azeem-rafiq-eoin-morgan-b1952149.html>

Yorkshire banned from hosting England matches in wake of 'abhorrent' racism scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-racism-england-matches-azeem-rafiq-b1951723.html>

Yorkshire banned from staging England matches over cricket racism scandal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/04/ecb-pressure-punish-gary-ballance-yorkshire-racism-scandal/>

Azeem Rafiq racism panel member defends 'banter' findings
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/03/yorkshire-members-express-frustration-handling-azeem-rafiq-racism/>

Azeem Rafiq: 'Racist language isn't friendly banter,' say British-Pakistanis
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-59081887>

Azeem Rafiq still receiving abuse for speaking out in Yorkshire racism case
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/nov/04/azeem-rafiq-says-institutional-racism-is-key-issue-after-gary-ballance-admits-racial-slur-cricket>

Azeem Rafiq racism case: Roger Hutton resigns as Yorkshire chairman
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59172267>

Yorkshire cricket chairman Roger Hutton resigns amid racism report fallout
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-chairman-resigns-racism-report-b1952044.html>

Yorkshire CCC chairman resigns as Rafiq racism case fallout deepens
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/nov/05/yorkshire-ccc-chairman-resigns-as-azeem-rafiq-racism-case-fallout-deepens-cricket>

Yorkshire head coach Andrew Gale investigated over anti-Semitic message as racism crisis deepens
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/05/yorkshire-cricket-racism-storm-chairman-quits-hits-ecb-latest/>

When it comes to racism in cricket, the ECB is the accused not the judge
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2021/nov/05/racism-cricket-ecb-azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-cricket>

Gary Ballance says he 'regrets' using racial slur against Azeem Rafiq during time together at Yorkshire
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59155576>

Yorkshire County Cricket Club investigating after another ex-player alleges racial abuse
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59186071>

Fan jailed for racially abusing Rashford, Sancho and Saka after Euro 2020 final
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/nov/03/football-fan-jailed-for-racially-abusing-rashford-sancho-and-saka-after-final-euro-2020>

David Moyes disappointed by footage of fans seemingly singing anti-Semitic song
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/david-moyes-jewish-west-ham-belgium-europa-league-b1952342.html>

West Ham 'appalled' by footage showing fans singing anti-Semitic song
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/west-ham-genk-jewish-belgium-europa-league-b1951913.html>

West Ham 'appalled' by footage of fans singing antisemitic song on flight

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/nov/05/west-ham-left-appalled-by-footage-of-fans-singing-antisemitic-song>

Chelsea fan jailed for anti-Semitic tweets aimed at Spurs supporters

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-59178681>

Chelsea fan jailed for antisemitic tweets aimed at Tottenham supporters

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/chelsea-football-fan-antisemitic-tweets-b1952604.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

COP26 - global assembly: First Minister's speech - 1 November 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-assembly-cop26-first-ministers-speech-1-november-2021/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Minister for Women and Equalities: Black History Month

Ruth Jones (Labour) [60511] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, how her Department has marked Black History Month 2021.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: This year, the Government marked Black History Month with the #TransformingToday campaign. Throughout the month, the Cabinet Office has coordinated the government-wide campaign, #TransformingToday, which has celebrated Black British talent, trailblazers and pioneers. There has been a particular focus on our Covid heroes. As Minister of State for Equalities I wrote an opinion piece for Black History Month Magazine and took part in an interview with Sky News' Trevor Phillips on the topic of Black History Month.

There have been numerous central events including a No10 reception celebrating the success of Black interns, entrepreneurs and others, attended by the Prime Minister. There was also an event highlighting service with school pupils from three schools and Victoria Cross recipient Johnson Beharry; as well as other events in skills and digital helping to support Black people in their ambitions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-21/60511>

Press Release

Prime Minister's Diwali message

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1456191017800146945>

New Publication

PM address at COP26 World Leaders Summit Opening Ceremony

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-at-cop26-world-leaders-summit-opening-ceremony>

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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 Parliament Oral Answer

Covid-19

Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): It is a fundamental right to be able to worship freely without intervention by the state. It is not a fundamental right to go to a crowded nightclub or bar. Yet, here in Scotland, people can attend a rugby match with 60,000 and sing and

shout, or go to a crowded dance hall or club and shout and sing. Meanwhile, religious communities partaking in communal worship are forced to wear masks. Can the cabinet secretary tell me what the scientific basis is for such a disparity, given that it is far more important that people are able to worship freely than attend a sports event or nightclub? When will that double standard be rectified?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: We recognise the importance of the fundamental right of people to come together to worship, which is one of the reasons why we never applied the certification scheme to places of worship. The other events that the member mentioned, such as large-scale football or rugby matches, large-scale concerts and late-night venues, all come under the eligibility criteria for the certification scheme, so there is an additional element of protection.

On the member's question about face coverings, we review regularly—we are required to do so by law—all the protective measures that are in place, such as the mandatory requirement to wear face coverings in most indoor settings, including, as the member rightly said, places of worship.

The measure will continue to be monitored and kept under review. After a recent review, during which there was careful consideration of all the current evidence and all the available options, ministers determined that the regulations on face coverings remain proportionate and should not change at present.

At this stage of the pandemic, many of the more intrusive restrictions have been lifted, but the virus and the harms that it causes have not gone away. Although vaccination has significantly weakened the link between cases and serious health harms, that link has not been completely broken. Therefore, it is important that places of worship, alongside many other indoor settings, continue their good practice to reduce the spread of the virus.

We are grateful to faith and belief communities for their important role in protecting their congregations and enabling everyone, particularly those at higher risk, to access worship safely. However, I take the member's point, and I give him an absolute guarantee that the measures are kept under regular review.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13379&i=121393&c=2352854#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's statement – 2 November 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretarys-statement-2-november-2021-1/>

UK Government Press Releases

People urged to get COVID-19 boosters as almost 10m people jabbed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-urged-to-get-covid-19-boosters-as-almost-10m-people-jabbed>

First oral antiviral for COVID-19, Lagevrio (molnupiravir), approved by MHRA
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-oral-antiviral-for-covid-19-lagevrio-molnupiravir-approved-by-mhra>

New campaign to 'Stop COVID-19 hanging around'
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-campaign-to-stop-covid-19-hanging-around>

UK Government Publication

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

News

High-risk Covid gene more common in South Asians
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59165157>

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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/2021-11-02/debates/e7e1e23d-2ccb-4057-969e-b47314497e6f/NationalityAndBordersBill\(ThirteenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-02/debates/e7e1e23d-2ccb-4057-969e-b47314497e6f/NationalityAndBordersBill(ThirteenthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-02/debates/0046e655-b97d-47db-be9d-8b004f955ebf/NationalityAndBordersBill\(FourteenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-02/debates/0046e655-b97d-47db-be9d-8b004f955ebf/NationalityAndBordersBill(FourteenthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-04/debates/e7d92895-a24c-4e12-b319-de3a829ef79f/NationalityAndBordersBill\(FifteenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-04/debates/e7d92895-a24c-4e12-b319-de3a829ef79f/NationalityAndBordersBill(FifteenthSitting))

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/210187v1.pdf>

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

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>

**** An inspection of the Home Office's processing of applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a partner of a person or parent of a child already settled in the UK (SET (M))** (closing date 17 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-processing-of-applications-for-indefinite-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk-as-a-partner-of-a-person-or>

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 Opportunities

** 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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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 bi-lingual 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>

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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/id2tey6w>

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>

No Recourse to Public Funds

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>

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
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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