



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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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Human Trafficking

**Bill Kidd (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to protect victims of human trafficking from re-trafficking in Scotland. (S6O-00460)

**Reply from the Minister for Community Safety (Ash Regan):** The Scottish Government funds Migrant Help, the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance and the Scottish guardianship service to provide specialised support to adults and unaccompanied children who are potential victims of trafficking. That support is key to mitigating the risks of re-trafficking. It includes safe accommodation, legal and financial advice, supporting return to education and support in navigating the welfare and immigration systems.

**Bill Kidd:** What success has there been in prosecuting human traffickers who operate in

Scotland? Does the Scottish Government agree with approaches, such as that of the charity Medaille Trust and the victims' voices project, that hold that best-evidence interviews could improve prosecution rates, which would result in justice for victims of that abhorrent crime?

**Reply from Ash Regan:** The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act was passed unanimously in 2015. It gives the police and prosecutors greater powers to detect and bring to justice those who are responsible for trafficking. Obviously, decisions in relation to prosecution are for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, and are taken in line with its published "Prosecution Code".

A number of convictions have been secured under the terms of the 2015 act. However, we also recognise that human trafficking is a complex crime in which control and coercion are often exerted by perpetrators over victims in sometimes subtle and often hidden ways. Crimes relating to human trafficking may also be prosecuted under other offences.

Supporting victim engagement is key in the area and is an element of the law enforcement approach that is being taken. Police Scotland has recently seconded a victim navigator from the charity Justice and Care to its national human trafficking unit, to enable early contact with potential victims and to support them through the criminal justice process, where the victims wish it.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13441&i=121996#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Robert Jenrick (Conservative)** [81016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Afghan Refugee Scheme will open for applications, and when the first refugees under this scheme is expected to arrive in the UK.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme is not yet open and remains under development. Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme. 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. 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](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81016>

### Immigration: Afghanistan

**Valerie Vaz (Labour)** [81940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan citizens have been granted leave to remain since 1 September 2021.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Home Office publishes quarterly data on grants and refusals of leave to remain (visa extensions) in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' on GOV.UK:

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

The latest published statistics show that 464 people with Afghan Nationality were

granted leave to remain in the third quarter (July to September) 2021. Of this, 385 grants were via a Family route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/81940>

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**John McNally (SNP)** [79404] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure the equity of her Department's decisions to grant indefinite leave to remain to Afghans and spouses of British citizens.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** All decisions to grant indefinite leave to those evacuated from Afghanistan, including the spouses of British citizens, are taken on an individual basis and with consideration to the specific circumstances of the case. These cohorts are treated more generously than other family members of British citizens because of the unique circumstances of the evacuation, alongside the need to quickly move people to safety without being able to assess their ability to meet the normal Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79404>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Chris Grayling (Conservative)** [78366] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what progress she has made on Government plans to bring Afghan political refugees with family in the UK to the UK.

**Reply from James Cleverly:** Providing assistance to those individuals eligible for HMG support remains a top priority. We have created a new Joint Afghanistan Casework Unit (JACU), staffed by officials from the FCDO, Home Office and Ministry of Defence, which is taking forward the UK's commitment to resettle individuals and those family members confirmed to be eligible. We will continue to work to take advantage of all opportunities to help those eligible to come to the UK to leave Afghanistan. We have also announced the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which in its first year will welcome up to 5,000 vulnerable Afghans to the UK who have been forced to flee the country, with up to a total of 20,000 over the coming years. ACRS will provide protection for Afghan citizens at risk, including women and girls and members of minority groups, and who have stood up for our democratic values in Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-19/78366>

*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)** [84304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applicants have indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** As part of Operation Warm Welcome, ARAP applicants in the UK are entitled to Indefinite Leave to Remain.

The Home Office is contacting those here in the UK in order to assist them to register their Indefinite Leave to Remain status.

No one will be required to leave the United Kingdom, or be disadvantaged in any way, while we work through their cases.

More information can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration Policy Statement

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/84304>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [79408] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what provisions are in place for British nationals who are in the UK under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy or will be in the UK under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme and who wish to be resettled in a specific place as a result of the availability of existing support systems.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** All British nationals and their families who were evacuated are being provided with the same bridging accommodation and wrap-around support as everyone else. For example, we have provided all British Nationals with cash cards to give them subsistence support whilst their Universal Credit claim is processed. British Nationals and their families are provided with bridging accommodation for as long as is needed. We continue to work at pace to agree the right long term support offer for British Nationals and great care is being taken in the matching process to meet the needs of the families as far as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79408>

*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**

**Valerie Vaz (Labour)** [81942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities in England have accepted Afghan refugees; and how many refugees each of those local authorities have accepted.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We've seen over 300 local authorities come forward with commitments to take in displaced Afghans as part of our resettlement plans. We thank those local authorities who are taking their fair share and would encourage others who haven't yet stepped forward to work with us.

Data on relocation will be published as part of our quarterly release which can be found at this link: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/81942>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Housing: Refugees**

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [81141] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department plans to provide extra funds to local authorities which commit to rehousing and offering support to refugees.

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**John Healey (Labour)** [84305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding per Afghan resettled in the UK will be provided to local authorities for resettlement under the (a) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and (b) Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Councils who support people through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme will receive £20,520 per person, over 3 years, for resettlement and integration costs. Local councils and health partners who resettle families will also receive up to £4,500 per child for education, £850 to cover English language provision for adults requiring this support and £2,600 to cover healthcare. A further £20 million of flexible funding will be made available to support local authorities with higher cost bases with any additional costs in the provision of services. In addition, the previously announced Afghan Housing Costs Fund will increase from £5 million to £17 million and run for 2 extra years to help local authorities provide housing and give certainty that funding will be available in the future.

The ACRS scheme is not currently open.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81141>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-30/84305>

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

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Valerie Vaz (Labour)** [81941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of Afghan citizens in bridging hotels who are waiting to be allocated housing.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We are working at pace with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. Data on relocation will be published as part of our quarterly release which can be found at this link: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

Over 4000 individuals have either moved into a settled home, are in the process of doing so or are being matched.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/81941>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees were residing in bridging hotels as at 22 November 2021.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We are working at pace with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. Data on relocation will be published as part of our quarterly release which can be found at this link: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80358>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan refugees have been resettled in housing from bridging hotels between 1 August 2021 and 22 November 2021.

**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.

We are working at pace with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. Data on relocation will be published as part of our quarterly release which can be found at this link: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#). Over 4,000 individuals have either moved into a settled home, or are being matched.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80359>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [80360] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State

for the Home Department on the adequacy of local authority housing provision for accommodating Afghan refugees.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities are working closely together on resettling refugees from Afghanistan. Over 4,000 individuals have either moved into a settled home or are in the process of being matched. In the meantime we continue to put in place wrap around support for those in temporary 'bridging' accommodation, while we work to secure settled housing for the remaining families.

We are very grateful to the local authorities who have already agreed to support Afghan families to resettle, whether in local authority housing, in housing association properties, or in the private rented sector. We are working closely with local authorities and across Government departments to match the remaining families with settled housing as quickly as possible to enable those evacuated from Afghanistan to rebuild their lives here in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80360>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [80361]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence Secretary on repurposing his Department's housing to accommodate people under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** A significant cross Government effort is underway to ensure the thousands of Afghans 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 continue to work closely with the Ministry of Defence and as well as other partners across government to source appropriate accommodation as quickly as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80361>

*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**

### **Biometric Residence Permits**

**Rupa Huq (Labour) [79429]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to reduce the waiting time for replacement biometric residence permits.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** For those granted temporary leave, the service standard for processing applications for a replacement biometric residence permit (BRP) is 8 weeks from the date of application, subject to the applicant enrolling their biometrics. For those granted permanent leave, the service standard is 6 months. To ensure that applications for a replacement BRP are processed within those service standards, we have been training and allocating additional resources and also looking at ways to streamline the process to improve processing times and customer service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79429>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Standards**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [80418] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to process the backlog of administrative review applications across immigration routes.

**Catherine West (Labour)** [80419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's service standards are for processing administrative review applications across immigration routes as of 23 November 2021.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Following unprecedented levels of administrative review applications, we have recruited and are onboarding additional staff which will more than double the number of decision makers working on these applications.

Current timescales for processing administrative review applications are set out at [Ask for a visa administrative review: If you're in the UK](#) which states: "Currently, it can take 6 months or more to receive the result of the administrative review. If you haven't had a decision on your application within 3 months, the Home Office will contact you with an update."

Applicants' rights are not affected by the delay in consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80418>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80419>

### **Visas: Skilled Workers**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [81082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in the context of no eligible prize holders having applied for her Department's fast-track Global Talent visa in the first six months of that scheme, what steps she is taking to help ensure that the immigration system is accessible to talented (a) scientists, (b) academics and (c) creatives at all stages of their career.

**Kevin Foster:** We have a very generous immigration offer, which enables talented scientists, academics and creatives to come to the UK through a number of different routes, including Global Talent, Skilled Worker, Creative and Temporary Worker Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) routes.

The new Points-Based System is working well, attracting the skills the UK needs, as demonstrated by the latest Immigration Statistics year end September 2021. Issuance of work visas across all routes is up on both 2020 and 2019 (pre-pandemic). Since launch, last year, the Global Talent route has seen a significant increase in applicants compared to the predecessor route, despite the impact of travel caused by the pandemic. The number of visas granted on this route has continued to grow from 422 between its launch in February 2020 to year end September 2020, to 1,709 applicants for the year ending September 2021.

We work closely with the endorsing bodies for the route, which include the country's leading science bodies, to develop the route to ensure it continues to meet the sector's needs. We ensure that the route makes it as easy as possible for those top scientists and academics coming to the UK, which is why we introduced the Prestigious Prizes pathway for those at the pinnacle of their career.

This was always intended to be for a very small number of those who may already use the Global Talent route. The only difference from the main route is the removal of the need to obtain endorsement for holders of prestigious prizes. Where individuals do not hold one of these prizes they continue to be able to use the wider route, which I am pleased to say they are doing so in strong numbers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81082>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Migrant Workers: STEM Subjects**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [81083] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in the context of no eligible prize holders having applied for the Home Office's fast-track Global Talent visa in the first six months of that scheme, what steps he is taking to help ensure that the UK attracts talented scientists at all stages of their careers.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [81084] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in the context of no eligible prize holders having applied for the Home Office's fast-track Global Talent visa in the first six months of that scheme, what steps he is taking to help ensure that the UK attracts talented academics and researchers at all stages of their careers.

**Reply from George Freeman:** The prize route is just one option under our Global Talent route, through which Home Office have received thousands of applications since its launch in February 2020, and this number continues to rise.

The Government is committed to making the UK the most exciting destination in the world for scientists, researchers, and innovators. The Government will continue to improve our approach to attracting global talent to the UK through the Office for Talent, and by reviewing our talent offer to make sure that our programmes are among the best and most attractive in the world.

The Government continues to work closely with the science and research sector to ensure the UK immigration system is closely aligned to the sector's needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81083>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81084>

### **Refugees: Visas**

**Fleur Anderson (Labour)** [82384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to introduce a humanitarian visa scheme to create safe routes of passage for people seeking refuge in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We already welcome vulnerable people in need of protection to the UK through our resettlement schemes. These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK. Through these routes we have resettled more refugees than any EU country since 2015. They include the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, and the Nationality and Borders Bill will establish in law safe and legal routes. The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route has also provided a route to British Citizenship for over 76,000 people since it opened on 31 January.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-26/82384>

### **Immigration: Conditions of Employment**

**Virendra Sharma (Labour)** [80936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to ensure labour rights are enforced for all workers regardless of immigration status.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** All workers who are legally working in the UK enjoy the full protection of UK employment law. Migrant workers are also entitled to the same protections under health and safety legislation as any other worker.

While most employment rights are enforced by an individual through an employment tribunal, the state has an important role to play in protecting the most vulnerable workers from exploitative practices.

We spend over £35million a year on enforcement covering:

- National Minimum and Living Wages – enforced by HMRC;
- Employment agencies and employment businesses – enforced by the

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate (EAS);

- Labour exploitation and modern slavery, and the gangmasters licensing scheme for suppliers of labour in agriculture and fresh fruit supply chains - Gangmaster and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

The Government has also now committed to establish a single enforcement body for employment rights, which will bring together the three existing bodies to better protect vulnerable workers and create a level playing-field for the majority of employers complying with the law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/80936>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [81130] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of eligible claimants have applied to the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** The Home Office publishes data relating to the Windrush Compensation Scheme on a quarterly basis. This data is available at: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: October 2021](#).

In July, the Home Office announced it had updated its planning assumption of the number of eligible claims it was likely to receive. The department's current planning assumption is that it will receive between 4000-6000 eligible claims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81130>

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

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [81132] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people eligible for the Windrush Compensation Scheme have died before being compensated as of 24 November 2021.

**Reply from Priti Patel:** It is very regrettable that a claimant passes away before a compensation award can be made or an apology sent to them.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure that where they are aware of claimants with critical or life shortening illnesses, that their cases are prioritised.

In the deeply unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, but before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to that family member.

Out of the 3022 applications made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we are aware of 24 cases to date where unfortunately the claimant has passed away after having submitted a claim but before receiving compensation. We are working closely with the families and legal representatives to determine the right person to whom the compensation can be paid as quickly as possible.

It must be noted that this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on an applicant notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information. The data isn't recorded in a reportable field in the casework system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81132>

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

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Vocational Education: British National (Overseas)**

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [83256] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Hong Kong British National (Overseas) passport holders arriving in the UK have immediate access to Government-funded adult vocational training.

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [83257] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Hong Kong British National (Overseas) passport holders will have access to the Lifelong Loan Entitlement when it launches from 2025.

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [83258] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Hong Kong British National (Overseas) passport holders have access to funding for training for adults through the adult education budget on arrival to the UK.

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [83259] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what vocational training options are available for adult British National (Overseas) passport holders on arrival to the UK; and whether funding options for that education are immediately available to those people.

**Reply from Alex Burghart:** Full details on education and training for those arriving from Hong Kong on the British Nationals (Overseas Visa), are set out in the government's welcome pack for arrivals from Hong Kong on the British Nationals (Overseas) visa. The welcome pack is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1013244/HK\\_BN\\_O\\_Welcome\\_Pack\\_August\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013244/HK_BN_O_Welcome_Pack_August_2021.pdf)

Hong Kong British Nationals and their dependents have access to further education (FE) and training for those aged 16-19, whether that's in school sixth forms for 16-18 year-olds or other FE settings for 16-19 year-olds. In line with existing eligibility rules, and after three years ordinary residency in the UK, they will have access to further education and training for adults (19 years and above).

The Lifelong Learning Entitlement will be introduced from 2025 and the department will consult on its scope and policy in due course, as part of our planned pathway to delivery.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83256>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83257>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83258>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83259>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [81086] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she provide EU citizens with Settled Status a physical copy of their immigration status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Everyone granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme receives written notification of their immigration status, which they can retain for their own records; and can access a digital version of their immigration status information at any time via the online 'view and prove' service, and which, unlike a physical document, cannot be lost or stolen.

We have also extended this approach to some other cohorts including those on the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route and those granted status under some of the UK's points-based immigration routes, such as the Graduate Route. We will add other routes on an incremental basis as part of the journey to a fully digital system by 2025. For those who struggle to use online services, there is a non-digital alternative. Individuals can contact the UKVI Resolution Centre, including by phone, who are able to share status on the individual's behalf, if they are unable to do so themselves.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81086>

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

### **Undocumented Migrants: Immigration**

**Virendra Sharma (Labour)** [80934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of simplifying the process for undocumented migrants to regularise their immigration status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government remains committed to an immigration policy which welcomes people to the UK through safe and legal routes but deters illegal immigration.

There are several options available for those in the UK without lawful leave to regularise their immigration status. The Immigration Rules set out the requirements to be met to qualify for a right to remain which provides clarity for applicants and decision makers alike. There are also discretionary policies for leave to be granted outside the Immigration Rules in exceptional circumstances.

The Home Office has accepted the Law Commission's report on the simplification of the Immigration Rules and is in the process of revising and simplifying the immigration rules. We are currently in the process of simplifying routes such as private and family life which are open to undocumented migrants.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/80934>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [83438] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Maritime and Coastguard Agency received a call for help from any person aboard the boat carrying migrants that sank in the English Channel on 24 November 2021.

**Reply from Robert Courts:** Her Majesty's Coastguard is committed to safeguarding life around the seas and coastal areas of the United Kingdom.

On Wednesday 24 November 2021, the Coastguard received over 90 alerts from the English Channel area including 999 emergency calls. Every call was answered, assessed and acted upon, including the timely deployment of search and rescue resources where appropriate.

In response to calls received in the early hours of Wednesday 24 November 2021, Her Majesty's Coastguard launched a search and rescue operation including UK Border Force, a UK Coastguard Helicopter and passing ships were asked to keep a lookout for small boats in the area. Three small boats were located and those onboard rescued. No other small boats or people in the water were identified in the search area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83438>

### **Asylum**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [83410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people applying for asylum in the UK for whom the UK was the first safe country of arrival, in each year since 2015.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of asylum applications which received a third country refusal (where the applicant is believed to have reached a safe third country prior to claiming in the UK) are published in table ASY\_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. The latest data cover up to the end of September 2021.

From 1 January 2021, following the UK's departure from the EU, strengthened [inadmissibility rules](#) came into effect. Prior to the UK leaving the EU, most inadmissibility decisions were made according to the [Dublin Regulation](#) which

for the cases in its remit, established the criteria and mechanisms for determining which state was responsible for examining an application for international protection.

Data on the number of cases considered under inadmissibility rules since 1 January 2021 are published in table Asy\_09a, and data on transfers into and out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation (prior to 2021) are available in Dub\_01 of the '[asylum and resettlement summary tables](#)'.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83410>

### **Asylum: Standards**

**Justin Madders (Labour)** [80337] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing the support available for asylum seekers since the removal of the six month service standards for the processing of asylum applications by her Department.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** If an asylum seeker would otherwise be destitute they are provided with free accommodation and a weekly cash allowance. The standard level of the allowance is currently set at £39.63 for each person in their household. This is reduced if the individual is accommodated in a full-board facility where food and other essential items accounted for are provided in kind.

The level of the standard allowance is reviewed annually to ensure it is sufficient to cover their essential living needs, the legal test provided for in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

There are no plans to increase the level of support provided to asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-23/80337>

### **Asylum: Local Government**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [76843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to make additional funding available for (a) schooling and (b) healthcare for local authorities with higher placements of asylum seekers.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office is working with Local Authority Chief Executives to ensure asylum seekers who require support because they would otherwise be destitute are dispersed equitably across the UK.

Any extra costs to local authorities caused by the placement of supported asylum seekers in their areas are being considered as part of this work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/76843>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [83390] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her statement of 22 November 2021 on Channel crossings in small boats, what plans she has for the role of the military in building accommodation centres for people seeking asylum; and what estimate she has made of the cost of using the military for that purpose.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [83391] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which geographic locations her Department has identified as suitable for building accommodation centres for people seeking asylum.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [83392] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many accommodation centres for people seeking asylum her Department plans to build; and what estimate she has made of the cost of building those centres.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [83393] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

discussions she has had with Public Health England on the design of accommodation centres for people seeking asylum.

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [83394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to use existing military sites as accommodation centres for people seeking asylum.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** We have a statutory obligation to provide support to destitute asylum seekers. Under the Nationality and Borders Bill, we intend to end the use of hotels and introduce accommodation centres for these individuals. The use of accommodation centres will build on the existing asylum estate and will enable asylum claims to be handled more expediently and facilitate the removal of those whose application has been refused or deemed as inadmissible.

This government is committed to the objectives set out in the New Plan for Immigration and we are exploring with all Government Departments, the role that they can play in enabling the Home Office to meet this urgent need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83390>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83391>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83392>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83393>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-29/83394>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-22/debates/69973F3C-2383-4C12-AB0D-6BA1EBEDB7F8/ChannelCrossingsInSmallBoats>

### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [79500] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what contingency arrangements for legal advice provision will be put in place in response to the cancellation of the Detained Duty Advice Scheme procurement process for Derwentside immigration removal centre; which legal aid providers will be delivering advice under those contingency arrangements; and whether legal advice at Derwentside will be delivered in-person or remotely.

**Reply from James Cartlidge:** The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) in England. Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

In order to provide access to the Detention Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS) services for women held at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) from 1 January 2022, existing Providers at Yarl's Wood IRC will be invited to express interest in providing an additional 6 months of interim provision at Derwentside.

Under the contingency arrangements, 2 surgeries per week are planned for Derwentside DDAS. Appointments will be available as soon as women are held at the centre. Following a change of operations in line with Government advice on social distancing, the LAA DDAS is currently operating by phone in IRCs. Detained individuals who wish to access this service are asked to advise centre staff, who will notify the duty solicitor under the scheme. The duty solicitor will contact the individual directly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79500>

## Human Trafficking

**Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour)** [81065] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police recorded cases of human trafficking there were in (a) 2021, (b) 2020, (c) 2019 and (c) 2018.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The Home Office routinely publishes the number of human trafficking offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. Such offences are recorded within the Modern Slavery” category in the quarterly police recorded crime open data tables which can be found here:

[Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81065>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [82014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been supported by Independent Child Trafficking Direct Workers in each year since that service came into existence.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [82015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been supported by Independent Child Trafficking Regional Co-ordinators in each year since that service came into existence.

**Reply from Rachel Maclean:** The Home Office has rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs), an independent source of advice for trafficked children, in two thirds of local authorities across England and Wales.

ICTGs provide one-to-one support for children who have no one with parental responsibility for them in the UK via an ICTG Direct Worker. They also provide an expert ICTG Regional Practice Co-ordinator, first introduced in October 2018, for children where there is someone with parental responsibility for them in the UK.

A staggered approach has been adopted in the delivery of ICTGs, together with built-in evaluations to ensure the ICTG service meets the needs of the children it supports. ICTGs were first introduced to three initial adopter sites in January 2017. Following the findings of the interim evaluation published in 2018, ICTGs were expanded to a further three sites in 2018 and 2019. In May 2021, ICTGs were rolled out to eleven additional areas extending the service to cover two thirds of local authorities across England and Wales.

Data tables published in October 2020 as part of the Assessment of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians – Regional Practice Co-ordinators:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-analysis-of-independent-child-trafficking-guardians>

show the number of ICTG referrals for Direct Workers and Regional Practice Coordinators since 2017, split by local authority area. This data covers the period from Q1 2017 – Q4 2019.

Data tables published in November 2021 in the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery: [2021 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery](#) show the numbers of children referred to Direct Workers and Regional Practice Coordinators, broken down by region, in 2019 and 2020. This shows an overall increase in referrals between 2019 and 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/82014>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/82015>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigration: Overseas Students

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL4000] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants who initially entered the UK on a student visa were granted the right to settle in each of the past 10 years.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Data is published as part of the [Migrant Journey report](#) in dataset MJ\_D02, which contains grants of settlement by initial leave category.

Details for the last 10 years for study are below:

Sum of Total	Column Labels
Row Labels	Study
2011	27,375
2012	23,364
2013	32,126
2014	25,694
2015	26,668
2016	17,663
2017	18,176
2018	26,622
2019	27,625
2020	16,764
Grand Total	242,077

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4000>

### Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL4006] To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional protection they have provided to foreign domestic workers in the UK since the passage of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Since 6 April 2016, those admitted as Overseas Domestic Workers (ODW) or as private servants in diplomatic households have been able to change employer during the validity of their visa; and those found to be victims of slavery or human trafficking have been able to extend their stay for up to two years.

Changes were also made to ensure those who are referred to the National Referral Mechanism within the validity of their visa will be able to continue working while their case is considered.

In 2017, the minimum age for ODWs was raised to 19 in order to guard against the recruitment of minors.

More recently, work has been undertaken to simplify the Immigration Rules and guidance governing the ODW route. We expect anyone wishing to employ domestic workers to do so in accordance with UK employment regulations. The simplified rules make this clear.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4006>

### Migrants: Finance

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL4141] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the No Recourse to Public Funds policy for migrants on support for families, including with childcare costs.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** To be granted leave to enter or

remain in the UK, most temporary migrants must demonstrate they can maintain and support themselves and their families without recourse to public funds. There are, nonetheless, strong and important safeguards in place to ensure people subject to the NRPF condition can receive support. People with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes, and those who have been granted leave on the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa route as a British National (Overseas) status holder or a family member of a British National (Overseas) status holder can apply, for free, to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application. They can apply if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances. Local authorities are required to provide financial support and/or accommodation through section 17 of the Children Act 1989, where a child is in need, regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. Government support for families is generally led by the Department for Work and Pensions, HMRC, and the Department for Education, and they may have conducted further assessment of the impacts of the NRPF policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/hl4141>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Homelessness: EU Nationals**

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans** [HL4041] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of EU nationals living in England who have become homeless since the UK formally withdrew from the EU.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans** [HL4042] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to alleviate homelessness among EU nationals living in England.

**Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:** Local housing authorities report their homelessness activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to the Department by completing the quarterly Homelessness Case Level Collection (H-CLIC) statistical return. H-CLIC is an upload of all cases about statutory homelessness and the authority's activities within the legislative framework.

Figures from the latest H-CLIC data show that in England between March 2020 and April 2021, 15,140 EEA nationals were owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty. This is an 11% decrease from 2019/20.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4041>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4042>

#### **Children in Care: Refugees**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL4217] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child refugees are currently in looked after care in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The department does not collect data on all child refugees that are currently in care, but does collect data on the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) who are looked after by local authorities in England. Of the 80,850 children looked after up to 31 March 2021, there were 4,070 UASC, down 20% from the previous year which was 5,060.

Figures on the number of children looked after who were UASC were published recently in the annual statistical release at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoptions>

Figures on children who were UASC outside England is a matter for the devolved administrations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-19/hl4217>

### Asylum: Standards

**Baroness Stroud (Conservative)** [HL4208] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers have spent at least six months awaiting a decision on their asylum claim in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes information on asylum applications and resettlement in the Immigration statistics quarterly release. Data on the number of asylum applications that are currently awaiting an initial decision are published in table Asy\_D03 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets (which is attached), which includes whether cases have been waiting less or more than 6 months.

The number of people awaiting an initial decision is a subset of the total number of people in the asylum system ('asylum work in progress'), which also includes those awaiting appeal outcomes and failed asylum seekers that are subject to removal from the UK. The total number of cases in the asylum system is published in the 'Immigration and Protection' data of the Migration Transparency Data collection.

[Table Asy-D03](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-18/hl4208>

### Asylum: France

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL4054] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to work with the government of France to provide safe access to asylum procedures on both sides of the English Channel.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK and France have fully functioning asylum systems which can be safely accessed on the respective territories. Individuals in need of international protection can claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, this is the fastest route to safety.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4054>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4162] To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have that the majority of migrants crossing the English Channel to gain entry into the UK are part of criminal gangs; and whether they will publish that evidence.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** At no stage has the Government claimed that the majority of migrants crossing the English Channel are part of criminal gangs. What has been said is that the majority of *crossings* are judged to be *facilitated* by criminal gangs.

These crossings are dangerous and unnecessary – France is a safe country with a fully-functioning asylum system, and those in need of refuge have no need to make these hazardous journeys. Those who attempt to cross are endangering themselves and those who have to rescue them. And those who facilitate them are risking the lives of others in the selfish pursuit of profit. Tragically, we have seen further deaths in the last few weeks of people trying to cross the Channel in small boats. We make no apology therefore for going after the evil people smuggling gangs who facilitate the majority of these crossings.

We must ensure that those involved in people smuggling are punished with the severity it rightly deserves. The Nationality and Borders Bill will enable this and will also act as a much stronger deterrent for those tempted to pursue that despicable path. These long overdue reforms will break the business model of the criminal trafficking networks and make their activities unviable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/hl4162>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Mobile Phones**

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL4001] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many mobile phones have been issued (1) to individuals in immigration removal centres, and (2) to asylum seekers arriving in the UK after crossing the English Channel by boat, between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2021.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The published Detention Services Order 08/2012 sets out the Home Office's policy on detained individuals' possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres.

To enable contact with friends, family and legal representatives, where individuals do not have a suitable mobile phone, Home Office suppliers can provide temporary access to basic model mobile phones for individuals in detention, or those awaiting initial processing. These mobile phones are returned when individuals leave the respective centre.

No mobile phones are provided in Initial Asylum Accommodation, however; individuals can request a data sim card which enables internet access, for use during their stay.

[Detention Services Order 08/2012 – Mobile Phones](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4001>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Undocumented Migrants: Deportation**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4160] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the EU to replace the Dublin Agreement on asylum applications.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4161] To ask Her Majesty's Government why the number of migrants sent back to Europe after travelling to the UK by boat has reduced from 289 in 2020 to five in 2021.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK is in discussions regarding the returns of asylum seekers to European Member States; it would not be appropriate to provide a running commentary on these negotiations.

Whilst we are working to secure appropriate new return agreements with safe, third countries, we continue to return people on a case-by-case basis.

Our inadmissibility provisions in the Immigration Rules give us the legal basis to declare an asylum claim as inadmissible where a person has a connection to or has passed through a safe country. The first returns on inadmissible grounds have been successfully carried out.

The latest statistics which were published in August 2021, can be found on gov.uk.

The next set of data is due to be published in November 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/hl4160>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/hl4161>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2021/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

### **Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre: HIV Infection**

**Lord Smith of Finsbury (Non-affiliated)** [HL4049] To ask Her Majesty's Government why a detainee at Colnbrook Immigration Centre was denied HIV medication.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses, which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers, and delivered in line with the national service specifications for healthcare services in IRCs. There is also full access to the 24-hour on-site healthcare team and where appropriate, medication.

We take the health and welfare of those detained in our care very seriously. All detained individuals entering an IRC receive a healthcare screening within two hours of their arrival, which identifies any immediate or long-term healthcare risks. Unless they decline, individuals in IRCs are given an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours. Clinical pathways into other healthcare services are initiated at this point depending on the outcomes of the reception screening, including into sexual health services and specialist HIV prescribers. Those carrying prescribed medication will have their medication checked and re-issued by healthcare teams at the earliest possible opportunity. Individuals continue to have access to medical assistance, including medication, throughout their time in an IRC.

We are working closely with NHS England to ensure that HIV positive detained individuals, who refuse or frustrate access to their existing held medications, can be seen promptly by qualified HIV doctors who are able to access and prescribe without delay.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/hl4049>

### **Offenders: Deportation**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL4190] To ask Her Majesty's Government why there has been a decrease in the number of foreign national offenders deported from the UK since 2016; and what plans, if any, they have to reverse this trend.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is clear foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them and since January 2019 we have removed 8,441 foreign national offenders.

We deal with significant and complex challenges when seeking to deport FNOs. These challenges can include travel documentation, late claims, late legal challenges and broader non-compliance with a lawful returns process.

Despite having numerous opportunity to raise grounds at any stage of the immigration process asylum claims, appeals and judicial reviews are all commonly raised by people awaiting return, and generally lead to release from detention – despite the vast majority not ultimately receiving a positive outcome for the applicant when the claim is reviewed. The prevalence of this issue is increasing, and evidence on how the system is open to abuse, which can divert resources away from genuine victims of trafficking, persecution and serious harm, can be found in an article under the 'deportation, removals and curtailment' on gov.uk. There is supporting data in the report 'Issues raised by people facing return in immigration detention', which can also be found on gov.uk. And whilst removals have continued, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our ability to deport as many FNOs as in previous years, due to travel restrictions, fewer scheduled routes and significant disruption to other services which support the removal of foreign criminals (such as court closures).

The New Plan for Immigration will make it easier and quicker to remove FNOs and those with no right to be in the UK. The Nationality and Borders Bill will extend the period an FNO can be removed from prison under the early removal scheme (ERS) from a maximum of 9 months to 12 months, providing the minimum requisite period has been served. The Bill will also streamline the appeals process by introducing an expanded one stop process aimed at reducing the extent to which people can frustrate removals through sequential or unmeritorious claims, appeals or legal action. A new power will also be implemented to impose visa penalties on countries who do not cooperate with the UK on the removal of their nationals who do not have a right to be in the UK. Further information can be found in the New Plan for Immigration statement and the factsheet - Nationality and Borders Bill, which can both be found on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-18/hl4190>

*The New Plan for Immigration statement, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>*

*The Nationality and Borders Bill factsheet referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet>*

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [726] Eastwood Refugee Aid** – That this House calls on the UK Government to provide more effective support for those asylum seekers whose desperate plight is evidenced by the dangers and deprivations they are prepared to face in travelling to the UK; notes the commendable work of organisations such as Eastwood Refugee Aid, whose longstanding commitment to supporting refugees locally and overseas has made a significant difference to many facing the most challenging of times; appreciates the significant direct support the group has provided via Convoys to Calais; acknowledges the huge community effort the group has spearheaded, including most recently working with local Scouts to assist in fundraising for an initiative designed to assist Afghan refugees; welcomes their initiative and cooperation with East Renfrewshire Council, which has resulted in them securing use of a local hub to enable donations and distribution to take place; thanks the group for their focus on practical support for those in peril overseas and for refugees settling in Scotland; notes the importance of this initiative to the local community; and considers that this tireless work to support asylum seekers and refugees expresses the best values of people across Scotland and the UK, in contrast to those who would prevent the rescue of asylum seekers from the perils of the sea or would push them back, including women and children, into continuing danger.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59218>

## Press Releases

**Points-based immigration system: delivering on people's priorities**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/points-based-immigration-system-delivering-on-peoples-priorities>

**New powers to pushback and criminalise Channel crossings breach UK's human rights obligations, Joint Committee on Human Rights finds**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/159292/new-powers-to-pushback-and-criminalise-channel-crossings-breach-uks-human-rights-obligations-jchr-finds/>

## New Publications

**Windrush Compensation Scheme data: November 2021**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1036997/Windrush\\_Compensation\\_Scheme\\_Data\\_-\\_October\\_2021\\_V2.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036997/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_Data_-_October_2021_V2.ods)

## **Legislative Scrutiny: National and Borders Bill (Part 3) – Immigration offences and enforcement**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8021/documents/82695/default/>

## **The anti-refugee bill – an expert legal opinion**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/an-expert-legal-opinion-policy/>

## **Visa journeys and student outcomes**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/visajourneysandstudentoutcomes/2021-11-29/pdf>

## **Forced migration and sexual and gender-based violence: findings from the SEREDA project in the UK**

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/iris/2021/sereda-full-report.pdf>

## **News: Channel Migrants**

### **Channel migrants: France to propose deal with UK**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59477011>

### **Britain must take responsibility for Channel migrant crisis, say French**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/11/28/britain-must-take-responsibility-channel-migrant-crisis-say/>

### **France backs down and agrees to talks on Channel migrants**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/france-backs-down-and-agrees-to-talks-on-channel-migrants-wcnpplh0c>

### **France says UK ‘not taking its share’ of asylum seekers and Channel push-backs will not be accepted**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-crossing-france-uk-asylum-b1966274.html>

### **‘Pushback’ of refugee boats will go ahead despite mass Channel drownings, Boris Johnson vows**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-boats-deaths-boris-johnson-b1967664.html>

### **Channel migrants: Pushing back boats will increase danger, MPs warn**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-59481143>

### **UK panel asks govt to scrap plan to turn back migrant boats**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/home-office-joint-committee-on-human-rights-boris-johnson-france-harriet-harman-b1967785.html>

### **RNLI and sailors who rescue drowning migrants exempt from smuggling sentences**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/01/rnli-sailors-rescue-drowning-migrants-exempt-smuggling-sentences/>

**Priti Patel bows to pressure to protect RNLI from being prosecuted for saving migrants' lives**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rnli-channel-boat-rescues-prosecution-b1967627.html>

**RNLI vows to continue Channel rescues 'without judgement' amid new hate campaign by Britain First**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rnli-channel-rescues-britain-first-b1969357.html>

**English Channel: Britain First target RNLI over migrant lifesaving efforts**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19762551.english-channel-britain-first-target-rnli-migrant-lifesaving-efforts/>

**Protesters try to block RNLI lifeboat heading out to rescue migrants**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/30/lifeboat-blockaded-protesters-angry-migrant-rescues-days-channel/>

**'Group of Hastings fishermen block RNLI lifeboat crew' from helping migrants at sea**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fishermen-rnli-crew-migrants-rescue-hastings-b1966959.html>

**Channel migrants: protesters try to stop lifeboat rescue launch**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-protesters-try-to-stop-lifeboat-rescue-launch-fpsgpgggq>

**Channel boat victims may have tried to contact UK authorities, Home Office says**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-boat-sinking-home-office-b1968144.html>

**People onboard sinking Channel dinghy 'tried to contact UK authorities'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/01/people-onboard-sinking-channel-dinghy-tried-to-contact-uk-authorities>

**Pope Francis pained at migrant deaths in English Channel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/mediterranean-sea-pope-francis-belarus-poland-vatican-city-b1965538.html>

**French and British police ignored drowning migrants in Channel, says survivor**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/28/teenage-migrant-feared-drowned-channel-disaster-dreamed-going/>

**Migrant Channel tragedy: Police passed us on, says survivor**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-channel-tragedy-police-passed-us-on-says-survivor-dtq3jrk8x>

**'I saw people dying in front of me': Channel migrant boat survivor haunted by disaster**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/channel-migrant-deaths-mohamed-isa-omar-b1967519.html>

**I was forced to trust people smugglers because there's no safe route for refugees**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugees-channel-crossing-people-smugglers-b1966217.html>

**Channel boat survivor claims pleas for help were ignored before people 'started falling into the water'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-migrant-boat-survivor-uk-france-b1965922.html>

**Migrant Kazhal Ahmad told of her fears before crossing the Channel. A week later she and her children were dead**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-kazhal-ahmad-told-of-her-fears-before-crossing-the-channel-a-week-later-she-and-her-children-were-dead-l3wpkcr6>

**SNP condemn Dungavel processing for migrants as Channel crossings reach record levels**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-condemn-dungavel-processing-migrants-25518567>

**Migrant on dinghy operated by people-smugglers behind Channel drowning recalls his terror**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-on-dinghy-operated-by-people-smugglers-behind-channel-drowning-recalls-his-terror-96qx0s8kw>

**From Kurdistan to Basingstoke... one man's death-defying journey**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/from-kurdistan-to-basingstoke-one-mans-death-defying-journey-nqwdmxqtz>

**There is no 'solution' to Channel crossings – there is only a humane response**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/29/government-renege-obligations-refugees-asylum-international-cooperation>

**The best way to beat the Channel traffickers is to let refugees enter the UK legally**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/11/30/best-way-beat-channel-traffickers-let-refugees-enter-uk-legally/>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Committee finds Priti Patel's controversial immigration plans 'illegal'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19751965.committee-finds-priti-patels-controversial-immigration-plans-illegal/>

**UK Government accused of leaving refugees to die in letter signed by refugee groups, unions and faith leaders**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-accused-of-leaving-refugees-to-die-in-letter-signed-by-refugee-groups-unions-and-faith-leaders-3482161>

**What could the Anti-Refugee Bill mean for devolution?**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what-could-the-anti-refugee-bill-mean-for-devolution/>

**Scottish charities sign letter to PM calling for humanitarian visas for migrants**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-government-commons-home-secretary-prime-minister-b1967987.html>

**MPs seek to offer young Hong Kongers easier path to UK citizenship**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2021/11/28/mps-seek-offer-young-hong-kongers-easier-path-uk-citizenship/>

### **British MPs call for law changes to help young Hongkongers flee to UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/28/british-mps-call-for-law-changes-young-hongkongers-escape-to-uk>

### **More migrants from EU live in Scotland than before Brexit**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-migrants-from-eu-live-in-scotland-than-before-brexit-cl3kj7r3f>

### **Victims of sexual violence let down by UK asylum system, report says**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/nov/29/victims-of-sexual-violence-let-down-by-uk-asylum-system-report-says>

### **Ministers accused of neglect as refugee children without parents lag three years behind at school**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-children-school-borders-bill-b1967880.html>

### **Whistleblower tells inquiry of ‘shocking’ abuse at immigration detention centre**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/nov/29/whistleblower-gives-evidence-at-brook-house-inquiry>

### **EU border agency deported record number of people in first half of 2021**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/29/eu-border-agency-frontex-deportation-record-number>

### **Our contradictory laws fail asylum seekers and citizens**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-contradictory-laws-fail-asylum-seekers-and-citizens-n6jjphs69>

### **Migrants are told they must earn a place in Britain. But no one should have to**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/nov/29/migrants-earn-place-britain-people-channel>

### **The 'kind heart' who gave an Afghan family a new home**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59504516>

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## **Equality**

### **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**Fulton MacGregor (SNP) [S6M-02301] Human Rights Day 2021** – That the Parliament acknowledges that 10 December 2021 marks Human Rights Day; notes that the theme this year relates to Equality and Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”; understands that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world, and recognises that it sets out the specific rights that all children have to help fulfil their potential; welcomes what it sees as the Scottish Government’s commitment to the incorporation into law of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the maximum extent possible as soon as practicable; believes that a rights-based approach to key social policies is crucial to a future

that is based on tolerance, equality, shared values, and respect for the worth and human dignity of all people in Coatbridge and Chryston, Scotland and beyond; notes the work of the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership and the recommendations of the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership, and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to introduce a new Human Rights Bill in this parliamentary session.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02301>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [80989] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to the Answer of 14 June 2021 on Racial Discrimination: Technology, when a response to the The Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities Report will be published; and what assessment she has made since the previous Answer of the feasibility of defining fairness mathematically as proposed in the Commission's Report.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Government is carefully considering the findings of the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report and will publish its response in due course.

In line with the Commission's findings, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) published a [consultation](#) in September 2021 examining the role of sensitive personal data in bias detection and mitigation in AI systems, and the use of the term 'fairness' in a data protection context. The consultation is now closed and DCMS is analysing the responses.

The National AI Strategy published in September 2021 also sets out further government action to address concerns around fairness and algorithmic bias. The strategy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-ai-strategy/national-ai-strategy-html-version>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/80989>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-09/13053>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf)

### Conditions of Employment: Ethnic Groups

**Catherine West (Labour)** [81087] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that labour rights are respected for employees from BAME communities.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** The Equality and Human Rights Commission enforces the Equality Act 2010, including in cases of race discrimination in the workplace.

On 22 November, the EHRC launched a new fund to tackle race discrimination and help victims seek justice. The Race Legal Support Fund is open for a minimum of two years, with up to £250,000 allocated this year to tackling race discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, and more available in future years. From December 2021, legal practitioners will be able to apply for funding to seek advice and help to resolve complaints of race discrimination, up to and including legal proceedings where appropriate.

Employees from BAME communities have the same routes to advice and redress

as other employees. Acas provides free advice to workers and employers to enable them to understand their rights and responsibilities. Where disputes cannot be resolved earlier on, the Employment Tribunal system would be the primary enforcement method for most employment rights. There are only a few exceptions where the state enforces employment rights, such as ensuring employers pay the National Minimum Wage.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81087>

## Press Release

**Together, we can build back children's trust in the system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/together-we-can-build-back-childrens-trust-in-the-system>

## New Publications

**Equality data collection in the Scottish public sector**

<https://tinyurl.com/wcs38d2b>

**Differences in the quality of ethnicity data reported by individuals and third parties**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/differences-in-the-quality-of-ethnicity-data-reported-by-individuals-and-third-parties/differences-in-the-quality-of-ethnicity-data-reported-by-individuals-and-third-parties>

**Ethnicity and the Criminal Justice System, 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/ethnicity-and-the-criminal-justice-system-statistics-2020/ethnicity-and-the-criminal-justice-system-2020>

**Infographic**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1037923/Ethnicity\\_and\\_the\\_CJS\\_2020\\_Infographic.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037923/Ethnicity_and_the_CJS_2020_Infographic.pdf)

**Understanding racial disparity 2021: Youth Justice Board for England and Wales**

<https://prezi.com/view/jwYb483Y0ngMSMGPKk0W/>

**Understanding racial disparity: How it affects children in their early years and within the youth justice system**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1037289/URD\\_3\\_pager\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037289/URD_3_pager_2021.pdf)

## News

**BT sets target for a quarter of staff to be non-white**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/12/01/bt-sets-target-quarter-staff-non-white/>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Islam: Religious Hatred

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [79477] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department took to mark Islamophobia Awareness Month 2021.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** Islamophobia awareness is vitally important. Our commitment to tackling the discrimination and intolerance in Muslim communities is consistent throughout the year, as every community should be able to practice their faith in freedom and security.

We already have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted. We have continued to show our commitment to this by supporting Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with over £4 million between 2017 and 2022 to monitor anti-Muslim hate crimes and support victims, as well as providing almost £5 million to protect and secure mosques and other places of worship through the Places of Worship Security Grant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-22/79477>

### Islam: Wales

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [82089] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what discussions he has had with the Welsh Government on his plans to tackle Islamophobia; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** The Government remains committed to tackling Islamophobia and recognises the discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities. Our counterparts in the Welsh Government have been consulted on our upcoming Hate Crime Strategy and this will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/82089>

### Prison and Probation Service: Staff

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [81912] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to HM Prison and Probation Service annual staff equalities report: 2020 to 2021, published on 25 November 2021, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the rate of raising grievances in 2020-21 being higher for (a) staff from Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minority Communities compared with White staff, (b) disabled staff compared with non-disabled staff, (c) non-Christian staff compared with Christian staff and (d) Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual staff compared with heterosexual staff.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The reasons for the higher rates of grievance for (a) staff from Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minority Communities compared with White staff, (b) disabled staff compared with non-disabled staff, (c) non-Christian staff compared with Christian staff and (d) Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual staff compared with heterosexual staff in HMPPS are routinely reviewed by our HR team and HMPPS senior leaders.

The extensive work HMPPS has done to encourage staff to report concerns or inappropriate behaviour on the grounds of race, disability, religion or sexuality is likely to be driving the increased grievance rates.

Interventions like the HMPPS's Tackling Unacceptable Behaviour Unit (TUBU), established in August 2020, are actively demonstrating that there is no place for any form of unacceptable behaviour in HMPPS, and such behaviour is contrary to its core values and will not be tolerated. All allegations of unacceptable behaviour

are taken seriously, investigated and, where appropriate, disciplinary action will be taken. Furthermore, work continues to simplify our HR policies and strengthen guidance and supporting information to make sure staff feel safe to “speak up”.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-25/81912>

### **Sports: Religious Discrimination**

**Catherine West (Labour) [81088]** To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of the prevalence of Islamophobia in organised sport.

**Reply from Nigel Huddleston:** Recent reports of racism in cricket have highlighted that discrimination, including anti-Muslim hatred, is sadly too prevalent within sport. There can be no place for it. The Government expects sports bodies to take robust action to tackle discrimination whenever and wherever it occurs.

Earlier this year UK Sport, Sport England and the other UK sports councils published reports into racism and racial inequalities in sport, including a report capturing people’s lived experiences of racism in sport. The sports councils have agreed some initial overarching commitments, and are working to develop their own action plans to further deliver on these commitments.

This is in addition to steps such as the forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England’s Code for Sports Governance, which will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the communities they serve. Sports receiving the most funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually.

Getting faith groups more involved in sport and activity is also a key part of Sport England’s 10-year strategy “Uniting the Movement”, published earlier this year. Through this strategy Sport England have committed to providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind and helping to remove the barriers to activity.

The Government, and our sports councils, are committed to making sure sport is inclusive for everyone. Where action taken by sports does not go far enough, the government is prepared to step in.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81088>

*The reports referred to above can be read at*

<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-06/Tackling%20Racism%20and%20Racial%20Inequality%20in%20Sport%20Review.pdf>  
and

[https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-06/Tell%20Your%20Story.pdf?VersionId=io0GevVHjcvSQUa\\_7roiDxPu\\_Y0PIWC5](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-06/Tell%20Your%20Story.pdf?VersionId=io0GevVHjcvSQUa_7roiDxPu_Y0PIWC5)  
and

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/6753/akd-final-report-scotland-responses-may-2021.pdf>

*The Code of Governance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.sportengland.org/campaigns-and-our-work/code-sports-governance>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.sportengland.org/why-were-here/uniting-the-movement>

## **Press Releases**

**Terrorist who threatened to set fire to Islamic Centre jailed**

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/2001-terrorist-who-threatened-to-set-fire-to-islamic-centre-jailed>

## **Police Scotland statement following sentencing of Sam Imrie for terrorism and other offences**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/december/police-scotland-statement-following-sentencing-of-sam-imrie-for-terrorism-and-other-offences/>

## **News**

### **Douglas Lumsden: Aberdeen MSP calls for an end to 'hate' over Nazi graffiti**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19762162.douglas-lumsden-aberdeen-msp-calls-end-hate-nazi-graffiti/>

### **Tory peer denies being racist after alleged abusive message to man of Indian heritage**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/michelle-mone-tory-racist-message-b1969076.html>

### **Baroness Mone accused of racism in row over yacht crash**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/baroness-mone-accused-of-racism-in-row-over-yacht-crash-hn3hxnvj5>

### **Man jailed for threatening to burn down mosque**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-59501966>

### **White supremacist Sam Imrie jailed for encouraging terror attacks**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/white-supremacist-sam-imrie-jailed-for-encouraging-terror-attacks-5mmjnqbjd>

### **'Head of propaganda' for UK neo-Nazi group faces jail after conviction**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/30/head-of-propaganda-for-uk-neo-nazi-group-faces-jail-after-conviction>

### **Co-founder of neo-Nazi group National Action convicted of terror offences**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/ben-raymond-national-action-terror-trial-b1966948.html>

### **Man arrested in Essex over suspected far-right terror plot**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-harwich-far-right-terror-plot-b1967049.html>

### **Young black Londoners twice as likely to be unemployed as white counterparts**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-unemployment-young-people-london-b1966612.html>

### **Are unemployed young Londoners facing racial discrimination during their job search?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/unemployment-london-racism-job-interview-b1966613.html>

### **Oxford Street: Men filmed spitting at Jewish people on bus**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-59495842>

### **Anti-Semitism on Oxford Street: Chilling video shows men giving Nazi salutes to Jewish teenagers**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/12/01/chilling-video-shows-men-perform-nazi-salutes-jewish-teenagers/>

**Jews spat at and abused with Nazi salutes in London**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jews-abused-with-nazi-salutes-and-spitting-in-london-m0kgbcbpf>

**Oxford Street: Police hunt three men after Jewish people spat at on bus**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/oxford-street-jewish-people-spat-on-b1968832.html>

**Whistleblowers accused of racism at 'inclusive' hospital**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/whistleblowers-accused-of-racism-at-inclusive-hospital-67k5v2qj2>

**BBFC tightens rules over racist language in films**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-59473980>

**BBFC to enforce stricter ratings on films and TV series containing racist language following new report**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/news/bbfc-ratings-racism-offensive-b1966715.html>

**UK film classification board tightens up on N-word and racism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/nov/30/uk-film-classification-board-tightens-up-on-n-word-and-racism>

**Civil servant 'tried to take own life due to prolonged racial bullying'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/cabinet-office-mark-serwotka-civil-service-people-prime-minister-b1969205.html>

**FCDO racially discriminated against black senior civil servant, tribunal rules**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/30/fcdo-racially-discriminated-against-black-senior-civil-servant-tribunal-rules>

**'There is no safe space for me to be myself': The British Muslim women targeted for their beliefs**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/women/islamophobia-awareness-month-muslim-women-b1966921.html>

**Islamophobia in the press must be tackled head-on. Silence is not an option**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/dec/02/islamophobia-press-muslims-negative>

**'My life just started crumbling': Is British media Islamophobic?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-59409081>

**Anti-Semitism: 2021 likely to be 'the worst year on record'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/stories-59526412>

**Alan Sugar thanks police after man is convicted of sending antisemitic letters**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/alan-sugar-loughton-esssex-esssex-police-lord-b1969180.html?amp>

**Linlithgow pub changes name over 'racist connotations'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-59494786>

### **Brewer in doghouse for changing 'racist' pub name**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brewer-in-doghouse-for-changing-racist-pub-name-8sv7bqc2s>

### **'I've never experienced such abject racism': what it's really like to work in TV as a person of colour**

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/dec/02/ive-never-experienced-such-abject-racism-what-its-really-like-to-work-in-tv-as-a-person-of-colour>

### **Scottish Ballet revises The Nutcracker to address racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59527811>

### **Yorkshire racism scandal: Martyn Moxon and Andrew Gale among 16 staff to leave**

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59518669>

### **Yorkshire sack entire coaching team in wake of racism scandal**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-racism-coaches-azeem-rafiq-b1969202.html>

### **Azeem Rafiq racism: Yorkshire facing player revolt after Andrew Gale and Martyn Moxon among 16 cricket staff sacked by county**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/azeem-rafiq-racism-yorkshire-facing-player-revolt-after-andrew-gale-and-martyn-moxon-among-16-cricket-staff-sacked-by-county-zv7l76dtd>

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## **Other UK Parliament and Government**

### **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer**

#### **Students: Finance**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [81108] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the financial impact of interest-bearing student loans on Muslim students.

**Reply from Michelle Donelan:** The government undertook an assessment of the impact of interest-bearing loans on Muslim students in the impact assessment for the Higher Education and Research Act, which was published in December 2017, and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-and-research-act-impact-assessments>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-24/81108>

### **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

#### **Marriage: Religion**

**Baroness Cox (Crossbench)** [HL4074] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ascertain the number of British citizens currently united in religious-only marriages.

**Reply from Lord True:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have, therefore, asked the Authority to respond. ... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing marriage

statistics for England and Wales. The most recent year for which marriage statistics are available is 2018<sup>1</sup>. National Records Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing marriage statistics for marriages registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively. An annual breakdown of the number of religious marriages which took place in England and Wales is available. A religious marriage is defined as a marriage solemnised in certified places of worship that are registered for marriage, and is carried out in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of a religious denomination. To provide the number of British citizens currently united in religious-only marriages would potentially require changes to the civil registration process, as information about the nationality of individuals marrying is not provided to the ONS by the General Register Office, and this information is not collected during the marriage registration process.

Table 1 provides the number of religious marriages registered in England and Wales for each year for the period 2008 to 2018. It is important to note that these counts may be an underestimate as some marriages (such as Muslim and Sikh) undertaken in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of a religious denomination, may take place at unregistered premises. Such marriages do not meet the legal requirements needed in England and Wales for a religious marriage and are recorded as civil marriages. ...

Table 1: Number of religious marriages<sup>2</sup> registered<sup>3</sup> in England and Wales<sup>4</sup>, 2008 to 2018<sup>5</sup>

Year	Number of religious marriages
2008	78,498
2009	76,493
2010	78,128
2011	74,452
2012	79,473
2013	68,600
2014	68,051
2015	62,658
2016	60,069
2017	54,346
2018	48,181

Source: Office for National Statistics

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/marriagecohabitationandcivilpartnerships/datasets/marriagesinenglandandwales2013>

<sup>2</sup> Marriage statistics are derived from information recorded when marriages are registered as part of civil registration, a legal requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Figures include opposite-sex and same-sex marriages registered in England and Wales.

<sup>4</sup> Figures exclude marriages to residents of England and Wales that took place abroad.

<sup>5</sup> The latest marriage statistics available for are for 2018. It is currently only possible to publish final annual marriage statistics around 26 months after the end of the reference year due to delays in the submission of marriage entries by the clergy and registrars.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-16/hl4074>

## Press Release

**Chanukah message from the Prime Minister** (video)

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1465435187886632960>

## New Publications

**Scotland's contribution to the UK's economy, wellbeing and quality of life**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/scotlands-contribution-to-the-uks-economy-wellbeing-and-quality-of-life/>

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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>

#### Book a flu or coronavirus booster vaccination

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking>

#### 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/>

## **UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement**

### **Covid-19 Health Disparities**

**The Minister for Levelling Up Communities (Kemi Badenoch)** [HCWS441] I am publishing today my final report on progress to address covid-19 health disparities among ethnic minority groups.

When the Prime Minister asked me to lead this work in June 2020, we knew that ethnic minorities were more likely to become infected and to die from covid-19 but we did not know why. Thanks to analysis from the Government's race disparity unit and new research backed by over £7 million in Government funding, we now have a much better understanding of the factors that have driven the higher infection and mortality rates among ethnic minority groups. These include occupation, living with children in multigenerational households, and living in densely-populated urban areas with poor air quality and higher levels of deprivation.

We also know that once a person is infected, older age, male sex, and having a disability or a pre-existing health condition (such as diabetes) increase the risk of them dying from covid-19. Genetics may also play a role in survival rates from covid-19. 61% of south Asian people carry a gene which doubles the risk of respiratory failure and death from covid-19 in under-60-year-olds, compared with 16% of people of European ancestry.

These insights have been crucial in shaping our response to covid-19.

Early action, informed by the emerging data and scientific advice, focused on reducing the risk of infection and protecting key frontline workers who were most at risk, particularly our NHS workers. Our approach evolved as our understanding of the risk factors developed. For example, in the second wave of the pandemic, we published guidance on preventing household transmission, recognising that people from the Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnic groups faced a higher risk of dying from covid-19 and are more likely to live in multigenerational households. We also piloted approaches where families could get jabbed together at vaccine sites to promote uptake in these groups.

The most significant measure to protect ethnic minorities from the risk of covid-19 has been the vaccination programme. We led the way in terms of the scale of our programme to approve, procure and deploy the covid-19 vaccines. The largest mass-vaccination programme in British history has been delivered through an unprecedented partnership approach between citizens, national and local government, health agencies, and the voluntary and community sector. This has involved tackling misinformation and building trust with ethnic minority groups through measures such as housing vaccination centres in places of worship and providing over £23 million in funding to the community champion scheme, which has used trusted local voices to drive up vaccination rates. These learnings are informing our approach to the current roll-out of the booster programme to ensure we continue to drive up vaccination rates in ethnic minority groups.

Through these combined efforts we have seen increases in both positive vaccine sentiment and vaccine uptake across all ethnic groups since vaccine deployment began.

There are a number of wider public health lessons that we must learn from these experiences and these are reflected in the recommendations in my report, which the Prime Minister has accepted in full. These recommendations will still be applicable even as we see the emergence of new variants. Work on addressing covid-19 disparities will now be taken forward by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the new Office for Health Improvement and Disparities as part of our longer-term strategy to tackle health disparities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-03/debates/21120311000008/Covid-19HealthDisparities>

## Scottish Government Press Releases

**Transparent face masks introduced to NHS Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/transparent-face-masks-introduced-to-nhs-scotland/>

**Omicron variant: First cases identified in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/omicron-variant/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech – 29 November 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-29-november-2021/>

## UK Government Press Releases

**People urged to get booster as UK approaches 20m top-up jobs**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-urged-to-get-booster-as-uk-approaches-20m-top-up-jobs>

**All adults to be offered COVID-19 boosters by end of January**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-adults-to-be-offered-covid-19-boosters-by-end-of-january>

**Minister calls for at risk groups to get booster jobs**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-calls-for-at-risk-groups-to-get-booster-jobs>

**UK marks one year since approving COVID-19 vaccine with Boost Day**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-marks-one-year-since-approving-covid-19-vaccine-with-boost-day>

## UK Government Publications

**The R value and growth rate**

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

**PM opening statement at COVID-19 press conference: 30 November 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-opening-statement-at-covid-19-press-conference-30-november-2021>

**Minister for Equalities' letter to the Prime Minister on the final COVID-19 disparities report**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/minister-for-equalities-letter-to-the-prime-minister-on-the-final-covid-19-disparities-report>

## **Final report on progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities**

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

## **Appendix B: Progress implementing recommendations and next steps from first 3 reports**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/appendix-b-progress-implementing-recommendations-and-next-steps-from-first-3-reports>

## **Appendix C: Ethnic minority experiences of COVID-19**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/appendix-c-ethnic-minority-experiences-of-covid-19>

## **Appendix D: Further data and evidence**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/appendix-d-further-data-and-evidence>

## **Appendix E: Is ethnicity a risk factor for infection or mortality from COVID-19?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/appendix-e-is-ethnicity-a-risk-factor-for-infection-or-mortality-from-covid-19>

## **Appendix F: Prioritisation and progress of data quality recommendations**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/appendix-f-prioritisation-and-progress-of-data-quality-recommendations>

## **Other Organisations**

### **SCVO**

#### **Research findings showcase the impact of COVID-19 on Scotland's third sector**

<https://scvo.scot/p/47256/2021/12/01/research-findings-showcase-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-scotlands-third-sector>

#### **Scottish Third Sector Tracker: Wave one findings**

[https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-cms/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000L239bAAB-Scottish Third Sector Tracker Waveone Report.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-cms/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000L239bAAB-Scottish%20Third%20Sector%20Tracker%20Waveone%20Report.pdf)

### **NCVO**

#### **What can we learn from England's volunteering policy response to covid-19?**

<https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2021/11/30/what-can-we-learn-from-englands-volunteering-policy-response-to-covid-19/>

#### **Volunteering in England during covid-19**

<https://www.mvain4.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Volunteering-in-England-during-covid-19-the-policy-response-and-its-impact-Final-report-26-11-21.pdf>

## **News**

#### **Covid risk remains higher for some ethnic groups**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59507552>

**Black and south Asian people in UK urged to get jabs to cut higher Covid death rates**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/03/black-and-south-asian-people-in-uk-urged-to-get-jabs-to-cut-higher-covid-death-rates>

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## New Publication

**British Media's Coverage of Muslims and Islam (2018-2020)**

<https://cfmm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CfMM-Annual-Report-2018-2020-digital.pdf>

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## Bills in Progress \*\* new or updated this week

### UK Parliament

**Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

**Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

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

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

**Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill**

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

**Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill**

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

**Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

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

**Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

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

**Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill**

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

**Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

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

**Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill**

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

## **Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill**

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

## **\*\* Nationality and Borders Bill**

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

Evidence session, Joint Committee on Human Rights

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3120/html/>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report: Legislative Scrutiny: National and Borders Bill (Part 3) – Immigration offences and enforcement

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/8021/documents/82695/default/>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/amend/natbord\\_rm\\_rep\\_1206.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/amend/natbord_rm_rep_1206.pdf)

House of Commons Library Briefing: Progress of the Bill

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9386/CBP-9386.pdf>

Nationality and Borders Bill: British National (Overseas) factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-british-national-overseas-factsheet/british-national-overseas>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Safe and Legal Routes factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-safe-and-legal-routes-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet-safe-and-legal-routes>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Border Force powers to stop and seize small boats factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-border-force-powers-to-stop-and-seize-small-boats-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-border-force-powers-to-stop-and-seize-small-boats-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Differentiation factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-differentiation-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-differentiation-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Modern Slavery Leave to Remain factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-modern-slavery-leave-to-remain-factsheet/modern-slavery-leave-to-remain>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Speeding up removal of foreign criminals factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-speeding-up-removal-of-foreign-criminals-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-speeding-up-removal-of-foreign-criminals-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Removal to a safe third country factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-removal-to-a-safe-third-country-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-removal-to-a-safe-third-country-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Maximum sentences for people smugglers factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-maximum-sentences-for-people-smugglers-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-maximum-sentences-for-people-smugglers-factsheet>

Nationality and Borders Bill: Deprivation of Citizenship factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-british-national-overseas-factsheet/british-national-overseas>

## **Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

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

## Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

**The 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>

**\*\* Draft Northern Ireland Refugee Integration Strategy** (closing date 21 February 2022)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-refugee-integration-strategy>

**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: 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 Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the 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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**\*\* this week!**

**Marginalised Voices: The Impact of Covid on Older Ethnic Minority People**

6 December 2021 (online, 2.00–3.30)

Runnymede Trust and the Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity webinar to discuss why Covid has had such a devastating impact on the older ethnic minority population. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3cycnkay>

**\*\* this week!**

**Barriers and Threats to Access to Justice in the Immigration and Asylum System**

7 December 2021 (online, 5.00–6.30)

Panel discussion to explore challenges and uncertainties in the future of access to justice within immigration and asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5cd8tryr>

**\*\* this week!**

**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>

**\*\* this week!**

**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/jd2tey6w>

**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](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

**\*\* Workshop for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Campaigners**

8 January 2022 (online, 10.00–4.00)

Friends, Families and Travellers workshop for Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, and nomadic people regardless of ethnicity, culture or background who want to build their skills in activism and campaigning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2pccu45>

**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>

### **Light the Darkness: UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2022**

27 January 2022 (online, 7.00–8.00)

Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were, and stand against prejudice and hatred today. For information see <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/ukhmd/>

### **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 Interpreters**

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>

### **Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including

being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Disclosure Scotland** <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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