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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukrainian Refugees: Super Sponsor Scheme

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-08595] To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to measure the success of its Super Sponsor scheme for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Super Sponsor scheme was set up to provide a quick and safe route for displaced people from Ukraine. It is a national response that has rapidly established a round-the-clock operation, supported by multi-agency teams, local authorities, CoSLA and the third sector to support displaced Ukrainians and make sure they are treated with compassion and care and their complex needs met. We are working closely and collaboratively with our partners to ensure we rapidly respond to opportunities and resolve challenges and issues as they emerge, and ensuring that stakeholders and the direct experiences of those arriving in Scotland

feeds directly into continuing to improve our programme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08595>

Ukrainian Refugees: Super Sponsor Scheme

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-08640] To ask the Scottish Government how many people resident in Scotland have offered to take in Ukrainian refugees under its Super Sponsor scheme to date, broken down by local authority area.

Reply from Neil Gray: The support shown by the people of Scotland to those fleeing the illegal war in Ukraine has been heart-warming and we appreciate those who have registered their interest in welcoming displaced people under the UK's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

All 32 of our local authorities are taking part in this programme, and hosts have offered up their homes under the Super Sponsor scheme in each area. We have contacted people who registered their interest, and continue to contact new prospective hosts, to find out if they want to make their offer of accommodation available to people with a Scottish super sponsor visa.

In line with guidance from the Office for Statistics Regulation we are obliged to ensure that data are of sufficient quality for publication and we are currently quality assuring this data before publication.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08640>

Ukrainian Refugees: Super Sponsor Scheme

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-08771] To ask the Scottish Government what metrics it uses to decide on the geographical settlement of Ukrainian refugees under its Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Super Sponsor scheme is designed to provide a quick and safe route for displaced people from Ukraine to come to a place of sanctuary by removing the need for applicants to be matched to an individual sponsor prior to being given permission to travel to the UK.

Once people have arrived, a national matching service, delivered by COSLA, will match those settling here with longer-term accommodation across Scotland.

Displaced people from Ukraine are asked to complete a short questionnaire that captures key information and preferences. This information is then used to find suitable longer-term accommodation. All 32 of our local authorities are taking part in this programme, and hosts have offered up their homes right across the country. The national matching service will ensure that people are offered settlement opportunities across Scotland, recognising that people will have different preferences and available housing is limited in some local authorities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08771>

Ukrainian Refugees

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-08770] To ask the Scottish Government what communications it has had with the UK Government regarding the location of settlement in Scotland for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government is not involved in the UK Government's private sponsorship arrangements, or associated matching process through Homes for Ukraine.

The Scottish Government and partners are working hard within the UK Government's sponsorship scheme to provide a fast and safe alternative to displaced people from Ukraine seeking sanctuary in Scotland and providing

support when they do get permission to travel.

Once people have arrived through our super sponsor scheme, a national matching service, delivered by COSLA, will match those settling here with longer-term accommodation across Scotland. Displaced people from Ukraine are asked to complete a short questionnaire that captures key information and preferences. This information is then used to find suitable longer-term accommodation. All 32 of our local authorities are taking part in this programme, and hosts have offered up their homes right across the country. The national matching service will ensure that people are offered settlement opportunities across Scotland, recognising that people will have different preferences and available housing is limited in some local authorities

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08770>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Launch of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathways 2 and 3

The Minister of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office (Lord Harrington of Watford) [HLWS89] My noble Friend the Minister of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office, Lord Harrington of Watford, has today made the following written ministerial statement:

I am pleased to announce to the House today the opening of the two remaining referral pathways to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Last August, as the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated rapidly, this Government worked at great speed to evacuate more than 15,000 people from Afghanistan within a fortnight. This was the biggest mission of its kind in generations and the second largest evacuation carried out by any country and we are rightly proud of what we achieved.

The evacuation included British nationals and their families, Afghans who had loyally served the UK, and other vulnerable people. Since the events of last August, we have continued to support those at risk with over 4,000 more people being brought to safety.

In January 2022, the then Minister for Afghan Resettlement announced the launch of a new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which will resettle up to 20,000 eligible people over the coming years. This is in addition to those who have been relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

There is no application process for the scheme, instead eligible individuals will be referred for resettlement via three referral 'pathways'.

The first of these referral pathways offers a place on the ACRS for some of the individuals and families who were brought to safety in the UK under Op PITTING. We will honour our commitments to eligible people who were called forward or specifically authorised for evacuation, but who were unable to board flights.

Today, I am pleased to announce the opening of the two remaining referral pathways onto the ACRS.

Firstly, under pathway 2, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer for resettlement to the UK, refugees who have fled Afghanistan. UNHCR has the global mandate to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees. We are pleased to announce that we are now ready to begin receiving referrals. We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway, although this number will be kept under review. We will continue to receive UNHCR referrals to the scheme in coming years.

Under pathway 3, we committed to considering eligible at-risk British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) will refer up to 1,500 people from Afghanistan and the region

to the Home Office for resettlement, including any eligible family members. The FCDO will launch an online system on Monday 20 June, where eligible individuals will be able to express interest in UK resettlement.

Expressions of interest will be considered in the order they are received, although some groups will be prioritised because the role they performed or the project they worked on mean they are particularly at risk, or because there are exceptionally compelling circumstances. Expressions of interest will be accepted until Monday 15 August 2022, when the online system will close. Guidance on the expression of interest process is available on www.gov.uk, from Monday 13 June.

Any offer of resettlement under the ACRS will be contingent on security screening, including checks against security and other databases, and provision of biometric information. In the interests of public safety, it is right that individuals who are found to have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, terrorism or other serious crimes will not be eligible for resettlement.

While we recognise the plight of many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region, the capacity of the UK to resettle people under this scheme is not unlimited and difficult decisions have had to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement. Nevertheless, we will continue to be committed to supporting the people of Afghanistan and after the first year of the third referral pathway, we will continue to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

Resettlement is just one element of the UK Government's response to the situation in Afghanistan, in addition to our diplomatic efforts and international aid in the region, working alongside like-minded states and as part of the international community.

Through the ACRS, the United Kingdom continues to offer safe and legal routes to those in need of protection. The scheme provides another demonstration of our New Plan for Immigration in action.

We are proud to provide those affected by events in Afghanistan with a route to safety and look forward to warmly welcoming individuals and families into our communities across the UK.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-13/debates/220613500016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-pathway-3-eligibility-for-british-council-and-gardaworld-contractors-and-chevening-alumni>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... The British people have repeatedly voted for controlled immigration and the right to secure borders. This is a Government who act and hear that message clearly, and we are determined to deliver that. Last night we aimed to relocate the first people from our country who arrived here through dangerous and illegal means, including by small boat. Over the course of this week, many and various claims to prevent relocation have been brought forward. I welcomed the decisions of our domestic courts—the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court—to uphold our right to send the flight. However, following a decision by an out-of-hours judge in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, minutes before our flight's departure, the final individuals remaining on the flight had their removal directions paused while their claims were considered.

I want to make something absolutely clear: the European Court of Human Rights did not rule that the policy or relocations were unlawful, but it prohibited the removal of three of those on last night's flight. Those prohibitions last for different time periods but are not an

absolute bar on their transfer to Rwanda. Anyone who has been ordered to be released by the court will be tagged while we continue to progress their relocation. While this decision by the Strasbourg court to intervene was disappointing and surprising given the repeated and considered judgments to the contrary in our domestic courts, we remain committed to this policy. These repeated legal barriers are very similar to those that we experience with all other removal flights. We believe that we are fully compliant with our domestic and international obligations, and preparations for our future flights and the next flights have already begun. Our domestic courts were of the view that the flight could go ahead.

The case for our partnership with Rwanda bears repeating. We are a generous and welcoming country, as has been shown time and time again. Over 200,000 people have used safe and legal routes to come to the UK since 2015, and most recently Britons have opened their hearts and their homes to Afghan nationals and Ukrainian nationals. But our capacity to help those in need is severely compromised by those who come here illegally and, as we have discussed in this House many, many times, seek to jump the queue because they can afford to pay the people smugglers. It is illegal, and it is not necessary, because they are coming from other safe countries. It is not fair, either on those who play by the rules or on the British taxpayers who have to foot this bill. We cannot keep on spending nearly £5 million a day on accommodation, including hotels. We cannot accept this intolerable pressure on public services and local communities. It makes us less safe as a nation, because those who come here illegally do not have the regularised checks or even the regularised status and because evil people-smuggling gangs use the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains to fund other appalling crimes that undermine the security of our country. It is also lethally dangerous for those who are smuggled. People have drowned at sea, suffocated in lorries and perished crossing territories.

The humane, decent and moral response to all this is simply not to stand by and let people drown or be sold into slavery or smuggled, but to stop it. With that, inaction is not an option—or at least, not a morally responsible one. This is, as I have said repeatedly, a complex, long-standing problem. The global asylum system is broken and between 80 million and 100 million people are now displaced, and others are on the move seeking better economic opportunities. An international problem requires international solutions.

The UK and Rwanda have shown the way forward by working together, and this partnership sends a clear message that illegal entry will not be tolerated, while offering a practical, humane way forward for those who arrive to the UK via illegal routes. It has saddened me to see Rwanda so terribly misrepresented and traduced in recent weeks. It is another example of how all too often, critics not only do not know what they are speaking about, but seek to vilify another country that has a good track record when it comes to refugees and stepping up to international responsibilities.

Rwanda is a safe and secure country with an outstanding track record of supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Indeed, we are proud that we are working together, proud that the UK is investing in Rwanda and helping that great country to thrive, and proud that those who are relocated to Rwanda will have an opportunity to thrive as well. They will be given generous support, including language skills, vocational training and help with starting their own businesses or finding employment, but I am afraid that the usual suspects, with the blessings of Opposition Members, have set out to thwart and even campaign against these efforts and, with that, the will of the British people.

It would be wrong to issue a running commentary on ongoing cases, but I would like to say this: this Government will not be deterred from doing the right thing, we will not be put off by the inevitable last-minute legal challenges, and nor will we allow mobs to block removals. We will not stand idly by and let organised crime gangs, who are despicable in their nature and their conduct—evil people—treat human beings as cargo. We will not accept that we have no right to control our borders. We will do everything necessary to keep this country safe, and we will continue our long and proud tradition of helping those

in genuine need. ...

Helping to develop safe and legal routes to this country for those who really need them is at the heart of this Government's work. Having overseen efforts to bring to the UK thousands of people in absolute need, including from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine, I am the first to say that controlled immigration, including by refugees, is good and outstanding for our country, but we simply have to focus on supporting those who need it most, and not those who have picked the UK as a destination over a safe country such as France. It is no use pretending that those people are fleeing persecution when they are travelling from a safe country.

Our capacity to help is not infinite, and public support for the asylum system will be fatally undermined if we do not act. The critics of the migration and economic development partnership have no alternative proposal to deal with uncontrolled immigration. As on so many other issues, the Labour party and the SNP are on the wrong side of the argument. With their arguments, we would see public trust in the system only being corroded. That is irresponsible and utterly indifferent to those who we seek to help and support.

I have always said that I will look at all proposals to reduce illegal migration and illegal entry to our country, even those that Opposition Members might put forward ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): This is a shambles; it is shameful, and the Home Secretary has no one but herself to blame. This is not, and never has been, a serious policy, and she knew that when she chartered the plane. She knew that among the people she was planning to send to Rwanda on that plane were torture and trafficking victims, that she did not have a proper screening process in place and that some of them might be children. Can she confirm that the Home Office itself withdrew a whole series of those cases on Friday and yesterday because it knew that there was a problem with them, and that even without the European Court of Human Rights judgment, she was planning to send a plane with just seven people on board, because she had had to withdraw most of the cases at the last minute?

The Home Secretary knows that there is a lack of proper asylum capacity in Rwanda to make fair decisions and that as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says, Rwanda normally deals with only a few hundred cases a year and has only one eligibility officer who prepares the cases. There is also a lack of interpreters and legal advisers to ensure fair decisions. The Home Secretary promised that there would be extra payments to Rwanda for each person transferred, presumably to pay for the extra caseworkers and support, but she has refused to tell us how much. What is she hiding? Will she tell us now how much she promised Rwanda for each of the people she was planning to send yesterday, and how many Rwandan refugees she promised to take in return?

The Home Secretary knows that serious concerns have been raised about Rwandan restrictions on political freedom, the treatment of LGBT people, the fact that 12 refugees were shot by the authorities in 2018 for protesting against food cuts, and the fact that Afghan and Syrian asylum seekers have been returned by Rwanda. She knows that none of those concerns has been addressed.

The Home Secretary also knows that the policy will not work. We need action to tackle dangerous criminal gangs who are putting lives at risk, and she knows that her policies will not achieve that. That is not their objective. If it was, she would not have asked the National Crime Agency, whose job it is to target the criminal gangs, to draw up 20% staff cuts—that is potentially 1,000 people being cut from the organisation that works to tackle the gangs. Can she confirm whether she has asked the NCA to draw up plans for staff cuts?

If the Home Secretary was serious, she would be taking seriously the fact that the Israel-Rwanda deal ended up increasing criminal people trafficking and smuggling and that her plan risks making things worse. If she was serious, she would be working night and day to get a better joint plan with France to crack down on the gangs and to stop the boats being put into the water in the first place, but she is not, because her relationship with French Ministers has totally broken down.

If the Home Secretary was serious about tackling illegal economic migration or cutting the bills from people in hotels, she would speed up Home Office decision making so that refugees can get support and those who are not can be returned home. Instead, the number of decisions has totally collapsed from 28,000 to just 14,000 a year—fewer than Belgium and the Netherlands, never mind Germany and France. She is so badly failing to take those basic decisions that she is trying to pay a country thousands of miles away to take them for us instead. How shameful does that make us look around the world if our Home Office cannot take those basic decisions?

The Home Secretary knew about problem after problem with her policy. She knew that it was unworkable and unethical and that it will not stop the criminal gangs, but she still went ahead and spent half a million pounds chartering a plane that she never expected to fly, and she still wrote a £120 million cheque to Rwanda with a promise of more to come, because all she really cares about is picking fights and finding someone else to blame.

This is not a long-term plan; it is a short-term stunt. Everyone can see that it is not serious policy; it is shameless posturing and the Home Secretary knows it. It is not building consensus; it is just pursuing division. It is government by gimmick. It is not in the public interest; it is just in the Government's political interest, and along the way they are prepared to trash people's lives, our basic British values of fairness, decency and common sense, and the reputation of our nation.

Our country is better than this. We have a long tradition of hard work and stepping up to tackle problems—not offloading them—to tackle the criminal gangs who put lives at risk, and to do right by refugees. That is what the Home Secretary should be doing now, not this shambles that is putting our country to shame.

Reply from Priti Patel: ... Opposition Members keep speaking about asylum seekers who have travelled from Iran, Iraq and other countries, but of course, they have come from France—a safe country. They have not come from Iraq; they have come from France. In the same way, the right hon. Lady said that people have come from Syria; they have come from France and they have paid people smugglers. ...

... there is nothing more inhumane than turning a blind eye to those who are being smuggled not just across the channel but in lorries, and we have a global collective responsibility to work with international partners, on which the Labour party has clearly shut the door firmly.

Mike Penning (Conservative): ... This Parliament is supreme, and our courts have said this is right. This is what the British people want us to do—control immigration in relation to those coming across in boats—so how is it right that this Court has overruled all our courts and this Parliament?

Reply from Priti Patel: ... our domestic courts have been transparent in their decision making and how they have communicated their verdicts from the High Court, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. What is concerning is the opaque nature of the conduct of last night's appeal by the European Court of Human Rights in the way that it informed the UK Government about one individual. It is now right that we spend time going back to that Court to get the grounds upon which it made its decision. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): My party continues to deplore this unworkable, illegal and immoral policy. It does nothing to stop smugglers and it inflicts serious harm on victims ... Even the most ardent supporters of this dreadful policy must recognise that there is, to put it mildly, massive dubiety over its lawfulness. The UNHCR, the guardian of the refugee convention, is clear that this is in breach of it. To seek to press ahead before the courts have concluded that issue either way was a reckless waste of taxpayers' money and shows again this Government's total disregard for the rule of law. ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... It is important to put it on the record that the European Court of Human Rights has not ruled that the policy or removals

were unlawful, but it actually prohibited the removal of three of those on the flight last night. ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-15/debates/78DA690C-B53E-4F57-B28B-2FA0F6FB0E6B/MigrationAndEconomicDevelopmentPartnershipWithRwanda>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers: Removal to Rwanda

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): To ask the Home Secretary whether she will make a statement on the planned removal of asylum seekers to Rwanda.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove): Our world-leading migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda is a global first and will change the way we collectively tackle illegal immigration. This is a global problem that requires international solutions.

Rwanda is a fundamentally safe and secure country with a track record of supporting asylum seekers. Individuals will be relocated to Rwanda and have their asylum claims processed by the Rwandan authorities. The partnership is an important part of our reform of the broken asylum and migration system. I welcome the High Court's decision on Friday on this, but, with legal proceedings ongoing, it would be inappropriate to comment further than to say that we comply fully with our legal and international obligations.

We aim to move forward with a policy that offers new opportunities for those relocated to Rwanda and enables us to focus our support on those most in need of our help. The British public rightly expect us to act. Indeed, inaction is not a responsible option when people are drowning and ruthless criminals are profiting from human misery. Decisive leadership is required to tackle the smuggling of people through illicit and criminal means. This evil trade must be stopped.

The principle of the plan is simple: people will no longer be able to pay evil people smugglers to go to a destination of their choice while passing through sometimes several safe countries. If someone comes from a safe country, they are picking the UK as a preferred destination.

Uncontrolled immigration reduces our capacity to help those who most need our support. It puts intolerable pressure on public services and local communities. Long-lasting change will not happen overnight; it requires a long-term plan. As I have said many times before in this House, there is no one single solution, but this Government will deliver the first comprehensive overhaul of the asylum system in decades.

Stuart C McDonald: ... This is not world-leading policy. If anything, this leads to the total shredding of the refugee convention. This cash-for-deportations policy is akin to state-sponsored trafficking and transportation. What is more, it is a grim political stunt being rushed out to shore up the Prime Minister again. Why else was this flight organised before the relevant provisions of the horrible Nationality and Borders Act 2022 were brought into force? What is the Minister's explanation for that?

More fundamentally, why are Ministers pressing ahead when even the most basic safeguards are not in place? I fear that the age assessment processes are totally inadequate and will see children sent to Rwanda. As I understand it, such a difficult process is being crammed into a 30-minute interview with two immigration officers, with young people left unaware of their rights to challenge the decision that they are an adult. Is that accurate? How on earth can such vulnerable people as trafficking victims, torture survivors and LGBT people be identified by a basic screening interview, which is another

process that the Minister know takes a long time? Why is it permissible at all for trafficking survivors to be part of the inadmissibility procedures?

Access to legal advice is crucial, so let me ask: can the Minister confirm how many of those scheduled to be on the flight tomorrow have not yet been able to seek legal advice? There is no functioning joint committee or monitoring committee yet, so how can it possibly be right to proceed when these basic oversight bodies are not yet established? He knows that the overwhelming balance of legal opinion, including that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is that this policy is totally illegal. Surely, if the Government had any final shred of respect for the rule of law, they would at least wait until a final ruling in July before commencing this policy.

This is a policy that will not work on its own awful terms. Will the Minister confirm that the Rwandan asylum system has capacity only for a couple of hundred new cases each year, and has he been made aware of the evidence that, even now, more risky routes are already being tried by smugglers as a result?

In conclusion, this will not hurt horrendous people smugglers one jot, but it will badly hurt those who have fled persecution and sought protection here, and this policy brings shame on the UK internationally.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I am grateful to the SNP spokesman for his questions, and it is fair to say that we will have to agree to differ on this. We have had many debates over the last few months on this issue, and I will comment on the broad issues he has raised, while of course reflecting the fact that there are ongoing judicial proceedings.

First, I want to say that I feel the hon. Member's use of language at the beginning of his remarks was not the sort I would expect from him. He is usually temperate in his use of language, but to compare the new partnership with human trafficking is, frankly, plain wrong and very offensive not just to this Government, but, I would argue, to the Rwandans. ...

... unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will not be transferred as part of this partnership. There will be a thorough screening process in place, and that is ongoing. Of course, cases are looked at on a case-by-case basis, taking proper account of all the relevant circumstances. On the point about access to legal advice, people are able to access legal advice in detention in the usual way.

It probably has not escaped the hon. Member's notice, and the House's notice, that the UNHCR places asylum seekers in Rwanda, which I think speaks volumes about its judgment. ... The truth is that the UNHCR, through its actions in placing people in Rwanda, clearly believes that it is safe for people to be placed there. We have of course been through our own thorough processes to make judgments with our country information notices, and that is the right and proper way of handling this.

Again—I have said this many times before, but it bears repeating—we will always live up to our international obligations and the laws that we are supposed to be subject to.

Tim Loughton (Conservative): Last week, the Home Affairs Committee visited Dover. On the morning we were there, a boat of 38 Albanians came in, and we met some of them. There is no war raging in Albania and there are no full-scale human rights abuses; it is a candidate country to join the EU. We need practical solutions to deal with people who are jumping the queue of genuine asylum seekers and refugees, to whom we owe a duty of care, so I hope the flights start and that message gets out loud and clear.

I have one query for the Minister. We interviewed Her Majesty's inspector of borders and immigration last week, and there are still some concerns about the monitoring process that will be happening in Rwanda itself. When will he be giving us more details about those on the monitoring and scrutiny committee, and how will we ensure that the way people end up being treated once they are transported out to Rwanda will accord with the promises in the agreement?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... we cannot continue as we are, with people making dangerous crossings of the channel organised by evil criminal gangs who take people's money and have no regard for whether they get here safely. That is why this has to stop, and we believe the partnership with Rwanda is an important part of the solution. On the specific point about the monitoring arrangements, I hope to be able to set those out to the House soon. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): The Home Office chaos over the last few days has shown why this scheme is completely unworkable, deeply unethical and extortionately expensive, and why it risks increasing criminal people trafficking and smuggling rather than solving the problem.

Let us look at what has emerged in the past few days. The Home Office has admitted it has been trying to send victims of torture to Rwanda; is the Minister happy with that shameful policy? We have learned that Rwanda does not have the capacity, caseworkers, translators or lawyers to deal with cases; it often only has one official in charge of putting cases together. The Home Office has ignored UNHCR warnings on Rwanda's record, including the shooting dead of 12 refugees. We have learned, too, that costs are shooting up as the UK taxpayer will have to fund ever more support in Rwanda; can the Minister tell us if that has been agreed and whether we have a final figure on top of the £120 million? The chief inspector says there has been no impact on deterrence on boats and gangs, and there is evidence instead that the Rwanda and Israel refugee relocation deal led to more trafficking and smuggling, not less.

The Home Office is failing to do the practical things we need: instead of strengthening the National Crime Agency work with France to crack down on criminal gangs, the Home Office has asked the agency to draw up plans for 20% cuts. Can the Minister confirm that that is the case? Instead of speeding up asylum decisions, it is only making half as many decisions as five years ago and, because it is failing to take decisions, offloading responsibility.

There is lots of noise from the Minister: never taking responsibility, blaming everyone else. This plan is not just unworkable, unethical and expensive; it is also profoundly un-British, ignoring our British values of decency and common sense. It is time to think again.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: I have to say that I think it would be helpful if the shadow Home Secretary were to think in the first place, because we have not had a credible Opposition policy to tackle this issue. I have said many times that I would be delighted to hear a credible policy from those on the Benches opposite, and I think the British people deserve to hear such a policy, but I think we will be waiting for a long time to get that, if at all.

The right hon. Lady raised a number of points. First, she claimed the policy is both unworkable and extortionate ... Well, I am convinced that this policy is going to work and will make a difference, shutting down the evil criminal gangs that take people's money, put their lives at risk and have no regard for whether they get here, while also providing resettlement opportunities that are properly supported—support around skills, around jobs, around opportunity—in Rwanda.

Our approach to this is a world first. This is not comparable to the sorts of proposals perhaps developed elsewhere; it is a different approach. The right hon. Lady will also recognise that other countries are looking at similar arrangements.

I repeat that we will live up to our international obligations under both the refugee convention and the ECHR at all times. The fact is that the UNHCR places refugees in Rwanda, so I again make the point that it clearly believes people will be properly supported and cared for and that they will be safe. I think that judgment is significant in all this.

On cost, as we have clearly set out to the House previously, we will be supporting ongoing running costs around this policy that are equivalent to the sums we spend on processing cases in the asylum system here in the UK.

On French co-operation, we of course already do that, but there is no one single solution that will resolve this issue of itself. We want to go further; we want to deepen that co-operation with our friends and neighbours to tackle this issue as it is a global problem that needs global solutions, and through the new partnership we are of course taking that co-operation further.

Finally, I will again just pose this question and ponder it for a moment: we have asked before whether the Opposition would cancel the Rwanda plan in the unfortunate event that they were in government. We have not yet heard an answer to that; perhaps at some point today we might have one. ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-13/debates/93B576B9-56DC-41E3-AE84-2BB6BFFA8115/AsylumSeekersRemovalToRwanda>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudka Webbe (Independent) [14660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department made an assessment of the human rights situation in Rwanda prior to the partnership agreement on the hosting of refugees in Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Our own assessment carried out prior to the agreement of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership found Rwanda to be a safe and secure country. Our Country Policy and Information Notes on Rwanda provide a robust report that demonstrates our commitment to fully evaluating whether Rwanda would be suitable for each potentially eligible person to be relocated. These notes are published and can found on gov.uk:

[Rwanda: country policy and information notes](#)

We would only ever work with countries that we know are safe and will treat asylum seekers in accordance with relevant international human rights laws.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14660>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of whether Rwanda is a safe country to which to send LGBT+ refugees.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to publish guidelines that protect LGBT+ refugees in relation to her proposals to offshore refugees to Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are currently no plans to publish any LGBT+ specific guidance for individuals considered for relocation to Rwanda as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

The Home Office published a Country Policy and Information Note (CPIN) for Rwanda on 9 May 2022, which provides an assessment on the Rwandan asylum system and various human rights aspects. It supports decision-makers as they consider relocating an individual to Rwanda. In the CPIN, it states that 'there are not substantial grounds for believing that a person, if relocated, would face a real risk of being subjected to treatment that is likely to be contrary to Article 3 ECHR by virtue of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.' However, it acknowledges that this may be different for trans individuals.

The decision to relocate an individual to Rwanda will be taken on a case-by-case basis and no one will be relocated if it is unsafe to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14661>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14662>

The Country Policy and Information Note referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rwanda-country-policy-and-information-notes>

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14663] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the grant rate for asylum applications at her proposed offshore processing centres in Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda will see those migrants travelling to the UK through unnecessary and dangerous methods, considered for relocation to Rwanda, where they will have their asylum claim processed. Once a person is relocated to Rwanda, their asylum claim becomes the responsibility of that country and falls under their jurisdiction. We therefore cannot comment on the grant rate for asylum applications in Rwanda. However, we expect asylum claims will be decided within a reasonable period of time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14663>

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Rwanda published on 14 April 2022, when the monitoring group will be established; and whether the findings and recommendations of that group will be published.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: An independent Monitoring Committee will monitor the entire relocation process and compliance with assurances in the Memorandum of Understanding, including the processing of asylum claims and provision of support in Rwanda.

The Monitoring Committee is due to become operational in the coming months. More details on this will be set out in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14665>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-rwanda>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the plans to offshore refugees to Rwanda, whether people arriving in the UK to join family members will be considered eligible to be sent to Rwanda.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14667] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of her proposals to offshore refugees to Rwanda on family reunion as a safe route of entry to the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: With the exception of unaccompanied children, any individual who has arrived in the UK since 1 January 2022 by unnecessary and dangerous means from safe countries – including those arriving by small boats, hidden in the back of lorries - may be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

An individualised assessment of each suitable person's circumstances will be undertaken prior to any decision to relocate them to Rwanda. We would not relocate

someone where it would be unsafe or inappropriate to do so. More details are set out in our inadmissibility policy guidance on GOV.UK.

For those with family links in the UK, who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via legal and safe routes. Nobody should put their lives into the hands of criminal people smuggling gangs by making dangerous and irregular journeys.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14666>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14667>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073965/Inadmissibility - safe third country cases.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073965/Inadmissibility_-_safe_third_country_cases.pdf)

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her proposals to offshore refugees to Rwanda will only apply to single men.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14668] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of her proposals to offshore refugees to Rwanda on refugee (a) women and (b) children.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that children who are mistakenly assessed as adults are not sent to Rwanda during the pilot stage of the Government's offshoring agreement with that country.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [14670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that (a) women and (b) people who are assessed to be vulnerable will not be offshored under the Government's plans to offshore refugees to Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: With the exception of unaccompanied children, any individual who has arrived in the UK since 1 January 2022 by unnecessary and dangerous means from safe countries – including those arriving by small boats, hidden in the back of lorries - may be considered for relocation to Rwanda

An individualised assessment of each suitable person's circumstances will be undertaken prior to any decision to relocate them to Rwanda. Any vulnerabilities will be taken into consideration and every individual who is suitable for relocation under this policy will be able to make representations where they are concerned the country in question would not be safe for them. We would not relocate someone where it would be unsafe or inappropriate to do so. More details are set out in our inadmissibility policy guidance on GOV.UK.

Our assessment is that Rwanda is a safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. Our Country Policy Information Note, published on 9 May on GOV.UK, provides further information on the basis by which we have determined that Rwanda is a safe place for refugees.

In a case where someone is claiming to be under 18 years old, they would not be relocated until the appropriate age assessment process has been completed. Where an individual has no credible evidence of their age and where there continues to be doubt, a thorough age assessment process will be followed. They will be treated as though they are a child until a decision on their age has been made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14664>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14668>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14669>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14670>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073965/Inadmissibility - safe third country cases.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073965/Inadmissibility_-_safe_third_country_cases.pdf)

Asylum: Rwanda

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [15745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the nationalities are of asylum seekers identified for deportation to Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Everyone who arrives illegally will be considered for relocation on a case by case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-10/15745>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [16973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost is of the flight for asylum seekers being sent to Rwanda on 14 June 2022; and whether her Department has an obligation to pay that cost in the event that the flight does not take place.

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [17074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the cost to the taxpayer of the deportation flight from the UK to Rwanda scheduled for 14 June 2022.

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [17075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether scheduled deportation flights from the UK to Rwanda are planned to take place without passengers onboard; and what the cost to the public purse is of those flights.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our priority will always be to keep our communities safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove those with no right to remain in the UK.

Charter flight operations are an important means to remove individuals with no right to remain in the UK where there are limited scheduled routes. We manage the charter programme flexibly, balancing it with use of scheduled flights to best respond to operational needs. Costs for individual flights will vary based on a number of different factors and are regularly reviewed to ensure that best value for money is balanced against the need to remove those individuals with no right to remain in the UK.

The endless merry go round of late legal claims – which are often unfounded or without merit – can result in people being removed from flights at the last minute. However, our New Plan for Immigration will stop the abuse of the system and expedite the removal of those who have no right to be here.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/16973>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/17074>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/17075>

The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at

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

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [14613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any women detained in Derwentside immigration removal centre have been given a notice of intent for planned removal to Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of notices of intent issued and can be found online at:

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

A breakdown of these figures into gender is not currently available however we are working to bring inadmissibility and nationality data in line with current reporting and hope to publish that information in the near future.

Official statistics published by the Home Office are kept under review in line with the code of practice for statistics, taking into account a number of factors including user needs, as well as quality and the availability of data. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14613>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [15184] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy have been rejected since 1 January 2022.

Reply from James Heapey: Since 1 January 2022, 534 ARAP principals have been rejected and have received a rejection letter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15184>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [13694] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applications have not yet been concluded due to an (a) initial decision not being made and (b) appeal not yet taking place.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 8 June 2022, there are 15,340 applications awaiting an initial decision and 335 requests for review are awaiting an outcome.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-07/13694>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [15182] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy principal applicants have been waiting more than 6 weeks to have their applications processed.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 13 June 2022, decisions have been issued on two of the 3,226 applications received since the beginning of April 2022.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, applications to the ARAP scheme are considered in the order in which they have been received.

We are working at pace to consider each application on a case-by-case basis and

timelines for processing applications vary significantly from case to case, due to the complexity and personal circumstances of each applicant.

In many cases, further information has to be requested from the applicant, and subject to that being received (and when) this may have implications for the timescale of processing these applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15182>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [16956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghan nationals with an outstanding Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy application can be relocated to Rwanda under the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All those who have an outstanding decision for indefinite leave to remain under ARAP will continue to have valid immigration status in the interim. Those who have valid immigration status are not eligible to be considered for relocation to Rwanda. The Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda is intended to address the shared international challenge of illegal migration and break the business model of evil people smuggling gangs. Those making illegal, dangerous and unnecessary journeys to the UK since 1 January 2022 - including those arriving by small boats or hidden in the backs of lorries - may now be relocated to Rwanda, who will take responsibility for processing their claims and supporting them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/16956>

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>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Jessica Morden (Labour) [13687] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to enable Afghan refugees in bridging hotels to be housed with a host.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: We continue to review options for housing Afghan families. Afghan families have been given Indefinite Leave to Remain, and we are matching them to more long-term accommodation options.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-07/13687>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [13686] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the daily cost is of housing those who have arrived in the UK under the (a) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Scheme and (b) Afghan Resettlement Scheme in bridging hotels; and what steps the Government is taking to provide that group of people with secure long-term accommodation as quickly as possible.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The total cost currently incurred by the Home Office in procuring hotel accommodation for both resettled persons from Afghanistan and other groups housed in hotels amounts to £4.7 million per day.

We continue to work across government with local authorities to source appropriate long-term accommodation as quickly as possible. As of the 7 June, 4,829 ARAP individuals have been settled into permanent accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-07/13686>

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>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [16958] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether Afghan interpreters resettled to the UK under the ex-gratia redundancy and resettlement scheme, due to being made redundant or resigning following a period of 12 months of work outside the wire, are eligible for new support measures offered to Afghan interpreters resettled through the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme, including the provisions under (a) Op NEWHOPE and (b) Operation Warm Welcome Full Degree scholarships.

Reply from James Heappey: All individuals relocated to the UK under the ex-gratia scheme are entitled to the same support package as those relocated through the ARAP scheme - this includes provisions under op Newhope and operation Warm Welcome.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/16958>

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: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Caroline Lucas (Green) [1154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that effective protection from (a) abuse and (b) exploitation is provided to Ukrainian refugees in the UK (i) before and (ii) after their arrival; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Sponsors and all adults in sponsor households will be subject to standard security and criminality checks by the Home Office before visas are granted. Accommodation and DBS checks are also conducted by local authorities and this includes enhanced DBS checks where appropriate.

People from Ukraine arriving in the UK are signposted to a Welcome Pack which provides advice on settling in the UK, including who to contact if they encounter any issues such as child safety concerns, domestic abuse, modern slavery and exploitation. The guide is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian via

www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk

In England, Councils must also make at least one in-person visit shortly after a guest has arrived to confirm that the guest is safe and well and that there are no serious health and safety or welfare concerns. Councils have a statutory duty to promote the welfare of adults and children at risk and reserve the right to check in on guests and inspect accommodation once they have arrived.

Detailed information regarding safeguarding including information around exploitation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

and here

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

Refugees: Ukraine

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [14643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support is available to Ukrainians who have arrived in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme, and if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing financial support to those people at a similar level to that provided to those people who have arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Ukrainian nationals coming to the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme are given access to work, benefits and public services as laid down in Appendix Ukraine to the Immigration Rules, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme?msclid=e6adf1dbcf7b11ec86b0be860d4b164a>

There is no specific financial support available to those who choose to sponsor family members to join them in the UK. This includes those sponsoring under the Ukraine Family Scheme where there is no requirement to provide accommodation. Therefore, the Government has not extended the £350 per month 'thank you' payment offered to those who are willing to offer a home to refugees arriving in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine and Super Sponsor Schemes.

Those sponsoring family members able to offer appropriate accommodation can choose to bring their family members to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme or Super Sponsor Schemes in order to become eligible for the 'thank you' payment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14643>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

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

Visas: Children

Emma Hardy (Labour) [15356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's affordability fee waiver scheme for citizenship registration for individuals under the age of 18, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing low-income families who have accrued considerable debt while applying for visas for their children to apply retrospectively for such a waiver.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This waiver is only applicable to the fees to register a child as a British citizen and is not being applied retrospectively, which means it will only be applied to eligible applications submitted on or after 16 June. The affordability assessment is set out in guidance available on GOV.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15356>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1078033/Affordability_fee_waiver_Citizenship_registration_for_individuals_under_the_age_of_18.pdf

Immigration

Caroline Lucas (Green) [15224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow Home Office officials discretion in immigration cases

to re-define memorial services as memorial services in lieu of a funeral in cases where it can be shown that a death took place at a time when covid-19 restrictions prevented one of the (a) holding of and (b) travel to a funeral for a deceased immediate family member abroad and for such cases to be considered as having the status of a funeral for the purpose of the decision on whether a case should be fairly expedited; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those who qualify to visit the UK may undertake a range of activities, which include attending a funeral or a memorial service.

We continue to prioritise any urgent compelling or compassionate cases across all workstreams.

Where there are extremely compassionate or compelling circumstances (for example, a medical emergency or travelling to a funeral for a deceased immediate family member including memorial services), we may consider expediting specific cases. However, the bar for this is high and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

UKVI encourages all customers to apply in good time ahead of intended travel dates, and customers can also make use of UKVI's optional priority visa services for visit visas in certain locations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15224>

Migrant Workers: Domestic Abuse

Owen Thompson (SNP) [15312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will take steps to ensure that migrant women who are victims of domestic abuse can be granted residence in the UK which is not dependent on the spouse or partner who is the perpetrator of that abuse.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for this Government and we are committed to supporting all victims of domestic abuse. Anyone who has suffered domestic abuse must be treated as a victim first and foremost, regardless of immigration status.

On 30 March, we published the Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan which will seek to transform the whole of society's response to prevent offending, support victims and pursue perpetrators, as well as to strengthen the systems in place to deliver these goals.

Support is provided to migrant victims of domestic abuse through our Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) which enables those victims, who entered the UK on certain partner or spousal visas, three months access to public funds, which can be used to fund safe accommodation.

Migrant victims can also apply for settlement through the Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain Rules (DVILR). The intention is to safeguard eligible victims by offering them leave independent of the abusive partner.

Following the Government's review of support for migrant victims in 2020, last year we launched the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme to provide a support net for victims who are not eligible to apply under the DDVC.

The 12-month pilot, run by Southall Black Sisters and their delivery partners, and supported with £1.5 million of Government funding, has provided wraparound support services for migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds. Support includes: accommodation, subsistence, and counselling.

The pilot and independent evaluation aims to ensure that we have a robust evidence base to inform future policy decisions. The evaluation will be producing a final report in Summer 2022.

In the interim, we will provide £1.4 million in 2022-23 to continue to fund support for migrant victims of domestic abuse, whilst we take on board vital lessons learned from the pilot to inform future policy decisions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15312>

The Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan/tackling-domestic-abuse-plan-command-paper-639-accessible-version>

Information about the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679269/victims-of-domestic-violence-and-abuse-DDV-concession-v1_0.pdf

Information about the Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/indefinite-leave-to-remain-domestic-violence-abuse>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [14566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what remedies are available to Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants who do not wish to accept the outcome of a Tier Two Review.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [14567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what role her Department plays in initial review process of a claim to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [14568] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the (a) Tier 1 and (b) Tier 2 review process for the Windrush Compensation Scheme is (a) impartial and (b) comprehensive.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [14569] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data her Department holds on the outcomes of (a) Tier 1 and (b) Tier 2 Windrush Compensation Scheme reviews.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [14570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants have rejected the awards of their Tier 2 review in each month from January 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In response to questions UIN: 14566

Claimants can ask an MP to refer their Tier 2 review to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. If the Ombudsman decides to investigate the review, the Home Office and the Adjudicator's Office will cooperate with their investigation.

In response to questions UIN: 14567

If an individual is dissatisfied with the outcome of their compensation claim, they can ask the Home Office to review its decision. The first stage of the review is a Tier 1; this will be an internal independent review by someone who has not been involved in the individual's case.

The Tier 1 reviewer will review whether the decision was correct, which will include looking at whether:

- the rules, policy and guidance were applied correctly
- there was a mistake of fact
- the initial decision maker made the right judgement on the correct standard of proof
- all the available information and evidence was considered

Full guidance for the Tier 1 reviews process can be found here: [Windrush Compensation Scheme](#)

In response to questions UIN: 14568

If an individual is dissatisfied with the outcome of their compensation claim, they can ask the Home Office to review its decision. The first stage of the review is a Tier 1, this will be an internal independent review by someone who has not been

involved in the individual's case.

If a claimant remains dissatisfied, they can then request a Tier 2 external independent review. Their claim will be looked at by the Adjudicator's Office.

The Adjudicator's Office is a separate organisation, independent of the Home Office, who can look at the validity and reasons for the decision, including whether the Department has followed its policies

While the Adjudicator's Office falls within the same legal entity as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the Adjudicator is an office holder, not an employee nor an officer of HMRC, and is external to HMRC with the independent personal authority to review complaints.

In response to questions UIN: 14569

Data on the outcomes of (a) Tier 1 and (b) Tier 2 Windrush Compensation Scheme reviews, can be found here: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: April 2022](#).

In response to questions UIN: 14570

The Home Office has no published data to answer these questions. The information is not readily available in a reportable format nor held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14566>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14567>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14568>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14569>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14570>

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [15377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of her Department's progress in preventing undocumented migrants from crossing the English Channel since December 2019.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Preventing the illegal entry of people to the UK in small boats is an ongoing priority for the Government. These crossings are dangerous and unnecessary and must be made unviable. To achieve this, the UK and France maintain a longstanding relationship on tackling illegal migration at the shared border. Most recently, a bilateral arrangement was reached between the UK and France on 20 July 2021, where the UK pledged to make a further financial investment of approximately £54 million (€62.7 million) in 2021/22 to tackle illegal migration and small boats.

The UK and France have agreed to keep the impact of these measures and their implementation, under close review, including via a UK-France Joint Monitoring Committee, chaired by senior officials from both countries. This will enable us to respond to our shared challenges as they change. Last year's investment saw France doubling the number of its officers patrolling French beaches. Our joint activity with France prevented more than 23,000 crossings in 2021. So far in 2022, over 8,000 people have been prevented from crossing – more than twice the number to this point in 2021. Furthermore, since the UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell (JIC) was established in July 2020, we have, with France, dismantled 21 small boat organised criminal groups and secured over 500 arrests. We assess that this has had a considerable impact upon facilitators. Going forward, the Home Office

will continue to cooperate closely with the French Government on this important issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-09/15377>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [14550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what records her Department holds of asylum claims received in (a) 2019, (b) 2020 and (c) 2021 that were processed within six months.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [14551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the current average processing time for an asylum application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only. This data can be found at This data can be found at Asy_04 of the published Immigration Statistics: [List of tables](#)

The Home Office also publishes data on the percentage of asylum applications processed within 6 months of the date of claim. Data showing the number of asylum claims received in 2019, 2020 and 2021 that were processed within 6 months can be found at Asy_01 of the Asylum Transparency Data dated May 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-protection-data-q1-2022>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14550>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14551>

Asylum

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [11880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) adjustments, (b) translation services and (c) other support her Department (i) has in place and (ii) plans to put in place for people seeking asylum who may initially provide incorrect personal details as a result of either translation issues or fear of political persecution in their country of origin.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All asylum claimants undergo a screening interview with the option of having an interpreter present.

If inaccuracies are identified with the information they have previously provided Home Office systems are amended and relevant checks are re-run.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11880>

The following six questions all received the same answer

Asylum: RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to impose entry and exit restrictions on people housed at the new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's timescale is for commencing use of the Linton-on-Ouse site to house people seeking asylum.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to set a maximum length of time that a person can be housed at the proposed Linton-on-Ouse asylum accommodation centre.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum number of residents is for the proposed Linton-on-Ouse asylum accommodate site.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether residents will sleep in (a) dormitories or (b) shared rooms at the new asylum

accommodation centre at RAF Linton-on-Ouse; and what the capacity is of those rooms.
Alison Thewliss (SNP) [8038] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff will be required at the Linton-on-Ouse asylum reception centre and how many of those staff have been recruited.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have been developing proposals to accommodate asylum seekers at Linton-on-Ouse once it is safe and lawful to do so. We would only consider accommodating individuals onsite once all the legal requirements have been met.

We are undertaking feasibility assessments to understand what the capacity of the site is. To meaningfully relieve the pressures on our accommodation estate, we would initially look to accommodate circa 60 people at Linton, then using a phased approach increase occupancy.

Accommodation at Linton would consist primarily of single, double, and triple rooms with a small number of four-person rooms. Where rooms are shared by service users, the size of the rooms will be in accordance with accommodation regulations. The number of staff required at Linton-on-Ouse will vary depending on the number of asylum seekers onsite. This would ensure we have the required number of staff to support delivery of services to asylum seekers accommodated at Linton-on-Ouse.

The accommodation centre at Linton-on-Ouse would be non-detained. We take safeguarding of asylum seekers seriously which is why we would ask residents and visitors to sign in and out of the site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8032>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8034>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8035>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8036>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8037>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-24/8038>

Asylum: Kurds

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [13086] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential risks to Kurdish asylum seekers of being deported to Iraq.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of any relevant caselaw and the latest available country information. Our position on Iraq is set out in the relevant country policy and information note on the gov.uk website. Where someone establishes a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm in their country, they are normally granted protection and are not expected to return there. The Home Office only seeks to return those whose asylum claim have been unsuccessful. By definition, they do not need protection and not at risk on return. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's travel advice to British nationals is not the correct legal test for determining whether or not a person qualifies for international protection or whether to remove a foreign national with no right to remain in UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-06/13086>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda

The statement given by the Minister in the House of Commons was repeated in the House of Lords.

Lord Coaker (Labour): ... The Home Secretary refused to give any transparency at all to the taxpayer or Parliament around how much taxpayers' money is being spent. She refused to answer questions about whether those intended for yesterday's failed flight included victims of torture or trafficking or people who have fled Afghanistan. The Home Secretary has also refused to confirm her support for the European Convention on Human Rights, which Britain helped to draft and proudly ratified decades ago.

Yesterday, on the day when Ministers were insisting that a flight with fewer than seven asylum seekers would take off, come what may, over 400 people risked their lives to cross the channel. We need serious co-operation with our close neighbours in France to take action on the border, and dedicated action against criminal gangs. ...

Can the Minister confirm that victims of torture were originally identified to be on yesterday's flight, and that the Home Secretary was aware of that? What screening processes are in place before people are identified for offshoring, including age assessments to prevent children being put on a flight? ...

The Home Secretary has made it clear that she considers those fleeing Afghanistan and Ukraine deserving of asylum in the UK. Can the Minister confirm that it is true that yesterday's flight was due to include people who have fled to the UK from Afghanistan? Can she give a guarantee that no person who has fled from Ukraine will be deported by this Government to Rwanda? ...

Of course, we need action to tackle dangerous criminal gangs. Of course, a Government have a right to police their borders. However, Ministers know, and ought to be honest, that this policy will not achieve that. ...

Earlier, the Home Secretary herself said that, on this Government's watch, asylum costs "are soaring". Under the current leadership, the number of basic decisions taken by our asylum system has collapsed from 28,000 a year to just 14,000 a year. ... Why are the Government not dealing with the failures in our system to operate the basic necessities rather than paying a country thousands of miles away to take these decisions for us? ...

Can the Minister confirm it is true that the Government are seriously looking to change the law and even leave the European Convention on Human Rights, which the court interprets? ...

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): ... The Home Secretary began her Statement by saying: "The British people have repeatedly voted for controlled immigration".

This Government have dramatically increased immigration into this country, allowing visa-free entry from even more countries while retaining visa-free entry for those from the European Union. The National Audit Office estimates that between 600,000 and 1.2 million illegal immigrants are in the UK. In 2010, there were more than 10,000 removals of those illegally in the UK; in 2021, it was 113. Why are the Government increasing immigration and reducing removals?

The Home Secretary talked about "intolerable pressure" being placed on public services. In 2019, the Government allowed 680,000 economic migrants and foreign students into the country, while the number claiming asylum in the same year was 41,700. Only 6% of all long-term international migrants in 2019 were asylum seekers. How much pressure are asylum seekers placing on the system compared with other migrants? ...

Some 75% of the people affected by this Government's policy of deporting asylum seekers, based on those crossing the channel whose claims are processed in the UK, are genuine seekers of sanctuary who have the right to settle in the UK under the UN refugee convention. They are vulnerable and traumatised. They are likely to include victims of

modern slavery and victims of torture, who are unlikely to reveal the extent of their trauma on arrival in the UK. They are likely to be further traumatised by being removed to Rwanda. ...

The UK must take its fair share of asylum seekers and not export our legal and moral responsibilities to Rwanda. ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... The noble Lord, Lord Coaker, asked me about the convention on human rights. Earlier today, my right honourable friend the Home Secretary confirmed that the Deputy Prime Minister was looking into a Bill of Rights for this country. ...

The noble Lord also asked me about victims of torture and people being taken off flights. If anyone claims they are a victim of torture, they are taken off their flight so that their claim can be assessed.

The noble Lord also asked about Afghans, Ukrainians and Syrians. Since 2015, we have resettled over 20,000 Syrians through the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme and the vulnerable children's resettlement scheme.

We have also been incredibly generous to our Ukrainian friends and through the schemes for Afghans. Afghans really do not need to attempt to cross the channel; they need to apply through the safe and legal routes that we have set up for the Afghan people. ...

The noble Lord, Lord Paddick, talked about there being far fewer asylum seekers than migrants. That is absolutely true. We are talking here about controlled migration and people not taking illegal and very risky journeys, across some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-15/debates/C99087F8-C5DB-4B83-8B92-25819E54D6B3/MigrationAndEconomicDevelopmentPartnershipWithRwanda>

Asylum Seekers: Removal to Rwanda

[The first answer given by the Minister in the House of Commons](#) was repeated in the House of Lords.

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, we are told that the Prince of Wales has called the Rwanda policy “appalling”, and this morning, the Church of England—including esteemed Members of this House—said that it is an “immoral policy” which should shame the UK. Why are they and many others wrong and the Home Secretary right? There were reports that victims of torture were scheduled to be on today's flight. Is that the case? The Government have even had to put an RAF base on standby today to facilitate a flight of fewer than seven people. What will the cost to the taxpayer be of each person? This policy is unethical, unworkable and expensive, and it flies in the face of British values. Is it not the case that we need safe and legal routes, not a shameful policy of offshoring asylum seekers to Rwanda?

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

... On morality, I do not think it is moral to allow people to stand by and allow people to drown, or to line the pockets of criminal gangs who seek to exploit people trying to cross in small boats. That is why we have safe and legal routes, which have in fact seen over 200,000 people arrive here since 2015. On the cost, I do not think we can put a price on human lives. I think we need to do all we can to deter these perilous journeys across the channel.

Viscount Hailsham (Conservative): My Lords, given that the Court of Appeal will consider the legality of the policy very expeditiously, would it not be fair and in accordance with natural justice to postpone any further flights until such time as the Court of Appeal has come to a final decision on the legality of the policy?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The courts have now determined

twice and there will be a Judicial Review process in July. ...

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration says that he has seen no impact of the Rwanda policy on numbers attempting to cross the channel in small boats. One hundred crossed just yesterday. The civil servant in charge of the Home Office says that he has not seen any evidence to show that the plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda will act as a deterrent. Israel tried the same policy of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda and it failed. When will the Government admit that their Rwanda policy is less about stopping people smugglers transporting people across the channel and has everything to do with the UK abdicating its moral responsibility to give genuine asylum seekers sanctuary in this country and its legal responsibilities under the UN refugee convention?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Coaker, we have brought 200,000 people here since 2015. As for the Permanent Secretary's comments, he made it clear that he considered it "regular, proper and feasible" for the Home Secretary to make a judgment to proceed with this policy "in the light of the illegal migration challenge the country is facing." ...

The Lord Bishop of Southwark: ... Bearing in mind the force of today's letter in the *Times* signed by all the serving Lords spiritual, will the Minister acknowledge, contrary to what some of her colleagues have said, that the Bishops and others have offered alternatives—in particular, safe and legal routes which are unavailable to those who wish to apply from countries such as Iran, Iraq and Eritrea? Secondly, will she inform the House how removals may go ahead if the monitoring committee, set out in the memorandum of understanding to scrutinise processing, reception, accommodation and post-asylum treatment, does not exist? Finally, on the use of language, does the Minister agree that there is no such thing in law as an "illegal asylum seeker", only an asylum seeker?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... As I have outlined, our safe and legal routes have been extremely generous to those who most need our protection—those from Afghanistan, now those from Ukraine and previously those from Syria. Our routes have been very generous. Sometimes, in suggesting expansion of safe and legal routes, we are opening up the country to something that might be quite unmanageable. ...

Lord Deben (Conservative): Would my noble friend be kind enough to tell the House whether the Home Secretary has yet had time to write to the most reverend Primate the Archbishop to apologise for the way she received his moral judgment? Has she been able to write to the Cardinal Archbishop to explain why she disagrees with his moral judgment? Or are we now to believe that moral judgments will be laid down by the Home Office and this Government rather than those who have traditionally been able to uphold them?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have given my view on morality and I expect that God will be the judge of my morality or otherwise. As to whether my right honourable friend the Home Secretary has written to the most reverend Primate or the Cardinal, I do not know; that is a matter for her.

Baroness Stowell of Beeston (Conservative): My Lords, clearly, this is a matter on which people have strongly held views. Does my noble friend agree that the millions of people in this country who voted for stronger control of our borders are compassionate citizens? Would she further agree that a failure by the Government to do all that they can to prevent and deter illegal channel crossings would undermine our democratic process?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend is of course absolutely right. We have to strike that balance between being compassionate to those who need our refuge and asylum in this country and stopping some of the criminality associated with it. ...

Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour): ... a substantive judicial review of the policy will be considered in July. Would it not have been open to the Home Office to hold off removals until then ...?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness is right that a legal process is ongoing. Nevertheless, the Home Office has a duty to uphold the law. ...

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat): ... Are there any circumstances in which refugees from conflict zones will be sent to Rwanda?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have been very clear that each case will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. No one will be sent anywhere where they might be persecuted or where their human rights might be undermined.

Lord Lansley (Conservative): Will my noble friend commit the Government to providing substantive evidence to the inquiry launched by the International Agreements Committee, of which I am a member, and in doing so, will the Government explain on what basis they chose not to lay this agreement before Parliament? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We had a debate about this. A memorandum of understanding was reached with Rwanda, as opposed to a treaty, which would of course have been laid before Parliament.

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-14/debates/C80B60F8-29D0-4F1B-B211-52874592CA28/AsylumSeekersRemovalToRwanda>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

The letter to the Times, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/bishops-letter-times-rwanda-asylum-policy>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL599] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Ukrainians who have left Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion of that country; and how many have settled in the UK to date.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Information on the number of arrivals can be found in our published Homes for Ukraine data: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and under the Homes For Ukraine and Ukrainian Family Scheme data lists: Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa data - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Summary table: data as received from the Home Office as at 7 June 2022

Location	Sponsor	Number of visa applications	Number of visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
England	Sponsored by individuals	69,065	62,662	40,085
Northern Ireland	Sponsored by individuals	1,159	993	231
Scotland	Sponsored by individuals	3,691	3,348	2,035
	Sponsored by the Scottish Government	9,170	8,183	2,236
	Total	12,861	11,531	4,271

Wales	Sponsored by individuals	2,839	2,538	1,609
	Sponsored by the Welsh Government	3,116	2,693	590
	Total	5,955	5,231	2,199

Notes to the summary table

1. These data are provisional management information from live operational systems and are subject to change. The data have not gone through the same levels of quality assurance as official statistics.

Total Ukraine Scheme visa applications received: 154,500

Data is as of 7 June 2022 and comprised of:

- Ukraine Family Scheme: 47,300
- Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 107,200

Total Ukraine Scheme visas issued to people: 124,400

Data is as of 7 June 2022 and comprised of:

- Ukraine Family Scheme visas: 41,000
- Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visas: 83,400

Total arrivals of Ukraine Scheme visa-holders in the UK: 70,500

Data is as of 6 June 2022 and comprised of:

- arrivals via Ukraine Family Scheme: 24,000
- arrivals via Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: 46,500

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/hl599>

The data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL598] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the causes of the disparity between the numbers of visas granted to Ukrainian refugees on the Homes for Ukraine scheme and arrivals in the UK to date.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: There are various reasons why Ukrainians are waiting before travelling to the UK. We know through our partners on-the-ground that some people have applied for visas so they have the option of travelling to the UK but are currently staying elsewhere, for example in countries near the border so they can get back to Ukraine more quickly. Others may have applied to a UK scheme but then decided to stay where they are or travel elsewhere.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/hl598>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Females

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL589] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any detention capacity for women is currently available at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre; if not, whether they plan to make such capacity available; and if so, when.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient capacity, in the right places and that it provides value for money.

The Home Office opened Derwentside immigration removal centre (IRC) for women in November 2021. We plan to supplement the new IRC by continuing to provide some detention capacity for women at Colnbrook, Dungavel and Yarl's Wood IRCs. We have already completed design work to ensure the women's space at Yarl's Wood will be entirely separate from male resident space and we are planning to transition part of the Yarl's Wood site back to an immigration removal centre for around 60 women. We will open the refurbished accommodation in late summer.

In order to meet operational needs and demands, we will continue to operate the immigration removal estate, including Yarl's Wood, in a flexible manner and in line with the STHF Rules 2018 and the Detention Centre Rules 2001, as appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-26/hl589>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Migration and Asylum

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10372/html/>

New Publications

The European Court grants urgent interim measure in case concerning asylumseeker's imminent removal from the UK to Rwanda

<https://tinyurl.com/95w2dhvx>

European Court: Further requests for interim measures in cases concerning asylum-seekers' imminent removal from the UK to Rwanda

<https://tinyurl.com/424y5vtz>

Supreme Court: Rwanda Permission to Appeal Application refused

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/news/rwanda-permission-to-appeal-application-refused.html>

Guidance: Risks of illegal migration to the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/risks-of-illegal-migration-to-the-uk>

Letter from Priti Patel MP to Diana Johnson MP regarding the EU Settlement Scheme and Zambrano primary carers

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2022-0320/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Zambrano_primary_carers.pdf

Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme: Zambrano primary carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-zambrano-primary-carers/eu-settlement-scheme-zambrano-primary-carers>

Updated Guidance: Afghan citizens resettlement scheme

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

Briefing: Home for Ukraine Scheme and child refugees

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2022-0115/>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda: We're committed to asylum plan, says Priti Patel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61808120>

'Shameful': Priti Patel 'determined' to press ahead with Rwanda refugee plan

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20211809.shameful-priti-patel-determined-press-ahead-rwanda-refugee-plan/>

UK to challenge court ruling that halted Rwanda deportations, says minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/15/uk-challenge-european-court-ruling-rwanda-deportations-asylum>

Priti Patel: 'Scandalous' grounding of Rwanda flight shows it's time we quit ECHR

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/17/priti-patel-scandalous-grounding-rwanda-flight-shows-time-quit/>

'They hand injunctions out like sweeties': How the ECHR blocked Rwanda flight

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/15/hand-injunctions-like-sweeties-echr-blocked-rwanda-flight/>

Raab says court was wrong to block Rwanda deportation flight

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/16/dominic-raab-european-court-human-rights-rwanda-deportation-flight>

Rwanda asylum plan: European court intervention was wrong, says Raab

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61822584>

Britain may ignore ECHR's last-minute injunctions in future, says Dominic Raab

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/16/european-judges-last-minute-injunctions-may-ignored-says-dominic/>

Britain plans next Rwanda flight after European court ruling

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/time-to-quit-echr-say-angry-tory-mps-after-rwanda-ruling-r78w3zmvn>

Migrants pulled from 'moral' Rwanda flight 'will be on next one' Liz Truss warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-flight-deportation-liz-truss-b2100396.html>

Rwanda asylum flight cancelled after legal action

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61806383>

Rwanda asylum flight cancelled after 11th-hour ECHR intervention

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/14/european-court-human-right-makes-11th-hour-intervention-in-rwanda-asylum-seeker-plan>

First planned Rwanda removal flight cancelled

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/first-planned-rwanda-removal-flight-cancelled/>

Rwanda asylum flight: Where does legal setback leave ministers?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-61805819>

Rwanda asylum-seekers plan: Why the ECHR intervened and what happens now
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/15/rwanda-asylum-seekers-flight-plan-deportation-echr-brexit-uk/>

Why has the European Court of Human Rights blocked the Rwanda flight?
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-is-the-european-court-of-human-rights-ktrd8ct2n>

Rwanda deportations policy: the different parties' positions side-by-side
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-deportation-labour-position-b2101898.html>

Rwanda asylum plan: PM defends scheme as legal challenges fail
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61799914>

Rwanda asylum plan: Court allows first flight to go ahead
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61789982>

Rwanda deportation flight: Appeal judges throw out bid to stop migrants plan
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/legal-battles-leave-rwanda-deportees-in-single-digits-fc3vlz7zb>

Rwanda asylum plan: Number of people on first flight 'close to single figures'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61779845>

Just seven migrants on flight to Rwanda despite rejection of last-ditch asylum appeal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/13/rwanda-migrants-flight-can-go-ahead-judge-rejects-last-ditch/>

Only eight asylum seekers set to be on Rwanda deportation flight
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-deportation-flight-home-office-b2099601.html>

UK's bid to export some refugees to Rwanda, 'all wrong', says UN refugee chief
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120262>

UN expert urges UK to halt transfer of asylum seekers to Rwanda
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/06/un-expert-urges-uk-halt-transfer-asylum-seekers-rwanda>

UN refugee chief accuses Truss of 'untrue' statements on Rwanda policy
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/14/liz-truss-rwanda-flights-policy-asylum-seekers>

Find alternatives to Rwanda policy or deal with it, Liz Truss tells church leaders
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/14/find-alternatives-rwanda-policy-deal-liz-truss-tells-church/>

UK immigration policies 'dishonour God'
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2022/articles/uk-immigration-policies-dishonour-god>

Rwanda asylum: Church of Scotland leader calls plan "unspeakable disgrace"
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20217849.rwanda-asylum-church-scotland-leader-calls-plan-unspeakable-disgrace/>

Rwanda asylum policy: 'Rwanda asylum policy dishonours God' – Church of Scotland moderator

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/rwanda-asylum-policy-rwanda-asylum-policy-dishonours-god-church-of-scotland-moderator-3736014>

Church of England condemns Rwanda deportation plan as national 'shame'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/13/rwanda-deportation-plan-branded-national-shame-church-england/>

Church says sending migrants to Rwanda brings shame on Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/prospects-for-rwanda-flight-slim-httc7s007>

Rwanda plan is immoral policy that shames Britain – Church of England leaders

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-deportations-church-england-patel-b2100112.html>

I joined 25 Bishops in condemning plans to send refugees to Rwanda – here's why

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugees-rwanda-britain-moral-question-standing-b2100775.html>

UK asylum plan defended by Rwandan Anglican archbishop

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-61851463>

Migrants will be treated with 'safety, dignity and respect', says Rwanda high commissioner

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/12/rwanda-high-commissioner-attacks-critics-uk-plan-insisting-channel/>

Rwanda 'committed to helping migrants sent from UK to build new lives'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-kigali-paul-kagame-african-archbishop-b2100845.html>

Refugees in Rwanda warn of challenges for arrivals from UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/rwanda-ap-britain-refugees-east-african-b2100393.html>

Why are asylum seekers being sent to Rwanda and how many could go?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-61782866>

Why are asylum seekers being sent to Rwanda? The deportation plan explained

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-uk-flight-refugees-plan-explained-8r5l3vk9h>

Rwanda: So long as enough ordinary people are steadfast, there is still hope for the soul of the UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/rwanda-so-long-as-enough-ordinary-people-are-steadfast-there-is-still-hope-for-the-soul-of-the-uk-dani-garavelli-3736940>

Rwanda asylum policy: Deportee says plan would have deterred him

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61835838>

Asylum seeker 'would not have come' to UK if aware of Rwanda deportation flight

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seeker-would-not-have-come-to-uk-if-aware-of-rwanda-deportation-flight-m0mhcpgs2>

Trans asylum seeker 'relieved' after just missing Rwanda deportation date

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-deportation-flight-transgender-asylum-b2100698.html>

'It will be the end of my life': the people fearing removal from UK to Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/13/the-people-fearing-removal-from-uk-to-rwanda>

'Tell my family I love them': Sister of asylum seeker recalls the last hours before Rwanda flight cancelled

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-flight-home-office-asylum-seekers-b2101390.html>

'Please stop the plane': asylum seekers plead before Rwanda deportation flight

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/14/please-stop-the-plane-asylum-seekers-plead-before-rwanda-deportation-flight>

'We can't take this suffering again': Family of asylum seeker taken off Rwanda flight worried for his future

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-flight-asylum-seeker-home-office-priti-patel-b2101520.html>

News: Channel Migrants

UK rescued 444 migrants from the English Channel crossing as Rwanda deportation flight cancelled

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/rwanda-flight-refugees-channel-crossing-b2101982.html>

Deportation to Rwanda holds no fear for latest Channel migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/deportation-rwanda-holds-no-fear-latest-channel-migrants-j22sjjtvx>

Channel migrants arriving in Devon to sidestep Border Force patrols

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/15/channel-migrants-arriving-devon-sidestep-border-force-patrols/>

'Well dressed' migrants arrive in Kent as more children make crossing

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/16/record-numbers-children-cross-channel-priti-patel-prepares-rwanda/>

News: Ukraine

Hundreds of Ukrainian refugees stuck in Scottish hotels

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61825700>

Ukrainian families in Scotland face issues with nurseries and schools

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20215715.ukrainian-families-scotland-face-issues-nurseries-schools/>

Hundreds of Ukrainian children fleeing war made homeless in UK due to ‘broken’ refugee schemes

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-children-refugees-homeless-councils-uk-b2102638.html>

Hundreds of Ukrainian nationals welcomed to England classed as homeless

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/families-england-homes-boris-johnson-government-b2102799.html>

Hundreds of Ukrainian refugees left homeless after placements with hosts break down

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/16/hundreds-ukrainian-refugees-left-homeless-placements-hosts-break/>

Dedicated YouTube channel for Ukrainian refugee children to launch this summer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/youtube-british-children-friends-channel-b2102886.html>

Ukraine-Russia: Scotland-bound Ukrainian family stuck in limbo in Warsaw after visas fail to turn up

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/ukraine-russia-scotland-bound-ukrainian-family-stuck-in-limbo-in-warsaw-after-visas-fail-to-turn-up-3735857>

Matt Hancock ‘learning to love Ukrainian food’ as he hosts refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/17/matt-hancock-learning-love-ukrainian-food-hosts-refugees/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Migrants entering UK illegally to lose ECHR protections under British Bill of Rights

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/06/17/migrants-entering-uk-illegally-lose-echr-protections-british/>

Migrants: Some due for removal from the UK could be electronically tagged

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61849433>

Refugees to be electronically tagged ‘like criminals’ under Home Office pilot scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-electronic-tag-home-office-boats-b2103622.html>

People arriving in UK on small boats to be electronically tagged

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/18/people-arriving-in-uk-on-small-boats-to-be-electronically-tagged>

More than 100 million now forcibly displaced: UNHCR report

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120542>

A record 37 million children displaced worldwide: UNICEF

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120642>

Home Office slashes number of Afghan refugees allowed into UK after fleeing Taliban

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-refugees-taliban-home-office-b2100014.html>

Why are we treating Syrians so differently to Ukrainian refugees?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/rwanda-deportation-flight-syrian-ukrainian-refugees-b2100442.html>

Man's £100,000 NHS debt wiped as he gets refugee status after 11-year fight

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/14/mans-100000-nhs-debt-wiped-as-he-gets-refugee-status-after-11-year-fight>

Paddington, go home: Home Office staff pin up faked deportation notices

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jun/13/paddington-go-home-home-office-staff-pin-up-faked-deportation-notices>

We are the civil servants who put up 'Go home Paddington' notices in revolt

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/13/civil-servants-go-home-paddington-revolt-rwanda-deportation>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Dementia: Ethnic Groups

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [11871] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that organisations representing ethnic minority communities are involved in designing services for people living with dementia.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: The Department engaged with over 200 stakeholders in every region in England to design the white paper, 'People at the Heart of Care'. This included organisations representing ethnic minority communities, such as the Race Equality Foundation, which attends the Department's Dementia Programme Board. With the support of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance, we have continued to engage with organisations representing ethnic minority communities in designing adult social care policy, including for people living with dementia.

We will set out plans for dementia in England for the next 10 years later this year. We continue to update the Equality Impact Assessment for this plan, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-01/11871>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform>

The Equality Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng97/documents/equality-impact-assessment-4>

News

Kemi Badenoch: Too much focus on race is increasing segregation in Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/15/focus-race-increasing-segregation-says-equalities-minister/>

Lenny Henry questions 'lack of black and brown' faces in Glastonbury crowds

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lenny-henry-questions-lack-of-black-and-brown-faces-in-glastonbury-crowds-t8jr5qhtg>

ECB announce partnership to help improve Muslim inclusion in cricket

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/ecb-muslim-azeem-rafiq-cricket-yorkshire-b2100479.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Maternity Care

Gillian Mackay (Green) [S6W-08752] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Birthrights report, *Systemic racism, not broken bodies*, on racial injustice and human rights in UK maternity care.

Reply from Maree Todd: The Scottish Government welcomes the publication of Birthright's report - Systemic Racism, not Broken Bodies, published on 23 May 2022 - and we are considering its findings carefully, alongside the actions and recommendations from all audit reports and the MBRRACE-UK confidential enquiries. Our expectation remains clear: that mothers and babies receive high-quality, person-centred maternity care, tailored to their needs, with quality and safety central to decision-making.

We are participating in the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' [Race Equality Taskforce](#). The Scottish Government's Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Women's Health is a member of the Taskforce, which will make recommendations for actions in maternity services to tackle the inequity in outcomes for pregnant women and babies from minority ethnic communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08752>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.birthrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Birthrights-inquiry-systemic-racism-May-22-web-1.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6M-04846] **Quakers and Reparations for Slave Trade and Colonialism** – That the Parliament welcomes the news that the Yearly Meeting of Quakers in Britain has announced that Quakers will make practical reparations for the trans-Atlantic slave trade, colonialism and economic exploitation; understands that at the annual gathering from 27-30 May 2022, with over 1,000 in-person and online attendees, the Yearly Meeting stated that "Britain Yearly Meeting resolves to build on our decision last year to be an anti-racist church, working with partners, including churches and faith groups, to look at ways to make meaningful reparations for our failings"; applauds the decision undertaken that all Quaker meetings and trustees are to examine their resources and consider how to make reparations by financial and other means; understands that this decision was taken after hearing evidence about Lancaster Quakers in the 18th and 19th centuries, who

profited from the enslavement of people, as well as hearing from members who shared personal experiences of racism; commends Quakers in Britain for their work to tackle racism, and calls on other organisations to do their part to make Scotland an anti-racist society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-04846>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Discrimination

Jim Shannon (DUP) [13133] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to help tackle discrimination in schools.

Reply from Robin Walker: Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Equality Act. The department has published guidance for schools on how to comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

Relationships education is now compulsory in all schools and the Relationships, Sex, and Health Education curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference.

The department will also provide over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of pupils who are more likely to be the victims of hate-related bullying and discrimination.

The department have also published Respectful School Communities, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can help schools to combat bullying, harassment, and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-06/13133>

Respectful School Communities, referred to above, can be read at

https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/6.4953_DFE_Respectful-schools_signposting-tool_FINAL_Fillable_Client_Cop....pdf

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [14644] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make it his policy to (a) include anti-racism teaching in the national curriculum and (b) introduce anti-racism training for Ofsted school inspectors.

Reply from Robin Walker: The department condemns and strives to tackle all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice, and harassment. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies. This includes learning how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and can include experiences and voices of people from all backgrounds. The curriculum offers many opportunities for schools to do this, notably through citizenship education and relationships education. The history curriculum also gives teachers the flexibility to include the contribution of black and minority ethnic history into lessons. This aligns with the school's duty to promote

and foster good relations across all characteristics, including race.

Relationships education is now compulsory in all schools. The relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as on the importance of valuing difference. Guidance on the implementation and teaching of RSHE curriculum can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health>

The national curriculum content for citizenship can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-citizenship-programmes-of-study> ...

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14644>

Press Releases

COPFS Committed to Tackling Hate Crime

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/copfs-committed-to-tackling-hate-crime-1/>

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2021-22

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/hate-crime-in-scotland-2021-22/>

New Publication

Hate Crime in Scotland, 2021-22

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/media/d3jnt5t2/hate-crime-2021-22-publication-final.pdf>

News

British neo-Nazi threat 'remains high' after demise of banned group NA

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/jo-cox-andrew-dymock-national-action-british-old-bailey-b2102357.html>

'We should send you to Rwanda' emerging as new racist slur on social media, public figures warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-racist-slur-social-media-b2100529.html>

NHS racism making doctors 'anxious and depressed'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61792140>

NHS risks losing one third of Black and Asian doctors over racism, finds landmark survey

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-losing-ethnic-minority-doctors-racism-b2101128.html>

'Alarming levels of unfair treatment' of ethnic minority doctors – BMA

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nhs-bma-chaand-nagpaul-asian-general-medical-council-b2101401.html>

Minorities are told to prove they belong in Britain, academic claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/minorities-are-told-to-prove-they-belong-in-britain-academic-claims-nj6m6362j>

Amnesty International UK is ‘colonialist and institutionally racist’, damning inquiry finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/amnesty-uk-inquiry-institutional-racism-b2102523.html>

Hate speech ‘dehumanizes individuals and communities’: Guterres
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120742>

English language upholds ‘white superiority’, academics told
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/15/english-language-upholds-white-superiority-open-university-tells/>

Macmillan cancer charity workplace culture ‘systemically racist’, report says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/macmillan-cancer-charity-racism-bullying-b2103608.html>

‘Racism and bullying’ at Macmillan cancer charity
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-and-bullying-at-macmillan-cancer-charity-q8qn3z06t>

Ryan Colaço: Police forced to apologise after smashing car window of man who accused officers of racism
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ryan-colaco-stop-and-search-police-b2099720.html>

Christian factory worker fired on the spot for refusing to take off cross necklace
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/14/christian-factory-worker-fired-spot-refusing-take-necklace/>

Worker sacked over crucifix necklace wins payout
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/worker-sacked-over-crucifix-necklace-wins-payout-090lwt0pg>

Muslim man sues City of London police for discrimination
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/london-police-racial-discrimination-car-b2100657.html>

Blackpool Illuminations to remove ‘racist’ display
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/17/blackpool-illumination-supports-racism-removed/>

Yorkshire racism case: ECB charges club and 'number of individuals' with bringing game into disrepute
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/61808315>

ECB charge Yorkshire over Azeem Rafiq scandal
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/06/15/ecb-charge-yorkshire-azeem-rafiq-scandal-ahead-headingley-test/>

Yorkshire: ECB charge ‘number of individuals’ in wake of racism scandal
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/ecb-yorkshire-racism-azeem-rafiq-b2101588.html>

Cricket league bans player's anti-racist jumper
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-61826189>

Footballer felt ‘manipulated’ at club meeting over racism, tribunal told
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/airdrie-glasgow-queens-park-equality-and-human-rights-commission-b2103518.html>

Getting into the mindset of a racist – Kick It Out’s battle to change attitudes
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/marcus-rashford-example-john-barnes-bradford-england-b2100857.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Spring booster dose reminder
<https://www.gov.scot/news/spring-booster-dose-reminder/>

Volunteering action plan
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-volunteering-action-plan/>

Building a new Scotland
<https://www.gov.scot/news/building-a-new-scotland/>

New Publications

Scotland’s Volunteering Action Plan
<https://tinyurl.com/2p99npdf>

Independence in the modern world. Wealthier, happier, fairer: why not Scotland?
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independence-modern-world-wealthier-happier-fairer-not-scotland/>

News

Nicola Sturgeon unveils case for Scottish independence
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61796883>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publication

Count of Traveller caravans, January 2022: England
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/traveller-caravan-count-january-2022/count-of-traveller-caravans-january-2022-england>

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New Publications

NHS Inform: Updated Guidance – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19>

Scottish Charity & Public Surveys 2022

https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/4475/2022-05-06-oscr-8337_2022-charity-survey_main-report_v50.pdf

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Other News

Launch of Scotland's Volunteering Action Plan

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/about-us/news-blog/news/launch-of-scotlands-volunteering-action-plan/>

4 out of 5 Scottish charities report financial concerns

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/4-out-of-5-scottish-charities-report-financial-concerns/>

Marriage numbers in quarter 1 increase by 21%

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/marriage-numbers-in-quarter-1-increase-by-21>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Evidence session, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-14-06-2022?meeting=13823&job=125329>

UK Parliament

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-14/debates/ecfe5eda-bf86-4f7c-9225-18c4aa625dfc/OnlineSafetyBill\(NinthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-14/debates/ecfe5eda-bf86-4f7c-9225-18c4aa625dfc/OnlineSafetyBill(NinthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-14/debates/be957e3c-244c-48c2-b778-b131667e87af/OnlineSafetyBill\(TenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-14/debates/be957e3c-244c-48c2-b778-b131667e87af/OnlineSafetyBill(TenthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-16/debates/5fa4f663-1282-4df6-a0ca-41a2e9e7d7be/OnlineSafetyBill\(EleventhSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-16/debates/5fa4f663-1282-4df6-a0ca-41a2e9e7d7be/OnlineSafetyBill(EleventhSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-16/debates/27c9b6ed-16b3-47eb-97d8-7b9dcf0e68a4/OnlineSafetyBill\(TwelfthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-16/debates/27c9b6ed-16b3-47eb-97d8-7b9dcf0e68a4/OnlineSafetyBill(TwelfthSitting))

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

** **The Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector** (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/opinions-invited-on-third-sector-governance-code/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Investing in Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 28 June 2022

Scottish Government funding of up to £350,000 over a three-year period to support organisations based in the places they serve that tackle poverty and inequality, develop and sustain place-based approaches, are involved in community-led regeneration, and are working to ensure a just transition to net zero. Awards will prioritise disadvantaged, rural, and fragile communities across Scotland. For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-round-two-draft-guidance-note>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Refugee Festival Scotland

Continues until 26 June 2022 (Scotland-wide)

The theme of this year's festival is storytelling in all its forms – from music, dance, theatre and film to visual art, cookery and conversation. The diverse programme includes contributions from artists and performers who came to Scotland seeking refugee protection and the communities that have welcomed them. For information and the full programme see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/whats-on/>

**** this week!**

Refugee Write

20 June 2022 (Aberdeen, 11.00–1.00)

Women-only event

Grampian Regional Equality Council Refugee Festival Scotland creative writing and art workshop for New Scots women. The workshop will be structured around the theme of home and what home means to each individual taking part. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/35w6d62v>

**** this week!**

Community Sponsorship: How to go about it

20 June 2022 (online, 6.00–7.00)

22 June 2022 (online, 7.00–8.00)

24 June 2022 (online, 6.00–7.00)

Failte Edinburgh Community Sponsorship group Refugee Festival Scotland sessions to find out how you and your friends can sponsor a refugee family to come and live in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8b3xcc>

**** this week!**

Our Stories: A Women's Writing Workshop

22 June 2022 (Glasgow, 11.00–2.00)

Women-only event

Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club Refugee Festival Scotland workshop to explore refugee women's stories and work together to create our own short pieces of writing. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/8er6xcrz>

**** this week!**

New Scots meet a new generation

22 June 2022 (Stepps, 12.30–2.30)

Ubuntu Scotland Refugee Festival Scotland family-friendly event led by young people from different backgrounds, including a fun-filled afternoon of games and storytelling. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/7snb7zrd>

**** this week!**

Garnethill Refugee Trail

22 June 2022 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre guided walk for Refugee Festival Scotland revealing places that are connected with Jewish refugees who came to Glasgow from Europe around the Second World War, including where children from the Kindertransport stayed, and the house on Sauchiehall street where refugees were able to meet and mix with local people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yns8ajah>

**** this week!**

Evocations: Art and Storytelling Workshop

22 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 7.30–9.30)

Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust Refugee Festival Scotland storytelling workshop for adults bringing New Scots and life-long Edinburgh locals together to celebrate both differences and the things we have in common. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46pne8cs>

**** this week!**

New Scots Storytelling on the Isle of Bute

23 June 2022 (Bute, 9.00–5.00)

SAWA Refugee Programme Refugee Festival Scotland film featuring New Scots who have settled in Rothsey and surrounding towns and villages on the island. Each person will share traditional stories from their countries of origin. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4me8crxz>

**** this week!**

Worlds Apart and Worlds Together

25 June 2022 (Edinburgh, 12.30–3.30)

The Welcoming Association Refugee Festival Scotland cross-cultural storytelling event to bring together members of local refugee communities. The family-friendly afternoon will be led by a professional storyteller, with live music, arts and crafts and buffet-style food and drink. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/34jwda78>

**** this week!**

Refugee Success Stories

25 June 2022 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

Safety Awareness Glasgow Refugee Festival Scotland event to show children and young people from refugee backgrounds that they can build successful lives for themselves in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9y6j49>

**** Who is Welcome? Islamophobia, Migration Policy + Discourse**

28 June 2022 (online, 6.00–7.30)

Migrants' Rights Network event to discuss how Islamophobia institutionally manifests itself through our policies and systems, increasingly influencing how we understand and respond to conflicts that affect Muslim migrants and refugees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/myjhtv99>

Advantage is invisible – understanding unintentional discrimination

6 July 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring why discrimination is common even when our intentions are to work fairly with all staff and service users. The role of the dominant identity in shaping our working culture and practices will be discussed, and we will consider the persistent pattern that advantage tends to be hidden from those that have it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2d5zwje9> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on our interactions and relationships. We will consider ways we can become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy. We will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Interpreters

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 explore 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>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course to improve confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. We explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity. Then we take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

Intention versus impact –challenges around group labels and unintended offence

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. We also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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