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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration Fees for Healthcare Workers

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-30/debates/5154C9F3-4E45-4361-B117-FF3B5306B9FB/ImmigrationFeesForHealthcareWorkers>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Matt Western (Labour) [131353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend eligibility of the Resettlement Scheme for vulnerable people in Afghanistan beyond the Pathway 3 criteria.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are no plans to expand the criteria under the existing pathways of the the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Eligible people will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of three referral pathways, which is a fair and equitable way to identify those in need.

Under Pathway 3, in the first year, places will be offered to eligible at-risk British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors, and Chevening alumni in Afghanistan or the region.

Beyond the first year of Pathway 3, we will continue to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk. Further detail will be set out in due course.

Definitions for these eligibility criteria can be found at:

[Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3: eligibility for British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening Alumni](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-24/131353>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [129863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data Department holds on the number of referrals the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has made under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and how many resettlement decisions have been made as a result of those referrals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Data on UNHCR referrals is not currently available to release.

As of the 24 November 2022, we have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 6,314 individuals under ACRS. We are unable, at this time, to provide a breakdown of ACRS Pathway the grant of leave was made under. More information on the number of grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain issued to Afghans resettling under the ARAP or ACRS can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129863>

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

[13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

Afghanistan: Refugees

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [136513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Departments, how many Afghan citizens have been resettled in the UK since August 2021.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest operational data, effective at Friday 4 November 2022, shows that, since August 2021, the UK has issued a grant of Leave to Remain to 12,296 individuals who are eligible for resettlement or relocation under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocation & Assistance Policy (ARAP)

More information is available at:

[Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136513>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [131173] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 10 January to Question 113300 on Afghanistan: Refugees, what is the breakdown of the 12,000 individuals relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme to the UK by each month since June 2013.

Reply from James Heappey: The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme was launched on 1 April 2021 and as such, the data requested can only be provided from April 2021 onwards. This can be found in the table below:

Month	Total ARAP relocations to the UK
Apr-21	9
May-21	13
Jun-21	115
Jul-21	894
Aug-21	5,947
Sep-21	42
Oct-21	163
Nov-21	374
Dec-21	269
Jan-22	399
Feb-22	444
Mar-22	242
Apr-22	241
May-22	429
Jun-22	201
Jul-22	416
Aug-22	414
Sep-22	649
Oct-22	394
Nov-22	403
Dec-22	1
Total	12,059

These relocation figures include eligible principals, their dependants who are eligible by default and additional family members (AFM) who qualify to be relocated to the UK under ARAP.

We estimate that a very small number of the AFM figures captured in the above statistics will have been relocated via other HM Government resettlement schemes.

Due to data constraints, we are currently unable to provide this breakdown.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-24/131173>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113300>

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

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [132577] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) applications (a) are awaiting decision as of 25 January 2023; how many and what proportion of those applications were submitted more than a year ago; and what is the average length of time taken to process an ARAP application.

Reply from James Heappey: As of 25 January 2023, we have 70,382 ARAP applications awaiting decisions, of which 66,568 are more than a year old. However, a finite number of people are eligible for ARAP: HMG knows who has

worked with the British Armed Forces or partners, and based on our records we estimate there are fewer than 320 eligible Afghans are left to find.

As such, the Ministry of Defence is not simply processing applications at pace, but is focussing resource on finding in our casework system applications from the approx. 320 individuals we know are eligible for relocation and need our support.

Due to variables such as case complexity, conducting checks with other Government Departments, or response times from applicants to follow-up queries, it is not possible to provide processing timeframes as they vary considerably.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132577>

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

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [129862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of enabling people coming to the UK under (a) Pathway 1 and (b) Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to apply for family reunion.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In line with our existing policy on resettlement, those resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) may be able to be accompanied by their immediate family members.

The government's family reunion policy is intended to allow those recognised as refugees or granted humanitarian protection in the UK to sponsor family members, provided they formed part of a family unit prior to the refugee sponsor's departure to seek protection.

Only those referred by UNHCR under pathway 2 of the ACRS will have refugee status and will, therefore, be able to access the refugee family reunion route.

For those evacuated from Afghanistan under the ACRS without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

Those already in the UK without refugee status under ACRS Pathway 1, wishing to bring family members other than immediate family members would need to apply through the regular family visa route under Appendix FM of the Immigration rules.

The Government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. However, the situation is very complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes the eligible immediate family members of those being resettled under the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129862>

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

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [129949] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether an applicant for Leave Outside The Rules for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme is permitted to make a simultaneous claim to the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from James Heapey: Leave Outside the Rules was the previous way of applying for Additional Family Members (AFM) under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). AFM are now included within the ARAP immigration rules.

ARAP eligibility entitles individuals to apply for AFM under ARAP only, not the Afghan Citizen Relocation Scheme. This makes it highly unlikely that principals would consider AFM and ACRS simultaneously.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129949>

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 Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Danny Kruger (Conservative) [132603] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what information his Department holds on what use local authorities have made of the £10,500 per-person funding provided under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme; and whether his Department provided guidance to local authorities on how that funding should be spent.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Information and guidance on grant funding allocations for local authorities under the Homes for Ukraine scheme can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#). DLUHC officials are in constant contact with counterparts in local authorities, and there are many examples of good practice and innovation by local authorities. Some have chosen to 'top up' the 'thank you' payments for hosts, others have extensive programmes to help arrivals into the private rented sector or employment. Inevitably, different locations will have differing specific needs, and have had particular successes or challenges.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132603>

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

Visas: Married People

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [133563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his Answer of 25 January 2023 to Question 125286 on Visas: Married People, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of increasing the Minimum Income Requirement on levels of (a) family and (b) spousal separation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) was implemented in July 2012, following advice from the Migration Advisory Committee, reflecting the income at which a British family could no longer access income-related benefits. It was introduced to ensure family migrants are supported at a reasonable level, do not become a burden on the taxpayer and can participate sufficiently in everyday life to facilitate their integration into British society.

The level of the MIR has not increased since it was introduced in 2012.

The Home Office considers the impact on families, particularly children, in the review and implementation of all its policies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/133563>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-17/125286>

Dental Services: Refugees

Olivia Blake (Labour) [135406] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help ensure that Ukrainian refugees can (a) register at NHS dentists and (b) access necessary dental healthcare.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: Asylum seekers and refugees, including those from Ukraine, are able to access National Health Service dental care from any NHS dental practice that is accepting NHS patients.

In September 2022, we announced 'Our plan for patients', which outlines how we will increase access to NHS dental services for England, for all patients seeking NHS care. Work to implement the improvements is underway

Patients struggling to find a local dentist can contact NHS England's Customer Contact Centre for assistance or contact NHS 111 if seeking urgent care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-30/135406>

Our Plan for Patients, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-for-patients/our-plan-for-patients>

Asylum: Myanmar

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [131299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Myanmar nationals claimed asylum in the UK in (a) 2021 and (b) 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications by nationality can be found in table Asy_D01 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate to the year ending September 2022. Data for the year ending December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023. 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/2023-01-24/131299>

Asylum: Children

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [129804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to protect unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern.

We have no power to detain unaccompanied asylum seeking children in hotels and we know some do go missing. Many of those who have gone missing are subsequently traced and located. Children's movements in and out of hotels are monitored and recorded and they are accompanied by support workers when attending organised activities and social excursions off-site, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

When a young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency, missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police and local authorities, to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe

Regarding an inquiry; the Home Secretary is taking advice from officials and considering the appropriate next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129804>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 859, whether in the

welfare interview children are explicitly informed (a) that they will not be sent to Rwanda, (b) of their rights as a child seeking asylum in the UK, (c) of the risks to them of people seeking to exploit children staying in asylum hotels, (d) of advice to stay safe and (e) about how to seek help if in difficulty.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The purpose of a welfare interview is to ascertain the physical and emotional state of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) as well as to obtain some basic information about themselves and their family, their journey to the United Kingdom and any links they may have in the United Kingdom. During the welfare interview, our UASC children are not informed of the points raised. This information is relayed to each UASC child upon arrival at their accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132332>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

Children: Asylum

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132336] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 861, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the capacity issues referred to including the lack of (a) foster carers, (b) trained social workers and (c) local authority children's home places; if she will quantify that assessment on a national basis; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: The department is committed to ensuring that all Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children accommodated in hotels by the Home Office are transferred through the National Transfer Scheme to the care of a local authority as quickly as possible. The department is also committed to ensuring that capacity challenges in local authorities are addressed, including through our forthcoming response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

The department knows that the right type of foster care may not always be available at the time or in the areas it is needed, and that there is significant variability across regions of England. We also know that it is particularly difficult to find suitable foster homes for some groups of children, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The department recognises the urgency of action in placement sufficiency and will work with local authorities on recruiting more foster carers and on improving the conversion rate from expressions of interest to approval. This will include local recruitment campaigns that build towards a national programme, to help ensure children have access to the right placements at the right time.

It is encouraging to note that the number of children and family social workers in the workforce is increasing every year. This number has increased by more than 14% from 28,500 in 2017, to 32,500 in 2021. The department is working closely with local authorities to recognise and understand workforce pressures. The department is also using central programmes and funding to respond to local authority needs. Over the current spending review period, we will continue to invest more than £50 million every year on recruiting, training, and developing social workers to ensure the workforce has the capacity, skills, and knowledge to support and protect vulnerable children.

The department is supporting local authorities to meet their statutory duties through £259 million of capital funding over the next Parliament. This will help to maintain capacity and expand provision in secure and open residential children's homes, providing high-quality, safe homes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people across England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132336>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren#contribution-E8916573-F7D6-4539-BB5A-664FF47B77D8>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 859, of the 200 children who remain missing, what information does her Department hold on the number of days each child has been missing; and if she will make it her policy to publish regular data on the number of (a) children missing from bridging hotels and (b) days those children have been missing.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are currently no children missing from bridging hotels; bridging hotels are not utilised for asylum accommodation and do not house Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

There are no plans to publicly publish data around missing UASC as this data is not held in a reportable format and it would require a manual search of records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132334>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [130039] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to ensure that children asylum seekers are not abducted from the hotels they are temporarily housed in.

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [130068] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child asylum seekers were (a) registered as missing from hotels and (b) found after being registered as missing in 2022.

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [130087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child asylum seekers have been registered as missing in each of the last 5 years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has no power to hold asylum seekers, including under 18s, in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave.

To minimise the risk of a minor going missing, records of those leaving and returning to the hotel are kept and monitored. Support workers accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in temporary hotel accommodation are as safe and supported as possible whilst we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses.

When a young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency, missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police and local authorities, to establish their whereabouts and ensure that they are safe.

The number of all missing asylum seekers are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

In 2022 there were 411 missing episodes from Home Office UASC Hotels. The young person was subsequently located for 218 of these 411 missing episodes. Of the minors that are still missing; they breakdown as: 87% Albanians. The other 13% are Afghanistan (6%), Egypt (3%) and the remaining 6% are from India, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and Vietnam. 14 were under 16 when they went missing and one was a female.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130039>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130068>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130087>

Asylum: Hove

Ian Byrne (Labour) [132555] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recent reports of the abduction of unaccompanied children from a Home Office residence in Hove, what arrangements for custody and responsibility her Department made with that local authority when it procured hotels to house asylum seekers in that area.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in dangerous small boats crossings means there are significant challenges on providing local authority care places for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Out of necessity and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst local authority accommodation is found. The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern.

The Home Office engaged with the local authority before UASC were housed in the hotel, but operational pressures resulted in a reduced period of notice prior to their moving into the site.

We take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously, and we have robust procedures in place to ensure all children are accommodated as safely as possible whilst in hotels. The movements of UASC in and out of hotels are monitored and recorded and they are accompanied by support workers when attending organised activities and social excursions off-site, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

We have no power to detain unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in these hotels and we know some do go missing. Many of those who have gone missing are subsequently traced and located. It is not true to say that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are being kidnapped or abducted from these hotels.

Ending the use of hotels for UASC is an absolute priority and we will continue to work around the clock with councils to increase the number of care placements available. To achieve that goal we are providing local authorities with children's services £15,000 for every eligible young person they take into their care from a Home Office-run hotel dedicated to UASC or the Kent Reception and Safe Care Service by the end of February 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132555>

Asylum: Hove

Ian Byrne (Labour) [132558] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recent reports of the abduction of unaccompanied children from a Home Office residence in Hove, what urgent steps her Department is taking to ensure the (a) safety and (b) welfare of children who (i) are missing, (ii) were missing but have been found and (c) are living at that residence.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in dangerous small boats crossings means

there are significant challenges on providing local authority care places for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). Out of necessity and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have accommodated UASC on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels while placements with local authorities have been vigorously pursued. This work is led by dedicated team leaders and support workers who provide 24/7 supervision

We take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure UASC in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All children receive a welfare interview which includes questions designed to identify potential indicators of trafficking or safeguarding issues and subsequent safeguarding plans are put in place.

Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to the hotel. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified. The Home Office has no power to hold children in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave.

When a young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. Missing After Reasonable Steps (MARS) is a new protocol which enables children's homes and supported accommodation placements to have more ownership over the missing episodes of children within their care.

We engage with the local police and work in conjunction with the Local Authorities (LA) children's services to invoke a missing child multi agency strategy meeting chaired by children's services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132558>

Asylum: Hove

Ian Byrne (Labour) [132556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recent reports of the abduction of unaccompanied children from a Home Office residence in Hove, what training was provided to security staff contracted by her Department to manage the security of those children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, extremely seriously. *[sic]* The wellbeing of children is our number one priority and our accommodation providers are required to ensure accommodation is safe and in line with contractual requirements.

It is also not true to say that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are being kidnapped from Home Office hotels. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are not detained and are free to leave the accommodation. They may choose to leave for a number of reasons, such as visiting family.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to protect all children, regardless of where they go missing from. This can be from home or from a care setting as a looked-after child.

Home Office Safeguarding Hub works closely with accommodation providers to ensure early identification of vulnerabilities, where issues are not disclosed by customers, and onward referral to the statutory agencies of health, police, and social services. Asylum seekers have full access to the advisory services provided by Migrant Help who are available to contact 24/7. Contracted security staff within UASC hotels complete comprehensive training.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132556>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative): To ask His Majesty's Government how many people were evacuated from Afghanistan to the United Kingdom under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in 2022; and how many of these were women. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): Operation Pitting was the largest UK military evacuation since the Second World War. About 15,000 people were evacuated to the United Kingdom. Since then, a further 6,000 people, including those under ACRS pathway 1, have arrived via neighbouring countries. The Home Office is working to assure information on its caseworking systems. This includes reporting on total volumes by gender. Once this work concludes, the Home Office will include all Afghan resettlement statistics, including gender breakdown, in its quarterly immigration statistics publications, the next of which is due on 23 February.

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger: I thank my noble friend for his Answer, but I am disappointed that he cannot give me specifics on the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. I gather that there is no application process for this and the slow speed, lack of communication and transparency creates a feeling of abandonment for the Afghan people. How are eligible people identified for this scheme? Under pathway 3, there is provision for those who are particularly vulnerable; I am talking about the women and girls at risk. Does my noble friend realise that some vulnerable women who either held significant positions or were related to those who did have been on the run and hiding since the Taliban took over? Can he imagine what it feels like to be hunted down in this way? We have only to remember the murder of the ex-Afghan MP Mursal Nabizada a few weeks ago. What steps are His Majesty's Government taking to ensure that those women human rights defenders are able to access the ACRS? How many do they hope to accept this year?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I agree with much of what my noble friend says. By way of context, the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme was divided into three pathways, to which she alluded, the first of which concerned those evacuated during Operation Pitting and those on the removals list. Pathway 2 is the principal method; it concerns referrals from the UNHCR. Pathway 3 is administered by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. That is the pathway envisaged for Chevening scholars, GardaWorld employees and those who work for the British Council. I understand that the Foreign Office has received some 11,500 expressions of interest that are being worked through at the moment. In relation to her question on vulnerable women and children, I say that the principal focus of the ACRS has been to protect the vulnerable. Since the events in Afghanistan last August, thousands of women and girls have been brought to safety in the UK, including female judges, women's rights activists and a girls' football team. Of course, in pathway 2 the UNHCR makes referrals based on an assessment of protection needs, including vulnerabilities.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench): My Lords, at the end of December there were an estimated 150 Afghan interpreters still in Afghanistan, eligible but unprocessed under either the ACRS or ARAP. Given that many of them would already have been eligible under the previous ex-gratia scheme or the intimidation policy designed primarily for interpreters, can the Minister commit to fast-tracking these cases for a group of individuals to whom the UK owes an incalculable debt of gratitude, and who remain extremely vulnerable to Taliban threats and violence?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely understand the point the noble Baroness makes. Obviously, those who were employed by the British Government are entitled to be relocated under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy. The Ministry of Defence is working with the Home Office in relation to the assistance

provided for those people. I am happy to look further into the 150 people whom she indicates. I hope that I might be able to obtain some further details and then look into that for her.

Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, like the noble Baroness, Lady Hodgson, I am disappointed that the Minister was not able to give us any meaningful statistics today, beyond a figure of 6,000 people. I have had conversations with the noble Lord, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, who has spoken to the officers of the APPG on Afghan Women and Girls. Would it be possible for the Minister to undertake for similar meetings to be held with the Home Office, ideally on a cross-party basis, and with DLUHC? Many of the issues about bringing in women and girls, and indeed British Council contractors, link to visas and the provision of accommodation. However hard the FCDO and the MoD are working, those departments cannot deal with these issues alone. Will he agree to a meeting?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Pathway 3 applications, as I have said, are led by the FCDO and its engagement will be the principal point of contact. Of course the Home Office works closely with the FCDO and will continue to do so. I will keep the question of a meeting under review and, if it becomes necessary, certainly. ...

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, as the noble Baroness, Lady Hodgson, reminds us, in discussing the Afghanistan resettlement scheme and the help we rightly give to some, we should never forget the continuing persecution of women and girls across the world. Of the three pathways under the Afghan scheme we are accepting at-risk people from three groups: British Council, GardaWorld and Chevening alumni. Within this, is it only those who worked for the UK who are considered, or is any other priority given to women and girls?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As I hoped to make clear in an earlier answer, the first pathway relates to those removed during August 2021 and those who should have been removed. The second pathway relates to those referred by the UNHCR to us, and the third pathway contains the three categories that the noble Lord just identified. The short answer to the question is no, it is not just people who worked for the United Kingdom Government in various forms; it is broader than that because the UNHCR refers refugees to us who have applied.

Lord Stirrup (Crossbench): My Lords, how many Afghan refugees resettling in the UK are still being housed in hotels? What mechanisms do the Government have in place for tracking the successful integration of such refugees, particularly in housing, education and employment?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Forgive me; although I have a lot of knowledge about the situation with hotels, I am afraid I do not have those statistics with me today ...

To read this question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-02-01/debates/4454A037-13EB-4DF1-A7B6-7BF7076E4B99/AfghanCitizensResettlementScheme>

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

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4824] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they

have any plans to develop, in conjunction with (1) the Refugee Council, and (2) Safe Passage, a system for reuniting Afghan families, as was done for Ukrainian families; and if not, why not.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In line with our existing policy, those resettled under Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and relocated under the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) may be able to be accompanied by their immediate family members.

The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable people fleeing Afghanistan. However, the situation is very complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes the eligible family members of those being resettled under the ACRS. For those evacuated from Afghanistan under the ACRS without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

Those referred by UNHCR under the ACRS will have refugee status and will therefore be able to access the refugee family reunion route.

Those without refugee status wishing to bring family members would need to apply through the regular family visa route **under Appendix FM** of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-17/hl4824>

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>

Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

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

British Nationality: Assessments

Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee (Non-affiliated) [HL5062] To ask His Majesty's Government whether there is a limit on how many times the Life in the UK test may be re-taken.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There is currently no limit on how many times the Life in the UK test may be re-taken. The latest pass rate for the Life in the UK test is published in *Visas and Citizenship data: Q3*. The pass rate for applicants from Hong Kong is not available in a publishable format.

The Life in the UK test is important for anyone applying to settle permanently in the UK to ensure they have an understanding of the democratic principles underlying British society and aspects of our culture and traditions. We intend to set out our plans to review the Life in the UK handbook as part of wider nationality reforms in the first half of next year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5062>

The data referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q3-2022>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4863] To ask His Majesty's Government how much total compensation they have paid out so far to those affected by the Windrush scandal.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As at the end of November 2022, the total amount paid or offered to claimants through the Windrush Compensation Scheme had increased to over £62.42 million. Of this total, £52.76 million had been paid across 1,377 claims and a further £9.66 million had been offered, awaiting acceptance, or pending review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-18/hl4863>

Undocumented Migrants: Electronic Tagging

Baroness Redfern (Conservative) [HL4872] To ask His Majesty's Government how many illegal migrants have (1) breached their tagging conditions, and (2) are awaiting court proceedings as a result.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: A pilot was launched on 15 June 2022 with the purpose of establishing whether electronic monitoring is an effective way to improve and maintain regular contact management with asylum claimants who arrive in the UK via unnecessary and dangerous routes, in order to progress their immigration case.

There are no cases awaiting court proceedings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-18/hl4872>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL4825] To ask His Majesty's Government why asylum applicants are not permitted to apply for permission to work after six months in the UK, given the current labour shortages.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Asylum seekers are allowed to work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

It is important to distinguish between those who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Asylum seekers do not need to make perilous journeys in order to seek employment in the UK. There are various safe and legal routes for those seeking to work in the UK under the Points Based System.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-17/hl4825>

UK Parliament Human Rights Committee

Evidence sessions: Human rights of asylum seekers in the UK

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12594/html/>

and

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12595/html/>

Press Release

Supporting New Scots

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-new-scots/>

New Publications

The Truth about Channel Crossings

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Refugee-Council-Truth-About-Channel-Crossings-briefing-2023.pdf>

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 23 January to 29 January 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-23-january-to-29-january-2023>

Updated: Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, weekly data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

News: Channel Migrants

Rishi Sunak says people arriving in UK illegally will be deported 'within days'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/02/rishi-sunak-says-people-arriving-in-uk-illegally-will-be-deported-within-days>

Channel migrants could be banned from appealing against deportation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/04/channel-migrants-could-banned-appealing-against-deportation/>

Sunak 'plans to stop deportation appeals' for people who reach UK in small boats

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/04/rishi-sunak-stop-deportation-appeals-people-uk-small-boats>

Rishi Sunak wants to ban Channel migrants from deportation appeals

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-wants-to-ban-channel-migrants-from-deportation-appeals-mg5n06swc>

Home Office to resume control of tackling migrant Channel crossings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64461908>

Majority of people on small boats crossing Channel last year are refugees, new analysis shows

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/majority-of-people-on-small-boats-crossing-channel-last-year-are-refugees-new-analysis-shows/>

Indians now third-biggest cohort of Channel migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/surge-in-indian-migrants-crossing-channel-in-small-boats-linked-to-student-visas-935flhr67>

Mother whose children were sent across Channel without her arrives in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/05/mother-whose-children-were-sent-across-channel-without-her-arrives-in-uk>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Suella Braverman's 'invasion' rhetoric is 'personally upsetting', Lord Dubs says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/lord-suella-braverman-home-secretary-labour-rishi-sunak-b2274610.html>

Alf Dubs: Braverman calling refugees 'invaders' was low point of my career

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/03/alf-dubs-decries-suella-bravermans-likening-of-refugees-to-invaders>

Rishi Sunak vows to 'ratchet up' return of Albanian migrants and start Rwanda flights

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-piers-morgan-talk-tv-immigration-b2274683.html>

Afghan refugees protest against plans to move them from London to Yorkshire

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/03/afghan-refugees-protest-against-plans-to-move-them-from-london-to-yorkshire>

Afghan refugees 'told to move 200 miles' from London to Yorkshire

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/afghan-refugees-told-to-move-200-miles-from-london-to-yorkshire-kmrqq86n6>

Thousands of asylum seekers living in hotels cannot be told refugee status

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-hotels-refugee-status-b2268152.html>

Calls for Rishi Sunak to stop placing children in hotels

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/calls-for-rishi-sunak-to-stop-placing-children-in-hotels/>

Pontins asylum accommodation plans scrapped

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64507248>

Home Office shelves plans to house asylum seekers in Southport Pontins

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/feb/03/home-office-shelves-plans-house-asylum-seekers-southport-pontins>

New reforms to tackle 'abuse' of modern slavery laws by criminals

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-secretary-theresa-may-government-suella-braverman-channel-b2271624.html>

Modern slavery claim won't stop deportation of some illegal migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/01/30/modern-slavery-claim-wont-stop-deportation-illegal-migrants/>

Reforms 'would detain 46,000 migrants at a cost of £1 billion a year'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/reforms-would-detain-46-000-migrants-at-a-cost-of-1-billion-a-year-lb8g079m9>

Scottish Refugee Council response to concern from local communities

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-concern-from-local-communities>

Head of Scottish Refugee Council receives Queen's honour

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/head-of-scottish-refugee-council-receives-queens-honour/>

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [132619] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will set out a publication timetable for the Government's ethnicity pay gap reporting guidance for businesses.

Reply from Kevin Hollinrake: The Government responded to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities' report and recommendations with the "Inclusive Britain" report which was published in March 2022. In this report, the Government set out that ethnicity pay reporting will be voluntary and committed to publish guidance on ethnicity pay reporting. This will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132619>

The Commission report referred to above can be read at

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

The Government report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Teachers: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Western (Labour) [135483] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of offering guaranteed interviews to black, Asian and minority ethnic applicants with relevant qualifications who apply for teaching positions.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Department wants teaching to be profession where teachers from all backgrounds are supported throughout their career.

Schools are responsible for their own recruitment and staffing decisions. The Department expects them to adhere to their statutory requirements under the Equality Act 2010, and to their responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Department has published guidance for schools on how to comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010. This is available at:

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

Schools and trusts are free to introduce measures into their recruitment processes if those measures comply with the Equality Act 2010.

The Department has also issued guidance for recruiting head teachers, which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recruiting-a-headteacher>

The guidance reminds governors and trustees that diverse workforces benefit everyone, and the importance of avoiding discrimination in recruitment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-30/135483>

News

Ethnic minority communities are bearing the brunt of legal aid cuts

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/black-and-minority-ethnic-communities-bearing-the-brunt-of-legal-aid-cuts>

RAF apologises to officer who quit over ‘positive discrimination’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/raf-apologises-to-officer-who-quit-over-positive-discrimination-0wvj9mmpm>

Help Fife Centre for Equalities improve accessibility in local services – become an Equality Tester!

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/equality-testers/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prosecution of Hate Crime

Mary Kelly Foy (Labour) [903443] What steps [is the Minister] taking to ensure effective prosecution of hate crime.

Reply from the Solicitor General (Michael Tomlinson): We are committed to delivering justice for victims of hate crime. All CPS prosecutors are trained about hate crime, and its specialist prosecutors help to lead that work. The latest figures show that the CPS has prosecuted nearly 13,000 hate crime offences, with a charge rate of 86% and, importantly, a conviction rate of 84%.

Mary Kelly Foy: As we mark the start of LGBTQ History Month, it was shocking to see in the year-end figures for hate crime a 41% increase in offences targeting people’s sexuality and a 56% increase in offences targeting people’s transgender identity. What are the Government doing to stop prejudice and fear, which led to that rise in crime, being stoked against the LGBTQ community?

Reply from the Solicitor General: In the hon. Lady’s area of the north-east, the CPS is particularly successful in getting uplifts to sentences in relation to hate crime. In the last rolling year to date, it has been successful in obtaining uplifts in 90% of cases. The question she raises is important and the CPS is working incredibly hard in that area.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-01/debates/95F5FE4A-5D12-4CDF-B64D-53DE3150CBB1/ProsecutionOfHateCrime>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Dean Russell (Conservative) [130089] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help tackle anti-Semitism.

Reply from Lee Rowley: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong, cross Government approach to tackling it in all its forms. The UK became the first country to adopt the Definition of Antisemitism; we support the work of Lord Mann, the Government’s Independent

Adviser on Antisemitism, and we provide funding to the Holocaust Education Trust. I would also refer my Hon. Friend to the answer to Question UIN [117512](#) which gives further detail on the steps taken to tackle this issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130089>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Universities: Antisemitism

Lisa Cameron (SNP) [132493] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of the report of the Independent investigation into allegations of antisemitism within NUS, published on 12 January 2023; and what steps the Government is taking to help counter antisemitism in universities.

Carla Lockhart (DUP) [132533] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to tackle antisemitism in UK universities.

Reply from Robert Halfon: This report that shows that the National Union of Students (NUS) has, over a number of years, systematically failed to represent the interests of Jewish students, and failed to tackle antisemitic practices within its own organisation. This is not acceptable. The NUS should be an organisation where Jewish students not only feel safe to be themselves, but where their full and equal participation is actively welcomed.

Higher education (HE), more broadly, should do all it can to root out antisemitism. The recent Community Security Trust (CST) report showing a 22% increase in antisemitic incidents on campus over the last two years is deeply concerning.

The department has encouraged HE providers to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, to have absolute clarity of what constitutes antisemitic behaviour. 245 providers in England have adopted the IHRA definition, including the vast majority of universities. We would urge those providers that have not yet adopted to the definition to do so, and for those that have, to ensure that they are fully complying with the definition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132493>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132533>

The report into the NUS referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent Investigation into Antisemitism Report NUS 12 January 2023.pdf?1673471780](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent%20Investigation%20into%20Antisemitism%20Report%20NUS%2012%20January%202023.pdf?1673471780)

The CST report referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/Campus%20Antisemitism%202020-2022.pdf>

Cryptocurrencies: Antisemitism

Pat McFadden (Labour) [133978] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the report by the Antisemitism Policy Trust entitled Antisemitism and Cryptocurrency: A perfect Union, published in 2022, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the use of cryptocurrency by (a) terrorist, (b) criminal and (c) other groups; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Andrew Griffith: Since January 2020 the FCA has been the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing supervisor of UK cryptoasset activity. By maintaining a robust gateway for firms seeking to register for cryptoasset activity in the UK, we continue to reduce and prevent the financing of criminal and terrorist groups.

The government's ambition is for the UK to be home to the most open, well-regulated, and technologically advanced capital markets in the world. However, recognising that there are both risks and opportunities associated with cryptoassets, the UK has adopted a staged, proportionate and agile approach to

regulation, which is sensitive to risks posed, including the risk of financial crime, and responsive to new developments in the market.

This year a new regulatory measure known as the 'travel rule' comes into effect, ensuring that virtual-asset transfers are accompanied by detailed personal information of both the originator and beneficiary. The new requirements will apply to crypto-asset exchange providers and custodian wallet providers and will help remove some of the anonymity associated with private wallet addresses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-27/133978>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Crypto-Report.pdf>

Home Office: Racial Discrimination

John Hayes (Conservative) [129724] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department provides (a) mandatory or (b) voluntary (i) lectures, (ii) reading lists and (iii) other training on Critical Race Theory for employees in her Department.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not provide mandatory, voluntary, lectures, reading lists or other training on Critical Race Theory for its employees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129724>

Cabinet Office: Racial Discrimination

John Hayes (Conservative) [129730] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether his Department provides (a) mandatory or (b) voluntary (i) lectures, (ii) reading lists and (iii) other training on Critical Race Theory for employees in his Department.

Reply from Jeremy Quin: I refer my Right Honorable friend to PQ12079. As my Right Honorable friend the Minister for Women and Equalities set out, the Government believes that "critical race theory" is a controversial political ideology. The Government believes that the application of critical race theory to public services threatens to undermine integration and community cohesion, by exaggerating differences within communities; instead, we should be seeking to build and strengthen a shared local and national identity across class, colour and creed.

Cabinet Office D&I learning does not include Critical Race Theory and speakers must go through due diligence and be signed off by the Head of Business Unit before any talks are scheduled. "Critical Race Theory" should not form part of our training and the Department is reviewing its intranet to ensure it is consistent with this approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129730>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-06-08/12079>

Ministry of Defence: Racial Discrimination

John Hayes (Conservative) [129732] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether his Department provides (a) mandatory or (b) voluntary (i) lectures, (ii) reading lists and (iii) other training on Critical Race Theory for employees in his Department.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: Defence stands shoulder to shoulder with those who seek to fight racism and injustice, and there is no place for unacceptable behaviour in Defence.

Defence regularly reviews its training packages and internal resources to ensure they are fit for purpose. Defence does not currently provide any official mandatory or voluntary lectures, reading lists, or other training on Critical Race Theory.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129732>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

National Union of Students: Antisemitism

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL4763] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Rebecca Tuck KC Independent Investigation into Allegations of Antisemitism within NUS, published on 12 January; and what discussions they have had with the National Union of Students about the implementation of those recommendations.

Reply from Baroness Barran: This is a shocking and sobering report showing that the National Union of Students (NUS) has in effect been a hostile place for Jewish students. This is not acceptable. NUS should be a place that is not just safe for Jewish students, but welcoming as well. The department expects the recommendations will be implemented in full and will be monitoring this process. Once that has occurred, the Minister will re-engage with NUS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-16/hl4763>

The report referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent Investigation into Antisemitism Report NUS 12 January 2023.pdf?1673471780](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent%20Investigation%20into%20Antisemitism%20Report%20NUS%2012%20January%202023.pdf?1673471780)

News

UN expert accuses No 10 of using 'familiar racial trope'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/un-expert-accuses-no-10-of-using-familiar-racial-trope-nl98qq8>

Call to stop rogue algorithms 'pushing' antisemitism online

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bill-government-mbe-google-twitter-b2272682.html>

Retired vicar banned over 'virulently antisemitic' posts

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64460767>

Former Surrey vicar who shared controversial 9/11 article 'engaged in antisemitic activity'

<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-01-31/vicar-who-shared-controversial-911-article-engaged-in-antisemitic-activity>

C of E vicar who shared claims 9/11 was Israeli plot barred for antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/31/c-of-e-vicar-who-shared-911-israel-plot-claims-barred-for-antisemitism>

Welby urges clergy to fight antisemitism after ban for conspiracy priest

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/welby-urges-clergy-to-fight-antisemitism-after-ban-for-conspiracy-priest-hpwp268vj>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Freedom: Curriculum

Andrew Lewer (Conservative) [133659] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to ensure that school curriculums include teaching on freedom of religion or belief.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The National Curriculum is broad and balanced for pupils to learn about how different groups and societies have contributed to the development of the UK. The curriculum offers many opportunities for schools to do this, notably through citizenship education and relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). The RSHE curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, and the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference.

Within the citizenship curriculum pupils should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

In delivering the curriculum, schools should be aware of their duties relating to political impartiality, as set out under the Education Act 1996, and must ensure that, where political issues are discussed in the classroom, they are presented in a balanced way. The Department has published guidance on political impartiality in schools which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools>

Legal duties on political impartiality do not supersede other important requirements for schools, including their responsibility to promote fundamental British values, including the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Developing and deepening pupils' understanding of these values is part of the Ofsted inspection framework, alongside expectations that schools develop responsible citizens and promote an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of their characteristics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/133659>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Honour Based Violence

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4851] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increase in so called 'honour-based' abuse crimes identified in the Home Office's Statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, 2021 to 2022, published on 20 October 2022; and what steps they are taking to reduce such crimes.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: So-called 'Honour'-based abuse (HBA) is a terrible form of abuse, and we are clear that we will not allow political or cultural sensitivities to get in the way of tackling it. The Home Office has, since April 2019, required police forces to collect data relating to HBA offences which they have recorded, and has published three annual data sets for these data.

Data for the year ending March 2022 showed that the police recorded 2,887 HBA-flagged offences, a 6% increase on the previous year. As with all police recorded crime figures, these data cover only offences that were reported to and recorded by the police. HBA is a hidden crime and victims can be reluctant to report to the police or other authorities. These data, therefore, are likely to represent only a small proportion of the actual HBA offences committed in the year ending March 2022.

The increase seen in recorded offences of HBA in the last year may be due to more victims coming forward to report these crimes, improvements in crime recording, including a better understanding of what constitutes HBA, and a genuine increase in these crimes.

To tackle HBA crimes, amongst other things the Government:

- in the past year, has introduced legislation to ban virginity testing and hymenoplasty throughout the UK and to expand the offence of forced marriage in England and Wales;
- committed in the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy that the College of Policing would produce new guidance on HBA for police first responders (published in December 2021) and police investigators (to be published by autumn 2022);
- in December 2022 launched an invitation to tender for a feasibility study relating to measuring the prevalence of forced marriage and female genital mutilation in England and Wales;
- through its Forced Marriage Unit, provided advice and support for 337 victims or potential victims of forced marriage, and trained 1,537 professionals, during 2021; and
- is providing up to £165,000 to Karma Nirvana in 2021/22 for its national HBA helpline, which enabled Karma Nirvana to provide support for 1,833 victims between April and December 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-20/hl4951>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022/statistics-on-so-called-honour-based-abuse-offences-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022>

UK Parliament House of Commons Library

Briefing: Polygamy

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05051/SN05051.pdf>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel –

contact the council for information.
<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

News

Nicola Sturgeon confirms delays to Winter Heating Payment

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-confirms-delays-to-winter-heating-payment-4011814>

Millions default on household bills as cost of living crisis worsens

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/millions-default-household-bills-cost-living-crisis-worsens/>

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Other News

Funding Cuts and Volunteering

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/news/funding-cuts-and-volunteering>

Only a third of people under 26 are Christian

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/just-one-third-of-people-under-25-are-christian-b6xb7b7p7>

I proudly wear a hijab. Forget the stereotypes – it's a sign of style and strength

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/01/i-proudly-wear-a-hijab-forget-the-stereotypes-its-a-sign-of-style-and-strength>

Jasvir Singh: 'I'm a devout Sikh - and married to a man'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64496456>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Second Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-02-01/debates/67BA25B1-DF5D-4B0A-9DA0-51246B0A8BD5/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49700/documents/2895>

**** Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

Third Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-02-03/debates/84269F13-3487-4998-B059-B8B8900531E2/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-02-03/debates/84269F13-3487-4998-B059-B8B8900531E2/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

**** Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3413>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-01/debates/C774409A-FD45-4157-86B9-CCA1069A41DC/Scotland\(Self-Determination\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-01/debates/C774409A-FD45-4157-86B9-CCA1069A41DC/Scotland(Self-Determination))

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Inquiry into Public Administration – Effective Scottish Government decision-making
(closing date 7 February 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/inquiry-into-public-administration/>

Disabled peoples' experience of the labour market (closing date 16 February 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/efw/disabled-employment-inquiry/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Statutory Review (closing date 1 March 2023)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-statutory-review>

Access to information rights in Scotland (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/access-information-rights-scotland-consultation/>

Electoral reform (closing date 15 March 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/electoral-reform/>

**** Adult Disability Payment: Review of the mobility component** (closing date 25 April 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/adult-disability-payment-review/>

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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

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Introduction to Racial Literacy

6 February 2023 (Edinburgh (10.00–1.00))

23 February 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

9 March 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, and Action on Prejudice training session to help youth workers explore and understand the impact of dominant identities, how people react to things they don't know, barriers to participation for young people, and what actions they can take to become more inclusive. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxecjvy>

**** this week!**

Corporate Law, Religion and Social Responsibility

7 February 2023 (University of Glasgow, 9.45–3.30)

Presentations and panel discussions exploring ideas about the influence and impact religion may have on corporate social responsibility. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4wfukk7h>

**** this week!**

Police Scotland Information session

7 February 2023 (online, 6.30–8.30)

Police Scotland information session for people with an ethnic minority background who may be interested in a career in policing. Police officers from diverse backgrounds will talk about their experiences, and there will also be a Q&A session. For information contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.police.uk

**** this week!**

Introduction to Independent Advocacy: defending and promoting human rights

8 February 2023 (online, 12.00–1.30)

Introductory webinar from Human Rights Consortium Scotland with others to cover the work of independent advocacy in Scotland, including case studies, and policy recommendations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2xpwdbtt>

Closed doors: How to safety plan with South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse

28 February 2023 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Safe Lives, and Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre course to provide an overview of South Asian women's experiences of domestic abuse in Scotland. the impact of citizenship and immigration control on experiences of domestic abuse, including the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds, and safety planning, signposting, and referral pathways for South Asian Women. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3cwpzwwh>

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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/>



gov.scot

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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