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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### **Social Isolation and Loneliness**

*includes discussion about supporting asylum seekers*

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15273&i=130274&c=2487798#ScotParlOR>

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

#### **Sudan**

**Kaukab Stewart (SNP):** The situation in Sudan is worsening by the day. The sister-in-law

of one my Glasgow Kelvin constituents is currently trapped in Khartoum as violence worsens across the region. I understand that the Eritrean police and security services are actively rounding up those attempting to flee. I also gather that at least three people have died while being transported from Khartoum to Shagarab refugee camp and that many more people have been kidnapped while they are trying to leave the capital city. Does the First Minister agree that that underlines the need for safe and legal routes to seek asylum within the United Kingdom? Can he provide assurances that Scotland will do all that it can within its devolved competencies to support victims caught up in this awful nightmare?

**Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf):** I thank Kaukab Stewart for raising this important issue in our Parliament. I agree with all that the member has said. The Scottish Government has consistently sought and advocated for safe and legal routes to enable people to seek safety under the refugee convention—a convention that the UK was the first to sign. The majority in this Parliament made that clear in a debate on Tuesday, as well. Without such routes, people will continue to be forced into dangerous journeys that put their lives at further risk. The member has just mentioned countries where we can see that scenario taking place.

What we need is a humane asylum system in which people's cases are dealt with swiftly and fairly, not the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill, which I believe that Douglas Ross voted for in earlier stages in the House of Commons. That is not fit for purpose; it is a complete abdication of international responsibility and a complete abdication of our moral responsibility. We will be engaging with the UK Government urgently, pleading with it to do the right thing. If we can do the right thing for those seeking to flee from war in Ukraine—as we absolutely should; it is the right thing to do—we should make sure that we are doing that for everybody who is fleeing war right across the world, regardless of which continent they are fleeing from, their colour of skin or their religion.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15279&i=130335#ScotParlOR>

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

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [182967] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether his Department was informed of the decision by the Home Office in 2021 to remove from the UK Nepalese and Indian citizens following their evacuation to the UK from Afghanistan.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** During Op Pitting, the FCDO assisted the evacuation from Afghanistan of some third country nationals, including individuals who worked directly for the British Embassy in Kabul, and individuals who were employed by private companies to provide security in Kabul. Those individuals who worked directly for the British Embassy in Kabul were supported to return to their country of permanent residence. Those who were employed by Gardaworld, to provide security to the British Embassy in Kabul, were assisted by Gardaworld to return to their countries of permanent residence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182967>

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

### Biometric Residence Permits

**Neil Coyle (Independent)** [182878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, for what reason Biometric Residence Permits cards expire prior to a holder's right to remain in the UK ends; and what assessment she has made of potential additional administrative costs relating to cards expiring in that way.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The maximum validity period of a biometric residence permit (BRP) is 10 years, even if the status holder has indefinite leave. This is to ensure the holder updates their facial image at least once every 10 years, in line with UK passports and UK photo driving licences.

Our aim is to fully transition to eVisas by the end of 2024 and for this reason we are no longer issuing BRPs with an expiry date after 2024, even when the person's permission will expire after that date.

Once we cease issuing BRPs and existing ones have expired and been removed from circulation, there will be no further BRPs issued, and they will have no extant use. Therefore, the administrative costs associated with issuing and maintaining BRP cards will reduce over time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182878>

### **British National (Overseas): Hong Kong**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [182697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether BNO passport holders can apply for their British born children to have a temporary travel document from her Department for the purposes of travelling to Hong Kong.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The eligibility criteria for obtaining a Home Office travel document is set out on the relevant Gov.uk pages: [Apply for a Home Office travel document: Overview](#)

Whether the child would be entitled to obtain a document would depend on their individual circumstances in line with the eligibility criteria. Consideration would be given as to whether they were able to obtain a British National (Overseas) passport or similar by virtue of their parent's status, taking into account the Hong Kong (British Nationality) Order 1986.

If they do qualify and can obtain a BNO passport status, then it is unlikely that they would be eligible for a Home Office Travel Document.

They can apply for a document to travel outside the UK, including Hong Kong if:

- they are not British
- they are unable to obtain a passport because their national authorities do not have an Embassy/Facilities to issue passports in the UK
- their country's national authorities have unreasonably refused to issue them a passport
- they are stateless

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182697>

*Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

### **British National (Overseas): Visas**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [182188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to allow people on British National (Overseas) visas to work as professional sportspersons.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office currently has no plans to remove the restriction on work as a professional sportsperson from the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-21/182188>

*Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

## Refugees: Resettlement

**Stephen Farry (Alliance)** [182989] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people settled in the UK through the (a) UK Resettlement Scheme, (b) Community Sponsorship Scheme and (c) Mandate Resettlement Scheme between January 2022 and April 2023.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on resettlement in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on refugees resettled in the UK by scheme can be found in table Asy\_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 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/2023-04-26/182989>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)*

*Information about the Community Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship/community-sponsorship-guidance-for-prospective-sponsors>*

*Information about the Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf)*

## Asylum

**Julian Knight (Independent)** [182310] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of her amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill on the number of last-minute claims by people seeking to stay in the UK illegally.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** One of the core aims of the Bill is to prevent late and repeated legal challenges to removal. The Bill does this by providing for two kinds of suspensive claims which are factual suspensive claims and serious harm suspensive claims, in addition to making it clear that all other legal challenges to removal, including by way of judicial review, need not suspend removal. Given this approach, courts would be unable to grant interim relief temporarily blocking removal pending a judgment on the substantive judicial review. New clause 22 will make this clear on the face of the Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182310>

## Asylum: Sudan

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [182815] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is providing support to Sudanese citizens who are (a) visitors, (b) students and (c) other people with limited leave to enter or remain in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Since 2015, we have offered a safe and legal route to the UK to almost half a million people seeking safety, as well as family members of refugees. The safe and legal entry routes are country-specific and global:

- Resettlement, including UNHCR schemes (UK Resettlement scheme, mandate scheme, and community sponsorship), as well as the Afghan Resettlement Programme
- Family reunion visas
- BN(O) Hong Kong visas

- Ukraine Family, Sponsorship and Extension Scheme visas

However, preventing a humanitarian emergency must remain as our focus right now. We continue to work alongside our international partners to maintain the ceasefire and bring an end to fighting.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182815>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

*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 Family reunion visas, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection/family-reunion>

*Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Virginia Crosbie (Conservative)** [182994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the speed of processing asylum claims.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** To speed up the asylum process for legacy claims, those made before 28 June 2022, around 12,000 asylum seekers from high-grant nationalities within the legacy WIP are being asked to provide information in a new Home Office questionnaire to help determine their case.

The intention of these questionnaires is to enable claimants to provide any further information about their claims after their initial screening interview upon arrival.

All asylum claimants are subject to mandatory security checks to confirm their identity and to link it to their biometric details for the purpose of immigration, security and criminality checks. These checks are critical to the delivery of a safe and secure immigration system.

We are driving further productivity improvements by simplifying and modernising our system. This includes: shorter, more focused interviews, making guidance simpler and more accessible; dealing with cases more swiftly where they can be certified as clearly unfounded; and recruiting extra decision makers.

We have already doubled our decision makers over the last 2 years, and we are continuing to recruit more. This will take our expected number of decision makers to 1,800 by summer and 2,500 by September 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182994>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Harriet Harman (Labour)** [182765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support asylum seekers who have received questionnaires under streamlined asylum processing and are unable to access legal advice or translation services.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** For those who are unable to return the questionnaire within 20 working days, a reminder will be sent to the claimant allowing a further 10-working days to complete and return it to the Home Office. A further extension can be requested where the timeframe cannot be met, for example because the



claimant has serious medical conditions which is impacting their ability to respond to the questionnaire.

The asylum claim questionnaires are in English as is generally the case for immigration paperwork across the Department. If necessary, claimants can utilise legal representatives, Non-Government Organisations and other support networks to help them respond to the questionnaire.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182765>

### **Housing: Asylum**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [182173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to The Houses in Multiple Occupation (Asylum-Seeker Accommodation) (England) Regulations 2023, whether her Department plans to introduce safeguards to mitigate against asylum seeker accommodation becoming potentially (a) overcrowded, (b) unsafe or (c) uninhabitable.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We remain committed to providing accommodation that is safe and meets housing standards set out in the Housing Act 1985. Asylum accommodation contracts contain rigorous requirements on property standards, including fixtures and safety features that providers must deliver.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-21/182173>

*The Regulations referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348246889>

### **Housing: Asylum**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [182176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to The Houses in Multiple Occupation (Asylum-Seeker Accommodation) (England) Regulations 2023, what assessment she has made of the suitability of deregulating housing provisions for properties that accommodate asylum seekers; and for what reason this measure applies only to asylum seeker accommodation.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** This is a temporary exemption to support our delivery of new accommodation places for asylum seekers, while we make productivity improvements that will reduce the number of individuals who are supported.

We are not deregulating housing provisions for asylum seekers, and we continue to work closely with providers to ensure we meet standards set in the Housing Act 1985 and the European Convention on Human Rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-21/182176>

*The Regulations referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348246889>

### **Asylum: Portland**

**Christopher Chope (Conservative)** [181795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether all the asylum seekers who will be accommodated on the barge at Portland Port will (a) have been processed before their arrival, (b) have crossed the Channel in small boats and arrived in the UK since the publication of the Illegal Immigration Bill, (c) have individual rooms for sleeping, (d) be able to embark and disembark whenever they choose, (e) have access to free food and soft drinks, (f) have been certified as fit and healthy, (g) be able to access recreational and entertainment facilities on board, (h) have a maximum period specified in advance for the duration of their stay and (i) be allowed to receive visitors; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Those individuals will be non-detained, provided with adequate accommodation, catering, laundry, facilities to support their well-being and transport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181795>

### **Migrants: Portland**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [181796] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Bidy Stockholm barge which will house asylum seekers in Portland Port, Dorset is as advertised designed to accommodate 222 people; and how that vessel will accommodate more people than that figure.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The provision of an accommodation barge at Portland Port will provide the capacity for a maximum of 506 asylum seekers. The vessel will contain multiple occupancy rooms that are an appropriate size for the number of occupants in the appropriate space standard. The vessel will always remain in line with marine industry safety regulations and meet all statutory requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181796>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Richard Drax (Conservative)** [182117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the planned staff to resident ratio is for the Bidy Stockholm barge in Portland Port (a) in the day and (b) at night; and what assessment she has made of the capacity of local (i) police and (ii) other emergency services to provide relevant support to staff and residents at that site.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The vessel will be managed by an experienced accommodation supplier, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

Whilst we do not comment on exact staffing ratios, the Home Office will ensure sufficient staffing is on site for the orderly running of the vessel as asylum accommodation.

Sufficient staffing is on site so the vessel is run as asylum accommodation in an orderly way with minimal impact on the local community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-20/182117>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Migrants: Housing**

**Lord Blunkett (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will list all facilities they plan to build to house: (1) new migrants entering Britain via the English Channel, (2) migrants currently awaiting first determination on their asylum claim, (3) migrants who have been refused their asylum claim on first determination, and (4) migrants currently in hotels but designated for transfer to other accommodation.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** I can advise the noble Lord that the Home Office is planning initial asylum accommodation at surplus military sites at Scampton and Wethersfield to accommodate asylum seekers entering the United Kingdom illegally on small boats. We are exploring proposals to use a non-military site in East Sussex and a further military site at Catterick garrison for asylum accommodation, alongside an accommodation barge in Portland Port in Dorset. We are developing immigration removal centres at Haslar and Campsfield.

**Lord Blunkett:** .... A week ago, in broadcast interviews, the Home Secretary was asked a simple question: how many places are the Government seeking to provide in this endeavour to lock up those coming across the channel? I am afraid intellectual internal struggle proved futile and, in the end, she reverted to saying simply, "Well, it will not be 45,000 places we will need". The Minister will have had a chance to think about the obvious question: just how many secure places for migrants are the Government actually intending to provide?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The answer is that the Government will keep the situation under review and see how many places are required, because the effect of the Bill, when it is passed through this House and the other place, will be to deliver a deterrent effect. Furthermore, those who cross the channel illegally will be removed within 28 days, as is planned in the structure of the Bill. Therefore, the need to detain people will be kept under review and, it is hoped, be limited in number.

**Lord Cormack (Conservative):** My Lords, if the Government are going to keep things under review, will the Minister please review Scampton in Lincolnshire? It is a historic airfield from which the 617 Squadron flew in the last war. We have plans in Lincolnshire to transform it, now that the Red Arrows have gone, into both a museum and a site of industrial production of the technological kind. The Home Secretary has ridden roughshod over the feelings of local people and plans to desecrate a lovely part of Lincolnshire—can that please be put under review immediately?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I hesitate to disagree with my noble friend but the site in Scampton is well-suited for the purpose of housing asylum seekers. The heritage buildings at Scampton will of course be preserved. While the Home Office listens intently to all representations about the locations of asylum accommodation facilities, it is the case that Scampton is a suitable site and we intend to begin using it.

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench):** My Lords, has the Minister had the chance to read the debate in another place and the amendments moved by his right honourable friends Theresa May MP and Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, specifically to retain the protections for people who have been victims of human trafficking within the United Kingdom? Does he intend, when he speaks at Second Reading of the Bill next week, to give assurances to the House that this will be dealt with? Will he also say why the Home Secretary has refused to appear before the Joint Committee on Human Rights to defend legislation that does not even have a disclaimer saying that it is compatible with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** ... I reassure him that I have followed closely the debates in the other place, and in my speeches to the House at Second Reading I will extensively cover the questions raised by my right honourable friend the Member for Maidenhead, and address the broader questions in relation to modern slavery. It is not for me to explain the diary arrangements of the Home Secretary, but I can confirm to the noble Lord that the Home Office takes very seriously its engagement obligations with committees of the House.

**Lord Touhig (Labour):** My Lords, since 2021, 4,500 unaccompanied migrant children, some as young as 10, have been placed in hotels, and more than 200 have gone missing and have not been found. In March, when I asked the Minister if the Home Office had sought legal advice as to whether it had the powers to do this, he declined to answer me. Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 gives local authorities alone statutory power for child protection—that includes unaccompanied migrant children. Can the Minister say which Act of Parliament has allowed the Home Office to set this one aside?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** There has been no intention to set aside any provision of the Children Act. As the noble Lord will have seen on his careful reading of the Illegal Migration Bill, there are provisions set out that deal with the transfer of responsibility for children and the approach to be taken to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who arrive after 7 March of this year.

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, there are so many questions arising about the standards that will apply in the “facilities”—if I can use that term—around safeguarding, how families with or without children will be dealt with, and how children alone will be dealt with, and around facilities for medical provision, legal advice and so on. Will the Government publish the contracts that they are entering into with private sector



providers, so that one can keep an eye on what standards are being required of them?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Commercial contracts are commercially sensitive, and the usual policy will be adopted in relation to them. Clearly, certain standards will be promulgated, and the noble Baroness will be able to look at those. I would be delighted to facilitate any visits that the noble Baroness may wish to make to the facilities.

**Baroness Meacher (Crossbench):** My Lords, I understand that the Home Secretary's model for the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers is that of the Greek islands of Chios, Lesbos and Samos, where the accommodation is described as "deplorable" by Médecins Sans Frontières, which has been working there. I understand that the trauma of these asylum seekers is made worse by daily stresses and fears and the lack of medical attention. Can the Minister assure the House that every effort is being made within government to require the Home Secretary to change her model for the provision of accommodation for these asylum seekers to ensure that we comply with our international obligations?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** I do not recognise the description that the noble Baroness appends to my right honourable friend the Home Secretary's alleged assertion in relation to the Greek islands. Clearly, those crossing the channel from France, who have hitherto slept on the hinterland of the beaches in northern France, are much better accommodated by quality hotel rooms paid for by British taxpayers, and that is something that we need to address. We need to provide adequate but basic accommodation in order to disincentivise those coming here who seek to take advantage of the generosity of the British people.

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, further to my noble friend Lord Blunkett's question, surely the Government must have a figure for the number of migrants and asylum seekers that they seek to detain. If the Government have no figure at all—not even a working figure within the Home Office—how on earth do they know how many RAF bases they will need to build accommodation on? How many cruise ships, oil rigs and barges are they going to get if they have no idea of how many people they are going to need to detain?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The noble Lord well knows that it is not the Government's practice to share working policy assumptions in relation to these issues. As I said, the effect of the Bill will be to deliver a deterrent effect; fewer people will cross the channel and therefore fewer people will need to be detained.

**Lord Carlile of Berriew (Crossbench):** My Lords, will the Minister give a clear undertaking to this House, without any equivocation, that all measures for dealing with asylum seekers and refugees will be in compliance with current UK law and current UK international treaty obligations?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Government will always obey the domestic law.

**Lord Dobbs (Conservative):** My Lords, tens of thousands of migrants have crossed, and are crossing, into this country, in many cases having made an incredibly dangerous journey across two seas and across many other countries in Europe. What does the Minister think is their prime motivation in coming to this country, rather than any of the other countries that they could have accessed?

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** There is no single answer which I can provide to the House. There are many people who come to this country and many different motivations. That has been the subject of myriad academic studies, and it will continue to be studied. I am afraid there is no one clear answer.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-03/debates/210F75F8-7B27-4328-BA7B-09F1B1E4D02F/MigrantsHousing>

*The House of Commons debate referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-04-26/debates/5751EE9A-180E-48BA-A8CA-D51B230C1984/IllegalMigrationBill#>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Asylum: Rwanda

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL7406] To ask His Majesty's Government what measures they intend to take to prevent the transmission of malaria to asylum seekers who are removed to Rwanda.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** All individuals relocated to Rwanda are offered malaria prophylaxis treatment in the UK. Malaria medication will be provided via individual prescription to each individual, even if they refuse to engage with Immigration Removal Centre healthcare staff, which will include an additional 7 days' supply for use on arrival in Rwanda.

Upon relocation to Rwanda, individuals will be provided with the healthcare and other support needed to ensure their health, security, and wellbeing.

When in Rwanda, appropriate medication will be available to relocated individuals where needed, free of charge. Mosquito nets and insect repellents are also available and accessible to relocated individuals in initial reception accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/hl7406>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative)** [HL7149] To ask His Majesty's Government when Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will be re-opened for at-risk Afghans.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** As of 31 December 2022, the UK had granted settled status to over 7,600 individuals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Since then, we have welcomed the first individuals under Pathway 3. Further information on the number of individuals relocated and resettled under each Pathway of the ACRS is detailed in the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest release is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

Under stage one of Pathway 3, places are being offered to eligible at-risk British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni in Afghanistan or the region, and their eligible family members.

FCDO have informed over 250 individuals from these cohorts that they are eligible in principle for resettlement under Pathway 3, subject to passing security checks. Including their family members, this accounts for over 1,200 of the 1,500 available places under this stage of Pathway 3. FCDO have communicated an outcome on over 11,200 (98%) of the over 11,400 EOIs received. We look forward to welcoming all remaining individuals as soon as practicable.

We recognise there are many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region. Unfortunately, the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

[Asylum-and-resettlement-datasets](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7149>

*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 Pathway 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)

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

### Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7190] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of findings by Human Rights Watch that human rights are being violated as a result of the failure to implement an effective compensation scheme under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We do not accept the Human Rights Watch assessment of the Windrush Compensation Scheme nor that human rights are being violated in the way it is operated. We remain absolutely committed to righting the wrongs of Windrush. The latest Windrush Compensation Scheme statistics show that £57.13m had been paid out by the end of February 2023 across 1,520 claims. A further £11.13m has been offered, awaiting acceptance, or pending review, taking the total amount paid or offered to £68.27m. In addition, over 60% of claims have received a final decision.

We have engaged with Human Rights Watch in response to their report and will continue to work with them to discuss their findings. We are making good progress towards the vast majority of recommendations from Wendy Williams' report and believe there are more meaningful ways of achieving the intent of a very small number of others.

Through this work, we will make sure that similar injustices can never be repeated and are creating a Home Office worthy of every community it serves.

The Home Secretary continues to co-host Windrush Working Group meetings to discuss how we can work together to drive further improvements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/hl7190>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

*The Human Rights Watch report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/17/uk-hostile-compensation-scheme-fails-windrush-victims>

*The Wendy Williams report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874022/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

### Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7192] To ask His Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to providing entitlement to legal aid to Windrush scandal victims to navigate the compensation process; and what steps they plan to take, if any, to improve the accessibility of the compensation scheme.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We have designed the Compensation Scheme to be as clear and simple as possible, so people do not need legal assistance to make a claim. However, for those who want or need support to make a claim, the Home Office provides free assistance in making applications through our independent claims assistance provider – We Are Digital (WAD).

WAD has extensive experience of dealing with isolated and vulnerable customers and working with the Home Office and, through their partners, have a nationwide network of community-based centres.

Were we to allow applicants to recover legal costs in applying to the Scheme, we may serve to encourage organisations to take advantage of potentially vulnerable individuals and charge them for unnecessary support to complete a claim.

Claims forms were redesigned in 2021, in collaboration with stakeholders to make them easier to complete. This included obtaining the Crystal Mark, demonstrating

our commitment to clarity, and communicating with claimants using plain English. Decision makers also work with claimants to gather information on their behalf.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/hl7192>

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

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat)** [HL7193] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to grant victims of the Windrush scandal the right to have a hearing at the Home Office.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** If an individual is dissatisfied with the outcome of their compensation claim, they can ask the Home Office to review its decision. This will be an internal independent review by someone who has not been involved in the individual's case (Tier 1 review).

If an individual remains dissatisfied, they can then request an external independent review (Tier 2 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, among other things, whether the department has followed its policies, and the use of discretion by the Windrush Compensation Team.

The compensation scheme is intended to properly compensate members of the Windrush generation and to deliver on the commitment to right the wrongs that were experienced, while avoiding the need for court proceedings. We think this is in the best interests of those affected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/hl7193>

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

### **Refugees: International Cooperation**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL7137] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of last year's statement by the UN that more than 100 million people have abandoned their homes because of war, violence and persecution; and what plans do they have to achieve greater international co-operation to deal with this situation.

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The UK delivered a statement on 11 October 2022 at the 73rd Annual Executive Committee of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) setting out our assessment of the unprecedented scale of global forced displacement.

We are working to ensure the second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 strengthens international co-operation to deliver on the ambitions of the Global Compact on Refugees. We are also supporting the UN Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement through collaboration with his Special Advisor, to help find solutions to internal displacement for millions of people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7137>

*The UN statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/insights/explainers/100-million-forcibly-displaced.html>

*The Government statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-for-the-73rd-session-of-the-unhcr-executive-committee>

## New Publications

**Updated: Windrush Compensation Scheme data: March 2023**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154479/WCS Data - March 2023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154479/WCS_Data_-_March_2023.ods)

**Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

**Updated: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority**

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

**Updated: Homelessness management information - Ukrainian nationals: England**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154505/Ukraine Homelessness Pressures Publication 21042023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154505/Ukraine_Homelessness_Pressures_Publication_21042023.ods)

## News: Channel Migrants

**Blame Home Office incompetence for small boats fiasco, says senior Tory**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/29/home-office-incompetence-small-boats-crisis-bob-neill/>

**Most Channel migrants facing deportation claim to be slavery victims**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/most-channel-migrants-facing-deportation-claim-to-be-slavery-victims-rsqhptfq0>

**Young Indians ‘pay travel agents £10,000 to cross Channel and join gig economy’**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/04/indian-migration-english-channel-serbia-gig-economy/>

**Sudanese refugees must not empower people smugglers, says Security Minister**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/03/sudan-refugees-migrant-crisis-channel-crossing/>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Special Immigration Appeals Commission has no power to award costs to successful appellants**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/special-immigration-appeals-commission-has-no-power-to-award-costs-to-successful-appellants-qlg7ljpg8>

**Number of potential modern slavery victims in England and Wales hits record high**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/04/number-of-potential-modern-slavery-victims-in-uk-hits-record-high>

**No-one would want a migrant base in their constituency, Foreign Secretary says**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/02/james-cleverly-mp-braintree-foreign-secretary-migrant-base/>



### **Barge to house 500 male migrants arriving in UK within days**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/barge-to-house-500-male-migrants-arriving-in-uk-within-days-6206nbfm3>

### **Home Office to acquire fleet of ships to house asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/01/uk-planning-redundant-cruise-ships-house-asylum-seekers>

### **Dorset Tories voice concerns about barge for asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/03/dorset-tories-voice-concerns-about-asylum-seeker-barge>

### **Home Office accused of being ‘unashamedly racist’ towards Sudanese**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/07/home-office-accused-of-being-unashamedly-racist-towards-sudanese>

### **British citizens fleeing from Sudan left unsupported in UK**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-65480248>

### **The head of Scottish Refugee Council will attend the King’s coronation after receiving an invitation and OBE for his work on refugee rights**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-ceo-sabir-zazai-will-join-guests-at-kings-coronation/>

TOP

## **Equality**

### **Scottish Parliament Written Answer**

#### **BAME People: Participation in Politics**

**Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6W-16787]** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the participation of people from BAME backgrounds in politics.

**Reply from Emma Roddick:** The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the participation of people from BAME backgrounds in politics. In 2016 the Scottish Government published the Race equality framework for Scotland 2016-2030. One of its aims is to ensure minority ethnic participation and representation is effective, fair, proportionate, and valued at all levels of political, community and public life. This ambition is also reflected in the commitment in the Bute House Agreement to encourage more people to register to vote, to stand as candidates and to remove barriers some people experience so they can vote independently.

The Scottish Government funds a post based in CoSLA until March 2024, to support the work of the Cross-Party Barriers to Elected Office Special Interest Group. The group involves elected members from each of COSLA’s Political Groups, and seeks to identify changes in culture and practices, and support our ambition to deliver greater equality and diversity within local democracy.

We recognise that pay may be a barrier to some people standing to become a councillor. The Scottish Government and COSLA have jointly committed to undertake an independent review of Councillor remuneration. The inaugural meeting of the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) was held in April 2023. A report with recommendations for Ministers will be published at the end of November 2023.

The difficulty of getting reliable data on the participation of under-represented groups, including people from BAME backgrounds, is an issue that stakeholders raised during the electoral reform consultation in 2018. In response, the Scottish Government worked closely with a range of stakeholders, including the Electoral Management Board for Scotland, the Electoral Commission, COSLA and the Improvement Service to run a candidate survey for the 2022 Local Government elections.

The [Local Government candidate diversity survey](#) suggests that among those who responded (28% of candidates responded, which is lower than we would want but represents a typical response rate for this kind of survey), 6.7% of candidates in 2022 identified as “Asian” or “All other ethnic groups” (rather than “White” or “Prefer not to say”). For those who went on to be elected the figure was 4.0%. We are looking at ways to improve the collection of data in the future as the voluntary approach clearly has its limitations. This survey does however confirm the view that people with BAME backgrounds are under-represented in local government. Clearly work remains to be done to encourage more people from BAME backgrounds to take part in politics. We are open to ideas to ensure that all members of society have the opportunity to participate in politics and to become elected representatives.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16787>

*The Race Equality Framework referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/race-equality-framework-scotland-2016-2030/>

*The Bute House Agreement, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-shared-policy-programme/>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### **Voter Authority Certificates: Ethnic Groups**

**Clive Lewis (Labour)** [182347] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 31 March to Question 171447 on Voter Authority Certificates: Ethnic Groups, if he will make a statement on collecting data on the declared ethnicity of applicants for Voter Authority Certificates.

**Reply from Dehenna Davison:** As noted in the response referenced in the question, data on the declared ethnicity of applicants for Voter Authority Certificates is not held centrally.

[Research](#) commissioned by the Cabinet Office shows that people in an ethnic minority group were more likely to hold photographic identification than individuals from the White group (99% vs. 98%).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182347>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/171447>

### **Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers**

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [182646] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, what steps the Government is taking to support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people with the impact of rises in the cost of living; and whether those groups are eligible for support under (a) the Energy Bills Support Scheme-Alternative Funding and (b) the Alternative Fuels Payment.

**Reply from Amanda Solloway:** As part of the application process for these

schemes, the Government require applicants to show proof of address, such as a tenancy agreement or a utility bill, to protect public funds against fraud. The Government understand that some Gypsy and Traveller households may not be able provide this evidence, which means they won't currently be able to receive the EBSS AF or the AFP AF. Officials are working to establish whether there is a robust method for them to provide proof of eligibility, whilst protecting public funds, so they can receive support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182646>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Maternity Disparities Taskforce: Disclosure of Information**

**Feryal Clark (Labour)** [182981] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish the programme of work for the Maternity Disparities Taskforce.

**Feryal Clark (Labour)** [182983] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to measure the success of the Maternity Disparities Taskforce.

### **Health Services: Ethnic Groups**

**Feryal Clark (Labour)** [182985] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on inaccurate or incomplete ethnicity data.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** We updated the Women and Equalities Select Committee via correspondence about various aspects of the Maternal Disparities taskforce in March. The questions raised within these Parliamentary Questions are taken from the recommendations within the Women and Equalities Select Committee Report on Black maternal health, which was published on 18 April 2023. We will consider the findings and recommendations made by the Women and Equalities Select Committee and publish our response in due course.

We take the contents of this report very seriously and remain committed to tackling maternal inequalities and improving equity for mothers and babies. We will continue work to make the National Health Service one of the best places in the world to give birth by offering mothers and babies better support and safer care.

While births in England are among the safest globally, we must do more to ensure maternity care is consistent regardless of race. To address this, Local Maternity and Neonatal Systems have begun to publish Equity and Equality Action Plans to tackle disparities in outcomes and experiences of maternity care at a local level. The Maternity Disparities Taskforce, which last met on the 18 April 2023, brings together experts from across the health system, Government Departments and the voluntary sector to explore and consider evidence-based interventions to tackle maternal disparities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182981>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182983>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182985>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/38989/documents/191706/default/>

### **Crime Prevention: Ethnic Groups**

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [182928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to enable local and regional profiles ensure transparency on the representation and treatment of people of different ethnicities in the criminal justice system.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** To ensure transparency of police use of powers, the Home Office collect and publish statistics on the use of police powers in the annual "Police

powers and procedure" statistical release. This includes data on those arrested for notifiable offences and stopped and searched, including by ethnicity, and broken down by police force area. This is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

In addition, the Ministry of Justice already publishes a range of data from across the CJS with an ethnicity breakdown. This information can be found via the following link:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-26/182928>

### **Prisoners: Travellers**

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [182562] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of the recommendations of the report by the Traveller Movement entitled Disrupting the school to prison pipeline, published in July 2022.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Education is a devolved matter, and the response outlines the information for England only.

The Department recognises the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils and how education can make a positive difference. The Department is responding to the seven recommendations in the report.

The report recommended that the Department must ensure a race equality and diversity policy is made a statutory element of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) for all schools. Already the PSED requires public bodies, including maintained schools and academies, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.

Schools have specific legal duties to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the PSED, and to prepare and publish equality objectives. Schools are also required to publish information relating to those who share a relevant protected characteristic and who are affected by their policies and practices. The Department has published guidance for schools on how to ensure they comply with their duties under the Equality Act.

The report recommended that all schools must have the ability and resources to provide assessment of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, when requested by a parent or guardian, including annual reviews. It also recommended Local Authorities should consider providing base level EHC plans funding to all schools.

On 2 March 2023, the Department published the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan in response to the Green Paper. The Improvement Plan outlines the approach for the successful implementation of these policy reforms, including proposals for EHC plan reform. The Department will develop reformed templates and guidance to deliver a nationally consistent EHC plan process which makes greater use of digital technology, with the aim to increase consistency and the speed with which support is put in place.

The report also recommended that the Department should require all school and academy trusts to establish an On-Site Inclusion Unit (OSIU). In July 2022, the Department published updated guidance on behaviour in schools and suspension and permanent exclusion statutory guidance. The behaviour guidance makes clear some schools can choose to have pupil support units (sometimes called 'in school units') which should be used to provide planned pastoral support for vulnerable pupils and as a last resort measure to support pupils at risk of exclusion.

Additionally, the report recommended that expert head teacher panels should be

established to provide final assessments for proposed permanent exclusions and the department should develop standardised guidance for use of in school exclusionary practices and reporting guidelines for monitoring their use.

The updated exclusion guidance is clear that, in all cases, schools should consider initial intervention to address underlying causes of disruptive behaviour which may minimise the need for permanent exclusion. Whilst a permanent exclusion may still be an appropriate sanction, schools should take account of any contributing factors. The statutory process to review school exclusions is clear that governing boards have a role to review the decision of the head teacher to permanently exclude and if the governing board decides to uphold the permanent exclusion, the parents have the right to an Independent Review Panel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182562>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Full-Report-School-to-Prison-Report\\_web-Jul22.pdf](https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Full-Report-School-to-Prison-Report_web-Jul22.pdf)

*The Improvement Plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1139561/SEND\\_and\\_alternative\\_provision\\_improvement\\_plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1139561/SEND_and_alternative_provision_improvement_plan.pdf)

*The Green Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1064655/SEND\\_Review\\_Right\\_support\\_right\\_place\\_right\\_time\\_summary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064655/SEND_Review_Right_support_right_place_right_time_summary.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Childbirth: Black Women

**Baroness Thornton (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address the fact that Black women are almost four times more likely to die in childbirth than White women. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care (Lord Markham):** While births in England are among the safest globally, we must do more to tackle maternal disparities. Local maternity and neonatal systems have begun to publish action plans to tackle disparities in outcomes and experiences in maternity care at a local level. The Maternity Disparities Taskforce, which held a meeting on 18 April, brings together experts from across the health system, government departments and the voluntary sector to explore and consider evidence-based interventions to tackle maternal disparities.

**Baroness Thornton:** ... On 17 April I asked the Government about discrimination in the UK experienced by people of African descent—the Minister for Equalities pooh-poohed this report and strongly rejected most of the findings of discrimination. The following day the House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee published a report which said that black women are four times more likely to die in childbirth than white women in the UK. Does the Minister now accept that there was a point to my Question, and that research conducted on behalf of the Government since 2000 has shown that black women as a group have consistently remained at the highest maternity risk?

I would also like to ask the Minister about continuity of carer, which means having the same midwife throughout your pregnancy. It is a cornerstone of the Government's and the NHS's commitment to deliver safer maternity services, and indeed the report itself says that it is one of the ways to overcome barriers and improve communication and understanding throughout a pregnancy. When will the Government invest in the recruitment of midwives, bringing up their strength by 2,500, which the Royal College of Midwives says is essential to deliver this personalised care?



**Reply from Lord Markham:** ... I accept that there is a disparity, which is why the Maternity Disparities Taskforce was set up. I was speaking to Minister Caulfield just this morning, and I assure noble Lords that this is very high on her agenda. That is why, in providing continuity of maternity care, the focus is on making sure that people from ethnic minorities, particularly black women, get priority.

**Baroness Manzoor (Conservative):** My Lords, this is not a new issue. I am pleased to hear that the disparities task force has been set up, but can it look not just at the issues of workforce planning—there is a shortage of midwives—but at the additional antenatal care that black and ethnic-minority women need because of underlying causes, and at the care they receive during labour?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** My noble friend is right. I was speaking to Minister Caulfield about this very subject this morning. She pointed out that a lot of the reasons for the differences are underlying health conditions and factors such as smoking, weight and alcohol consumption, as well as diabetes. Education is a key part of this, as is continuity of care, and making sure that there is prenatal and postnatal care is absolutely a focus.

**Baroness Walmsley (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the NHS published equity and equality guidance in September 2021 aimed at improving maternal health for mothers and babies from black and other ethnic groups and those from the most deprived areas. However, no implementation plan or scrutiny mechanism has been developed, so how will implementation and adherence to these strategies and guidelines be assured? Who will report on progress, or the lack of it?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** First, through its local maternity and neonatal systems, every ICB is responsible for publishing an equity and equality plan. It will then be the job of both the CQC and the maternity surveillance system to measure them against that plan and make sure it is being kept up. Every area is different, but each needs a plan to address this issue.

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour):** My Lords, the Minister mentioned the Maternity Disparities Taskforce meeting on 18 April. Can he explain why the Select Committee was able to report that the task force had not met for nine months preceding the writing of its report? It does not look like the task force is putting much energy into this. Can he also say whether the work that is now being undertaken will take into account the fact that black women are regularly underrepresented in research and data, which leads to them being neglected in policy-making?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** The noble Lord is correct that data is an issue. A lot of the frustration that Minister Caulfield expressed is about the fact that we are having to look in the rear-view mirror, because the data is about two years old. One of the fundamental things is to get that live data so that we can see what action works and where more needs to be done.

**Baroness Berridge (Conservative):** My Lords, it is also sad to note that the rate of black babies being stillborn is 6.9 per 1,000 births, as opposed to 3.6 per 1,000 for white babies. Can my noble friend the Minister please confirm that each trust is under an obligation to collect that kind of data and do specific research as to why a modern country has that really sad rate of higher mortality?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** That is what the equity and equality plans are all about: understanding the local needs of an area. As I mentioned before, a lot of this is often due to the underlying health conditions of that ethnic-minority group. Also, many of us take for granted the fact that we are very clear on how to access medical services, but a lot of people from these ethnic minorities do not have the experience—for want of a better word—of accessing them. A key part of the plan also needs to be about how we can make this care accessible for all these groups.

**Lord Walney (Crossbench):** Is the Minister aware of the findings of the 2015 Kirkup report into neonatal deaths in Morecambe Bay? Among its findings, it concluded that ethnic-

minority women were on a number of occasions not given respect and agency by white British midwives, which may have contributed to neonatal deaths. Has that been looked at by the department, and what has been done since?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** I am familiar with that report, and the more recent Kirkup report on east Kent mentions some of the same issues. That is why part of the investment has been in a training programme to make sure that the suitable cultural awareness is there, because the noble Lord is correct that this is an issue.

**Lord Sikka (Labour):** My Lords, institutionalised racism is a major factor in the higher death rate of black women during childbirth. Numerous surveys have shown that black women are paid far less for their work than their white counterparts, which reduces their access to good food, housing and healthcare. Ethnicity pay gap reporting is a necessary tool for developing policies to tackle institutionalised discrimination. Why are the Government opposed to introducing ethnicity pay gap reporting?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** I do not think I would categorise this in any way in terms of institutionalised racism, and I do not believe that noble Lords would think that of the NHS. Clearly, work needs to be done on helping all ethnic minorities to access health services and on education, because there are many underlying conditions. That is what we are doing now. A few years ago, the numbers were quite a lot worse; black women were five times more likely to die in childbirth, but that figure is now 3.7. A lot more work needs to be done, but we are improving.

**Lord Hamilton of Epsom (Conservative):** Does my noble friend accept that the term “institutionalised” is, in the words of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, “ambiguous”, in that it means different things to different people? Can he define “institutionalised”?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** ...the NHS does a fantastic job in addressing and reaching people of all ethnic minorities. That is something we can all support.

**Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall (Labour):** My Lords, the Minister omitted to answer the first question put to him by my noble friend Lord Hunt of Kings Heath about the frequency with which the task force met and the gap between its last meeting and the moment at which its report was put forward, if I understood the question correctly. Can he answer that now?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** My understanding is that since the task force was set up, which was little more than a year ago, it has had as many as four or five meetings. If that is incorrect, I will correct it. The latest meeting was on 18 April. Again, if noble Lords look at the actions that have come out of it, they will all agree that it is actions that count the most. The task force has been very thorough, and Minister Caulfield is very committed.

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green):** My Lords, the Minister has referred a number of times to socio- economic disparities—indeed, the noble Lord, Lord Sikka, referred to the issues of poverty. The MBRRACE report and others have shown the disparity in death rates that sees black women dying in childbirth four times more often than white women. Will the Minister acknowledge for the record that there is a tragic difference here—a higher number of deaths—that cannot be fully accounted for by pre-existing health conditions and socioeconomic disadvantage?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** As I have said, this is a complex area. I do not think we understand all the underlying reasons. Underlying health is a reason, and access is another. What the statistics show is that there is a difference, which is why we are so focused on addressing it and making sure that everyone has excellent standards of maternal care.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-03/debates/843F4021-AE84-4844-AE21-91636E3E1086/ChildbirthBlackWomen>

*Baroness Thornton's previous question, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-17/debates/35053499-66DB-4377-96F1-1F5220D565A9/PeopleOfAfricanDescentInTheUnitedKingdom>

The Women and Equalities Committee report referred to above can be read at <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/38989/documents/191706/default/>

The NHS equity and equality guidance, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/C0734-equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems.pdf>

The Kirkup Reports, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/408480/47487\\_MBI\\_Accessible\\_v0.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408480/47487_MBI_Accessible_v0.1.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1111992/reading-the-signals-maternity-and-neonatal-services-in-east-kent-the-report-of-the-independent-investigation\\_print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1111992/reading-the-signals-maternity-and-neonatal-services-in-east-kent-the-report-of-the-independent-investigation_print-ready.pdf)

The MBRRACE report, referred to above, can be read at [https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2022/MBRRACE-UK\\_Maternal\\_MAIN\\_Report\\_2022\\_v10.pdf](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2022/MBRRACE-UK_Maternal_MAIN_Report_2022_v10.pdf)

## Press Release

**A public body may, under certain conditions, prohibit its employees from wearing any visible sign of political, religious or philosophical belief in their workplace**

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-05/cp230074en.pdf>

## New Publication

**Ethnicity and Homelessness in Scotland**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/64425a1875acc4324c714d49/1682070340562/Homelessness-in-Scotland-2023.pdf>

## News

**Black Maternal Health Awareness Week: Black women are nearly four times as likely to die from pregnancy complications as white**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/black-maternal-health-awareness-week-black-women-are-nearly-four-times-as-likely-to-die-from-pregnancy-complications-as-white-counterparts-dr-gwenetta-curry-4128698>

**Championing diversity and inclusion in the great outdoors**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/championing-diversity-and-inclusion-in-the-great-outdoors>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Racial Discrimination

**Catherine West (Labour) [182368]** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with

reference to the report of the Runnymede Trust and Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation entitled *Dear Stephen: Race and belonging 30 years on*, published in April 2023, whether she has made an assessment of the impact on her Department's policies of that report's findings.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** The report 'Dear Stephen: Race and belonging 30 years on' concludes that we have made 'considerable progress on the path to achieving racial equality' since the tragic death of Stephen Lawrence, although there is still more to be done. This is similar to the conclusions reached by the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities.

Our response to the Commission's work, *Inclusive Britain*, was published in March 2022 and sets out a ground-breaking action plan to tackle unjust disparities across education, employment, health and criminal justice. Earlier this month the government published a report to Parliament on the substantial progress we have made in delivering this action plan, with 32 of the 74 actions now completed, and how this work is making a real difference to people's lives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-24/182368>

*The Runnymede Trust report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/64415d79ee634162e3f4b6d1\\_Stephen%20Lawrence%20ChillCreate%20Presentation%20Look%20%26%20Feel%20Vis3-min.pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/64415d79ee634162e3f4b6d1_Stephen%20Lawrence%20ChillCreate%20Presentation%20Look%20%26%20Feel%20Vis3-min.pdf)

*The report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, 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)

*Inclusive Britain, 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>

### **Schools: Racial Discrimination**

**Matt Vickers (Conservative)** [181804] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to tackle racism in schools.

Reply from **Claire Coutinho:** The government 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, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different ethnic backgrounds. The department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equalities Act 2010, which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools?msckid=9ce22ddcc5d11ec9a0a2d6e2fd0a666>

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this 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, sex and health education (RSHE). The RSHE curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference. Guidance can be found at:

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

Schools should address any intolerant, racist or discriminatory views expressed by pupils through their wider anti-bullying and safeguarding policies. All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which outlines measures to encourage

good behaviour, and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. The policy should set out the behaviour expected of pupils, the sanctions that will be imposed for misbehaviour, and recognition for good behaviour. This should be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents. The department's advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities, is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

The department publishes information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on the Educate Against Hate website. This includes the Respectful School Communities toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can help to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying, and is available here:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders>

The department is also providing over £3 million of funding between August 2021 and March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. We have deliberately focused this grant programme on preventing and tackling bullying of pupils with protected characteristics. This includes projects targeting the bullying of particular vulnerable groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181804>

## News

**David Starkey condemned for 'vile and racist' remarks about Rishi Sunak**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/04/david-starkey-racism-row-rishi-sunak-gb-news-coronation/>

**Five Tory councillors suspended for alleged racism standing in local elections**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/30/tory-councillors-suspended-alleged-racism-standing-local-elections>

**Guardian editor to meet Jewish leaders over 'anti-Semitic' cartoon**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/02/guardian-jewish-cartoon-richard-sharp-anti-semitic/>

**Guardian editor to meet Jewish group over 'antisemitic' cartoon**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/guardian-editor-to-meet-jewish-group-over-antisemitic-cartoon-3mqcc5xvt>

**Guardian apologises over 'antisemitic' Richard Sharp cartoon**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/guardian-apologises-over-antisemitic-richard-sharp-cartoon-329vvlhjm>

**Society exposes us all to anti-Jewish tropes and attitudes. The first step is to notice them**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/may/05/anti-jewish-tropes-richard-sharp-antisemitism>

**Terrorist prisoners banned from leading religious services**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/terrorist-prisoners-banned-from-leading-religious-services-s30mx3hgq>



**Grays pub that displayed golly dolls closes after supplier boycott**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-65471314>

**How racist golliwog doll display led to a police raid, boycotts and pub's eventual closure**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/golliwog-dolls-grays-essex-pub-closes-b2331804.html>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Humza Yousaf (SNP) [S6M-08864] The Coronation of King Charles III and The Queen** – That the Parliament congratulates Their Majesties The King and The Queen on the occasion of Their Coronation; expresses its gratitude for Their Majesties' public service to Scotland, and affirms the deep respect that is held for Their Majesties in Scotland.

*Supported by: Douglas Ross*

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08864>

### News

**Humza Yousaf vows to 'do his duty' and pledge allegiance to the King**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/05/04/humza-yousaf-vows-to-pledge-allegiance-to-king/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Offences against Children**

**Lord Kamall (Conservative) [HL7140]** To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the statements that "Research has found that group-based CSE offenders are most commonly White" and "there is no factor which makes any group of children uniquely vulnerable" in the Home Office report Group based Child Sexual Exploitation: Characteristics of Offending, published in December 2020, what new evidence they received following that report which led the Home Secretary to claim that perpetrators of child sexual exploitation are "almost all British-Pakistani" and that victims are "overwhelmingly white girls from disadvantaged or troubled backgrounds".

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL7293]** To ask His Majesty's Government on what basis the Home Secretary has associated the phenomenon of grooming gangs with ethnicity rather than with religion.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** We know that child sexual exploitation is not exclusive to any single culture, community, race or religion. The Home Secretary's comments relate to the findings of local reviews into child sexual exploitation cases in Rotherham, Telford and Rochdale, which showed that perpetrators in those cases were overwhelmingly British-Pakistani men and the victims were white girls.

The 2020 Home Office report on group-based Child Sexual Exploitation set out the best evidence on ethnicity, age, offender networks, the context in which these crimes are committed and implications for national and local policy. As noted within the report, beyond those specific high-profile cases, the academic literature highlights significant limitations to what can be said about links between ethnicity and group-based child sexual exploitation.

It is essential for police and local authorities to have a good understanding of offender characteristics and the drivers of child sexual exploitation in their areas, so that they can uncover and tackle offending effectively. That is why the Prime Minister and Home Secretary have announced a number of steps to improve our data on, and our response to, group-based child sexual exploitation, including a new Taskforce, regional analysts in every police region, a new Complex and Organised Child Abuse Database hosted by the Taskforce and the roll out of the Tackling Organised Exploitation Programme, which brings together force-level, regional, and national data and intelligence.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/hl7140>  
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/hl7293>

*An updated version of the report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/group-based-child-sexual-exploitation-characteristics-of-offending/group-based-child-sexual-exploitation-characteristics-of-offending-accessible-version>

*The Home Secretary's comments referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-11928629/SUELLA-BRAVERMAN-mission-ensure-really-no-hiding-place-gangs-grooming-young-girls.html>

## Press Releases

**Prime Minister's words to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-words-to-mark-the-coronation-of-king-charles-iii-and-queen-camilla>

**Scottish Secretary Alister Jack on the Coronation of His Majesty**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-alister-jack-on-the-coronation-of-his-majesty>

**Sending 'heartfelt best wishes' to His Majesty on coronation day**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sending-heartfelt-best-wishes-to-his-majesty-on-coronation-day>

**King's Coronation to leave a lasting legacy for people and nature**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kings-coronation-to-leave-a-lasting-legacy-for-people-and-nature>

**UK Government Minister visits the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-minister-visits-the-scottish-jewish-heritage-centre>

## News

**Local elections 2023: In maps and charts** (England only)

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64966933>

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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

**Scottish Government must prioritise human rights to tackle poverty**

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/scottish-government-must-prioritise-human-rights-to-tackle-poverty/>

**10 cold, hard facts: Low-income Scottish families grow weary after another winter of the cost of living crisis**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/10-cold-hard-facts-low-income-scottish-families-grow-weary-after-another-winter-cost-living>

**Cost of living leading to NHS demand surge in Scotland**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/cost-living-leading-nhs-demand-surge-scotland>

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## New Publications

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Sector Overview Report**

<https://tinyurl.com/4w6cef2>

**Young People in Scotland Survey 2022: Volunteering Analysis**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Young-People-in-Scotland-2022.pdf>

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## Other News

### **Service the central theme of Coronation Liturgy**

<https://churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/service-the-central-theme-of-coronation-liturgy>

### **Muslim Council of Britain Congratulates King Charles III on Inclusive Coronation Ceremony**

<https://mcb.org.uk/muslim-council-of-britain-congratulates-king-charles-iii-on-inclusive-coronation-ceremony/>

### **The Board of Deputies of British Jews, on behalf of all its affiliated congregations and organisations, congratulates Their Majesties ahead of the coronation**

<https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/the-board-of-deputies-of-british-jews-on-behalf-of-all-its-affiliated-congregations-and-organisations-congratulates-their-majesties-ahead-of-the-coronation/>

### **Defender of all faiths? Coronation puts focus on King Charles's beliefs**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/04/defender-of-all-faiths-coronation-puts-focus-king-charles-religious-beliefs>

### **UK's diverse communities ambivalent about king's coronation**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/charles-iii-ap-meghan-london-commonwealth-b2330080.html>

### **Chief Rabbi sends King 'best wishes and blessings' ahead of coronation**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ephrim-mirvis-charles-iii-jewish-royal-family-the-king-b2331095.html>

### **OSCR publishes new Sector Overview Report**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/oscr-publishes-new-sector-overview-report/>

### **Key findings from Time Well Spent 2023**

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/key-findings-from-time-well-spent-2023/#/>

### **Police Scotland officers ordered to shave off beards**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65482560>

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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>

Stage 1 Report, Social Justice and Social Security Committee

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/SJSS/2023/4/28/38b80b46-35c2-401a-a218-ac5eb073c6e3-4/SJSS062023R4.pdf>

## **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>

### **\*\* Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3429>

Legislative scrutiny, Joint Committee on Human Rights

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12975/html/>

Factsheet: Tackling myths

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/tackling-myths-factsheet-illegal-migration-bill>

House of Lords Library Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2023-0026/LLN-2023-0026.pdf>

### **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3436>

### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-02/debates/C4ADB2FF-C4AE-4BEA-8E30-A341ECF32822/OnlineSafetyBill>

and



<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-02/debates/78C7231A-3F91-438E-ABCF-21E577D0EB73/OnlineSafetyBill>

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

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

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

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

## **\*\* Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

Draft Bill as published

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154100/Terrorism\\_Protection\\_of\\_Premises\\_Draft\\_Bill\\_-\\_Command\\_Paper.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154100/Terrorism_Protection_of_Premises_Draft_Bill_-_Command_Paper.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154120/230501\\_Explanatory\\_Notes\\_-\\_Terrorism\\_Protection\\_of\\_Premises\\_Bill\\_002\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154120/230501_Explanatory_Notes_-_Terrorism_Protection_of_Premises_Bill_002_.pdf)

Memorandum from the Home Office to the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1155017/Terrorism\\_Protection\\_of\\_Premises\\_Bill\\_-\\_Delegated\\_Powers\\_Memorandum.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1155017/Terrorism_Protection_of_Premises_Bill_-_Delegated_Powers_Memorandum.pdf)

Letter from Tom Tugendhat, Security Minister, to Dame Diana Johnson, Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154112/Letter\\_from\\_Security\\_Minister\\_to\\_HASC\\_-\\_Martyn\\_s\\_Law\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154112/Letter_from_Security_Minister_to_HASC_-_Martyn_s_Law_FINAL.pdf)

Impact Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1154338/2023-04-25\\_Martyn\\_s\\_Law\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1154338/2023-04-25_Martyn_s_Law_Impact_Assessment.pdf)

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**Reforming the criminal law to address misogyny** (closing date: 2 June 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/reforming-criminal-law-address-misogyny-scottish-government-consultation/>

**Review of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997** (closing date 18 June 2023)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997>

**ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

**JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey** (closing date not stated)

<https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH> (Scotland)

and

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023> (UK except Scotland)

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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>

### **People's Postcode Trust**

*There will be two further opportunities to apply for funding in 2023 but **each will only be open for 24 hours**. Applications can be submitted from:*

*10am on 3 July 2023*

*10 am on 2 October 2023*

*Application forms will go live at the above dates and times and must be **started and submitted** within the submission window. In the meantime, a copy of the application questions can be downloaded in order to help you prepare your submission.*

National Lottery funding of between £500 and £25,000 for projects on a wide range of themes including supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality. Funding priorities include communities experiencing racial inequity, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ Community. For information and to apply see

<https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

and

[https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3\\_ppt\\_fundingguide\\_2023.pdf](https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf)

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **The Big Help Out**

8 May 2023 (UK-wide)

The Big Help Out will be a national day of volunteering on the Bank Holiday Monday of the King's Coronation weekend. For information see <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics**

11 May 2023 (online, 10.00–3.00)

24 May 2023 (online, 10.00–12.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more. For information about 26 April see <https://tinyurl.com/prje3us3>, about 11 May see <https://tinyurl.com/bdz4edb9>, and about 24 May see <https://tinyurl.com/3yjwdvwt>

### **Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop**

15 May 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

1 June 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach – for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities or are already familiar with the human rights and equalities first approach, and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information about 2 May see <https://tinyurl.com/389ys5ke>, about 15 May see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zzeuv>, and 1 June see <https://tinyurl.com/59fc5enf>

### **\*\* Police Scotland Positive Action Recruitment Information: BMI Communities**

18 May 2023 (Edinburgh, 6.00–9.00)

20 May 2023 (Jackton, 10.00–1.00)

3 June 2023 (Aberdeen, 10.00–1.00)

Police Scotland events focusing on the recruitment process, the training and what life as a police officer is really like. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckr34ya> or contact [RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk](mailto:RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk)

### **Protect UK Workshop for the Voluntary Sector**

24 May 2023 (online, 12.00–1.00)

National Counter Terrorism Security Office workshop to learn more about the ProtectUK Platform its uses and benefits, and understand how the ProtectUK App (formerly ACT) will benefit your organisation in countering terrorism and developing your protective security and preparedness. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5brvpy7m>

### **The Muslim, State and Mind: Islamophobia in Mental Health and Psychology**

25 May 2023 (online and Manchester University –hybrid event, 1.00–2.15)

Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), Our Shared Cultural Heritage Radical Readers, and Manchester Institute of Education's Anti-Racist Teaching Network discussion about how psychological theories and practices serve state interests and perpetuate inequality, especially racism and Islamophobia. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37h9kwf9>

### **\*\* Holding Hope in the face of Hate**

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 11.00–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland refugee Week event bringing together members of faith communities and the general public from across Scotland to engage in a dialogue around ways to challenge hatred towards asylum seekers and refugees, especially in light of the growing anti-asylum seeker rhetoric and the cost of living crisis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2pt4bolx>

**TOP**

## 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>

TOP

**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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