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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Debate

**Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Amendment of List of Safe States) Regulations 2024**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-19/debates/7BE5F2A4-B8EA-4C4C-978E-C5F696347A96/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002\(AmendmentOfListOfSafeStates\)Regulations2024](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-19/debates/7BE5F2A4-B8EA-4C4C-978E-C5F696347A96/NationalityImmigrationAndAsylumAct2002(AmendmentOfListOfSafeStates)Regulations2024)

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

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Rwanda**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [18341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with rejected asylum applications have been approached regarding voluntarily relocation to Rwanda as of 13 March 2024.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [18342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria his Department plans to use for selecting people with rejected asylum applications for proposed voluntary relocation to Rwanda.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [18343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards his Department has put in place to ensure that people with a rejected asylum application being offered voluntary relocation to Rwanda are giving informed consent.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** The option of voluntary relocation will be given to failed asylum seekers. If they wish to relocate, it is only right that we facilitate that in order to save taxpayers' money and pressures on our public services.

Regarding the voluntary relocation of individuals to Rwanda, it would be inappropriate to provide a running commentary on individual cases.

If a person expresses an interest in the voluntary relocation, we are supporting people in ensuring that they have all the information they need in order to make a decision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-13/18341>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-13/18342>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-13/18343>

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

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [17950] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainian nationals can extend their stay by (a) 18 months and (b) three years.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** To provide future certainty, on 18 February we announced that existing Ukraine scheme visa holders who live mainly in the UK, will be able to apply for further permission to remain in the UK for an additional 18 months.

The Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme provides the same rights and entitlements to access work, benefits, healthcare, and education as the other Ukraine schemes. Those eligible to apply will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. Further details on eligibility and application processes will be available before the scheme opens for applications early next year.

The Ukraine Extension Scheme was introduced for those Ukrainians already in the UK at the time of the invasion and who could not return to Ukraine. It provides three years' temporary sanctuary aligned to the other Ukraine schemes. Those who have been granted permission by 16 November 2023 will have until 16 May 2024 to submit an application under the UES.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-11/17950>

*Information about the Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

### Visas: Ukraine

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [18886] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 March 2024 to Question 17855, whether all renewal processes for Ukrainians already in the UK are meant to be online.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Ukrainian guests wishing to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme will need to apply online using the digital application process. Full details on the application process and of eligibility will be available on GOV.UK ahead of the scheme launching in early 2025. Our intention is to open UPE to applications 3 months before the expiry of a person's current visa to ensure Ukrainians have sufficient time to apply to the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-15/18886>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-11/17855>

*Information about the Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme>

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

### Immigration

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [18684] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people had Section 67 leave to remain on 14 March 2024; how many and what proportion of those people had been contacted by his Department to discuss their options for when their leave expires by 14 March 2024; and what guidance his Department has issued on the options available to people when their Section 67 leave expires.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Section 67 leave is a form of leave introduced in the Immigration Rules for eligible children transferred to the UK under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. The Home Office has not published data on how many people had Section 67 leave to remain on 14 March 2024.

The Immigration Rules are clear that individuals with Section 67 leave can apply for indefinite leave to remain once their leave to remain ceases, provided they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Individuals can also seek advice from an independent legal representative about their options.

The published guidance for Section 67 leave can be found here: [Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 asylum casework guidance](#). The Home Office is currently in the process of updating that guidance and will publish a revised version in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-14/18684>

### Immigration: Applications

**Duncan Baker (Conservative)** [18307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether original copies of language certifications are required when applying for (a) citizenship and (b) settlement status.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Original copies of language certificates are not always required when applying for citizenship or settlement. Applicants required to take the Secure English Language Test must provide a unique reference number which the Home Office checks against a central database to verify the qualification. However, where there is insufficient evidence provided to verify that an applicant

has passed an approved English language test, an original copy of a language certificate may be required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-12/18307>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [18096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 15 January 2024 to Question 8266 on Visas: Married People and to his oral contribution of 4 December 2023 on Legal Migration, Official Report, column 41, for what reason the Migration Advisory Committee was not consulted on those proposals.

#### **Visas: Families**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [18097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Oral Statement of 4 December 2023 on Legal Migration, Official Report, column 41, whether his Department invited representations from stakeholders prior to announcing an increase to the Minimum Income Requirement for family visas.

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [18098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Oral Statement of 4 December 2023 on Legal Migration, Official Report, column 41, whether the joining family member of a person who (a) would have met the former threshold for family visas in force until 10 of April 2024 and (b) does not qualify under the new threshold will be placed on the 10-year route to settlement.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Government engages regularly with interested stakeholders including through a number of its advisory groups, when developing its policies. We did not invite representations from stakeholders specifically on the MIR prior to the announcement of 4 December 2023.

The decision to raise the MIR was taken to ensure that migration policy is supportive of the wider ambition for the UK to be a high-wage, high-productivity, high-skill economy, and help to ensure that migrants make a net positive contribution to the public finances in addition to ensuring that families would not need to have recourse to welfare and had sufficient resources to participate in British life.

Previous advice and evidence provided by the Migration Advisory Committee regarding net-fiscal contributions and access to benefits was considered when making this decision. We did not seek further advice from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) before making the decision to increase the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) element of the family Immigration Rules.

A child who is applying for permission after 11 April 2024 to join their parent who, prior to 11 April met the lower threshold and was granted permission, will be subject to transitional arrangements and must meet the same threshold as their parent (£18,600 plus the child component, capped at £29,000). Where they meet the threshold alongside the other requirements of the 5-year route, they will be granted on the 5-year route to settlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-12/18096>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-12/18097>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-12/18098>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-05/8266>

*The oral contribution referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration#contribution-AF98D5D6-1DE5-482B-A62E-9ABF5DEFFD19>

## Refugees: Loans

**Neil O'Brien (Conservative)** [18800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people (a) received and (b) repaid a refugee integration loans since 2007.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Refugee Integration Loans were introduced in 2007 following a public consultation and are intended to help people with the costs of integrating into UK society. They are funded by the Home Office, who make the initial decisions on applications. They are then administered and recouped by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Refugee integration loans are interest-free loans with favourable repayment terms for individuals who are over 18 and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a refugee;
- you have humanitarian protection;
- a dependant of a refugee or someone with humanitarian protection.

Individuals are currently able to borrow between £100 and £500. Between £100 to £780 can be borrowed if submitting a joint application with a partner.

The specific data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-14/18800>

## Asylum

**Andrew Percy (Conservative)** [18695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims have been successfully made by citizens of (a) Israel, (b) the United States, (c) Canada, (d) New Zealand, (e) Australia, (f) Germany, (g) Spain, (h) France and (i) Italy in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications received, and the initial decisions on claims, is published in tables Asy\_D01 and Asy\_D02 of the '[Asylum applications, decisions and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. This data includes nationality breakdowns.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of each workbook. The latest data relates to 31 December 2023. Data up to the end of March 2024 will be published on 23 May 2024.

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/2024-03-14/18695>

## Asylum: Rwanda

**Siobhain McDonagh (Labour)** [18029] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Rwanda were granted asylum on (a) human rights and (b) other grounds in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Those who need protection are normally granted refugee status or humanitarian protection.

The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum decisions by nationality are published in table Asy\_D02 of the '[Asylum Applications, Decisions and Resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 2023.

All asylum and human rights claims lodged from within the UK and admitted to the UK asylum system, including those seeking asylum from Rwanda, are carefully



considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations, and against the background of relevant case law, policy guidance and the latest available country of origin information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-12/18029>

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [19170] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing exit plans from hotel accommodation to give settled residents 56 days notice.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Since September 2023, all individuals receive a minimum of 28 days' support (including accommodation) after being issued with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). There are no current plans to extend the 28 days prescribed in legislation due to the huge pressures on the asylum system.

We offer move on support to all individuals through Migrant Help or their partner organisation. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them.

We work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended. We are working with our partners, including local authorities, to provide timely notification of key events that impact them. We are working with our Strategic Migration Partners (SMPs) to facilitate regional sessions with councils and to share data.

We are also utilising Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLOs) to replicate part of the Afghan resettlement move on process. We have been working in three local authority areas since December 2023; Glasgow, Brent and Hillingdon. This has now been expanded to Manchester and Liverpool.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-18/19170>

### **Offenders: Deportation**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [17784] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were deported after having been found to have committed a criminal offence (a) in the UK since entering the country and (b) in a foreign country prior to entering the UK since 2010.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** The Home Office does publish statistics on enforced returns for those who have claimed asylum since 2010. These returns are published in table RET\_05 of the returns summary table which can be found at [Immigration system statistics data tables](#).

Asylum-related returns in this summary relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been withdrawn, refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality). Asylum-related returns broken down by status is not available from published statistics.

Additionally, the published statistics refer to enforced returns which include deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers that have declined to leave voluntarily. Figures on deportations, which are a subset of

enforced returns, are not separately available.

Furthermore, information on someone that has been deported after having been found to have committed a criminal offence in a foreign country prior to entering the UK since 2010 is not separately available from published statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-11/17784>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Asylum Seekers: Rwanda

**Baroness Chakrabarti (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government what are the reasons for their new policy of paying failed asylum seekers to travel to Rwanda; how this policy will deliver (1) justice, and (2) deterrence; and how they expect it will work alongside their policy of seeking to forcibly transport illegal migrants to that country.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom):** My Lords, voluntary relocations to Rwanda support efforts to remove individuals with no right to be here. This will be offered to failed asylum seekers, those without leave to remain and those who have put in a claim to the UK's asylum system that was unsuccessful. Once the Bill and the treaty are in place, we will look to enforce the removal of individuals entering illegally, so that their asylum claims can be processed in Rwanda.

**Baroness Chakrabarti:** ... As I understand the Government's own case, in pursuit of deterrence some genuine refugees who have come by irregular routes will be forcibly transported to Rwanda, while failed asylum seekers, including some who have made fraudulent claims, will be given the £3,000 golden goodbye.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, yes. The fact is that people who have paid £5,000 to £10,000 to a murderous criminal gang to get to the UK—let us not forget that they have been sold a lie and will not be able to stay here—are unlikely to be attracted by an offer of £3,000. I do not believe that it will have any effect on the deterrence principle.

**Viscount Hailsham (Conservative):** Will my noble friend the Minister help the House by telling us whether the numbers of migrants who are paid a fee to go to Rwanda will count towards the numbers that Rwanda has agreed to take as compulsory relocations under the Bill's provisions?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** As the scheme has only just begun, I do not know what the numbers are likely to look like in the end. However, as this is governed by a separate agreement, I imagine that the answer is no.

**Lord German (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, can the Minister tell the House the size of the cohort that he described and to whom the offer will be made? What will the status be of those people when they arrive in Rwanda, given the present position of the Bill, the treaty and everything else? ...

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, as I said, this will be offered to individuals with no right to remain. They are visa overstayers and failed asylum seekers, who are offered this option as part of our regular dialogue. It is very hard to say exactly how many people are likely to be offered this, so I cannot answer that question in its entirety. However, this builds on our already widely used voluntary returns scheme, which saw more than 19,000 people accept support to return to their country of origin last year. We have agreed with the Government of Rwanda that individuals who are relocated voluntarily will have the same package of support for up to five years as those who are being discussed under the Bill. ...

**Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green):** My Lords, if Rwanda is a safe country, can we have an explanation of why we are taking Rwandan refugees here in Britain?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... The fact is that we take refugees from

many countries, some of which are safe.

**Lord Browne of Ladyton (Labour):** My Lords, if I understood the Minister earlier, did he mean to tell the House that this arrangement with Rwanda—for people to go there with £3,000—is not covered by the UK-Rwanda asylum partnership agreement, and that there is another agreement of some description with Rwanda, the details of which have not been shared with Parliament? When will Parliament see that agreement?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, as I said earlier, this is separate from the Bill and the treaty. I cannot answer the question, as I do not know when Parliament will see the agreement. ...

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op):** My Lords, is it the Government's position that there will be a finite number of places and that some of the people who go there voluntarily will take some of those places but that will not have any effect on the deterrence of the Government's policy?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... this scheme and the Rwanda scheme are uncapped, so there is no finite number of places.

**Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Crossbench):** My Lords, will the Minister consider his words a little more carefully before he describes people as "failed asylum seekers", when we have actually refused to consider their asylum requests?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** No, I am afraid that I will not. They are failed asylum seekers, visa overstayers and people who are outside of the current system. ...

**To read this long question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-21/debates/B870BFF3-4760-4F1D-B4AB-2D93B5D2099D/AsylumSeekersRwanda>

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

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru) [HL3095]** To ask His Majesty's Government how many refugees from Ukraine have been settled in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

As of 5 March 2024, 201,400 people have arrived in the UK under the Ukraine visa schemes, rather than as refugees. 144,400 of them have been sponsored under the Homes for Ukraine scheme with 108,601 being in England, 1,500 in Northern Ireland, 5,847 in Scotland and 4,200 in Wales.

In addition to this, 20,882 Ukrainians have been sponsored by the Scottish Government and another 3,291 by the Welsh Government. Further information including a full breakdown of the data has been published on Gov.UK and can be accessed here:

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

[Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-06/hl3095>

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

### Windrush Lessons Learned Review

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL3055]** To ask His Majesty's



Government, further to the remarks by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 29 February (HL Deb col 1190) where he stated that "there are legal proceedings" concerning the decision "not to proceed with some of the recommendations" contained in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review by Wendy Williams, what is the nature of those proceedings.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The "legal proceedings" refer to a Judicial Review, brought by three claimants, to challenge the decision, made in December 2022, of the former Secretary of State for the Home Department to not implement three of the Windrush Lessons Learned recommendations. The three policy recommendations are: recommendation 3, run reconciliation events; recommendation 9, introduce a Migrants' Commissioner; and recommendation 10, review the remit and role of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-06/hl3055>

*The remarks referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-02-29/debates/00C4804B-4053-4129-8393-7C36E595B386/Windrush#contribution-AAA09578-7ADF-438C-BC4D-DCD82DE2FBE8>

*The Windrush Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e74984fd3bf7f4684279faa/6.5577\\_HO\\_Windrush\\_Lessons\\_Learned\\_Review\\_WEB\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e74984fd3bf7f4684279faa/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf)

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL3053] To ask His Majesty's Government what percentage of Windrush Compensation Scheme claims they have paid in full so far.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Information on the total number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claims that have received a compensation payment is published as part of the Transparency Data release. The latest published data, covering the period up to the end of January 2024, is available here: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: January 2024](#)

As of January 2024, over £80 million has been paid in compensation across 2,233 claims.

An individual could have more than one claim under the Windrush Compensation Scheme rules, for example as a primary claimant, close family member, or as a representative of an estate. In addition, a claim may receive a preliminary, interim and/or full and final payment.

[Windrush Compensation Scheme data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-06/hl3053>

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

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL3054] To ask His Majesty's Government when they anticipate having paid compensation in full to claimants of the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Windrush Compensation Scheme is determined to ensure everyone who was affected receives every penny of the compensation to which they are entitled at the earliest point possible. The Scheme is making significant progress towards achieving this aim and has paid over £80 million in compensation as of January 2024. However, each person's claim is deeply personal and deserves to be processed with the utmost care and sensitivity. This holistic approach necessarily takes time but is ultimately beneficial to individuals.

The Scheme does not therefore, impose time limit targets for concluding claims. The Scheme has reduced the time to allocate a claim for a substantive casework consideration, from 18 months to under 4 months. The 4-month period includes all essential eligibility checks, together with a Preliminary Assessment to make an initial payment of £10,000 wherever possible. The Scheme has no end date so that people are not prevented from claiming compensation and there is no cap on the amount of compensation that will be paid overall.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-06/hl3054>

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

### Immigration

**Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL2999]** To ask His Majesty's Government what was the level of immigration to the UK for the past year; and how many individuals were granted visas for (1) work, (2) study, (3) family reunification, and (4) asylum.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>  
Data on work and study visas granted are published in table Vis\_D02, of the 'Entry clearance detailed dataset'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>  
Data on family reunification visas granted are published in table Fam\_D01 and data on the number of people applying for and being granted asylum are published in table Asy\_D01 and Asy\_D02 of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

Information on how to use these datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relates to 2023 Q4.

Not everyone granted a visa will become an 'immigrant' as per the United Nations definition of a long-term migrant. Information regarding immigration and emigration is a matter for the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance)

[Asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-04/hl2999>

### Immigration

**Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL3001]** To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of immigration on (1) public services, (2) housing, and (3) infrastructure.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Government has been clear that net migration is too high and is determined to bring it down to sustainable levels to help protect public services and housing against unsustainable pressure.

In May 2023, the Government announced measures to restrict the number of overseas students able to bring dependants. On 4 December 2023, the Home Secretary announced a new package of measures to reduce net migration further. These include limitations on family dependants being brought in by care workers and senior care workers; increasing the salary threshold for the Skilled Worker route; commissioning the Migration Advisory Committee to review the Shortage

Occupation List; and raising the minimum income requirement for Family visas progressively over the next few years. These measures are now being implemented and were the subject of a WMS [Written Ministerial Statement] by the Minister for Legal Migration and the Border on January 30th.

Taken together with the measures the Government announced in May 2023, this means that around 300,000 people who were eligible to come to the UK last year would not be able to do so in future.

We keep all our immigration policies under review and work closely with key government departments to ensure that the immigration system best serves the UK, reflects the public's priorities and protects public services against undue pressure.

A full analysis of the impact of the package will be published in a regulatory impact assessment in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-04/hl3001>

*The announcements referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-23/debates/23052378000021/ImmigrationUpdate>

*and*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-30/debates/24013063000013/LegalMigrationImplementation>

### **Asylum: Appeals**

**Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated)** [HL3090] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to (1) cap, or (2) curtail, multiple appeals from the same asylum seeker.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** There are no plans to change the rules regulating multiple appeals. An asylum seeker who has already appealed cannot appeal again unless they make further submissions which amount to a fresh claim. There will only be a fresh claim if the further submissions have not previously been considered and, taken together with the previously considered material, created a realistic prospect of success at appeal, even though the asylum claim is being refused. Where this test is not met, the further submissions are rejected and cannot be appealed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-06/hl3090>

### **Asylum: Community Development**

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford** [HL2981] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are taking steps to develop engagement forums with asylum seeker and refugee communities.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** We regularly engage with stakeholders through standalone meetings and various forums such as the Asylum Strategic Engagement Group, which includes organisations who both speak for and represent asylum seekers.

The Asylum Lived Experience Advisory Panel (ALEAP) is a regular engagement forum, which enables refugees with recent lived experience of the UK asylum system an opportunity to discuss the impact of Home Office policies and processes across their asylum journey.

It is important that we distinguish between individuals who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules.

### **Asylum: Community Development**

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford** [HL2982] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that asylum seekers housed in asylum accommodation have access to free and accessible community spaces to build social connections.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Home Office contracted accommodation providers deliver induction briefings and information packs which include signposting to voluntary sector services alongside local leisure and recreational facilities and services, for all new arriving asylum seekers.

The AASC Requirements below give a detailed breakdown of the services to be undertaken by our accommodation providers and to the standards we expect:

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC - Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements.pdf>

Additionally, all asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help, where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services.

[AASC Requirements](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-04/hl2982>

### **Asylum: Churches**

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford** [HL2980] To ask His Majesty's Government what statistical evidence is held by the Home Office to support the claim made by former Home Secretary in the Daily Telegraph on 3 February that between 6 September 2022 and 13 November 2023, she “became aware of churches around the country facilitating industrial-scale bogus asylum claims”.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Every asylum claim is determined on its individual merits in line with our published policy and guidance. There are a small number of recent cases which have raised concerns that not all conversions are necessarily genuine and it is right we work with faith leaders to better understand these cases.

We are unable to comment further on the former Home Secretary's remarks. She was reshuffled on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-04/hl2980>

*The article referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.suellabraverman.co.uk/news/too-many-churches-are-facilitating-bogus-asylum-claims-must-stop>

## **Press Releases**

### **100th asylum hotel set to close next week**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100th-asylum-hotel-set-to-close-next-week>

### **Small boat pilot jailed after endangering more than 50 lives**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/small-boat-pilot-jailed-after-endangering-more-than-50-lives>

## New Publications

### **Government Response to the Public Inquiry into Brook House Immigration Removal Centre**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f84540fc7fcf0011c6482d/E03077278+-+Resp+Brook+House+Inquiry+report\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f84540fc7fcf0011c6482d/E03077278+-+Resp+Brook+House+Inquiry+report_Accessible.pdf)

### **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>

## News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### **Lords' further defeat of Rishi Sunak's Rwanda bill delays final vote past Easter**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-bill-lords-rishi-sunak-migrants-b2515860.html>

### **Fresh defeats in the Lords over Rwanda bill**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-68618570>

### **Rwanda bill: flights delayed until June as Sunak loses seven Lords votes**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-bill-flights-delay-house-lords-peers-defeat-00ww2c0qn>

### **Rebel peers 'trying to ensure Rwanda migrant scheme won't work'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rebel-peers-trying-to-ensure-rwanda-migrant-scheme-wont-work-5q52sqkqm>

### **Home Office has no plane for Rwanda flights amid 'migration emergency'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/english-channel-crossing-rwanda-plane-migration-emergency-514-record-zxlxxnr25>

### **Labour MP compares cost of Rwanda flights to Virgin Galactic 'sending six people to space'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/rwanda-bill-cost-vigin-galactic-b2514533.html>

### **Rwanda wants two-month pause after first migrant flight arrivals**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-flights-pause-bill-migrants-9zxsjqpw0>

## News: Channel Migrants

### **UK-funded French forces putting migrants' lives at risk with small-boat tactics**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/23/uk-funding-french-migrants-small-boat-border-forces>



## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**UK will be reliant on immigration for nearly 80 years due to falling birth rates**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/world/population-fertility-immigration-uk-b2516198.html>

**Government asylum housing plans to cost millions more than hotels – watchdog**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/national-audit-office-home-office-gareth-davies-government-priti-patel-b2515367.html>

**Asylum chaos as RAF sites and Bibby Stockholm barge to cost more than hotels**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-backlog-bibby-stockholm-sunak-b2515093.html>

**RAF Scampton: Government 'playing games' over asylum numbers**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-68600575>

**'I wanted to humanise those lost in the statistics': four directors on their new movies depicting refugee journeys**

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2024/mar/24/refugee-films-ali-smith-io-capitano-green-border-drift-opponent-migration-crisis>

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## Community Relations

### News

**Another first for multicultural Britain**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/another-first-for-multicultural-britain-ncqd2nkj>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Ethnicity Pay Gap

**Monica Lennon (Labour)** [S6W-26163] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to help reduce the ethnicity pay gap.

**Reply from Gillian Martin:** The Scottish Government remains committed to addressing labour market inequalities for racialised minorities. Our Anti-Racist Employment Strategy published in December 2022 supports and encourages employers to address these inequalities. It provides guidance on improving data as well as recruitment, retention and progression practices to improve the representation and experience of racialised minority staff.

The strategy further sets out a series of actions for the Scottish Government, including developing an anti-racism workplace training framework; supporting employers in their use of positive action measures; and continuing to engage with public sector leadership on recruitment and representation, data and on understanding institutional racism.

The Scottish Government is also currently reviewing the operation of the Public

Sector Equality Duty in Scotland with a view to improving the Scottish Specific Duties, including data reporting on ethnicity. We have consulted on proposals which include extending the existing gender pay gap reporting duty to ethnicity and disability, with listed public authorities required to make more evidence-based decisions on the information they publish.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-26163>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-anti-racist-employment-strategy/>

### Long Covid

**Jackie Baillie (Labour)** [S6W-26000] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what work has been undertaken to specifically measure (a) the impact of long COVID on (i) older people and (ii) ethnic minorities and (b) the ability of these groups to access long COVID treatment.

**Reply from Jenni Minto:** Patient related experience and patient outcome measures will be recorded through NHS Boards' use of the C-19 YRS digital screening tool. The provision of health data through this tool will assist in understanding the provision and effectiveness of long COVID services. Where possible, the data will be disaggregated by age, gender, ethnicity, and deprivation quintile. This will support understanding of any inequitable variation in service provision, experience and outcomes which may need to be addressed through service changes.

The Strategic Network has contracted the University of Leeds to support the initial evaluation of long COVID services in Scotland, using data from the C19-YRS tool.

The outputs of the evaluation are expected following the end of the financial year.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-26000>

## News

**Wales gets a new first minister – and the first Black leader of a European nation**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/politics-explained/vaughan-getting-black-leaders-labour-speech-b2515944.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### **First Minister's Questions: Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021**

**Douglas Ross (Conservative):** ...The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 will come into effect from 1 April. ... David Kennedy, the general secretary of the Scottish Police Federation, has said that officers "were only receiving a two-hour online training package". Is that really enough training on such a complex and controversial piece of legislation?

**Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf):** ... A lot of disinformation about the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 has been spread on social media, in inaccurate media reporting and by our political opponents. ...

Because decisions on training for the police are an operational matter, I leave it to the chief constable to determine what training is appropriate. Just this week, Police Scotland put out a statement to challenge—in its words—“inaccurate media reporting” about the act. I have absolute confidence that Police Scotland will ensure that appropriate training is in place.

Let me remind Douglas Ross that stirring-up offences are not new in Scotland. As a person of colour, I have been protected from people stirring up hatred against me because of my race virtually all my life, since 1986. In fact, all of us are protected by the provision against stirring up hatred. The question is this: if I have protection against people stirring up hatred because of my race, as has been the case since 1986, why on earth should such protection not exist for people based on their sexuality, disability or religion?

The fact is, as we know, that there is a very high threshold for a new stirring-up offence to be committed—it is even higher than the threshold for a racial stirring-up offence. I say to Douglas Ross that it is incredibly important that we all, in memory of people like Henry Wuga, on whom he started his question, unite in standing up to and opposing hatred in all its forms. A strong legislative framework to protect people is incredibly important. I urge the Conservatives and Douglas Ross to realise that it would be far better for him to put more effort into tackling hatred than into opposing the hate crime act.

**Douglas Ross:** ... We opposed the legislation at the time that it was passed, and we still oppose it, because of the impact that it has on free speech for people across this country. I am merely reiterating points that have been made by the Scottish Police Federation, which is the representative body of our police officers across Scotland. The SPF said that its officers can barely deal with existing crimes, let alone this new law, and they have described the hate crime act as “a recipe for disaster”.

Humza Yousaf has reduced officer numbers to the lowest level since Police Scotland was formed. Now, officers are being told not to investigate actual crimes but will instead have to look for the hate monster or to police free speech. Criminals will be let off while innocent people are prosecuted. Is Humza Yousaf not setting the police up for failure and undermining public trust in policing?

**Reply from the First Minister:** ... Let us take the points that Douglas Ross raised about the act and freedom of expression. ... There is a triple lock on freedom of expression in the act; protection of freedom of expression is explicitly embedded in it.

There is also a defence available of a person’s behaviour being “reasonable”, which safeguards people’s rights.

Thirdly, the act is compatible with the European convention on human rights, including article 10, which includes and protects everybody’s right to freedom. When it comes to stirring up hatred, stirring-up offences are so pervasive, so damaging and so dangerous in our society. Let me take Douglas Ross back to what Lord Bracadale said. Lord Bracadale reported on his independent review of hate crime, which led to development of the legislation. He said: “the stirring up of hatred can contribute to a social atmosphere in which prejudice and discrimination are accepted as normal.”

In any society, the freedom to criticise, to insult and to offend exists and should be treasured, but there cannot be freedom to engage in behaviour that is threatening or abusive, or which is intended to stir up hatred. Everybody in the chamber engages with and talks often about our commitment to tackling hatred. People who experience hatred tell me that they want from their politicians not just warm words, but action. That is exactly what the act intends to provide.

**Douglas Ross:** People want action that is enforceable, and the Scottish Police Federation says that it has serious concerns. Its officers are receiving a two-hour online training

module on the legislation. The First Minister keeps trying to say that those are my comments. They are not. I originally quoted the Scottish Police Federation. ... Legal experts, including the dean of the Faculty of Advocates, Roddy Dunlop, have said that there is a danger of the police being swamped by completely malicious complaints. That is not my view; it is the view of the dean of the Faculty of Advocates. Days before the law comes into force, it is unclear how complaints will be dealt with by the police. People such as J K Rowling could have the police at their door every day for making perfectly reasonable statements. That could lead to huge numbers of members of the public being monitored or even criminalised by the police when they have done nothing wrong. Is Humza Yousaf not putting front-line officers in an impossible position by forcing them to police free speech?

**Reply from the First Minister:** No. We know that police officers themselves are, unfortunately, often the victims of hatred; they often face hatred in the course of their duties.

Douglas Ross said that he has no idea how a stirring-up offence could possibly be enforceable. I am making the point that a stirring-up offence in relation to racial hatred has existed since 1986, with virtually zero controversy. I have absolute faith in Police Scotland's ability to police and enforce the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 in an appropriate way.

On the points that Roddy Dunlop—whom, of course, I respect greatly—made, the police are very well attuned and adept, and they have the ability to deal with vexatious complaints right across the legal framework within which they operate. I cannot say whether there will be vexatious complaints—that will, of course, depend on people's actions. However, I can say that the threshold of criminal liability is incredibly high. If Douglas Ross does not want to take my word for that, let us look at what another legal expert said. Professor Adam Tomkins is known to Douglas Ross. He is a former Conservative MSP whom I worked with on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill, and he is a professor of public law. In *The Herald* today he writes: "Offensive speech is not criminalised by this legislation: the only speech relating to sexual orientation, transgender identity, age or disability outlawed here is speech which (1) a reasonable person (2) would consider to be threatening or abusive and which (3) was intended to stir up hatred and (4) was not reasonable in the circumstances."

He also said: "Just because you feel offended by what someone has said does not make it a hate crime" and went on to say that "Under the Hate Crime Act the threshold of criminal liability is not that a victim feels offended (a subjective test), but that a reasonable person would consider the perpetrator's action or speech to be threatening or abusive".

Let us stick to the facts. The fact is this: we all purport to be concerned about the increases in hate crime that we have seen in our society over the years, but only some parties in the chamber are willing to take the necessary action to tackle hate crime. ...

**Douglas Ross:** ... There have been, and there continue to be, serious reservations about the act that was passed and how it will be implemented. ... The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 looks like another SNP law that will have to be discarded, just like the proposed named person legislation and the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. We have said from the outset that the Government's hate crime law was a disaster in the making. It criminalises free speech and it puts at risk a fundamental right. ...

**Reply from the First Minister:** What is dangerous is not the law; what is dangerous is hate crime in our society.

We debated the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill extensively when it went through Parliament many years ago. We had robust debate, which I thought

was sometimes—indeed, often—in the best traditions of this Parliament. Compromises were made and amendments were accepted by the Government. We came out of that process with a good piece of legislation that fundamentally protects people’s freedom of expression and freedom of speech, but which also safeguards people’s right not to have hatred stirred up against them. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15774&i=134618#ScotParlOR>

**First Minister’s Questions: Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021**

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6F-02959]** To ask the First Minister what resources the Scottish Government will be providing to Police Scotland for the investigation of complaints made under the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021.

**Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf):** We have worked with justice partners, including Police Scotland, to ensure that the legislation is effectively implemented when it commences, next month. The Scottish Police Authority’s budget for 2024-25 delivers record police funding of £1.55 billion, which is an increase of £92.7 million when compared with the current financial year.

It is for the SPA and the chief constable to allocate that budget according to their priorities and needs, and that should absolutely include the investigation of complaints that are made under the act. As I have said previously, I am aware that some commentary on the act is not accurate or reflective of the measures in the act, which was passed by a majority of this Parliament.

The act does not stop freedom of expression, but it makes unlawful the intention of stirring up hatred against a person or community for particular characteristics, as the law already does for race.

**Pauline McNeill:** The First Minister has reiterated several times that the act, which comes into force on 1 April, must deliver what Parliament intended and that people must not be criminalised for expressing their opinions. I agree. Some organisations are still concerned that the legislation will be used maliciously to silence legitimate opinion. It would be helpful for the Scottish Government to engage with those groups.

Does the First Minister agree that how the act is interpreted by the police and how the police are trained on it are key and that resources for that are crucial? Does the First Minister understand my concerns that the police are not properly resourced and, crucially, not properly and adequately trained to implement the act as it was intended? We agree that the act could risk criminalising innocent people and further stretching police resources. I ask the First Minister to make the act work and to make sure that there are full resources to ensure that what Parliament intended is delivered.

**Reply from the First Minister:** I know that Pauline McNeill takes the issue of tackling hatred very seriously. Over the years, she and I have worked on that issue in its many different guises. I will try to give some assurance to Pauline McNeill and to those on whose behalf she is raising concerns.

I make the point that I made to Douglas Ross—there are multiple freedom of expression safeguards in the law. There is an explicit freedom of expression safeguard in the legislation and there is a reasonable person defence. The legislation also has to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights, with article 10 being particularly important in this context. Therefore, there is already a triple lock of safeguards.

On how the police enforce the act, I will try to give Pauline McNeill some assurances. Since 1986—for virtually my whole life—police officers have been effectively policing and enforcing the law on crime in relation to the stirring up of hatred based on race. The threshold for the new offences is higher than the threshold for the racial stirring-up offence. The police have been doing that since



1986 with virtually zero controversy, so I have every confidence that they will be able to do so for the new offences that are being brought into law in a matter of weeks.

On resourcing, I reiterate the points that I have already made. We are providing record funding for Police Scotland in relation to next year's budget. On training, I refer to the points that have already been made by Police Scotland in the public domain. I have every confidence in its ability to train officers for the act when it comes into force.

I am very pleased that the act will be coming into force because I believe that it will give people the necessary protections at a time when hate crime is far too pervasive and prominent in our society and when hate being peddled by some with impunity ...

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15774&i=134618#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Islamophobia: Definition

**Debbie Abrahams (Labour)** [902123] What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on implementing a definition of Islamophobia.

**Alex Cunningham (Labour)** [902135] What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the work of the anti-Muslim hatred working group.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Felicity Buchan):** We will not tolerate anti-Muslim hatred in any form, and we will seek to stamp it out wherever it occurs. We are appointing an independent adviser to tackle the scourge of anti-Muslim hatred, to join our independent adviser on antisemitism. We have a programme for tackling anti-Muslim hatred, which includes the consideration of definitions. It also includes £117 million of funding to protect Muslim places of worship and faith schools until 2028.

**Debbie Abrahams:** Despite what the Minister says, many believe that the Government's two-year delay in coming up with a definition on Islamophobia—the Conservatives are the only political party in the UK to have taken so long—reflects their indifference to the fear, discrimination and hatred that thousands of Muslims experience. Why has it taken so long?

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** We do not agree with the all-party group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia; we believe the most appropriate term is "anti-Muslim hatred". Let me explain why. In this country, there is freedom of religion, and also freedom to criticise a religion. What someone cannot do is discriminate against or show hatred to me because of my religion. ...

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op):** A senior Conservative who went on to become Prime Minister said that Muslim women "look like letter boxes". A Conservative candidate for London Mayor said that she wants to defeat her Muslim opponent to make things safer "for our Jewish community". A former Conservative deputy chairman said that Islamists have "got control" of the Mayor of London. Are those incidents of anti-Muslim hatred the kind of incidents that the Minister just said will not be tolerated?

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** We have made it very clear that a number of these comments we just do not accept—we think they are wrong—but before the hon. Lady throws abuse at Conservative Members, she should take a look at what is happening on the Labour Benches. Hers is the only party that has been sanctioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission for institutional racism. Her party

has now given the Whip back to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough (Andy McDonald), even though the Labour party said that his comments were deeply offensive. The right hon. Member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington (Ms Abbott) has also had the Whip suspended because of antisemitism.

**Anneliese Dodds:** It is important that we do not trade abuse about these very serious issues. ... A definition was promised, and an adviser was appointed to develop one five years ago ... but today there is still no definition. There is no adviser now, no active anti-Muslim hate crime working group, no hate crime strategy, and minimal action on tackling online hate. When are the Government going to wake up to this problem?

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** As I said, this Government are completely committed to supporting our Muslim communities. We have said that we will appoint an independent adviser. We have made more money available to protect mosques and Muslim faith schools. I am visiting my local mosque, al-Manaar, this afternoon/early evening to attend an Iftar. If one looks at the composition of the Conservative Front Bench and at how diverse the people there are, one can see clearly that our party is committed to diversity and equality.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-03-20/debates/8B7B3A0D-8BE2-4CB8-BA3E-B5AF2A062611/IslamophobiaDefinition>

*Information about the All Party Group definition referred to above can be read at*

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Universities: Antisemitism and Islamophobia

**Stephen Morgan (Labour) [18580]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to help reduce cases of (a) anti-Semitism and (b) Islamophobia on university campuses.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** This government condemns in the strongest possible terms any form of racial or religiously motivated harassment or violence. In the context of the conflict in the Middle East, there have been unprecedented rises in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents, which are abhorrent on every level. Universities should be welcoming and inclusive environments and higher education (HE) providers have a responsibility to take a zero tolerance approach to any form of racial or religious harassment. They have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to adopt robust policies and procedures that enable them to investigate and swiftly address reports of racism.

The Community Security Trust has reported an unprecedented rise in antisemitic incidents, which is totally unacceptable.

To support Jewish students, the Secretary of State for Education and I wrote to all universities on 11 October 2023, urging them to respond swiftly to hate-related incidents and actively reassure Jewish students that they can study without fear of harassment or intimidation. I wrote again to Vice Chancellors on 16 November 2023, emphasising that they must use disciplinary measures wherever appropriate, highlighting the importance of police engagement, and reiterating that student visas could be suspended where a foreign national is found to have committed or incited acts of racial hatred. This was one of the key actions set out in the five-point plan for tackling antisemitism in HE, which was published on 5 November 2023. The plan also involves:

- Calling for visas to be withdrawn from international students who incite racial hatred. Visas are a privilege, not a right, and the government will not hesitate

- to remove them from people who abuse them.
- Logging specific cases and sharing them with the Office for Students for their consideration.
- Continuing to make it clear in all discussions that acts that may be criminal should be referred to the police.
- Establishing a Tackling Antisemitism Quality Seal which will be an award available to universities who can demonstrate the highest standards in tackling antisemitism.

On 22 November 2023, the government announced in the Autumn Statement an additional £7 million over three years to tackle antisemitism in education. The Quality Seal will be the cornerstone of this package for universities, providing a framework of measures that will make clear what good practice is in tackling antisemitism in HE, and making sure that universities are a safe and welcoming space for Jewish students and staff, as for all students and staff.

Anti-Muslim hatred is equally abhorrent and has no place in our society. No one should ever be a victim of hatred because of their religion or belief and the government is continuing to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat it. This government is proud to have funded Tell MAMA, a service that supports victims of anti-Muslim hatred, with over £6 million since their inception in 2012. Tell MAMA's work has been recognised internationally as a good practice model in recording and monitoring anti-Muslim hate. The organisation has documented 2,010 Islamophobic incidents in the UK between 7 October 2023 and 7 February 2024. This represents a steep rise from the 600 it recorded for the same period the year previously. The government will not tolerate religious hatred towards Muslims and that is why the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities put in place an extra £4.9 million of protective security funding for Muslim mosques, faith schools and communities.

The new Protective Security for Mosques Scheme provides physical protective security measures (such as CCTV, intruder alarms and secure perimeter fencing) in both mosques and associated Muslim faith community centres. Protective security measures are also available to Muslim faith schools. Headteachers of eligible schools were contacted directly by the Home Office in January 2023 to register their interest.

Lastly, as my right hon. Friend, Minister Buchan stated on 4 March 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities plan to appoint a new independent adviser on anti-Muslim hatred, and it will update the house shortly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-13/18580>

*The CST report referred to above can be read at*

[https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic\\_Incidents\\_Report\\_2023.pdf](https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic_Incidents_Report_2023.pdf)

*The 11 October letter referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/GillianKeegan/status/1712461243267829960>

*The 16 November letter referred to above is not available online.*

*The five-point plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/05/how-were-protecting-jewish-students-on-university-campuses/>

*The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

*The Tell Mama report referred to above can be read at*

<https://tellmamauk.org/greatest-rise-in-reported-anti-muslim-hate-cases-to-tell-mama-since-oct-7th/>

Information about the protective security funding for Muslim mosques, faith schools and communities, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-more-funding-to-protect-uk-muslims>

Information about the Protective Security for Mosques Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Minister Buchan's statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-03-04/debates/25338D67-1AE6-4DDA-99CE-1D08B53EF20D/Islamophobia#contribution-2272FAED-A4E8-4583-92AA-1909B7FA88A1>

### Higher Education: Antisemitism

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [17860] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle anti-Semitism in higher education institutions in the South East.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** Antisemitism, intimidation, and threats of violence must never be tolerated on university campuses. The Community Security Trust 2023 annual report highlights the unprecedented increase in antisemitic incidents in higher education (HE). This unacceptable rise is deeply concerning. All antisemitism is abhorrent, and universities should have robust systems to deal with incidents of support for unlawful antisemitic abuse and harassment. The department will not tolerate unlawful harassment or the glorification of terrorism. Ever since the October 7 attacks, the department has actively intervened to ensure that universities, including those located in the South East, act swiftly and appropriately to deal with incidents of antisemitism. I have reached out to many Vice Chancellors personally when a concern has been raised about antisemitism on their campus.

Furthermore, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, and I wrote to all universities on 11 October 2023, urging them to respond swiftly to hate-related incidents and to actively reassure Jewish students that they can study without fear of harassment or intimidation. I wrote again to Vice Chancellors on 16 November 2023, emphasising that they must use disciplinary measures wherever appropriate, highlighting the importance of police engagement, and reiterating that student visas could be suspended where a foreign national is found to have committed or incited acts of racial hatred. This was one of the key actions set out in the five point plan for tackling antisemitism in HE, which was published on 5 November 2023. The plan also involves:

- Calling for visas to be withdrawn from international students who incite racial hatred. Visas are a privilege, not a right, and the government won't hesitate to remove them from people who abuse them.
- Logging specific cases and sharing them with the Office for Students for their consideration.
- Continuing to make it clear in all discussions that acts that may be criminal should be referred to the police.
- Establishing a Tackling Antisemitism Quality Seal, which will be an award available to universities who can demonstrate the highest standards in tackling antisemitism.

On 22 November, the government announced in the Autumn Statement an additional £7 million over three years to tackle antisemitism in education. The Quality Seal will be the cornerstone of this package for universities, providing a framework of measures that will make clear what good practice is in tackling antisemitism in HE, and making sure that our universities are a safe and welcoming space for Jewish students and staff, as for all students and staff.

The department will not hesitate to take further action across education to stamp

out antisemitism and harassment of Jewish pupils, students and staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-11/17860>

The CST report referred to above can be read at

[https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic Incidents Report 2023.pdf](https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic%20Incidents%20Report%202023.pdf)

The 11 October letter referred to above can be read at

<https://twitter.com/GillianKeegan/status/1712461243267829960>

The 16 November letter referred to above is not available online.

The five-point plan referred to above can be read at

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/05/how-were-protecting-jewish-students-on-university-campuses/>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

### **Castes**

**Bob Blackman (Conservative) [902137]** To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to exclude caste as a protected characteristic from the Equality Act 2010.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** The government's position remains as stated by the then Minister for Women and Equalities, the member for Portsmouth North, in her statement to Parliament on 23 July 2018.

We do not intend to make an order determining caste to be an aspect of 'race' for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

We will repeal the statutory duty to make such an order once a suitable legislative vehicle becomes available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-14/902137>

## **Press Releases**

### **Police Scotland: Hate crime training**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2024/march/hate-crime-training/>

### **On International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Türk calls for a future without hate**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/03/international-day-elimination-racial-discrimination-turk-calls>

### **All States must push forward in the fight against racial discrimination: UN experts**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2024/03/all-states-must-push-forward-fight-against-racial-discrimination-un-experts>

### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union**

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/20/international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union>



## **CERD-ECRI joint statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/cerd-ecri-joint-statement-on-the-occasion-of-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination>

## **New Publication**

### **Racism and Discrimination against Black Persons / People of African Descent : European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance Factsheet**

<https://rm.coe.int/ecri-factsheet-anti-black-racism-19032024-eng/1680aef79b>

## **News**

### **FM rejects claims of hate crime law 'shambles'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-68624949>

### **'Huge numbers' could be criminalised under new hate crime law, says Douglas Ross**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/huge-numbers-could-be-criminalised-under-new-hate-crime-law-says-douglas-ross-4563978>

### **Scotland's Hate Crime Act: Spurious complaints to hard-pressed police could see real criminals escape justice – Murdo Fraser**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-hate-crime-act-spurious-complaints-to-hard-pressed-police-could-see-real-criminals-escape-justice-murdo-fraser-4560468>

### **Police officers could face sanctions for challenging hate crime complaints, senior figure warns**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/police-officers-could-face-sanctions-for-challenging-hate-crime-complaints-senior-figure-warns-4566244>

### **Police Scotland hate crime training leaked**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24194006.police-scotland-hate-crime-training-leaked/>

### **Hate crimes: police will not 'target performers'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-68605029>

### **Why Scotland's new hate crime law doesn't criminalise offensive speech**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24199465.scotlands-new-hate-crime-law-doesnt-criminalise-offensive-speech/>

### **Hate Crime Act might yet be a success if we focus on what it means**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/24198760.hate-crime-act-might-yet-success-focus-means/>

### **Humza Yousaf criticises 'disinformation' over new Scottish hate crime law**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/mar/21/humza-yousaf-criticises-disinformation-over-new-scottish-hate-law>

**Disinformation being spread about Hate Crime Act, First Minister claims**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/humza-yousaf-first-minister-douglas-ross-snp-police-scotland-b2516384.html>

**SNP's new hate crime law is doomed to failure**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/03/21/alan-cochrane-snp-hate-crime-law-jkrowling-scotland/>

**Hate crime laws heaping global humiliation on Scotland**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/03/22/hate-crime-laws-heaping-global-humiliation-on-scotland/>

**Hate crime law a threat to freedom of speech**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/val-mcdermid-hate-crime-law-a-threat-to-freedom-of-speech-xmfvj8x8l>

**We must eradicate the culture of racism and sexual harassment in the ambulance service**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/nhs-ambulance-service-paramedics-racism-sexual-b2514520.html>

**What does fighting racism in the workplace look like in 2024?**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/what-does-fighting-racism-workplace-looks-2024>

**Jewish students in Glasgow claim antisemitism is on the rise following the situation in Gaza**

<https://thetab.com/uk/glasgow/2024/03/19/jewish-students-in-glasgow-claim-antisemitism-is-on-the-rise-following-the-situation-in-gaza-30690>

**Universities minister fears 'ghettoisation' of Jewish students on UK campuses**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/robert-halfon-jewish-universities-minister-mps-government-b2515053.html>

**Children's hospital investigating claims 9 year-old boy treated poorly by staff 'because he is Jewish'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/hospital-antisemitism-royal-manchester-childrens-b2516684.html>

**London is the most antisemitic city in the West, says Israeli minister**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/london-is-the-most-antisemitic-city-in-the-west-says-israeli-minister-v5qjrf8bg>

**Police investigate 'antisemitic hate crime' after Hackney house fire**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hackney-house-fire-antisemitic-hate-crime-police-investigation-kkbwgn33>

**London house set on fire in possible antisemitic hate crime as four injured**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/antisemitism-met-police-hate-crime-arson-b2516724.html>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

#### First Minister's Nowruz message

<https://twitter.com/HumzaYousaf/status/1770400027313070151>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### War Memorials: Muslims

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL3106]** To ask His Majesty's Government why the National Muslim War Memorial will not be situated in Westminster.

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** On 6 March the Chancellor announced funding of up to £1million for a new war memorial to recognise the sacrifice and duty of Muslim soldiers who fought and died for this country in both world wars. It will be a visible reminder of the important contributions of Muslims to British history, and will promote shared values amongst people of all backgrounds through building a better understanding of faith groups' contribution to wider society. Further information will be provided in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-07/hl3106>

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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/>

## Publication

**UK Parliament House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

## News

**Cost of living crisis is ending and everyone has cheered up, says Tory MP**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/cost-of-living-crisis-inflation-conservatives-andrea-leadsom-b2516294.html>

**Annual poverty figures show Government failed to protect most vulnerable from cost of living crisis**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/news/annual-poverty-figures-show-government-failed-to-protect-most-vulnerable-from-cost-of-living>

**Number of children in poverty hits 20-year high, damning figures show**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-poverty-dwp-household-income-b2516286.html>

**Poverty's toll on the nation's health a "mounting catastrophe" in need of political attention**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/news/povertys-toll-on-the-nations-health-a-mounting-catastrophe-in-need-of-political-attention>

**You've heard stories of poverty in Britain. Now here's the irrefutable evidence of a society failing its poorest**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/21/poverty-britain-society-failing-poorest-people>

**Neglected, derided and exploited more than ever: why won't the UK protect those who rent a home?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/24/uk-rent-homes-housing-demand-supply-politicians>

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

### Scottish Parliament

**Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

**Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

### UK Parliament

**Asylum Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3530>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3627>

## **The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

## **Family Visas (Minimum Income) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3684>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3618/stages>

## **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3649>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3660>

## **\*\* Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3540>

Ping-Pong: House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-03-18/debates/CBCCA842-22CA-43F6-AE27-B635BD8D7264/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-03-18/debates/CBCCA842-22CA-43F6-AE27-B635BD8D7264/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Amendments Paper

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0182/amend/rwanda\\_day\\_ccla\\_0318.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0182/amend/rwanda_day_ccla_0318.pdf)

House of Commons Reasons on House of Lords amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/54725/documents/4590>

Ping-Pong: House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-20/debates/7339F8CE-686A-4DFC-BE9A-49D719AE2053/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-20/debates/7339F8CE-686A-4DFC-BE9A-49D719AE2053/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Lords Non-Insistence, Amendments in Lieu, Insistence and Reason

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-04/0193/220193.pdf>

## **Scottish Law Officers (Devolution) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3665>

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

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

## **Workforce Information (Ethnicity) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3522>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Your Police 2023-2024** (closing date 31 March 2024)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

**Ending conversion practices in Scotland** (closing date 2 April 2024)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-conversion-practices-scotland-scottish-government-consultation/>

**Disclosure Scotland fees: discounting, waivers and accredited bodies**

(closing date 28 May 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/disclosure-scotland/fees-discounting-waivers-and-accredited-bodies/>

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

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

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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

**Ethnic Minority Development Fund**

*Closing date: 15 April 2024*

National Lottery Community Fund grants from £500 to £15,000 for projects run by ethnic minority-led third-sector organisations in Scotland that bring ethnic minority people together and build strong relationships across communities, help more ethnic minority people to be the best they can be, by supporting them as soon as possible, or improve places and spaces that matter to ethnic minority communities. For information see

<https://cemvoscotland.org.uk/emdf/>

**Faithful Welcome**

*Application deadline not stated*

Faith in Community Scotland, and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees funding of up to £500 to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5kr6n>

**Cost-of-Living Support Scotland**

*Closing date: 21 August 2024*

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

and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

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

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **PANEL Workshop: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach in Practice**

25 March 2024 (online, 1.00–4.00)

THRE course about to find out about the PANEL principles, and how they can help you apply a human rights and equalities first approach. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/2srdmx62>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Transformative Responses to Hatred Based on Religion or Belief**

27 March 2024 (online, 6.00–7.30)

Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief talk by Dr Nazila Ghanea, United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Dr Ghanea, Professor of International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford, has contributed actively to networks interested in freedom of religion or belief and its interrelationship with other human rights and has advised states and other stakeholders. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/bde59xc6>

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

13 May 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course also explores the journeys and barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers reaching and building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see

<https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

15 May 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to find out about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves for an economy in recession and cost of living spiralling. For information see

<https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **No Recourse To Public Funds**

22 May 2024 (Glasgow (10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

**New Scots** <https://newscots.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**  
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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