



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The UK Parliament has been dissolved. This means that there will be no parliamentary business at Westminster until after the General Election. There will be no debates, parliamentary questions, etc, and almost all Bills that have not been passed have 'fallen', i.e. they will not become laws.

**The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is
Tuesday 18 June.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts: Asylum Accommodation and UK-Rwanda partnership

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/45116/documents/223695/default/>

Physical and mental health support available for people seeking asylum

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/663c874b1834d96a0aa6d2f0/Signposting_Document_V1.3_for_People_Seeking_Asylum_Home_Office_Asylum_Seeker_Mental_Health_and_Wellbeing_Team_.pdf

Understanding Migrant Destitution in the UK

<https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/UMDUK-Research-Findings-2024.pdf>

Letter from Tom Pursglove MP to colleagues regarding legal migration and the response to the Migration Advisory Committee review

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2024-0537/Dear_Colleague_Letter-Legal_Migration.pdf

Letter from Tom Pursglove MP to Diana Johnson MP regarding an update on the changes being made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2024-0533/M_Pursglove_to_HASC_Chair-Reforms_EU_Settlement_Scheme.pdf

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: April 2024

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/665741c616cf36f4d63ebbc5/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-tables-april-2024.ods>

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

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

Updated: Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rishi Sunak's Rwanda flights plan is not credible, damning report by MPs finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rishi-sunak-rwanda-flights-policy-mps-report-b2553123.html>

Home Office 'has no credible plan to make Rwanda scheme work'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/29/home-office-has-no-credible-plan-on-rwanda-scheme-say-mps/>

News: Channel Migrants

Record 10,170 people arrive in UK via small-boat Channel crossings this year

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/may/25/record-10170-people-arrive-in-uk-via-small-boat-channel-crossings-this-year>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Starmer promises cut to net migration under Labour

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn331vd99lzo>

Keir Starmer pledges to slash 'sky high' migration numbers under a Labour government

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/keir-starmer-slash-migration-labour-government-b2555190.html>

Unemployed Britons to do migrant jobs under Labour plans

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/06/01/unemployed-britons-migrant-jobs-labour-plans/>

Record migration brings male-only sectarian politics to Britain, Farage warns

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/28/record-migration-brings-male-only-sectarian-politics-to-uk/>

James Cleverly suggests asylum seekers are lying about being suicidal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jun/01/james-cleverly-suggests-asylum-seekers-are-lying-about-being-suicidal>

Hearing asylum seeker stories at Dungavel made ministers 'cry'

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/hearing-asylum-seeker-stories-at-dungavel-made-ministers-cry>

Limitations on right to private life of unlawful immigrant

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/limitations-on-right-to-private-life-of-unlawful-immigrant-9krxl5tmx>

'Why are you going back, after all we did to get out?': returning to the Kenyan refugee camp that shaped my childhood

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/article/2024/jun/01/why-are-you-going-back-after-all-we-did-to-get-out-returning-to-the-kenyan-refugee-camp-that-shaped-my-childhood>

UN refugee chief says 114 million have fled homes because nations fail to tackle causes of conflict

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-gaza-ukraine-moscow-myanmar-b2554321html>

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Equality

New Publication

Access Report: Investigating Access to Finance for Ethnic Minority Social Entrepreneurs in Scotland

<https://www.firstport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ACCESS-Report-Full-Version-Final.pdf>

News

New report lifts the lid on the challenges faced by ethnic minority social entrepreneurs seeking investment

<https://www.edinburghchamber.co.uk/new-report-lifts-the-lid-on-the-challenges-faced-by-ethnic-minority-social-entrepreneurs-seeking-investment/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publication

#ContestingIslamophobia: Representation and Appropriation in Mediated Activism

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/research/ourresearch/humanities/mediacultureandcreativepractice/contestingislamophobia/contesting-islamophobia-online-2024-1.pdf>

News

Abbott Labour race row probe finished in December

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8vv4ep92y8o>

UK's first Black female lawmaker 'free' to stand for Labour at election after row over her future

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/diane-abbott-ap-labour-london-jeremy-corbyn-b2554586.html>

Government minister says some British Muslims do not support UK values

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/muslims-british-annemarie-trevelyan-conservative-nigel-farage-b2551998.html>

Ex-Labour candidate Faiza Shaheen says she faced 'racism, Islamophobia and bullying' from inside party

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/faiza-shaheen-labour-starmer-general-election-b2554143.html>

Blocked Labour candidate accuses party of 'racism, Islamophobia and bullying'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/30/faiza-shaheen-labour-mp-general-election-left-keir-starmer/>

Tommy Robinson marchers lead Anti-Muslim chant in London demo

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/tommy-robinsonparliament-protest-b2554975.html>

UK justice is racist, father says after killer's sentence is reduced

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/uk-justice-racist-father-jamie-barrow-sentence-reduced-f8l3c8rl2>

Oxford student quits college council over 'tide of antisemitism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxford-student-quits-college-council-over-antisemitism-problem-55g6bdfkr>

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General Election

**The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is
Tuesday 18 June.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Photo ID

When you go to the polling station on 4 July to vote, you must bring photo ID such as a passport or driving licence. For more information, and to read the full list of acceptable forms of ID see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>

If you don't have any photo ID

If you don't have any photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate to use instead. The deadline for applications for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on 26 June 2024. For more information see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>

and to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate complete the online form at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

If you will be away from home on election day, or can't get to the polling station

If you aren't able to vote in person, either because you will be away from home on election day or else because you can't get to the polling station, you can vote by post or by proxy.

To vote by post

The deadline for applications for a postal vote is 5pm on 19 June 2024. To apply for a postal vote, complete the online form at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

To vote by proxy

If you know that you won't be able to get to the polling station on polling day, you can ask someone you trust to cast your vote on your behalf. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy.

The deadline for applications for a proxy vote is 5pm on 26 June 2024 (but in an emergency, you can apply for a proxy vote even on the day of the election.) To apply for a proxy vote, complete the online form at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>

For information about applying for an emergency proxy vote see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/emergency-proxy-vote>

Political Parties

The main political parties contesting the general election are:

- **Scottish Conservatives**
<https://www.scottishconservatives.com/>
- **UK Conservatives**
<https://www.conservatives.com/>
- **Scottish Labour**
<https://scottishlabour.org.uk/>
- **UK Labour**
<https://labour.org.uk/>
- **Scottish National Party**
<https://www.snp.org/>
- **Scottish Liberal Democrats**
<https://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/>
- **UK Liberal Democrats**
<https://www.libdems.org.uk/>
- **Scottish Greens**
<https://greens.scot/>
- **UK Green Party**
<https://greenparty.org.uk/>
- **Reform UK**
<https://www.reformparty.uk/>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: General Election 2024 – Dissolution

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2024/05/30/general-election-2024-dissolution/>

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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

House of Commons Library Briefing: Food Banks in the UK

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8585/CBP-8585.pdf>

News

Politicians must urgently address “relentless reality” of hardship as 7 million households continue to go without essentials

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/news/politicians-must-urgently-address-relentless-reality-of-hardship-as-7-million-households>

How the cashless society is hurting the poorest

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crggzr10g12o>

When fresh isn't best: as cost of living bites, frozen and canned fruit and veg can bolster your two and five

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/28/cost-of-living-fresh-produce-frozen-canned-fruit-and-vegetables>

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Other News

The world is getting its first Sikh court in London. That's a threat to women's rights
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/31/the-world-is-getting-its-first-sikh-court-in-london-but-this-is-why-we-need-to-pay-close-attention-to-it>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

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>

The 2023-24 session of Parliament has prorogued and Parliament was dissolved on 30 May ahead of the general election; and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

**** Immigration and Asylum Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3727>

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The dissolution of Parliament took place on Thursday 30 May 2024. All business in the House of Commons and House of Lords has come to an end and this bill will make no further progress.

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

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

The 2023-24 session of Parliament has prorogued and Parliament was dissolved on 30 May ahead of the general election; and this bill will make no further progress.

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Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

Review of Charity Regulation (closing date 22 July 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/third-sector/review-of-charity-regulation/>

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

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

**** Cyber Security Survey** (closing date not stated)

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/680a646c-5811-47f4-8958-588f1c794eca>

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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

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

New Scots Portraits

11-29 June 2024 (Glasgow, 9.00–5.00)

With New Scots putting down roots in communities across the country, this uplifting collection of portraits by Angela Catlin shows the resilience, pride and hope of people building new lives, from the Isle of Lewis to the Scottish Borders. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/243y2x3j>

Refugee Festival Scotland

14-23 June 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland is an arts and community festival which takes place every year in the lead up to World Refugee Day, on 20 June. Each event helps to shine a light on the cultural richness and diversity of our communities. It is a celebration of the food and drink, music and poetry, art, dance, language and ideas that people bring with them when they settle in Scotland. For the full programme of events see

<https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/>

Beyond the Words

14 June 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–7.30)

Documentary filmmaker Maryam Haddadi will be screening and discussing a video art piece commissioned by Refugee Festival Scotland. *Beyond the Words* explores Iranian women's individual mental health and collective identity. It seeks to uncover the world that exists behind simple words, words shared by women in conversations as well as words found in the media. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Ling Lee. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4xew8ckx>

Strong together

15 June 2024 (Motherwell, 2.00–5.00)

This Refugee Festival Scotland event will bring the local community and Refugees together sharing experience of their past and present life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ypyv5zv6>

Refugee Festival at V&A

16-22 June 2024 (Dundee, 10.00–5.00)

Immerse yourself in a celebration of diversity at V&A Dundee during the Scottish Refugee Festival, where you will be able to experience an enriching blend of cultures, traditions and diverse ways of life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msyn9cxf>

Building Peace Together

17–23 June 2024 (Dalgety, 9.30–3.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland photography exhibition from Ukraine, taken by the church's Ukrainian Group, walk the Peace Labyrinth, and light a candle. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4uzske5f>

Garnethill Refugee Trail: Guided Walk

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre guided walk for Refugee Festival Scotland to explore some of the places around the Garnethill area which are connected with Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe – from the flats in which refugee artists lived, to the hostels where children from the Kindertransport stayed. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4nnpfsnc>

Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 5.30–9.00)

A Refugee Festival Scotland evening of short films about children who migrated to Britain from El Salvador, linked with readings by people with lived experience of child migration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8n44jtb>

Surviving Translation

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland documentary screening and panel discussion with contributors and director. This documentary is looking at mistranslation of female immigrants and irreversible consequences that it can have. It focuses on women who have lived through traumatic experiences in their home countries or during their difficult journeys to the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yck2n5mw>

Through my eyes: the person behind my 'status'

19 June 2024 (Glasgow, 11.00–3.00)

Meet the people behind the mask of 'other' that has been placed upon us. Refugee Festival Scotland collection of artwork – photography, textiles and spray painting – that translates our experiences, perspectives and dreams, along with our stories in order to introduce ourselves and give you a glimpse into our lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/45m4yhuf>

Introduction to refugees: asylum and resettlement

18 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand relevant legal definitions and processes including the UK asylum process, learn about the rights and entitlements of asylum seekers and refugees, and identify sources of support that empower people to live fully integrated lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/sbmevc64>

Introduction to working with interpreters

31 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable you to understand the roles and responsibilities of interpreters and service providers, understand the rights of the client – confidentiality, professional boundaries, advocacy and advice, know what to consider when planning for an interpreted session, and feel confident to manage the interpreting dynamic as a service provider. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxbdyc5>

Introduction to supporting refugee integration

10 September 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand the key principles of a rights-based refugee-led approach to integration, the underpinning principles of the Scottish integration framework and effective integration planning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9p9jdx>

Scottish Interfaith Week

11 to 18 November 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Celebrating 20 years of Scottish Interfaith Week, and encouraging people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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*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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