



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](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 1 September 2024.**

**The new UK Parliament will meet for the first time on 9 July, and the State Opening of Parliament will take place on 17 July.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### New Publications

**New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy: Delivery Plan 2024-2026**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

**New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2024: Engagement Analysis Report**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2024-engagement-analysis-report/>

## **New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project: Funded Projects Analysis**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-delivery-project-funded-projects-analysis/>

## **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**

### **Last two migrants bound for Rwanda to be bailed, home secretary says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c880y4yz8yvo>

### **Keir Starmer says Rwanda 'gimmick' is dead and buried**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/24435674.keir-starmer-says-rwanda-gimmick-dead-buried/>

### **Rwanda scheme is 'dead and buried', says Starmer**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/06/rwanda-policy-dead-buried-starmer-pm-press-conference/>

### **What the Labour victory means for Sunak's Rwanda asylum plan**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-migrants-uk-labour-vote-b2574427.html>

### **Cheaper to put asylum seekers up in Ritz than Rwanda plan, Labour says**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/labour-general-election-rwanda-manifesto-b2571768.html>

## **News: Channel Migrants**

### **'Open season' for small boats after Rwanda killed, warns former immigration chief**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/06/general-election-live-starmer-cabinet/>

### **Migrants vow to cross from France 'as soon as possible' after Labour victory**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/05/migrants-set-to-make-crossing-soon-possible-labour/>

### **Labour's immigration policies won't stop boat crossings, experts warn**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/labour-immigration-policies-migrant-channel-boats-crossings-thfcrt6nx>

## News: Afghanistan

**Afghan families face ‘despair, fear and desperation’ as they are split by resettlement schemes**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghan-refugees-migrants-channel-home-b2573921.html>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Asylum hotels will cost households £635 a year under Labour, claims Cleverly**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/06/30/asylum-hotels-cost-635-a-year-under-labour-claims-cleverly/>

**Ambulance called to Essex asylum site 38 times this year as charities warn of increased suicide attempts**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wethersfield-essex-asylum-site-migrants-ambulance-b2573141.html>

**Woman ‘wanted to stop asylum seekers suffering more trauma on Bibby Stockholm’**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-peckham-london-lewisham-dorset-b2572051.html>

**Lesbian Albanian asylum seeker loses six-year fight to stay in UK**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/04/lesbian-albanian-asylum-seeker-loses-six-year-fight-to-stay/>

**Time for change: welcoming a new approach to refugee protection in the UK**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/time-for-change-welcoming-a-new-approach-to-refugee-protection-in-the-uk-2/>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Community Assets: Access

**Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-28369]** To ask the Scottish Government how it is working to (a) ensure equal access to community assets for and (b) address the current lack of access faced by organisations serving black and minority ethnic and migrant communities, in light of the important role that a stable venue can play in enabling such groups to effectively provide services.

**Reply from Ivan McKee:** The Scottish Government introduced asset transfer legislation as part of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. This landmark policy is the first of its kind in the UK and since its enactment on 23 January 2017 there has been more than 225 successful asset transfers agreed using these powers.

We are committed to ensuring that all our communities can access community assets, and are working with our partners to make sure our most vulnerable communities can access the assets they require to deliver important services and develop their own economies, wellbeing, and environments.

Our work with the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) and the Barmulloch Community Development Company in Glasgow established a central hub which has supported 11 marginalised groups engage with the asset transfer process including the Bangla Centre, Spingburn, who were able to progress their asset transfer ambitions by accessing this targeted support.

As part of the current review of the Community Empowerment Act we have asked our partners and their networks to help us better understand the experiences of those involved in taking on community assets, including seeking the views of underrepresented groups.

We maintain a vision for a Scotland where all people – including black and minority ethnic communities, and migrants – have equal access to wealth, opportunities, and power.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28369>

*The Community Empowerment Act, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/contents>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News

**‘Exodus’: One in seven young Black and Asian Britons ‘plan to quit UK’ over government failings and racism**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/exodus-young-ethnic-minority-britons-planning-to-quit-uk-over-money-worries-and-racism-b2570104.html>

**Christian social worker refused job due to views says he will appeal judgment**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/felix-ngole-christian-sheffield-university-leeds-court-of-appeal-b2571961.html>

**Tory candidate’s office daubed with anti-Semitic graffiti**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/01/tory-candidate-office-daubed-anti-semitic-graffiti/>

**Stained glass window with anti-racism message on display at train station**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/stained-glass-window-with-anti-racism-message-on-display-at-train-station>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**Holyrood Committee back Bill which aims to reform police complaints system but have concerns that changes don’t go far enough**

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/holyrood-committee-back-bill-reforming-police-complaint-system-but-have-concerns>

## **General Election and New UK Government**

### **General Election Results**

**Scotland Election 2024 Results**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/election/2024/uk/regions/S92000003>

**UK General election 2024 Results**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/election/2024/uk/results>

**General election 2024 in maps and charts**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4nglegege1o>

**Scotland's general election explained in numbers**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cpv3ydex017o>

### **Incoming and Outgoing Prime Ministers' Speeches**

**Keir Starmer's first speech as Prime Minister: 5 July 2024**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/keir-starmer's-first-speech-as-prime-minister-5-july-2024>

**Prime Minister's remarks at Downing Street: 6 July 2024**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-remarks-at-downing-street-6-july-2024>

**Rishi Sunak's final speech as Prime Minister: 5 July 2024**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/rishi-sunak's-final-speech-as-prime-minister-5-july-2024>

### **UK Government Ministers**

Prime Minister	Keir Starmer
Deputy Prime Minister	Angela Rayner
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Rachel Reeves
Home Secretary	Yvette Cooper
Foreign Secretary	David Lammy
Justice Secretary	Shabana Mahmood
Defence Secretary	John Healey
Health Secretary	Wes Streeting

Education Secretary	Bridget Phillipson
Work and Pensions Secretary	Liz Kendall
Energy Secretary	Ed Miliband
Business and Trade Secretary	Jonathan Reynolds
Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary	Peter Kyle
Transport Secretary	Louise Haigh
Environment Secretary	Steve Reed
Culture Secretary	Lisa Nandy
Secretary of State for Scotland	Ian Murray
Secretary of State for Wales	Jo Stevens
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Hilary Benn
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	Pat McFadden
Leader of the House of Commons	Lucy Powell
Leader of the House of Lords	Baroness Smith of Basildon
Chief Whip	Alan Campbell
Chief Secretary to the Treasury	Darren Jones
Attorney General	Richard Hermer

## News

### **Labour's Keir Starmer to become UK prime minister**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crge8g9qxj3o>

### **'We did it! Change begins now' - Starmer's victory speech**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/czrj3zd0g48o>

### **Sunak accepts responsibility for historic Tory defeat**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd1xnzlzz99o>

### **Sunak - 'I take responsibility for the loss'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cye0pznxj4lo>

### **Who's in Keir Starmer's new cabinet?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0veg88g7jyo>

### **New cabinet meets as Starmer government gets to work**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj50gevvqvno>

### **Starmer to make first visit to Scotland as prime minister**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c87rk4dzv0do>

### **Scottish Labour leader hails 'historic day' after dramatic wins**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw0yjyl2kn9o>

**Scottish Tory leader Douglas Ross loses election bid**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cervgxm9djmo>

**Davey hails 'record-breaking' night for Lib Dems**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c51y2z7jdz9o>

**Greens celebrate as party wins record four seats**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjr48kpjpk9o>

**Farage elected MP for first time as Reform wins four seats**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3gw83w8xq9o>

**Sinn Féin becomes NI's largest Westminster party**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8978z7z8w4o>

**'Very poor result' for SNP as Labour make gains**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw4yxzz43m4o>

**We should be wary about the growth of sectarian politics**

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/we-should-be-wary-about-the-growth-of-sectarian-politics-qfjcq7hdv>

**Pro-Gaza candidates squeeze Labour vote in Muslim areas**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c9e9yjdj215yo>

**Are deep shifts in Muslim and Jewish voting here to stay?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3g37mk7vxlo>

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## **Other News**

**Four ways to improve your charity's annual report and accounts**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/four-ways-to-improve-your-charity-s-annual-report-and-accounts/>

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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>

Criminal Justice Committee Press Release

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/holyrood-committee-back-bill-reforming-police-complaint-system-but-have-concerns>

Criminal Justice Committee Stage 1 Report

<https://bprcdn.parliament.scot/published/%20CJ/2024/7/2/7308cd47-651b-4f35-9664-59c993916b99/CJS062024R07.pdf>

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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/>

**Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 16 August 2024)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/)

**Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum**

(closing date 16 August 2024)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/)

**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

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

**Islamic Relief UK Programmes**

*Closing date: 8 July 2024*

Islamic Relief funding from £1,000 to £40,000 for projects and initiatives that will help UK residents to alleviate poverty and economic resilience, support refugees and combat challenges faced by women. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/yn77d9r3>



## **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>

## **Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland**

*Closing date 4 September 2024*

The Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland is for organisations taking action to realise and defend rights, and tackling immediate rights issues affecting people's daily lives. It will provide grants of up to £150,000 to third sector organisations whose work is explicitly focussed on human rights. for information and to apply see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/independent-human-rights-fund-for-scotland/>

## **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>

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**\*\* this week!**

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

9 and 10 July 2024 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Tow-day THRE course to explore what human rights and equalities are and why they matter, what a human rights and equalities first approach is and why it is relevant organisations, and how to start a conversation and talk constructively about human rights and equalities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mvh56v7w>

### **Volunteering - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach**

17 July 2024 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course to explore what a human rights and equalities first approach is, how human rights and equalities are relevant to a volunteering programme, and how to apply human rights and equalities to volunteer recruitment practices and the culture of a volunteering programme. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3h5wkbrm>

### **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>

### **Festival of Politics**

19 to 23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh)

The Festival of Politics promises informed debate and inspiring topics on a range of social, political, and environmental issues facing the world today with leading experts from the worlds of politics, the arts, business, the media, academia and the third sector. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/>

### **Place and Displacement: reconnecting to the world through the arts**

20 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 5.30–7.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss how the arts have been used to help reconnect forcibly displaced peoples cope with their new circumstances, process their sense of loss, and begin the journey to imagining a more hopeful future. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46pn52vz>

### **The Scottish Parliament at 25**

23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 4.009–5.30)

Festival of Politics event about the Scottish Parliament – established with optimism, ambition, and an aim to do things differently, and based on principles of accountability and transparency, the Scottish Parliament has passed world-leading legislation and imbued a self-confidence in its electorate since 1999. So, what are its strengths and achievements and where can it do better? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2tr8c3aj>

### **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>

### **Progressing Human Rights**

11 September 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland Conference to explore how can human rights be made more of a reality for more people in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fpzahjy>

### **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/>

### **National Interfaith Conference 2024**

12 November 2024 (Dundee, 11.00–4.00)

To mark the 20th anniversary of Scottish Interfaith Week, Interfaith Scotland is hosting a National Interfaith Conference on the theme of “Discovery”. The conference will encourage

people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/249ac37b>

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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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