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**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 2 September 2024.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Asylum-Seekers: Free Bus Travel

**Mark Ruskell (Green)** [S6W-28335] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-27671 by Jim Fairlie on 4 June 2024, when it plans to roll out the national pilot scheme to provide free bus travel to people seeking asylum, and what plans it has to evaluate the impact of the scheme.

**Reply from Jim Fairlie:** Development of a national pilot scheme to provide travel support for people seeking asylum and not currently eligible for the existing National Concessionary Travel Schemes continues with the Working Group. Further information will be published on the Scottish Government website and provided to third sector organisations as preparations for the pilot to open are made.

The scheme will build on learning from the small local and regional pilots that have

been delivered by third sector organisations over recent years. Expected learning from the scheme includes impact of providing free bus travel, demand for this concession, the cost of providing this concession, and the practicalities of delivery of such a scheme at the national level.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28335>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Immigration and Home Affairs

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-23/debates/C133D2F0-7130-4DE8-BA4D-6E04AD0F5703/ImmigrationAndHomeAffairs>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Border Security and Asylum

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Yvette Cooper):** ... Most people in the United Kingdom want to see strong border security, with a properly controlled and managed asylum system where our country does its bit, alongside others, to help those who have fled persecution, but where rules are properly respected and enforced so that those with no right to be here are swiftly removed. At the moment, we have none of those things. Border security is being undermined by criminal smuggler gangs, and the asylum system is in chaos. Tragically, 19 lives have been lost in the channel so far this year, including children. No one should be making these perilous small boat journeys.

Criminal gangs have been allowed to take hold along our border, and they are making huge profit from undermining our border security and putting lives at risk. ... Crossings in the first half of 2024 are up by 10% on last year—the number is going up, instead of coming down. At the same time, the asylum backlog is getting worse, as decision making in the Home Office has dropped. Home Office spending on asylum support has increased sevenfold in the space of just three years. ...

On our border security, it is clear that the security and enforcement arrangements we have inherited are too weak. Criminal gang networks are operating with impunity along our border, across the continent and beyond, and across the UK too. Action between Britain and France in the channel has improved, and is preventing some boat crossings. ... We should be taking far more action upstream, long before the boats ever reach the French coast. Co-operation with Europol and other European police forces and prosecutors is far too limited, and enforcement against exploitation and trafficking in the UK is far too weak. Information sharing with our European neighbours has reduced, rather than increased. ...

Let me turn to the Rwanda migration and economic development partnership. Two and a half years after the previous Government launched it, I can report that it has already cost the British taxpayer £700 million—in order to send just four volunteers. That includes £290 million on payments to Rwanda and the costs of chartering flights that never took off, detaining hundreds of people and then releasing them, and paying for more than 1,000 civil servants to work on the scheme—for a scheme to send four people. ...

Even if the scheme had ever got going, it is clear that it would have covered only a minority of arrivals, yet a substantial portion of future costs were fixed costs—for example, the annual direct payments to Rwanda, the contracts for escorts, the staffing in the Home Office, the detention and reception centres, and more. The taxpayer would have still had to pay out, no matter how few people were relocated. ...

I turn to the Illegal Migration Act 2023, which has been in place for a year. We were told that it would stop the boats, but it has clearly failed. The legal contradictions in the Act are

so great that they make it unworkable ... It is also costing the taxpayer billions of pounds. Under section 9 of the Act, people who arrive in the UK can claim asylum and get asylum accommodation. However, under section 30, if they arrived after March 2023 and meet key conditions in the Act, no decision can be taken on their case; they just stay in the asylum system. Even if they have come here unlawfully for economic reasons and should be returned to their home country, they will not be, because the law does not work. ...

I have been shocked to discover that the Home Office has effectively stopped making the majority of asylum decisions. Thousands of asylum caseworkers cannot do their proper job. As a result, the backlog of asylum cases is now going up. ...

... let me turn to the action we are urgently taking to restore some grip to the system, to tackle the chaos and to get costs down. First, I have informed the Rwandan Government that we will be ending the migration and economic development partnership. We will save £220 million on further direct payments to Rwanda over the next few years and we will immediately save up to £750 million that had been put aside by the previous Government to cover the MEDP this year.

Secondly, we will invest some of the saved money from the migration partnership into a new border security command instead. It will bring together the work of the Border Force, the National Crime Agency, the small boats operational command and intelligence and security officers. The recruitment has begun for a new commander and we will put in place additional cross-border officers, investigators, prosecutors, and intelligence and security officers with the new counter-terror-style powers against organised immigration crime announced in the King's Speech last week. ...

Thirdly, we will replace the Rwanda migration partnership with a serious returns and enforcement programme. We have immediately replaced the flight planning for Rwanda with actual flights to return people who have no right to stay to their home countries instead. ...

Fourthly, we will end the asylum chaos and start taking asylum decisions again so that we can clear the backlog and end asylum hotels. ...

**James Cleverly (Conservative):** ... today's statement, despite all the hyperbole and the made-up numbers, is basically an admission of what we knew all along, which is that the Labour party has scrapped the Rwanda partnership on ideological grounds, removing a deterrent that the National Crime Agency said we needed.

The level of discourtesy directed towards the people and Government of Rwanda is quite breathtaking. To have them read about this decision in the papers before anyone from the UK Government had the good grace to formally notify them is an error, and no one in this House believes for a moment that this level of discourtesy would have happened had the partnership been with a European country.

Labour has given an effective amnesty to thousands of asylum seekers ...

There is no safe third country to which to return people who cannot be returned home, so where will the right hon. Lady send people who come here from countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Syria? ... If she is not going to send to Rwanda anyone who arrives here on a small boat, to which local authorities will she send them? We were closing hotels when I was in government, so I wonder which local authorities will receive those asylum seekers. If not Rwanda, will it be Rochdale, Romford or Richmond? Most importantly, can the right hon. Lady now confirm that people who arrive here illegally in a small boat will be able to claim asylum? ...

The reality is that everybody knows, including the people smugglers, that the small boat problem is going to get worse ... People are being sold a lie when they are being smuggled into this country, across one of the busiest shipping lanes. We need to stop them. Too many lives have already been lost. Sadly, six more have been lost in the channel in the last few weeks, and our hearts go out to them and their loved ones. We disagree on many things, but we can agree that we need to put an end to this evil trade. ...

**Reply from Yvette Cooper:** ... we have had the highest level of spring crossings

ever. Gangs have been left to wreak havoc, not just along the French coast but across our border, through our country and back through Europe. Asylum support costs are set to rise to £30 billion to £40 billion over the next four years as a result of his and his party's decisions.

As for the idea of deterrence, I am sorry but four volunteers being sent to Rwanda is not a deterrent to anyone for anything at all. ...

He asks if people who arrive illegally can claim asylum—that is exactly what happens under section 9 of that Act. They can all claim asylum, enter the asylum system and be entitled to asylum support. That is what happens in the system, which we have inherited ... The problem is that people enter the asylum system but never leave. ...

**Clive Betts (Labour):** ... Let me ask the Home Secretary about the attraction for people to come here illegally to work in the black economy. If people have suspicions, they have to go to His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, UK Visas and Immigration and the police to get action to deal with those activities. I note that the Home Secretary is looking to try to combine the approach to deal with illegal working in the car washing sector. Will that be a systematic change of approach, and will it be applied to other sectors as well? ...

**Reply from Yvette Cooper:** My hon. Friend is right. We must tackle the illegal working and also the exploitation that can often drive a lot of what happens. That is why we are intensifying the immigration enforcement, which is part of our new, huge expansion to the returns and enforcements unit. ...

**Richard Foord (Liberal Democrat):** In 2018, the number of small boat arrivals stood at 299. In 2023, last year, the number had risen to more than 29,000. What happened in those intervening five years? One thing that happened was the closure of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which was introduced by the coalition Government in 2014 and was designed to select some of the most vulnerable people from refugee camps in Jordan, near Syria. What we have seen since the closure of that scheme is people choosing instead to make for these shores rather than applying in refugee camps. Will the Home Secretary rule out the offshore processing of asylum seekers, or will she consider introducing a scheme similar to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which could incentivise asylum seekers applying for asylum close to the war zones afflicting them?

**Reply from Yvette Cooper:** ... Let me turn to the specific issue of offshore processing. In fact, the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme was a form of offshore processing, just as the Homes for Ukraine scheme was. There are different ways to arrange these things. Our approach is always to look at what works. As long as it meets proper standards in terms of international law, we should be serious about what it is that works in order to tackle the complex problems that we face. ...

**Pete Wishart (SNP):** ... all I am hearing is her being harder on asylum seekers. Enforcement seems to be her priority. When will we hear about the safe and legal routes that asylum seekers access to come to this country, and will she stop the dehumanising and scapegoating language, and pledge to take no quarter from the belligerents behind me?

**Reply from Yvette Cooper:** ... ensuring that the UK always does its bit to help those who have fled persecution is really important. We have done so through different programmes in the past.

We had the Syrian families programme back in 2015, which was important, but we also have to ensure that the system works and has credibility, and that the rules are enforced. Too often at the moment the rules are not enforced, but they need to be, so that everyone can respect the system. Also, too often we have criminal gangs causing havoc, able to undermine border security and making huge profits. It has become a criminal industry along our border, and that is deeply damaging. I

agree that this cannot be about rhetoric; nobody should be ramping up the rhetoric, especially alongside gimmicks that do not work. We have to be serious about this issue and put in place sensible plans that work. ...

**To read this very long statement and Q&A in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-22/debates/FBB2B906-592F-4047-A6E1-59D6DB97573A/BorderSecurityAndAsylum>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Jim Shannon (DUP)** [80] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to tackle the number of small boat crossings.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** Dangerous small boat crossings are undermining our border security and putting lives at risk. The recent tragic incidents in the Channel underscore that danger and show why it is imperative to tackle the criminal gangs responsible for facilitating them.

The new Border Security Command (BSC) has been launched. It will be led by a new Border Security Commander, reporting directly to the Home Secretary, who will provide strategic direction to the National Crime Agency, police, intelligence agencies, Immigration Enforcement, and Border Force to relentlessly pursue and smash the criminal gangs.

Through the new BSC, work is already underway to recruit more investigators, experts and analysts, and new counter-terrorism style powers will equip law enforcement partners to pursue, disrupt and arrest those responsible for this vile trade.

We will continue to work closely with our French counterparts and seek closer cooperation with our European and International partners to prevent further dangerous crossings and reduce risk to life at sea.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/80>

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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op)** [610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people who were (a) called forward and (b) authorised for evacuation during Operation Pitting but were not able to board flights have subsequently been resettled under pathway one of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The UK has made an important commitment to resettle Afghans fleeing persecution and those who served the UK.

Data on the number of Afghans who were called forward and not able to board flights who have been subsequently resettled under ACRS Pathway 1 is not captured in the immigration statistics.

The latest published [Immigration system statistics data tables](#) show that (up to the end of March 2024) around 30,100 people have been brought to safety from Afghanistan and the region.

These statistics also show that:

- So far 9,703 people have been resettled under ACRS Pathway 1.
- A breakdown of the number of people that have been resettled under this



pathway and the other Afghan resettlement routes since the evacuation in August 2021 may be seen in detail in the following table which was published as part of the last immigration statistics release:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-18/610>

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

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Matt Western (Labour) [660]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainian nationals living in the UK under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme will lose any (a) rights and (b) entitlements before the introduction of the Ukrainian Permission Extension Scheme.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** In response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the UK Government established three Ukraine visa schemes to provide temporary sanctuary to displaced Ukrainians and their families. Those granted under the schemes have the right to work, rent or study and access to benefits and services for the full duration of their permission.

The Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme is due to open for applications in advance of the expiry of the first Ukraine scheme visas in early 2025, providing the same rights and access to benefits and services that individuals on the existing Ukraine schemes have.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-18/660>

*Information about the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>*

*Information about the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-permission-extension-scheme-information/ukraine-permission-extension-scheme-information>*

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

### Visas: Sponsorship

**Ben Goldsborough (Labour) [748]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report entitled An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the social care sector, if her Department will undertake a review of the (a) sponsor licensing application and (b) decision-making process in collaboration with social care industry leads and sector experts.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Prior to the report from the ICIBI, work was underway between UKVI and the social care sector to improve and develop their processes. This focussed on both the development of the sponsor licencing application process, and improvement of decision-making processes in relation to adult social care cases.

Regular engagement sessions between the Home Office and the sector also allow clear examples of good practice to be shared. This is happening alongside the trial of a support process whereby providers are able to seek a letter of support from

the local Director of Adult Social Services confirming any requests are proportionate to the business model. We will continue to examine new ways to tackle exploitation in the immigration system, including in social care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-18/748>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6602a6b765ca2fa78e7da854/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_immigration\\_system\\_as\\_it\\_relates\\_to\\_the\\_social\\_care\\_sector\\_August\\_2023\\_to\\_November\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6602a6b765ca2fa78e7da854/An_inspection_of_the_immigration_system_as_it_relates_to_the_social_care_sector_August_2023_to_November_2023.pdf)

### **Visas: Skilled Workers**

**Ben Goldsborough (Labour) [747]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report entitled An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the social care sector, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the Skilled Worker route for social care workers; and whether she has plans to (a) review and (b) reform the Skilled Worker visa.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The previous government accepted the recommendations of the ICIBI report and we will continue to take this work forward. The Home Office has undertaken activity since 2023 to address issues in the sector including commissioning the Migration Advisory Committee to undertake a review of the Immigration Salary List and requiring those sponsoring care workers in England to be registered with the Care Quality Commission.

The Government is committed to reducing historically high levels of legal migration and addressing the root causes. We recognise the need to cut reliance on international recruitment in sectors like social care.

We will introduce measures to upskill workers and improve working conditions in the UK, ensuring quicker responses to labour market challenges and reducing the need for international recruitment.

We will continue to work across government, and with the adult social care sector to develop an understanding of the sector to inform our policies and decision making in relation to cases from it.

There are regular engagement sessions between the Home Office and the sector whereby clear examples of good practice are shared alongside the trial of a support process where providers are able to seek a letter of support from the local Director of Adult Social Services confirming any requests are proportionate to the business model.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-18/747>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6602a6b765ca2fa78e7da854/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_immigration\\_system\\_as\\_it\\_relates\\_to\\_the\\_social\\_care\\_sector\\_August\\_2023\\_to\\_November\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6602a6b765ca2fa78e7da854/An_inspection_of_the_immigration_system_as_it_relates_to_the_social_care_sector_August_2023_to_November_2023.pdf)

### **Visas: Gaza**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [98]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a humanitarian visa for people from Gaza to receive medical aid in the UK.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Currently, those seeking to come to the UK for private medical treatment, along with their family members, can apply for a visitor visa and consideration will be given to compelling, compassionate and exceptional circumstances.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) position is that people who are medically evacuated should stay as close to home as possible, so that they are likely amongst

those who understand their language and culture, and so that their return home, when ready, is easier.

The Government will be reviewing the current arrangements as quickly as possible to ensure that, where it is appropriate for children to travel, this route is effective.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/98>

#### **Visas: Gaza**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [543]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of routes available to people in Gaza to join families in the UK.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The Government is determined to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, rapidly increase aid, and the return of all hostages. The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events.

We are assisting British nationals and other eligible people to leave Gaza, liaising closely with the Israeli and Egyptian authorities.

The current position is that Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available to work, study or join family in the UK.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/543>

#### **Visas: Gaza**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [544]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a family reunification visa scheme for people in Gaza.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Currently, Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

There are also routes available for dependants of those who are in the UK on a work or student route.

Individuals with protection status or settlement on a protection route may sponsor their partner or child (under 18), to join or stay with them in the UK, providing they formed part of the pre-flight family unit before the sponsor fled their country to seek protection.

When the visa application has been received, consideration will be given to compelling, compassionate and exceptional circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/544>

#### **Overseas Students: Gaza**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [97]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of allowing people from Gaza who are studying in the UK to be able to bring their families to the UK.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The Government is determined to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, rapidly increase aid, and the return of all hostages. The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events.

The current position is that Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available to work, study or settle/join



family in the UK.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

Students from Gaza seeking to bring dependants to the UK may do so where they meet the relevant requirements of Appendix Student of the immigration rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/97>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-student>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration Controls: Undocumented Migrants**

**Ben Goldsborough (Labour)** [286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people absconded from ports of entry after being detained by Border Force officers in each year since 2010.

**Ben Goldsborough (Labour)** [287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who absconded from ports of entry after being detained by Border Force officers were subsequently recovered in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The Home Office are unable to provide the requested data. This is on the basis the information requested is not available in a reportable format.

The Home Office are relentless in the pursuit of those who seek to enter the UK illegally. Our extensive security measures include robust, specialist measures from both Border Force and Immigration Enforcement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/286>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/287>

### **Asylum: LGBT+ People**

**Nadia Whittome (Labour)** [454] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the level of the risk of (a) discrimination, (b) harassment and (c) violence towards LGBTQ+ people seeking asylum in immigration detention centres.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** It is vital that detention and removal are carried out with dignity and respect, and we take the welfare and safety of people in our care very seriously. We will not tolerate any form of discrimination against those who are detained in our immigration removal estate. We keep the level of risk under regular review and will take robust action against anyone who is found not to have behaved appropriately.

In order to effectively support individuals in immigration detention that identify as LGBT+ there is detailed published guidance for all staff working in immigration removal centres (IRCs). Detention Services Orders [2/2016 'Lesbian, gay and bisexual detainees in the detention estate'](#) and [11/2012 'Care and Management of Transsexual Detainees'](#) set out the actions and safeguarding processes that are undertaken in IRCs to ensure that the needs of LGBT+ individuals are identified and appropriately met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/454>

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Jonathan Brash (Labour)** [359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department makes an assessment of the socio-economic background of an area when determining the location of asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** The Home Office has a set of asylum accommodation plans which set out how much Dispersal Accommodation is appropriate for each local authority. The Home office has developed an indexing tool which has helped to ensure that this is done in an evidence-based manner, factoring in a range of socio-economic factors, for example homelessness, pressures on GPs and hate crime. When procuring accommodation in line with those plans, our accommodation providers consult with local authorities who have the opportunity to set out any concerns and to signpost our accommodation providers to possible alternative properties.

The Home Office will continue to review the appropriateness of sites for use as asylum accommodation and remains committed to regularly engaging with local authorities and key stakeholders as part of this process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/359>

### **Asylum: Hotels**

**Martin McCluskey (Labour)** [538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to end the use of hotels for asylum seekers.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** This government will end the costly chaos in the asylum system by cleaning the previous government's backlog of claims, in order to end hotel use and save the taxpayer billions. We aim to return to the use of long-standing dispersed accommodation as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/538>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [96] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to enable children brought to the UK by the UNHCR to be reunited with their parents.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Keeping families together as part of the resettlement process is a priority. Children resettled through the UK Resettlement Scheme will usually arrive in the UK with their parents or carers.

As part of UNHCR's assessment, UNHCR will first seek to reunify unaccompanied children with parents or family members within the host region or wherever their family members may be. For unaccompanied children, UNHCR will refer a child to the UK or another participating State should they consider that it would be in the child's best interest to be resettled.

The government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its refugee family reunion policy. This allows individuals with protection status in the UK to sponsor their partner or children to reunite with them, provided they formed part of the family unit before their sponsor fled the country of their habitual residence in order to seek protection. We will seek to ensure that this route works effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/96>

## **Press Release**

**Contract for Bibby Stockholm not renewed past January 2025**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/contract-for-bibby-stockholm-not-renewed-past-january-2025>

## New Publications

**House of Commons Library Briefing: The immigration rules**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10043/CBP-10043.pdf>

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum seekers: the permission to work policy**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01908/SN01908.pdf>

**Windrush Compensation Scheme data: June 2024**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66a14575fc8e12ac3edb0436/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-tables-jun-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

**Tories spent £700m on Rwanda scheme, Cooper says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1rw47l2xxgo>

**Rwanda scheme cancelled ... but it has already cost £700m**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/keir-starmer-asylum-measures-rwanda-money-gznqf9ntr>

**Failed Rwanda deportation scheme cost £700m, says Yvette Cooper**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jul/22/failed-rwanda-deportation-scheme-cost-700m-says-yvette-cooper>

**Rwanda scheme ‘most shocking waste of taxpayer money ever’, says Cooper**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/22/rwanda-scheme-shocking-waste-of-money-says-yvette-cooper/>

**Scrapping Rwanda scheme while switching migrants to asylum system ‘will save £7bn’**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/24/scrapping-rwanda-scheme-clearing-asylum-backlog-save-7bn-uk/>

**Downing Street rejects suggestion that racism at play in scrapping Rwanda scheme**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/downing-street-labour-government-james-cleverly-rwanda-yvette-cooper-b2584408.html>

## News: Channel Migrants

**Nearly 1,500 migrants cross English Channel to arrive in UK in week**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-french-border-force-labour-government-hurricane-b2583676.html>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Labour criticised after rebranding 'illegal migration' as 'irregular migration'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/24/labour-criticised-rebranding-illegal-migration-irregular/>

**Scotland needs to get real on immigration**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/scotland-immigration-migration-debate-glfmzngng6>

**Yvette Cooper under pressure to airlift Tamil asylum seekers to UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/26/yvette-cooper-under-pressure-to-airlift-tamil-asylum-seekers-to-uk>

**Bibby Stockholm migrant barge to be closed**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cg640n3372qo>

**Bibby Stockholm contract will not be renewed as Labour to shut down migrant barge**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bibby-stockholm-berge-migrant-asylum-seekers-b2584858.html>

**Bibby Stockholm barge to close as asylum accommodation, says Home Office**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/23/bibby-stockholm-berge-to-close-after-january-says-home-office>

**Labour to axe Bibby Stockholm under asylum overhaul**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/23/labour-to-axe-bibby-stockholm-as-part-of-asylum-overhaul/>

**Good riddance, Bibby Stockholm. Now let's ditch all of the UK's other cruel asylum gimmicks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/24/bibby-stockholm-asylum-uk-cruelty-essex>

**It is madness to close down the Bibby Stockholm barge**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/24/it-is-madness-to-close-down-the-bibby-stockholm-migrant/>

**'I felt like I was in a cage': Flagship asylum site Wethersfield should not house migrants, court told**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/starmer-asylum-migrants-wethersfield-home-office-essex-b2585938.html>

**Victims of trafficking and torture were unlawfully housed in Essex asylum site RAF Wethersfield, court hears**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-wethersfield-raf-asylum-seekers-essex-b2584387.html>

**Migrants from 'safe' countries will be processed first, Labour pledges**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/migrants-from-safe-countries-will-be-processed-first-labour-pledges-b5xp3p2sq>

### **Criminals and immigration offenders removed on charter flight**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/criminals-and-immigration-offenders-removed-on-charter-flight>

### **Failed asylum seekers to be sent back to Vietnam**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpe388jy2n3o>

### **Rwanda scheme charter flight used to deport migrants to Vietnam and Timor-Leste**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-scheme-flights-deportation-vietnam-migrants-b2585708.html>

### **Deportation flight originally scheduled for Rwanda flies to Asia instead**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/25/deportation-flight-rwanda-scheduled-vietnam-east-timor-uk/>

### **Albanian man taken from UK psychiatric ward to deportation flight – report**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/25/albanian-man-taken-from-uk-psychiatric-ward-to-deportation-flight-report>

### **New UK government: What changes have been made so far?**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/labour-immigration-refugees-policy-campaign/>

### **Listen to stories from LGBT+ people who have found safety in Scotland**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/lgbt-stories/>

### **Judges told to avoid saying ‘asylum seekers’ and ‘immigrants’**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/26/judges-guidance-terms-asylum-seekers-immigrants-gays/>

### **‘I’m just one of a billion’: refugee Cindy Ngamba’s remarkable road to Olympics**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/article/2024/jul/24/cindy-ngamba-road-to-paris-olympics-boxing-refugees>

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## **Equality**

### **News**

#### **‘National disgrace’: black mothers in England twice as likely to have NHS birth investigated**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jul/23/national-disgrace-black-mothers-in-england-twice-as-likely-to-have-nhs-birth-investigated>

#### **Black women are being let down by maternal healthcare - these are all the ways it could be better**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/25/black-mothers-birth-england-nhs-letting-us-down>

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# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Antisemitism**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [14] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisemitism in the United Kingdom.

**Blair McDougall (Labour)** [275] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of antisemitism; and what steps he plans to take to help protect Jewish communities from hatred directed towards them.

**Reply from Alex Norris:** Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, and tackling antisemitism is a top priority for this Government. This Government continues to fund the Community Security Trust, supporting their vital work in protecting Jewish communities. This includes providing additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues, and other sites. Making sure that British Jews are not only safe, but also that they feel safe, is one of our top priorities.

Antisemitism is a deplorable form of Hate Crime, and the Government are committed to ensuring that everyone is able to worship freely, wear religious clothing and go about their lives in safety and security – irrespective of their background, faith or other characteristic. Tackling Hate Crime will be a key part of this Government's work to tackle divisions and create connections between all communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/14>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/275>

## News

**'I will burn every single mosque' - Muslim political group was inundated with racist abuse during election**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/election-abuse-muslim-vote-racism-b2584453.html>

**UK voter ID laws attack 'democratic rights of people of colour', say artists in open letter**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jul/25/voter-id-laws-attack-democratic-rights-people-of-colour-letter>

**Manchester Airport: Ex-police chief warns of 'summer of discontent' over race failings**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/manchester-airport-kicking-police-head-b2585865.html>

**Yorkshire cricket racism whistleblower Azeem Rafiq accuses police of 'brutality' in Manchester Airport footage**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/azeem-rafiq-brutality-manchester-airport-b2586495.html>

**Leeds councillor urges residents to unite against 'racial hatred'**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/leeds-councillor-urges-residents-to-unite-against-racial-hatred-r2qqmhml>

## Man pleads guilty to making antisemitic posts on X

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/israel-gaza-hamas-israel-defence-forces-london-b2583753.html>

## 'A minority inside a minority': fear and conspiracy theories in the Leeds Roma community

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/27/a-minority-inside-a-minority-fear-and-conspiracy-theories-in-the-leeds-roma-community>

## New figures show record number of discrimination reports in football last season

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/article/2024/jul/24/new-figures-show-record-number-of-discrimination-reports-in-football-last-season>

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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>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

#### 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/)

#### Pre-budget 2025-26 scrutiny - Third sector funding principles (closing date 16 August 2024)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/third-sector-funding-principles/>

#### Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2028 (closing date 3 October 2024)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/our-work/our-strategic-plan-consultation-2025-2028>

#### Intimate Image Abuse Research (closing date not stated)

<https://t.co/X1cGnXygg3>

**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

### **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>

### **\*\* Scottish Connections Fund**

*Closing date 4 September 2024*

Scottish Government funding of between £2,000 and £5,000 to help strengthen Scotland's international diaspora. The Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from any individual or organisation with a Scottish connection, whether that link is through heritage, education, business, culture, or a broader affinity. For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply/>

### **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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**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

### **New Scots Leadership Programme 2024-25**

*Deadline for applications: 28 August 2024*

September 2024 to March 2025

Scottish Refugee Council programme for 16 refugees/asylum seekers to take part in the fourth cohort of the New Scots leadership programme. Learners will be given the opportunity to develop strategic leadership skills, and access tools to create impact and build a strong community with other refugees living in Scotland. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=2159>

### **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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*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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