



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.

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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 will be in recess until 7 October 2024.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Illegal Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-10/debates/FB20CD20-411E-4FD8-BD42-72ED79CBF739/IllegalImmigration>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules: Statement of Changes

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Seema

Malhotra) [HCWS81] My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in immigration rules.

Introduction of a visa requirement on Jordan

We are today introducing a visa requirement on all visitors from Jordan. Nationals of Jordan will also be required to obtain a direct airside transit visa if they intend to transit via the UK having booked travel to another country. The visa requirement comes into force at 15:00 BST today.

Consequential to this, nationals of Jordan will no longer be eligible to travel to the UK with an electronic travel authorisation.

There will be a four-week, visa-free transition period for those who already hold an ETA and confirmed bookings to the UK obtained on or before 15:00 BST on 10 September 2024 where arrival in the UK is no later than 15:00 BST on 8 October 2024.

Arrangements are in place so that Jordanian nationals can apply for visas. We are publicising the changes so travellers are aware and can plan accordingly.

We are taking this action due to an increase in the number of Jordanian nationals travelling to the UK for purposes other than what is permitted under visitor rules since the visa requirement was lifted in February 2024. This has included a significant and sustained increase in asylum claims, and high rates of refusals at the border due to people travelling without the intention of visiting for a permitted purpose. This increase in asylum claims and refusals has added significantly to operational pressures at the border, resulting in frontline resource being diverted from other operational priorities.

The decision to introduce a visa requirement has been taken solely for migration and border security reasons. Our relationship with Jordan remains a strong and friendly one. Any decision to change a visa status is not taken lightly and we keep the border and immigration system under regular review to ensure it continues to work in the UK national interest.

Implementation of the UK electronic travel authorisation scheme

On 25 October 2023, the UK electronic travel authorisation scheme was launched to secure our borders and make the UK safer, by enhancing our ability to screen travellers upstream. The scheme applies to those passengers visiting or transiting the UK, who do not currently need a visa for short stays and do not have a valid UK immigration status prior to travelling.

Currently, the ETA scheme applies to nationals of Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The Government will complete the implementation of the scheme, in a phased manner, to all remaining non-visa nationalities. In November 2024, the ETA scheme will open to all nationals travelling to the UK who do not currently need a visa, except Europeans, and it will be a travel requirement from 8 January 2025. In March 2025, the scheme will then be extended to European nationals and will be a requirement for travel from 2 April 2025, completing the roll-out of the ETA scheme. The complete list of ETA nationalities is detailed in the accompanying statement of changes at “Appendix ETA National List” at ETANL 1.1.

Once fully rolled out, the ETA scheme will close the current gap in advance permissions and mean that for the first time, we will have a comprehensive understanding of those travelling to the UK.

End diplomatic visa waivers and introduce a “diplomatic visa arrangement” visitor visa

The UK’s border is being transformed to include digital pre-travel checks. As part of this, diplomatic visa waivers are being phased out. “Diplomatic visa arrangement” visitor visas are being introduced to replace DVWs. DVAs will ensure diplomatic passport holders from countries that have benefited from DVW, who are nominated by their Governments through a note verbale, will continue to benefit from smooth and efficient access to the UK. DVAs will provide a bespoke visitor visa for eligible diplomatic passport holders. Applications will be made through a light-touch application form, but application fees and the requirement to submit fingerprints will be waived. The route aims to support and better

facilitate diplomatic travel to the UK and will also enable DVA visitors to undertake a range of standard visitor activities. These changes will not impact accredited diplomats who are free, or “exempt” from immigration control.

Introduction of the VIP delegate visa

We are launching the VIP delegate visa, a bespoke visa product targeted at delegations accompanying foreign Heads of State and serving Government Ministers on official visits to the UK. This product is a global offer, balancing the UK’s bilateral considerations and aligning more closely with the approach of international partners. This product will be capped at an upper limit of 20 issues for Government official delegates accompanying Heads of State, and 10 for Government official delegates accompanying serving Government Ministers. Those applying for this product will have their application assessed under the immigration rules, supported by a note verbale process, but application fees and the requirement to submit fingerprints will be waived.

Changes to “Appendix Bereaved Partner” and “Appendix Gurkha and Hong Kong military unit veteran discharged before 1 July 1997”

Currently, a bereaved partner who has no other route to stay must leave the UK if they cannot afford the fee for settlement. So, we are changing the relevant rules to allow bereaved partners and their dependants to benefit from a fee waiver if they are destitute. Equivalent changes are being made to the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2018, which are also being laid in Parliament today. The provision of a fee waiver to those who are destitute will allow them to settle in the UK at the time they are most vulnerable.

Changes to the EU settlement scheme

We are making some changes to the immigration rules in “Appendix EU” for the EUSS, which, in accordance with the citizens’ rights agreements, enables EU, other European economic area and Swiss citizens living in the UK before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, and their family members, to obtain the UK immigration status they need to continue living in the UK. The changes include referring to the scope to automatically convert pre-settled status under the EUSS to settled status where the person qualifies for this and without the need for them to make a further valid application, and to require a joining family member to apply to the EUSS within three months of their first (not latest) arrival in the UK since the end of the transition period (or later where there are reasonable grounds for their delay).

These changes to the immigration rules are being laid on 10 September 2024. For the changes regarding Jordan, due to safeguarding the operation of the UK’s immigration system, those changes will come into effect at 15:00 BST on 10 September 2024. The changes regarding “Appendix Bereaved Partner” and “Appendix Gurkha and Hong Kong military unit veteran discharged before 1 July 1997” will come into effect on 9 October 2024, changes regarding the VIP delegate visa will come into effect on 10 October 2024, changes to introduce a “diplomatic visa arrangement” visitor visa will come into effect on 18 February 2025 and associated changes to end diplomatic visa waivers will come into effect on 11 March 2025.

All other changes will come into effect on 8 October 2024.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-10/debates/24091023000011/ImmigrationRulesStatementOfChanges>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [4165] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants attempting to enter the United Kingdom illegally in small boats have died in the English Channel in each of the last five years: how many such

fatalities were children; and how many occurred in (a) UK and (b) French territorial waters.

Reply from Angela Eagle: There have been 31 tragedies, since August 2019, where 97 people are confirmed to have died and at least 14 people have been reported as missing at sea, presumed dead, as a result of or linked to attempting these dangerous crossings.

Numbers of fatalities

Date	Confirmed fatalities
2024 (to 05/09/24)	37
2023	12
2022	4
2021	34
2020	6
2019	4
TOTAL	97

A total of eight minors are reported to have died in the fatal incidents that have occurred this year. Prior to this, the only known minor fatalities occurred as a result of an incident in October 2020 when an entire family group, including 3 children, died following the capsizing of a migrant vessel.

Almost all fatalities have occurred in French Territorial Waters (TTW). There has been one incident (on 14 December 2022), involving the deaths of 4 people, which undoubtedly took place within UK TTW. However, an earlier tragedy – the loss of 27 people in a single incident in November 2021 – was proven after investigation to have partially occurred within UK TTW. It is subject to an ongoing Art.2 Human Rights Inquiry led by Sir Ross Cranston.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-04/4165>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [2799] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, with reference to the Written Statement of 1 February 2024 on Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Scheme Update, HCWS233, whether he plans to investigate the reasons for the inconsistent application of ARAP criteria for members of (a) CF333 [Comando Force 333] and (b) ATF444 [Afghan Territorial Force 444].

Reply from Luke Pollard: I am deeply concerned that many members of CF333 and ATF444 (the Triples) - our friends and allies - who should be eligible for ARAP remain in grave circumstances. As such, my clear focus is getting the Triples Review back on track and bringing all those individuals receiving overturned decisions to safety in the UK.

I have been working closely with officials since my Ministerial appointment to put in place the necessary conditions to get this right and ensure that the ARAP criteria are applied consistently across all applications in scope.

I fully intend to update the House on the review as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/2799>

The Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-02-01/hcws233>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Applications

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [3792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department have taken to inform residents with Indefinite Leave to Remain visas about the transition to e-visas.

Biometric Residence Permits

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [3793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to publicise the ending of Biometric Residential Permits and transition to e-visas.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: The Home Office is delivering a substantial communications and engagement campaign to advise customers of the transition to eVisas and the need for BRP holding customers to register for a UKVI account by the end of 2024, if they were not automatically provided with a UKVI account and eVisa when their most recent immigration application was approved.

This includes, but is not limited to, direct messaging to customers via email and text message where contact details are available, information on gov.uk/eVisa, and how-to videos available on YouTube and via gov.uk/eVisa. We have regular engagement with other government departments, immigration representatives, the education sector, employers, landlords, local authorities, foreign embassies, Home Office advisory groups, devolved administrations and migrant support organisations as part of the engagement process.

A 'partner pack' of readily shareable content, including factsheets and social media content, has been developed and shared with other government departments and third party support networks which they can use to disseminate eVisa information to customers/clients with whom they engage. In April this year we issued a press notice about the transition to eVisa, and delivered detailed media briefings with UK and International media outlets.

For customers granted settlement (also known as indefinite leave to remain) prior to the introduction of BRPs, we have recommended through this campaign that they should make a No Time Limit application in order to secure an eVisa. Customers with these older forms of evidence of immigration status, such as ink stamps in passports, will still be able to prove their rights as they do today, using their legacy documents where these are permitted. However, we still encourage those individuals to transition to an eVisa, given the range of benefits it offers to customers and status checkers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3792>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3793>

Immigration: Applications

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [3783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that time spent in residence in the UK on any visa is counted towards the five-year period required for an application for indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: Many visa routes, such as those for family and skilled work, are intended to allow a path to settlement in the UK. Other routes, such as those for study and temporary work, are intended for visa holders to be able to come to the UK for a specific, time-bound purpose, and therefore do not count towards the qualifying period for settlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3783>

Visas: Married People

Laura Kyrke-Smith (Labour) [4150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of linking the minimum income requirement for spousal visa applications to the National Living Wage.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: The financial requirements for the Family Immigration Rules include the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) which is currently set at £29,000 and is intended to maintain the economic wellbeing of the UK whilst respecting family life.

The Home Secretary has announced her intention to commission the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the financial requirements in the Family Immigration Rules. Conducting a review of the financial requirements across the family routes will ensure we have a clear and consistent system.

There will be no changes to the current threshold of £29,000, or the ways in which the MIR can be met, until the MAC review is complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/4150>

Visas: Families

Shockat Adam (Independent) [4091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to raise the minimum income requirement for family immigration visas to £34,000; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of such an increase on (a) Leicester and (b) other low average income areas.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: The financial requirements for the Family Immigration Rules include the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) which is currently set at £29,000 and is intended to maintain the economic wellbeing of the UK whilst respecting family life.

The Home Secretary has announced her intention to commission the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the financial requirements in the Family Immigration Rules.

Conducting a review of the financial requirements across the family routes will ensure we have a clear and consistent system. There will be no changes to the current threshold of £29,000, or the ways in which the MIR can be met, until the MAC review is complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/4091>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Vacancies

Paula Barker (Labour) [3194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will reduce the cost of visas for overseas graduates who are able to fill gaps in the labour market.

Paula Barker (Labour) [3195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to incentivise recruitment of (a) domestic graduates from overseas and (b) overseas graduates to fill shortages in the labour market.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: Overseas students who successfully complete an eligible course in the UK are entitled to remain on a graduate visa for two years after their studies end, or three for PhDs, to work, live and contribute to society.

The Home Office keeps visa fees under review but has no current plans to reduce fees for overseas graduates. The Home Office does not make a profit from fees and any income from fees set above the cost of processing are utilised for the purpose of running the Migration and Borders system. Taking this approach helps to meet the costs of maintaining an effective Migration and Borders system which benefits everyone.

The Government have also been clear that net migration is too high and must be reduced. Employers are encouraged to look to the domestic labour market to

nurture and develop the skills they need where they can.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/3194>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/3195>

British National (Overseas)

Charlotte Nicols (Labour) [3813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on the citizenship status of individuals with British National (Overseas) visas.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders may apply for a BN(O) visa which entitles them and their dependent family members to reside in the UK. After completing 5 years' qualifying residence in the UK, and being free from immigration time restrictions for a further year, BN(O) visa holders and their dependent family members may apply for British citizenship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3813>

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

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

Asylum: Applications

Ben Obese-Jecty (Conservative) [4479] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people had their application for asylum (a) accepted and (b) declined (i) with and (ii) without an appeal since 5 July 2024; and how many of those who had their application asylum declined have been returned, broken down by country.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions on asylum claims by nationality is published in table Asy_D02 of the '[Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement detailed datasets](#)' and data on asylum-related returns by nationality is published in Ret_04 of the '[Returns summary tables](#)'.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of each workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending June 2024.

Data up to September 2024 will be released on 28 November 2024. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The Home Office also publishes data on asylum appeals by nationality in tables Asy_D06 and Asy_D07 of the '[Asylum appeals lodged and determined detailed datasets](#)'. Appeals data for April 2023 onwards is not available due to ongoing work on a new case working system. Updated data will be included in a future edition of the Immigration System Statistics release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/4479>

Maternity Services: Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [3989] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the provision of maternity services to asylum seekers; and if he will take steps to help ensure that asylum seekers understand how to access emergency maternity health care.

Reply from Karin Smyth: The Home Office manages all asylum processes, which includes supporting people to access the services they need. Women seeking asylum are asked at several stages of their asylum application whether they may be pregnant by Home Office case workers, who will identify the necessary support and relevant accommodation to meet their needs. Pregnant women seeking asylum are generally accommodated in community settings and, as such, have access to the same local health and care services as other resident women.

Under the umbrella of the National Asylum Seekers' Health Oversight Group, NHS England and the Home Office co-chairs a working group focused on maternal health and aimed at improving the access, experience, and outcomes of women seeking asylum during pregnancy and after birth. For example, the group has produced the Escalation Route Agreement for healthcare professionals to communicate any concerns directly to Home Office case workers in relation to accommodation moves in the later stages of pregnancy or the perinatal period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/3989>

Asylum: Children and Young People

James Naish (Labour) [4074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she (a) is taking and (b) plans to take to help reduce the risk of human trafficking of unaccompanied (i) children and (ii) other young asylum seekers who are staying in hotels run by her Department.

Reply from Angela Eagle: All Home Office staff, and contracted parties have a duty, under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, to ensure that immigration, asylum, and nationality functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. The HO does not have a statutory responsibility for safeguarding - statutory agencies retain responsibility for all decisions on intervention activity.

On arrival in the UK, all asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children, have an interview which includes a series of questions specifically designed to ascertain potential indicators of trafficking. If indicators are noted, a referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). In the case of children, a safety plan is put in place by social services, whilst adults identified as potential victims of modern slavery are entitled to care with support provided by the Salvation Army.

The Home Office no longer accommodates Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children in hotels as of 31st January 2024. Local authorities have a statutory duty under S20 of the Children Act 1989 to look after children in need in their area. This includes unaccompanied asylum seeking (UAS) children who either arrive in a local authority area or are transferred there under the mandated National Transfer Scheme (NTS). When a child is being looked after by a local authority, that local authority is under a duty to safeguard and promote the child's welfare under the Children Act 1989.

The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where an adult asylum seeker is at risk or vulnerable, they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies such as the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/4074>

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/11/section/55>

S20 of the Children Act 1989, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/section/20>

Undocumented Migrants

Mark Pritchard (Conservative) [2781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the activities of hostile states on levels of illegal immigration.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Government's first duty is to protect our national security and keep our country safe. We keep potential threats to the UK under constant review and, where necessary, we use all the tools at our disposal to

mitigate these threats including at the border and those seeking to enter the UK through irregular means.

As a matter of long-standing policy, we do not comment on the detail of security and intelligence issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/2781>

Refugees: Homelessness

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [3236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that people who have recently acquired refugee status do not experience homelessness after leaving asylum accommodation.

Reply from Angela Eagle: Individuals granted asylum have access to the labour market and to mainstream services that support their integration, including benefits and healthcare. We are working across Government to ensure these services meet the needs of all newly granted refugees.

Migrant Help or their partner organisation support all individuals when they receive a decision on their asylum claim. This support includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing.

We continue to work with colleagues at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to understand rough sleeping and homelessness pressures within local authorities (LAs). In our continued commitment to supporting LAs and statutory partners in planning for move on, we have shared enhanced data sets (The Place Based Visibility tool - PBVT) which we are continuing to develop further. The PBVT is complimented by the Discontinuation Prediction Tool (DPT) which is shared weekly; this data provides real time view of discontinuation notices likely to be served in the next following 4-6 weeks and the volume of people (including whether it is families, single males or single females) who may seek LA assistance following a positive decision.

Where a decision is made on an individual's asylum claim, the Asylum Accommodation Support Contract (AASC) provider notifies the relevant local authority within 2 days of notification by the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/3236>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Clive Lewis (Labour) [2952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to fund accommodation for asylum seekers once the use of hotels is stopped.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Government is determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly and fairly, and is reviewing the current arrangements for accommodation to ensure efficiency and value for money, including reducing the use of hotels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/2952>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Wendy Morton (Conservative) [3704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum hotels were in operation on (a) 1 January, (b) 4 July and (c) 31 August 2024.

Wendy Morton (Conservative) [3704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of hotels that will be required to accommodate asylum seekers in the period between now and the end of 2024.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The government is determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly, and fairly including reducing the

use of hotels over time. Additionally, the government will be reviewing current Home Office arrangements to ensure efficiency and deliver value for money.

Data on the number of supported asylum seekers in accommodation, including hotels, can be found within the Asy_D11 tab for our most recent statistics release: [Immigration system statistics data tables](#).

The Home Office remains committed to engaging with local authorities and key stakeholders as part of the process to accommodate asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3704>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3705>

Asylum: LGBT+ People

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [3230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 July 2024 to Question 454 on Asylum: LGBT+ People, when her Department last reviewed 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: The level of risk for LGBT+ individuals within immigration detention is subject to ongoing monitoring. As set out in Detention Services Order 02/2016 'Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Detainees in the Detention Estate', Immigration Removal Centre suppliers undertake regular equality monitoring and trend analysis for residents with protected characteristics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/3230>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Press Release

Settlement fees waived for bereaved partners facing destitution

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/settlement-fees-waived-for-bereaved-partners-facing-destitution>

New Publications

Monthly monitoring of entry clearance visa applications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications/monthly-monitoring-of-entry-clearance-visa-applications>

Monthly entry clearance visa applications: data tables, August 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66def1f69210ba34a3ebab92/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications-data_tables-aug-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: Channel Migrants

Eight dead after Channel crossing attempt - French officials

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2ln150287yo>

Eight people dead in attempt to cross Channel, say French authorities

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/sep/15/several-dead-in-attempt-to-cross-channel-say-french-authorities>

Picture emerges of flimsy boat that led to death of eight migrants with a 10-month-old baby in hospital

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/france-migrant-boat-sinks-channel-deaths-b2613092.html>

The British pensioner paradise becoming a graveyard for small boat migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/09/15/canary-islands-el-hierro-graveyard-small-boat-migrants/>

There's an obvious way to stem the boats

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/e59500c5-0865-440d-9b14-2a5069b570d0>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Starmmer open to offshoring asylum seekers to Albania like Italian scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmmer-asylum-seekers-albania-meloni-italy-b2612898.html>

Home Office 'mostly consulted Rwandan officials' in asylum plan safety report

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/sep/10/home-office-rwanda-asylum-plan-safety-review>

Britain will pay for the costs of low-skilled migration for generations

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/14/britain-pay-for-costs-low-skilled-migration-for-generations/>

Labour is hiding the immense costs of mass migration

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/11/labour-is-hiding-the-immense-costs-of-mass-migration/>

As border controls tighten the migration debate must open up

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/viewpoint/24576286.border-controls-tighten-migration-debate-must-open/>

How Brexit Britain became Europe's most migrant-friendly country

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/14/how-brexit-britain-is-europes-most-migrant-friendly-country/>

More than 1,500 child trafficking victims in UK feared back with exploiters
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/sep/12/child-trafficking-victims-uk>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Community Relations

Kemi Badenoch (Conservative) [2987] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to promote integration, in the context of the public disorder in August 2024.

Reply from Alex Norris: The Government and justice system have taken decisive steps to address the disgraceful violent disorder that was seen in a number of towns and cities in August and we have now seen 1,280 people arrested and over 570 appearances in court which has provided a strong deterrent and demonstrated our determination to keep people safe and restore order.

The Government is determined that we now support the recovery of the towns and cities affected, and also invest in community cohesion. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is leading cross-Government efforts to help places recover – working in partnership with communities and local stakeholders to rebuild, renew and address deep-seated issues. Alongside this the Home Secretary has ordered a rapid review of extremism to ensure the strongest possible response to ideologies that erode community cohesion and our democracy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/2987>

TOP

Equality

New Publications

Factsheet: Human Rights Related Advice and Advocacy Services in Scotland

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2840/fact-sheet-human-rights-related-advice-and-advocacy-services-in-scotland.pdf>

Research Report: Human Rights Related Advice and Advocacy Services in Scotland

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2841/research-report-advice-and-advocacy-services.pdf>

Guidance: The Public Sector Equality Duty and data protection

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-and-data-protection>

News

New map of Human Rights Advice and Advocacy Services in Scotland

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/new-map-of-human-rights-advice-and-advocacy-services-in-scotland/>

Strengthening TUC organising efforts and representation of BME trade unionists

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/strengthening-our-organising-efforts-and-representation-bme-trade-unionists>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Islamophobia

David Simmonds (Conservative) [3829] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what her policy is on the use of the term Islamophobia; and whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of adopting the working definition of Islamophobia published by the APPG on British Muslims in its report entitled Islamophobia defined.

Reply from Alex Norris: There is no place in our society for religious or racial hatred of any kind. Tackling Islamophobia is a priority for this Government, especially in light of last month's violent disorder, where we saw mosques and Muslim communities targeted. This is deplorable, and there can be absolutely no place in our society for this violence and intimidation that has wreaked havoc on our communities. This Government has taken rapid action to step up protections for mosques facing significant, imminent threats of disorder, or those dealing with the immediate aftermath of attacks, as part of our Protective Security for Mosques scheme.

We are actively reviewing our approach and considering various options for how best to tackle Islamophobia and all forms of hatred, to deliver a more integrated and cohesive approach to this vital work. We recognise the complexity of this issue, and we want to make sure that any new approach comprehensively reflects multiple perspectives and implications for different communities. We will provide further updates in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3829>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

and

<https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/rpspow/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Anti-Muslim Prejudice and Hate Crime

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench): To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they

have made of the drivers of hate crime against Muslims in Britain, and what steps they are taking to challenge anti-Muslim prejudice and anti-Muslim hate crime. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Lord Khan of Burnley): My Lords, we are absolutely committed to tackling Islamophobia. Our Government are only 10 weeks old, but in this time, I have crossed the country from Southport to Sunderland to Camden to hear directly from communities, with more meetings planned. I am deeply saddened by recent horrific scenes and hateful attacks against Muslims, causing unacceptable fear. We are refreshing our strategic approach to tackling all forms of hatred, including Islamophobia, and we will update the House shortly.

Baroness Gohir: My Lords, I am publishing a report today called *Anti-Muslim Hate: Concerns and Experiences*. I have sent a draft of it to the Minister and will send a final copy today. Will the Government formally respond to my report? Key findings included 80% of Muslims who experienced hate crimes not reporting them and 73% being very worried about their safety after the riots. What action will the Government take to increase reporting and improve the safety of Muslim communities—not just of mosques but of Muslims walking down the road and Muslims online using social media?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: My Lords, the noble Baroness has raised some important questions regarding hate crimes against Muslims in our country. I am particularly thankful to her for all the important work she has done, including leading the Muslim Women's Network UK and advocating for Muslim communities, and women especially, at the highest levels. I look forward to meeting her tomorrow. Anti-Muslim hatred is abhorrent and has no place in our society. We will continue to take swift action to address anti-Muslim hatred, and this includes safeguarding Muslim women. MHCLG is reviewing Dame Sara Khan's advice, and we will provide updates on social cohesion work in due course.

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, you cannot genuinely tackle what you dare not define and detail. In opposition, Labour adopted the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, as did most other political parties, including the Conservative Party in Scotland. Can the Minister update the House on whether the Labour Party intends to follow through on that work now that it is in government, and what work, if any, has started?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: I first acknowledge the work that the noble Baroness has done in this area; in particular, a comprehensive piece of work done by the APPG on the definition of Islamophobia. A new definition must be given careful consideration so that it comprehensively reflects multiple perspectives and considers the potential implications for different communities. We understand the strength of feeling on this issue and want to make sure that any definition comprehensively reflects multiple perspectives. We are actively engaging and considering our approach to Islamophobia, including definitions, and we will provide further updates in due course. I look forward to working and engaging with the noble Baroness and the APPG.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the previous Government established the cross-departmental Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, of which little was known about its membership and work. I found out about it quite by accident a few months ago. Do this Government plan to re-establish this working group, and will the Minister meet Muslim Members of this House and another place, and others if necessary, to consult on its membership and work?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: I reassure the noble Baroness that I am happy to meet any noble Lord, in particular about any concerns about religious hatred of all kinds. In relation to our approach on the definition of Islamophobia, as I just answered, we will come forward and update the House and discuss the actions we will take to tackle the problem of Islamophobia in our country.

The Lord Bishop of Lichfield: My Lords, some of the most valuable and effective work that is being done to improve community relations, and so to counter religious hate crime and prejudice, is at a local and grass-roots level; for example, in Walsall we have community iftars, church-mosque twinnings, multifaith drama groups, and so on. Can the Minister tell us what the Government are providing in funding and support for local initiatives and groups of that kind?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: First, I express my gratitude to the right reverend Prelate for his question. He makes the point that faith groups play a huge role in working to promote community cohesion and attacking the problems that we face in society. Moving forward, we are looking at having an approach that best supports communities. A lot of work is now being led by the Deputy Prime Minister; in the next few days we will see some measures that will take not just a national but a cross-governmental approach to social cohesion. I reassure the right reverend Prelate that we are looking at these challenges at the moment.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, there are no comparative statistics to show that Muslims suffer more from irrational prejudice than, say, any member of the Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist faiths. To borrow from Shakespeare, if a member of those other faiths is cut, do they not bleed? Will the Minister confirm that the Government will be even-handed in looking at the needs and concerns of all religions and those of no faith?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: I say in response to the noble Lord's important points that all forms of racial and religious discrimination are completely unacceptable and have no place in our communities. This Government will explore a more integrated and cohesive approach to tackling it. We are committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion and we will not tolerate religious hatred in any form towards any religion.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook (Conservative): My Lords, the previous Government committed to spending over £117 million to protect mosques and Muslim schools and community centres in the UK from anti-Muslim hate attacks over the next four years. In the light of the unrest we saw this summer, what discussions has the Minister had with his ministerial colleagues to ensure that this money is being spent effectively to protect Muslim communities? In the light of the summer disruption, what further steps will the Government take to tackle anti-Muslim hate in the United Kingdom?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: My Lords, the noble Baroness makes an important point. On the latter question, the Home Office has announced a rapid response force—work which involves more security to help support mosques that are facing direct public and violent disorder against them. I have visited quite a few mosques and had discussions with communities. In relation to our £29.4 million pledge to support mosques, a lot of mosques are taking up these schemes. Their continuation is important, as it is to tackle any form of religious hatred we see, including anti-Semitism. Where there are high levels of religious hate crime, there is existing government funding to support institutions to protect themselves.

Baroness Blower (Labour): My Lords, does my noble friend agree that the review of the national curriculum that the Government are planning provides the opportunity to ensure that schools are places where all ignorance and prejudice-based behaviour are challenged, and where anti-racism—in this case, islamophobia—is actively taught, to try to stop these attitudes developing in our young people?

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: My noble friend makes an important point in recognising that school has a huge role to play in raising awareness and tackling discrimination. At a very early age, young people can understand our British values. I visited Middlesbrough, and that was what the community was telling me. We should be looking at this more closely, looking at the national curriculum. That is a discussion to be had with the community and the Department for Education. We will take that forward and pass it to the relevant department.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (Conservative0: My Lords, in thanking the Minister for sharing his answers, perhaps I might make a suggestion. My noble friend on the Front Bench has already articulated the issue of funding. There is existing architecture from the previous Government—the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group. Also, it was the Conservative Government led by my noble friend Lord Cameron that made anti-Muslim hatred a specific hate crime. There is also an issue of underreporting.

I hope that the Minister agrees that we must focus on reporting these crimes and make that issue of education prevalent in the communities. Linked with that, we must accentuate the positive. Muslims make an incredible contribution across the piece in the United Kingdom, even in areas such as cricket, which may be the litmus test. I recall a particular ministry official saying to me that when he gets up in the morning, he hears Mishal Husain on the radio, travels on an Underground run and overseen by Sadiq Khan, then reports to a Minister called Tariq Ahmad. Let us accentuate the positive of Islam and Muslims in Britain alongside what we do in tackling anti-Muslim hatred.

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: I do not have anything to respond to that with. It was a fantastic point. I pay tribute to the work that the noble Lord did as Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion or Belief. His points were very clearly made, and I will take them forward. I appreciate his comments.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-09-09/debates/41BFB06B-0ADA-42C1-872F-D15ADED9DE74/Anti-MuslimPrejudiceAndHateCrime>

Anti-Muslim Hate: Concerns and Experiences, referred to above by Baroness Gohir, can be read at

https://www.mwnuk.co.uk/go_files/resources/Anti-Muslim-Hate-Report-concerns-and-experiences.pdf

The Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims referred to above can be read at

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

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Policing response to the 2024 summer riots

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/policing-response-to-the-2024-summer-riots/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Police Powers: Protests

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05013/SN05013.pdf>

Anti-Muslim Hate: Concerns and Experiences

https://www.mwnuk.co.uk/go_files/resources/Anti-Muslim-Hate-Report-concerns-and-experiences.pdf

News

Equality laws leave police facing ‘major dilemmas’, watchdog finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/id-cards-government-kemi-badenoch-b2609860.html>

Police are recording too many hate crimes, watchdog warns

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/3873bb2c-9a27-4803-bbe6-bd1a3fb9719b>

Labour adviser claims failure to study anti-racism in schools helped fuel summer riots
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/09/14/labour-adviser-broken-education-system-failure-teaching-ant/>

Anti-Racism data dashboard: setting movement-wide targets on racial equality
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/anti-racism-data-dashboard-setting-movement-wide-targets-racial-equality>

Community cohesion will not solve the racism underpinning this summer's riots
<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/community-cohesion-will-not-solve-the-racism-underpinning-this-summers-riots>

Afro hair should be a protected characteristic, says campaign backed by Mel B
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/10/afro-hair-mel-b-equality-act-discrimination/>

Campaigners call for Afro hair to be a protected characteristic in Equality Act
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/parliament-afro-labour-government-mps-b2610152.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Their Majesties The King and Queen to attend 25th anniversary celebration at Holyrood
<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/their-majesties-the-king-and-queen-to-attend-25th-anniversary-celebration-at-holyrood>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Planning Policy: Traveller Sites
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-11/debates/A28196F5-18D6-4A85-A66B-D9D1ECAEC90B/PlanningPolicyTravellerSites>

Ministerial Statement

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

The Minister for Security (Dan Jarvis) [HCWS98] The Government have today introduced the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill to the House of Commons. ... The Bill seeks to improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK. It will require those responsible for certain premises and events to take steps to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce harm in the event of a terrorist attack occurring. In addition to this, certain larger premises and events must also take additional steps to reduce the vulnerability of the premises to terrorist attacks. Through the Bill, qualifying premises and events should be better prepared and ready to

respond in the event of a terrorist attack. ...

This Government have reflected on the scrutiny provided throughout the Bill's development. ... extensive engagement that has taken place with security partners, business and victims' groups, as well as parliamentarians.

That is why important changes have been made to the Bill to ensure that we can both achieve public protection outcomes and ensure there are no undue burdens on businesses and other organisations:

We have raised the standard tier threshold from 100 to 200, to create a more appropriate scope of the duty;

The "reasonably practicable" standard of requirements, now applicable in both tiers, is designed to allow procedures and measures to be tailored to the specific circumstances of a premises or event. This will enable duty holders to take into consideration what is within their control and the resources they have available to them, as well as what is suitable and appropriate for their premises or event; and

We have removed the requirements for a specific, prescribed form of training and the completion of a mandatory standard terrorism evaluation form—in recognition that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate and could be onerous. ...

Scope

A person will be subject to the main requirements of the Bill if they are responsible for a qualifying premises or events.

A person who has control of premises in connection with their relevant schedule 1 use is responsible for qualifying premises. For example, the operator of an arena or governing body of a school will be responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the Bill at their respective premises.

A person who will have control of the premises at which an event is to be held in connection with their use for the event will be responsible for a qualifying event.

Control over premises has been utilised in other regulatory regimes, such as fire safety.

Standard duty premises

The Bill establishes a tiered approach linked to the activity that takes place at premises or an event and the number of individuals it is reasonable to expect may be present on the premises at the same time.

Persons responsible for a standard duty premises, i.e. qualifying premises where it is reasonable to expect that between 200 and 799 individuals may be present at the same time, will be required to:

Notify the regulator of their premises; and

Put in place appropriate and reasonably practicable public protection procedures, as set out in clause 5 of the Bill.

These procedures are to be followed by people working at the premises if an act of terrorism was to occur at the premises or in the immediate vicinity, which may be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals. This includes ensuring there are procedures in place to provide information to individuals on the premises and to evacuate, invacuate or lockdown the premises.

The requirements for standard duty premises are focused on simple, low-cost activities surrounding policies and procedures, which are to be followed by staff in the event of terrorist attack or suspected terrorist attack occurring. The aim of these requirements is to improve staff preparedness and responses. There is no requirement to put in place physical measures in this tier. Furthermore, the reasonably practicable element will enable standard duty premises to tailor their approach to the resources they have available.

Enhanced duty premises and qualifying events

"Enhanced duty premises" and "qualifying events" are premises or events where it is reasonable to expect that 800 or more individuals may be present on the premises or attend the event at the same time. In addition to the same procedures as standard duty premises, persons responsible for enhanced duty premises and qualifying events will be

required to:

Notify the regulator of their premises/event;

Put in place appropriate and reasonably practicable public protection measures that could be expected to reduce both the vulnerability of the premises or event to an act of terrorism occurring at the location, and the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals if an attack was to occur there or nearby. For example, an enhanced duty premises will be required, insofar as reasonably practicable, to implement measures relating to the monitoring of the premises and their immediate vicinity;

Document the public protection procedures and measures in place, or proposed to put in place, and provide this document to the regulator. This document should include an assessment as to how those procedures and measures may be expected to reduce, so far as is reasonably practicable, vulnerability and risk of harm.

Where the responsible person for an enhanced duty premises or qualifying event is not an individual, they must appoint an individual as a designated senior individual with responsibility for ensuring that the relevant requirements are met.

Special categorisations and exemptions

There will be some limited exclusions and exemptions from the Bill's requirements, in particular where premises are already subject to existing requirements to consider and mitigate threats that achieve comparable security outcomes.

All places of worship will be placed into the standard tier where there are 200 or more individuals present at the same time—even if that number is 800 or greater. The Government consider it is appropriate that such places of worship take forward the standard duty procedures. However, places of worship are different to other premises in scope, in being readily accessible and welcoming to all, without the same commercial drivers as other premises, usually having no restrictions on entry, or staff routinely present. The Government recognise this, and will continue its work with faith communities to respect the unique nature of places of worship and how they operate, whilst considering how we can support them to reduce their vulnerability to terrorism and hate crime. This includes developing measures to better mitigate threats through local police engagement and Government-funded work programmes.

Primary, secondary and further education establishments have been placed within the standard tier even if their capacity is greater than 800 individuals. Existing safety and safeguarding requirements at these establishments mean they have a range of appropriate security procedures and access controls measures in place.

However, premises belonging to higher education institutions (e.g. universities) could be in either tier, depending on the number of individuals that can reasonably be expected on the relevant premises. This is because they are, in the main, more freely accessible and so should be subject to the full requirements of the Bill.

The regulator

The Bill establishes a regulator to oversee and enforce compliance of the Bill's requirements. This regulator will operate as a new function of the Security Industry Authority.

As an arm's length body, the Security Industry Authority is operationally independent of the Home Office whilst being accountable to Home Office Ministers. ...

Sanctions and enforcement

Compliance with the Bill's requirements will be overseen by the Security Industry Authority. The core principle of the regulator's activity will be to support, advise and guide those responsible for premises and events in meeting the requirements of this legislation. Due to the severity of the risk posed by terrorism, it is important that the Security Industry Authority has the necessary tools to investigate suspected non-compliance and, where it is found, remedy serious or persistent non-compliance.

To that end, the Security Industry Authority will have powers to issue a range of civil sanctions such as monetary penalties. Due to the seriousness of some actions and in line

with other regimes, the Bill also includes a limited number of underpinning criminal offences ...

The Bill also makes amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 and the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to protect premises plans from being used for the purposes of terrorism.

Dedicated guidance and support will be provided for duty holders to ensure that those in scope have the required information on what to do and how best to do it. ...

To read the full statement see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-12/debates/24091249000022/Terrorism\(ProtectionOfPremises\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-12/debates/24091249000022/Terrorism(ProtectionOfPremises)Bill)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Meat: Labelling

Sarah Green (Liberal Democrat) [4451] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make it his policy to require meat produced from animals not stunned before slaughter to be clearly labelled.

Reply from Daniel Zeichner: A consultation on proposals to improve and extend current mandatory method of production labelling was undertaken between March and May 2024 by the previous Government.

The consultation sought views on options for the production standards behind the label, including the period of life which should be covered by the standards (for example whether slaughter should be included). We are now carefully considering all responses provided to the consultation before deciding on next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/4451>

Information about the consultation referred to above can be read at

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/transforming-farm-animal-health-and-welfare-team/consultation-on-fairer-food-labelling/>

Prisons: Religious Practice

Sarah Owen (Labour) [3802] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps her Department is taking to ensure faith and pastoral care guidance for prisoners is being upheld.

Reply from Nicholas Dakin: The Government recognises the importance that faith and belief can have in someone's rehabilitation, and the role it can play in reducing re-offending. That is why we have been clear that we should include this in planning and work across prisons and probation, and with communities, to strengthen support available.

Faith and belief services, together with pastoral care in prison in England and Wales, are delivered by multi-faith Chaplaincy teams in all prisons and young offender institutions in the secure state, in accordance with the requirements of the Prison Act 1952, the Prison Rules 1999, the Young Offender Rules 2000 and Prison Service Instruction 05/2016 *Faith and Pastoral Care of Prisoners*.

The delivery of these services is monitored through Quality, Assurance and Development visits to prisons, inspections by HM Inspectorate of Prisons, and the annual reports of prison Independent Monitoring Boards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3802>

The Prison Act 1952, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6and1Eliz2/15-16/52/contents>

The Prison Rules 1999, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/728/contents>

The Young Offender [Institution] Rules 2000, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/3371/contents>

Prison Service Instruction 05/2016, referred to above, can be read at

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65ca0b949c5b7f000c951cd8/psi-05-2016-faith-pastoral-care-prisoners.pdf>

Conversion Therapy: LGBT+ People

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [4555] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to engage with LGBT+ people from minority (a) ethnic and (b) religious groups about the impact on them of (i) conversion practices, (ii) prejudice and (iii) abuse.

Reply from Anneliese Dodds: It is crucial that all LGBT+ people are safe and protected from discrimination, including those from ethnic minority and/or faith communities.

Work is underway to deliver the Government's Manifesto commitments that will enhance legislative protections for LGBT+ individuals. In particular, the Government is committed to delivering a trans-inclusive ban on abusive conversion practices and ensuring that all existing strands of hate crime constitute an aggravated offence.

We are committed to continuing to listen to all viewpoints as this work progresses, and engage with a wide range of stakeholders, organisations and all LGBT+ communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-06/4555>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following four questions all received the same answer

Marriage: Women

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL795] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to protect the spousal rights of women who have been married outside of the legal framework for weddings in England and Wales.

Marriage: Ceremonies

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL793] To ask His Majesty's Government further to the Written Answers by Lord Bellamy on 16 June and 2 August 2023 (HL8197 and HL9550), whether they will publish a response to the Law Commission Report Celebrating Marriage: A New Weddings Law, published in July 2022, particularly Recommendation 42.

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL796] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the compliance of the Marriage Act 1949 and other marriage law with the right to freedom of religion or belief, as Church of England and Church in Wales marriage ceremonies fulfil legal requirements and are legally recognised, while other religious ceremonies may not be.

Opportunity and Integration Review

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL794] To ask His Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the recommendation for reform of the Marriage Act 1949 in paragraph 8.50, page 135, of The Casey Review into Opportunity and Integration, published in December 2016.

Reply from Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede: We are aware that the Law Commission made recommendations for wholesale change to weddings law in July 2022. These recommendations include recommendation 42, in relation to the creation of offences relating to an officiant dishonestly misleading a couple about the legal effect of a wedding ceremony or failing to disclose that the ceremony they are officiating will not create a valid marriage. We will take the time as a new Government properly to consider the Law Commission's recommendations and will outline our position in due course.

The Marriage Act 1949 enables religious bodies, alongside the Church of England and the Church in Wales, to conduct legally binding weddings. However, the difficulties which those who have undergone ceremonies which do not qualify as legally binding face when their relationships come to an end is a matter of concern. That is why the Government committed in its 2024 manifesto to 'strengthen the rights and protections available to women in cohabiting couples'. We will set out the next steps on this manifesto commitment in the near future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/hl795>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/hl793>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/hl796>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/hl794>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/hl8197>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-20/hl9550>

The Law Commission report referred to above can be read at

<https://cloud-platform-e218f50a4812967ba1215eaecede923f.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/sites/30/2022/07/A-new-weddings-law-LC-report.pdf>

The Casey Review into Opportunity and Integration, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80c4fded915d74e6230579/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

The Marriage Act 1949, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/76/contents>

Press Release

Man convicted of conspiring to commit FGM against young girl in legal first

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/east-midlands/news/man-convicted-conspiring-commit-fgm-against-young-girl-legal-first>

TOP

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>

Stage 1 Debate

https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament10-09-2024?meeting=15982&iob=136443#orscontributions_M4934E351P846C2609184

UK Parliament

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3758>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3747>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3765>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/240009.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/en/240009en.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) DPM September 2024.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/Terrorism%20(Protection%20of%20Premises)%20DPM%20September%202024.pdf)

Human Rights Memorandum

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) ECHR Memorandum September 2024.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/Terrorism%20(Protection%20of%20Premises)%20ECHR%20Memorandum%20September%202024.pdf)

Impact Assessment

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/59-01/0009/HCB9ImpactAssessment.pdf>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-09-12/debates/B0E42AD2-5116-43AE-8B61-FDD4B20D52B0/PointsOfOrder#contribution-FD78D8C6-ECFA-4A79-9C7E-79CD7474879A>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Overarching factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-overarching-factsheet>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Scope (Premises)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-scope-premises>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill : Scope (Events)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-scope-events>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Reasonable expectation of numbers of individuals present (formerly known as capacity calculations)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-reasonable-expectation-of-numbers-of-individuals-present-formerly-known-as-capacity-calculations>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Responsible person factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-responsible-person-factsheet>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Standard duty requirements factsheet
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-standard-duty-requirements-factsheet>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Enhanced duty requirements factsheet
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-enhanced-duty-requirements-factsheet>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: Regulation, sanctions and enforcement factsheet
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024-factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-regulation-sanctions-and-enforcement-factsheet>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** An inspection into the Home Office's use of age assessments** (closing date 25 September 2024)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-into-the-home-offices-use-of-age-assessments>

**** An inspection of Home Office management of contact with migrants who are without leave to enter or remain** (closing date 30 September 2024)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-home-office-management-of-contact-with-migrants-who-are-without-leave-to-enter-or-remain>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Changes to charity law (closing date 1 October 2024)
<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/give-us-your-views-on-important-changes-to-charity-law/>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Henry Duncan Grants**

Closing date for applications: 30 October 2024

There are two different types of Henry Duncan Grants in 2024

1) Grants for Women Led Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Organisations

Henry Duncan Grants for Women Led Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Organisations will provide unrestricted funding for organisations that are led by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women and are working on issues that impact women and girls (aged 12+) in their communities.

2) Grants for Women Led Organisations

Henry Duncan Grants will provide unrestricted funding to organisations led by women. The organisation's work needs to have a focus on supporting women and girls (aged 12+) who have experienced gender-based violence.

For information and to apply see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/henry-duncan-grants/>

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>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Human Rights and Equalities Workshop

17 September 2024 (paisley, 10.00–2.00)

THRE workshop in collaboration with Engage Renfrewshire to explore how to apply a Human Rights and Equalities First approach to the work of Third Sector organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2mjyu2se>

**** Black History Month launch**

24 September 2024 (Glasgow, 5.30–7.30)

CRER launch event for Black History event 2024. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4thdr36r>

The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

25 September 2024 (online, 10.00–3.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more or are just curious about what a human rights and equalities first approach might be. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2z5b97e8>

Scotland's Programme for Government: What does it mean for Human Rights?

26 September 2024 (online, 12.00–1.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland discussion about the Scottish Government's latest Programme for Government and its impact on human rights in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/w2javsx6>

**** Untying the Knot: Islamic Rights of Muslim Women in Divorce**

26 September 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–9.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre event **for women only** to explore Islamic divorce and Muslim women's rights, and provide a practical guide on Muslim women initiating divorce through khulla in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2y9bare3>

Faith and the Future of Scotland

27 September 2024 (St Andrews, 8.30–5.00)

Scotland's Future, and St Andrews University School of Divinity discussion on how faith can positively shape the future of Scotland by dialoguing across religious and political divides. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5c4hudzk>

**** Black History Month**

1–31 October (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month celebrates the achievements and resilience of African, Caribbean, and Asian people and serves as an opportunity to highlight the ways in which these communities have a direct link with Scotland through the histories of slavery, colonialism and migration. For information and to read the full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/3969ans8>

**** Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 resources launch**

1 October 2024 (online, 4.00–5.00)

HMD 2025 will mark 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 30 years since the genocide in Bosnia. The resources launch will give you a head start in planning for these significant anniversaries. To book a place see <https://tinyurl.com/3ncs5epr>

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

3 October 2024 (online, 1.00–4.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach using the PANEL principles for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/sy9weepe>

The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

15 and 16 October 2024 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Two-day THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more or are just curious about what a human rights and equalities first approach might be. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yv2p3b7f>

**** Introduction to refugees: asylum and resettlement**

17 October 2024 (online, 1.00–4.30)

12 February 2025 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand relevant legal definitions and processes including the UK asylum process, 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/yrt2szue>

**** Introduction to working with interpreters**

6 November 2024 (online, 1.00–4.30)

27 February 2025 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you build the knowledge, skills and confidence

required to work effectively with spoken language interpreters. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mr32k8mz>

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>

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



*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/>*

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.