



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

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

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

We are sorry that financial constraints prevent us from continuing to produce MEMO. Thank you for all the very positive feedback many of you have given us over the years. The final issue will be published on 21 October 2024.

The UK Parliament will be in recess until 7 October 2024.

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Scottish Parliament Written Answer](#)

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy Delivery Plan

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-29230] To ask the Scottish Government how much each

action in the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy Delivery Plan with a deadline of 2024-25 will cost.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: The Scottish Government is committed to providing over £3.8m of grant funding towards the delivery of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy in 2024-25. This includes funding for Scottish Refugee Council to provide a comprehensive, nationwide Refugee Support Service. There is also funding made available to progress a Family Reunion service with the British Red Cross, a contribution to the continuation of Bridges Programme's Refugee Doctors Project, and partner resourcing to ensure actions they are responsible for delivering are progressed.

Additionally, we continue to fund a number of third sector organisations to support refugee integration. This funding totals £488,000 in 2024-25, with a number of these organisations working to the outcomes of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-29230>

The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy Delivery Plan, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2024/pages/11/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Visas

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [3239] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking with Cabinet colleagues to help tackle barriers to (a) accommodation, (b) employment and (c) education for people on Ukraine scheme visas unable to (i) enter into contracts and (ii) start courses beyond their existing visa.

Reply from Alex Norris: Ukrainians in the UK under the Ukraine schemes will be able to apply for permission to remain in the UK through the Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE) scheme due to open in early 2025. UPE will provide an additional 18 months' permission, and will provide the same rights and entitlements to access work, benefits, healthcare and education as the existing schemes.

The STEP-Ukraine programme continues to provide access to English language courses and employment support for up to 12,500 Ukrainians. Ukrainians can access the Adult Education Offer through their Local Authorities (LAs) which provide ESOL classes. People on Ukraine scheme visas seeking to start educational courses which extend beyond their visas will likely be eligible for a further extension under UPE to complete the course.

Local authorities continue to receive a tariff of £5,900 per Ukrainian arrival. This is un-ringfenced, which allows councils to use the funding to support households as best suits the local area, including measures to support access to accommodation and education.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-08-30/3239>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine 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 Extension Permission, referred to above, can be read at

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

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Siobhain McDonagh (Labour) [4962] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost was to the public purse of (a) legal fees and (b) related costs incurred for the rejection of freedom of information requests between 30 March 2020 and 9 September 2024 seeking the publication of the report entitled, The Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: We do not know the total legal fees incurred as we have not yet been billed for the complete period between 30 March 2020 to 9 September 2024, but we expect the final cost to be in the region of £20,000-£22,500. There was no awarding of costs in the First Tier Tribunal judgment that the Department must disclose the Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal report. The only other costs incurred were Home Office officials' time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-10/4962>

The report referred to is not currently available online.

Domestic Violence: Migrants

Tom Hayes (Labour) [4805] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to extend the Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain and Destitution Domestic Violence Concession to all migrant victims of domestic abuse regardless of immigration status.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: Tackling violence against women and girls is a top priority for this government and our mission is to halve levels of violence against women and girls within a decade.

We are reviewing all the issues impacting migrant victims of domestic abuse including the scope of both the Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession (formerly the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession) and the provisions of Appendix Victim of Domestic Abuse (formerly Domestic Violence Indefinite Leave to Remain).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-09/4805>

Information about the Concession referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-domestic-violence/migrant-victims-of-domestic-abuse-concession-accessible>

The Appendix referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-domestic-violence/appendix-victim-of-domestic-abuse-accessible>

Refugees

Tom Hayes (Labour) [4816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to extend the move-on period for newly-recognised refugees to a minimum of 56 days.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The government is aware of the need for a smooth transition out of asylum accommodation for recognised refugees. The Home Office works closely with MHCLG on ensuring move-on works effectively, so that those granted refugee status can integrate into society and work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-09/4816>

Undocumented Migrants: Housing

Rupert Lowe (Reform UK) [4567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average daily (a) upkeep and (b) accommodation cost is per irregular migrant; and what the total daily cost to the public purse incurred as a result of irregular migrants is as of 6 September 2024.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to support and accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. It does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates asylum accommodation costs by type, or any broader cost information relating specifically to irregular migrants in the United Kingdom.

The total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at [HO annual reports and accounts](#)

The government is determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly and fairly. This includes identifying a range of options to reduce the use of hotels over time and ensuring efficiency and value for money across all accommodation arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-06/4567>

Undocumented Migrants: Housing

Rupert Lowe (Reform UK) [4834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many beds are reserved to house irregular migrants; and what the cost is of those beds.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office does not reserve beds for irregular migrants. In accordance with the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation and subsistence support whilst their application for asylum is being considered. The Government is determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly and fairly. This includes identifying a range of options to reduce the use of hotels over time and ensuring efficiency and value for money across all accommodation arrangements.

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

As was the case under the previous government, the Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates asylum accommodation costs by type. The total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at [HO annual reports and accounts](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-09/4834>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Housing

Caroline Johnson (Conservative) [4535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what form of accommodation has been provided to migrants who were staying on the Bibby Stockholm.

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Johnson (Conservative) [4536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what form of accommodation is being provided for newly arrived asylum seekers.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office continues to identify a range of options to minimise the use of expensive hotels and ensure better use of public money, tackling backlogs to reduce accommodation demands across the system as a whole.

The AASC Statement of Requirements below gives a detailed breakdown of all of

the services to be undertaken by our accommodation providers and the standards we expect:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-06/4535>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-06/4536>

Migrants: Detainees

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [5104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have absconded from immigration detention in each year since 2004.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office publishes data on escapes from immigration detention in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on escapes from detention centres and absconds from escort is published by year in table Det_05a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The published data covers the period from 2017 to 2023. Data prior to 2017 is not published. Data for the year 2024 is due to be published in the August 2025 edition of the publication.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-10/5104>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL772] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the increasing number of migrant deaths when attempting to cross the English Channel.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: Channel crossing attempts by migrants in small boats have always been lethally dangerous, with the Channel being a very busy shipping lane. The first recorded fatalities occurred in August 2019. Since the start of 2024, there have been 12 fatal incidents involving the deaths of 37 people. Crossings are getting more and more dangerous as time goes on, with the danger and the risk rising as quality of boats deteriorates and more people are crammed on board.

The 'vessels' used to make these crossings are not of commercial manufacture. They are poorly constructed, from cheap and flimsy materials, are unseaworthy, underpowered, and lack safety equipment. They founder frequently, and for each fatal incident there are plenty of other near misses where boats have begun to deflate and people have gone in the water.

The criminal gangs who facilitate these crossings have no interest in the welfare of their clients, only in the pursuit of profit. It is for this reason that boats are increasingly seen to be overcrowded, with the most vulnerable packed into the middle of the boat where crushing and other injuries, such as fuel burns, become more likely.

We are working closely with the French to reduce the risk to life from these crossings and with partners across Europe to bring the evil people smuggling gangs to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-04/hl772>

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL788] To ask His Majesty's Government how many claims for compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme remain outstanding; and when they expect to settle the remaining claims.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The requested information can be found on Tab WCS_05 of [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: July 2024](#) released on 29 August 2024. As at end of July 2024, 856 compensation claims were in the Work in Progress category.

We will ensure the victims of the appalling Windrush scandal have their voices heard and the compensation scheme is run effectively, with a new Windrush Commissioner.

[Tab WCS_05 of Windrush Compensation Scheme data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-05/hl788>

Immigration

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL676] To ask His Majesty's Government what data they hold on the economic contributions of immigrants to the UK, including their roles in key sectors such as healthcare, technology, and agriculture.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: This Government collects a breadth of data on the economic contributions of immigrants to the UK, and their roles in key sectors. The collection of statistics, research and analysis published by the Home Office on migration can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-analysis-at-the-home-office>

As part of that collection, the Home Office publishes data on the volume of migrants coming to the UK, the journey those migrants take through the immigration system and for those in sponsored work, the occupation in which they are employed. Internal data, which is used to support the Impact Assessments and Evaluation contained in that collection, includes wider information on the salaries, and characteristics of those migrants. This is further supported by primary research, also published as part of that collection, into the decision making and contribution of those using the immigration system.

The Home Office also makes use of data held by other organisations, including the ONS, HMRC and DWP on the activities of those who are not required to report their employment to the Home Office. This includes data on, for example, payrolled employment by nationality and sector in the UK, including in healthcare, technology and agriculture.

Further analysis on the contributions of immigrants to the UK are produced by the independent Migration Advisory Committee, including as part of their Annual Report <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-annual-report-2023/migration-advisory-committee-mac-annual-report-2023-accessible>

and the by the OBR as part of the Economic and Fiscal outlook ([Net migration forecast and its impact on the economy](#) - Office for Budget Responsibility (obr.uk))

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl676>

Community Relations

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL678] To ask His Majesty's Government in what ways they are supporting the integration of immigrants into UK society, and what measures are in place to promote community cohesion and reduce discrimination.

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: All immigrants with valid status in the UK

should be able to fully integrate into British life. Immigrants who come to the UK usually integrate on their own initiative; there is not a one size fits all approach to integration, but we provide specific help to certain cohorts. For example Ukrainians through the STEP programme which provides an intensive 12 week English language and employment support course to support better employment outcomes and economic independence. Other cohorts supported include Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) and Afghans arriving in the UK through relocation schemes. Most refugees and those granted protection in the UK integrate successfully and become self-sufficient, providing for themselves and their families, and contributing to the economy, to support this we are working across Government and with local authorities to ensure they have access to the labour market, to mainstream benefits (where eligible) and services, and to mainstream English language provision to enable their integration.

Government policy places a key role in supporting thriving, cohesive and resilient communities. Work is now underway in my Department to develop a stronger approach to support our communities and to build resilience against the challenges they face.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl678>

Visas: Families and Married People

The Lord Bishop of Manchester [HL660] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase the minimum income threshold for applications for a (1) spousal, and (2) family, visa.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: To help ensure we reach the right balance and have a solid evidence base for any change, the Home Secretary has announced her intention to commission the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to review the financial requirements in the Family Immigration Rules. The government will consider their recommendations before making any changes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl660>

Civil Partnerships

Lord Teverson (Liberal Democrat) [HL699] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to ensure that UK citizens have the right to marry or form a civil partnership, other than a marriage of convenience, with whom they wish, and have the freedom to reside with their spouse or partner in the UK whatever their wealth or income.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: British citizens and those settled in the UK are free to enter into a genuine relationship with whomever they choose. Foreign partners are able to come to the UK to be married or enter into a civil partnership through a visit visa, where they intend to return home, or a fiancé visa where they intend to go on to apply for permission to stay as a spouse or partner.

Unmarried partners, where the couple have been in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership for at least 2 years are able to apply for a permission to enter or stay in the UK as partner.

For those intending to establish their family life in the UK through the spouse, partner or fiancé routes, it is appropriate they should do so on a basis which is fair to the UK taxpayer and promotes integration with the wider community.

The government has announced the intention to commission the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to conduct a review of the financial requirements of the family immigration rules and will take into account their recommendations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl699>

The following three questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Racial Discrimination

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL717] To ask His Majesty's Government what, if any, race equality impact assessment has been made of policy and practice relating to registering statutory rights to British citizenship.

British Nationality

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL718] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that the right to British citizenship under the British Nationality Act 1981 is not confused or conflated with the powers and discretion delegated to the Home Secretary to manage the immigration system including naturalisation of adult migrants.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL720] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that statutory rights to be registered as a British citizen under the British Nationality Act 1981 are exercised so that all children who are born, and have grown up, in the UK are recognised as citizens.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: In line with the duties introduced by the Equality Act 2010, the Home Office undertakes an equality impact assessment whenever decisions are taken on policy relating to registering statutory rights to British citizenship. Most recently, equality impact assessments were undertaken when changes were made to Section 3(1) British Nationality Act 1981 and on the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

There are various provisions within the British Nationality Act 1981 that allow for children born in the UK to register as British citizens. The Home Office has published clear and easy to follow guidance for applications under each of these sections. Home Office caseworkers are trained to carry out their duties to ensure that those who apply and meet the statutory requirements are granted citizenship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/hl717>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/hl718>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-03/hl720>

The British Nationality Act 1981, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/contents>

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/36/contents>

The following three questions all received the same answer

British Nationality: Children in Care

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL655] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage and support local authorities to ensure that children in their care with rights to British citizenship have their citizenship rights confirmed or registered, including where necessary by confirming relevant information from records held by the Home Office.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL656] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that children with rights to British citizenship can secure their citizenship rights where hostile British or settled fathers are unwilling to support their child's registration or passport applications.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL657] To ask His Majesty's Government what

steps they are taking to fulfil the commitments made to Parliament at the time of the creation of British citizenship under the British Nationality Act 1981 that information would be made available to affected individuals.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Office regularly engages with local authorities to support them in ensuring that children in local authority care, who are not already British citizens, can make an appropriate application for registration for citizenship. Children in local authority care are not required to pay an application fee when applying for registration as a British citizen.

In most cases, local authorities have access to the information needed to establish the citizenship rights and apply for registration for children in their care. Where there are evidence gaps, the Home Office will assist any applicant by checking information held in its records to confirm a claim.

Following the implementation of the British Nationality Act 1981, a range of explanatory material was prepared to support those affected by changes made by the Act. This material has been maintained and now forms part of the content of the relevant GOV.UK pages. The Home Office maintains published customer guidance for every British citizenship and nationality route, and also provides a British nationality status confirmation service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl655>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl656>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl657>

The explanatory material referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-citizenship-caseworker-guidance/british-citizenship-accessible>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-registration-as-a-british-citizen-form-ard/guidance-on-registering-as-a-british-citizen-form-ard-accessible>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6463978e0b72d3000c34458a/Nationality_policy_-_general_information_-_all_British_nationals_v4.pdf

Guidance for British citizenship and nationality routes, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/citizenship>

Information about the British nationality status confirmation service, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650c220a52e73c00139425f0/Guide_NS_-_Oct_2023.pdf

Immigration Controls

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL674] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take to ensure effective border control and management of illegal immigration.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: This government is implementing a serious, practical plan for reform; the Home Secretary has taken immediate steps to strengthen our approach by launching a new Border Security Command (BSC). Capabilities from across the Home Office have come together to build the foundational operating model of BSC with over 90 staff currently in post. Wider recruitment is ongoing as part of the broader organisational design.

The BSC will provide strategic direction across several agencies and partners, drawing together the work of the National Crime Agency (NCA), intelligence agencies, police, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force.

It will also work with international partners to disrupt the activity of criminal smuggling gangs and ensure those profiting from people-smuggling are brought to justice.

As set out in the King's speech, this government will introduce new legislative measures to restore order to our border.

The proposed new legislation will include provisions to give the border security system stronger powers to disrupt, investigate and prosecute facilitators of organised immigration crime.

Furthermore, in August the Home Secretary announced new measures to provide long term security to our border which included: the deployment of 100 specialist staff to the National Crime Agency (NCA) to disrupt and smash criminal smuggling gangs, a surge in enforcement and return flights, and increased detention capacity including 290 added beds at Campsfield and Haslar Immigration Removal Centres.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl674>

Migrant Workers: Skilled Workers

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL679] To ask His Majesty's Government, in light of current labour shortages in various industries, how they are adjusting immigration policies to attract and retain skilled workers from abroad.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: Net migration is too high and must be reduced.

This means employers should look to the domestic labour market to nurture and develop the skills where they can.

This is why we are setting out a different approach – one that links migration policy and visa controls to skills and labour market policies – so immigration is not used as an alternative to training or tackling workforce problems here at home.

As a first step, we have commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to identify the reasons for the reliance on international recruitment in key sectors, including IT and engineering.

The MAC commission has been published on their website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/mac-commissioned-to-review-it-and-engineering-sectors

[Letter](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl679>

Immigration: Public Sector

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL675] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of recent immigration levels on public services, including healthcare, education, and housing.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: This Government has an ongoing programme of work to monitor and evaluate the impact of migration. Statistics, research and analysis published by the Home Office on migration can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-analysis-at-the-home-office>

Further analysis on recent levels of net migration and its impacts are produced by the independent Migration Advisory Committee as part of their Annual Report, the most recent of which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-annual-report-2023/migration-advisory-committee-mac-annual-report-2023-accessible>

[MAC Framework Document](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl675>

Immigration: Applications

Lord Reid of Cardowan (Labour) [HL677] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps

they are taking to improve the efficiency and fairness of the immigration system, particularly in terms of processing times and decision transparency.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Secretary has removed the retrospective application of the Illegal Migration Act. This allows decision-makers to decide asylum claims from individuals who have arrived in the UK since 7 March 2023, with claims to be considered against the existing legislative regime under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

Asylum interviews have commenced, and asylum claims are now being decided for individuals who arrived in the UK from 7 March 2023.

We are determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly, and fairly; and ensures the rules are properly enforced.

Data relating to the performance against visa service standards are produced as part of the Migration Transparency publication.

These can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

[Immigration and protection data: Q2 2024](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl677>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Employment

Lord Allen of Kensington (Labour) [HL552] To ask His Majesty's Government, under the policy whereby asylum seekers whose claims have been outstanding for more than 12 months through no fault of their own can request permission to work in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List published by the Home Office, how many such requests have been (1) made, and (2) granted, since the policy was introduced; and how many asylum seekers have taken up employment under that policy.

Lord Allen of Kensington (Labour) [HL553] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to alter the current arrangements for asylum seekers whose claim has been outstanding for more than 12 months through no fault of their own to be able to request permission to work in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List published by the Home Office.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: Asylum seekers granted permission to work are restricted by the Home Office to apply for jobs on the Immigration Salary List which replaced the Shortage Occupation List on 4 April 2024. The list itself is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee, who will continue to review those occupations.

Asylum seekers are provided with accommodation and support to meet their essential living needs if they would otherwise be destitute whilst their claim is considered.

We also encourage asylum seekers to undertake volunteering activities, so long as it does not amount to unpaid work. Volunteering provides a valuable contribution to their local community and may help them to integrate into society if they ultimately qualify for protection.

The Home Office are unable to report how many asylum seekers have applied for and been accepted for permission to work as this information is not held in a reportable format or forms part of published data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl552>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/hl553>

Press Releases

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy: Speech from the Minister for Equalities

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-minister-for-equalities/>

New investment for Border Security Command

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-investment-for-border-security-command>

New Publications

Destitution by Design: righting the wrongs of UK immigration policy in Scotland

https://researchportal.hw.ac.uk/files/141149624/DESIGNED_MASTER_Fair_Way_Scotland_Evaluation_End_of_Year_2_Report_FINAL_Sept_10th_copy.pdf

Latest Asylum Trends for the EU: first half of 2024

<https://euaa.europa.eu/latest-asylum-trends-asylum>

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

Small boats total passes 24,000 for the year so far as 707 make Channel crossing

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-home-office-keir-starmer-yvette-cooper-government-b2616936.html>

Channel crossings continue after eight migrants die trying to reach UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-channel-martin-hewitt-government-labour-b2613582.html>

Ex-police chief to lead efforts to tackle small boats

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm2yym0dk9zo>

Terror suspects ‘waltz in’ on small boats, says Jenrick

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/09/21/dozens-terror-suspects-crossed-channel-small-boats-jenrick/>

Why UK can't just return migrants to France, as Reform says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyxeedx40d8o>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Starmer looks to Italy on how to stop migrant boats

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrmme1d6gvo>

Europe can't take half a billion migrants from Africa, warns Zahawi

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/09/21/europe-cant-take-half-a-billion-migrants-africa-zahawi/>

Vulnerable families warned of UK immigration process change

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/evisa-immigration-brp-switch-visa-b2614277.html>

Hostile immigration policies "virtually guarantee" destitution and homelessness for thousands

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/news/2024/hostile-immigration-policies-virtually-guarantee-destitution-and-homelessness-for-thousands>

Hostile UK immigration policies leave 97% destitute

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/24583556.hostile-uk-immigration-policies-leave-97-destitute/>

Urgent action needed on homelessness and destitution

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/urgent-action-needed-on-homelessness-and-destitution/>

Only one change made at 'toxic' migrant centre

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvql46441jeo>

English identity is under threat from migration, says Jenrick

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/09/20/english-identity-under-threat-from-migration-robert-jenrick/>

English identity is fraying, says Robert Jenrick

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/ignoring-migration-concern-risks-far-right-surge-says-robert-jenrick-hzbptx5xr>

Jordanians seeking asylum 'will fall' after UK closes visa loophole

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/fe1ab3fe-83e4-4c55-8b15-3762083a2a18>

Rwanda plan was un-British, says ex-PM John Major

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz6wjdn0g7o>

John Major: Rwanda scheme is un-Conservative and un-British

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/09/18/john-major-rwanda-scheme-un-conservative-un-british/>

John Major criticises Rwanda asylum plan as 'un-Conservative and un-British'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/sep/18/john-major-rwanda-plan-un-conservative-un-british>

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Equality

News

Benefit sanctions more likely for minority ethnic claimants, UK data shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/sep/16/benefit-sanctions-more-likely-for-minority-ethnic-claimants-uk-data-shows>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Racism Against Irish People in Scotland

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-29769] To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination report, following the combined 24th and 26th periodic reports of the UK and Northern Ireland, which reportedly notes concern about "reports of racist incidents and ethnic and religious prejudice against Irish persons in Scotland".

Reply from Kaulab Stewart: The Scottish Government is absolutely clear that there is no place for hatred and prejudice in Scotland. We work cooperatively with a range of organisations throughout the country to tackle all forms of hatred and prejudice, including Irish community organisations in Scotland.

Our Hate Crime Strategy Delivery Plan sets out our immediate actions over the next two years, up to April 2026, to implement Scotland's Hate Crime Strategy. This reflects our commitment that everyone in Scotland lives free from hatred and prejudice and that all our communities, including our Irish communities, are empowered, inclusive and safe.

The Delivery Plan supports the implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021. The Act consolidates, modernises and extends existing hate crime legislation and is an essential element of our wider approach to tackling hate crime. The Act includes legislative protections against offences aggravated by prejudice against race and religion.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-29769>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/mt93dfft>

The Delivery Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-delivery-plan/>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-scotland/>

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2021/14/contents>

News

Neo-Nazi found with home 'armoury' guilty of terrorism offences

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqjrr845qd1o>

Neo-Nazi white supremacist found guilty of terrorism charges

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/90c3ce78-1ff0-461f-897c-ccaea7751321>

Row over 'anti-Semitic' cartoonist invited to speak at arts festival

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/09/21/mohammad-sabaaneh-palestinian-cartoonist-lakes-festival/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Citizenship: Education

John Glen (Conservative) [4990] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps this Government is taking to promote British values.

Reply from Catherine McKinnell: Education plays a vital role in promoting integration and ensuring children and young people are prepared for life in modern Britain, including learning about the values that underpin and unite our society. All schools have specific duties to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of their pupils and to prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. Schools are also required to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. The department has issued guidance for maintained schools here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a758c9540f0b6397f35f469/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

The duty is also reflected in guidance for independent schools (including academies) on compliance with the Independent Schools Standards. The guidance provides that schools should encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes. It can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5cd3fc2fe5274a3fd6ee74b0/Independent_School_Standards- Guidance_070519.pdf

Promotion of these values plays an important role in preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain. The department continues to provide free resources for teachers and school leaders to support them with this via our Educate Against Hate website, which can be found here:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-10/4990>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Scottish independence referendum: legal issues

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

Female Genital Mutilation, Annual Report - April 2023 to March 2024

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/april-2023-to-march-2024>

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Other News

Launch of the 'Volunteering For All National Recruitment Campaign'

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/news/launch-of-the-volunteering-for-all-national-recruitment-campaign>

The role religious faith plays in shaping Scotland's political future

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24598769.role-religious-faith-plays-shaping-scotlands-political-future/>

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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>

Summary of responses from the calls for views

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/health-social-care-and-sport-committee/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults/summary-analysis.pdf>

Published Responses

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/ecdded04/consultation/published_select_respondent

Data tables

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/health-social-care-and-sport-committee/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults/data-for-figure-1-and-2-of-assisted-dying-bill-summary-of-responses.xlsx>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum 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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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>

**** Family visa financial requirements** (closing date 11 December 2024)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/family-visa-financial-requirements>

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

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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

24 September to 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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

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>

**** Maritime Leith's Black History**

4 October 2024 (Leith, 1.00–3.00)

11 October 2024 (Leith, 1.00–3.00)

18 October 2024 (Leith, 1.00–3.00)

Black History Month tour of Trinity House to discover the stories that link its collections and maritime Leith with Black History. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zv84hdz3>

**** Anti-Racist Education in Scotland**

7 October 2024 (online, 4.00–5.30)

Education Scotland Black History Month webinar introducing examples of national and local developments in anti-racist education in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3hk55hdf>

**** Museums, Empire and Difficult Heritage at Kelvingrove**

10 October 2024 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

CRER tour of Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum examining the entanglements between museums and empire, discussing Kelvingrove's links with chattel slavery, colonialism and imperialism, recognising the ways this history continues to shape it today, and thinking about how museums can be spaces for having meaningful conversations about empire and its legacies. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3vynzynw>

**** Spreading racism at breakfast**

10 October 2024 (online, 3.00–4.00)

Media co-op preview of a film about Robertson's Jam golly logo for Black History Month. For generations, jam and marmalade made in Paisley had a golly on every jar - a racist image, dating from black-face minstrels in the days of slavery. Some people remember the golly fondly while others are appalled at decades of spreading racism with our breakfast toast. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/muth5mhm>

**** George Square Walking Tour**

12 October 2024 (Glasgow, 1.00–2.30)

CRER walking tour for Black History Month to find out how the statues in Glasgow's George Square reveal a hidden history of Scotland's complicated involvement in slavery and abolition. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdz9j4uz>

**** Glasgow Black History Walking Tour**

13 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

20 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

27 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

30 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

CRER walking tour for Black History Month taking participants on a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examining the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5emyfv7k>

The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

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

Two-day THREE 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>

**** Breaking the Chains – a Walking Tour exploring Dundee's Links to Slavery**

16 October 2024 (Dundee, 2.30)

University of Dundee Museums walking tour for Black History Month highlighting sites in Dundee associated with transatlantic and American slavery. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/363wvaea>

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>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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