



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.

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**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.  
This is the final issue.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Debates

#### **Hongkongers in the UK: Visas, Security and Services**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-17/debates/1518BF72-E3B8-48D4-A5C4-E061C1354F08/HongkongersInTheUKVisasSecurityAndServices>

#### **Immigration (Guidance on Detention of Vulnerable Persons) Regulations 2024**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-14/debates/D2E2BEE6-63D0-4D2D-A492-8A23CCB4CD35/Immigration\(GuidanceOnDetentionOfVulnerablePersons\)Regulations2024](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-14/debates/D2E2BEE6-63D0-4D2D-A492-8A23CCB4CD35/Immigration(GuidanceOnDetentionOfVulnerablePersons)Regulations2024)

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

#### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Caroline Johnson (Conservative)** [8845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) adults and (b) children have (i) applied for and (ii) been found eligible to relocate and settle permanently in the UK under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 1 Stage 2: Separated Families.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 32,600 people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for our Afghan schemes. We continue to honour our commitments to bring eligible Afghans to the UK.

The window to submit an expression of interest under ACRS Pathway 1 Stage 2: Separated Families was opened on 30 July 2024. This will remain open until 30 October 2024. Those who have been resettled in the UK under Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 1 and were evacuated during Operation Pitting without their immediate family members can submit an expression of interest under this pathway.

Further information is viewable at: [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme: Separated Families Pathway](#).

Data on the number of individuals relocated under this Pathway will be included in future additions of Afghan Operational data. Data on eligibility considerations will not be published. Work is ongoing to consider the expressions of interest submitted thus far as quickly as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-14/8845>

#### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [7527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to provide the UNHCR with a renewed quota under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

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

As of the end of June 2024, the latest published Immigration Statistics show that around 30,100 people had been brought to safety from Afghanistan and the region.

The latest release is available at:

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

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), designed to support those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values, as well as vulnerable people, has seen 12,131 individuals resettled to the UK, as of 30 June 2024.

Our immediate priority for the ACRS is the relocation of those individuals who have already been identified as eligible for resettlement under our resettlement schemes but have not yet travelled.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-07/7527>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [8243] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme will continue to provide thank you payments to people hosting displaced Ukrainians.

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [8244] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she plans to take once the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme is introduced to a) incentivise the continuation of people hosting and b) reduce the risk of homelessness amongst displaced Ukrainians.

**Rushanara Ali:** More than two years on, we continue to stand firm with the brave people who remain in Ukraine, and to warmly welcome those who need sanctuary in the UK.

We are greatly appreciative of the overwhelming generosity shown by sponsors in accommodating guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. It is thanks to this generosity that we have been able to welcome over 156,000 Ukrainians to the UK. We continue to encourage those who can offer support to come forward with offers of sponsorship.

We provide a tariff of £5,900 per Ukrainian arrival to councils. This is un-ringfenced, which allows councils to use the funding to support households as best suits the local area, including measures to support guests who have left sponsorship to access the private rented sector.

Local councils have a responsibility to support Ukrainians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including providing temporary accommodation where required to ensure no family is without a roof over their head.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/8243>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/8244>

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Paula Barker (Labour)** [6622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that Ukrainians living in the UK are not separated from their families, in the context of changes to the Ukraine visa schemes in February 2024.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Ukrainian family members, including children, are not prevented from entering the UK. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme remains open to new applicants, their applications must be sponsored by someone who is British, Irish or who has settled status.

Ukrainians who meet the eligibility criteria can also join family members through standard visa or family routes, which attract a fee.

Our Ukraine schemes are kept under continual review as we look to provide stability both for those we have welcomed to the UK and those who still need our sanctuary.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6622>

*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>*

### **Visas: Ukraine**

**Tom Hayes (Labour)** [8360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to make it her policy to give Ukrainian visa holders (a) humanitarian protection or (b) other long-term status.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** This Government is committed to standing with Ukraine, and providing stability for those we have welcomed to the UK and those who still need our sanctuary.

To provide future certainty to those who have been provided with sanctuary in the UK under the existing Ukraine schemes, the government will be introducing a bespoke Ukraine Permission Extension (UPE), due to open in early 2025. This will allow those with sanctuary to apply for further permission to remain in the UK, giving them the same rights and entitlements as they have been given under the existing Ukraine Schemes.

To allow ease of transition, this scheme will open in advance of the first Ukraine scheme visas expiring, with further details on eligibility and application processes being available before the scheme opens.

The Ukrainian government have been clear about their strong desire for the future return of its citizens to help rebuild Ukraine when it is safe to do so. It is important that our approach respects these wishes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/8360>

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

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

### **Visas: Applications**

**Adam Jogee (Labour)** [7993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the time taken for visa applications to be processed for (a) adults and (b) children.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** We are seeking to ensure visa applications are processed as quickly as possible. Customer service standards exist for all types of visa applications, however the time taken to process a visa application may take longer under certain circumstances such as if the information provided is not accurate or further evidence is required.

If there is a delay, the applicant will be notified of this within the current processing times.

Data relating to the performance against visa service standards for all types of applications 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>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [6414] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of allowing spousal visa applications to be submitted prior to the wedding date.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Fiancés, fiancées or proposed civil partners can apply for a six-month Entry Clearance to enable a marriage or civil partnership to take place in the UK.

Once the ceremony has taken place, the spouse or civil partner will be eligible to apply for permission to stay in the UK, on a route to settlement, as a partner under the Family Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6414>

### **Visas: Skilled Workers**

**Gideon Amos (Liberal Democrat)** [8583] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the guidance entitled Immigration Rules, updated 10 October 2024, whether the rules applicable to a person with a Skilled Workers visa are those (a) currently in place or (b) when a person's leave was granted.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The most recent changes relating to the Skilled Worker immigration rules will apply to all applications made using a certificate of sponsorship issued from 8 October 2024. These changes were corrections to the salary going rates for the Skilled Worker route which came into force in April 2024. Changes made to the rules for partner and dependent child of a person will apply to all outstanding applications by Skilled Workers, and their dependents, regardless of the dates the applications were made, so they can benefit from the new provisions.

These changes only affect applications which have yet to be decided. They do not apply to applications which have already been granted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-10/8583>

*The Immigration Rules update referred to above can be read at*

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

*Information about the Skilled Worker route, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

**Sarah Owen (Labour)** [6547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made with the Secretary of State for Education of the potential impact of changes to the eligibility of people with student visas to bring dependents on enrolment numbers in higher education settings.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** A full economic Impact Assessment (IA) was produced relating to the potential impacts of changes to the eligibility of student visa holders to bring dependants. The IA is available at:

[2023 changes to the student route and consequential changes to work routes: impact assessment](#)

Home Office also publish monthly statistics on visas issued (including those on study visas and their dependants). These statistics do not consider the extent to which the lower volumes relative to last year are attributable to the specific policy changes in question. The monthly statistics are available at:

[Monthly monitoring of entry clearance visa applications](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6547>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [7525] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of reviewing the exemption criteria for the EU Settlement Scheme, in the context of the exceptional circumstances faced by some applicants during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** There is already significant flexibility available to those applying to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) whose circumstances have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, they can be absent from the UK for a period of up to 12 months without breaking their continuity of residence where this is for an important reason, which can include COVID-19.

The relevant published guidance, which provides for further flexibility for EUSS applicants who would otherwise have broken their continuous qualifying period of residence in the UK because of COVID-19, is available at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-07/7525>

### **Immigration: Lebanon**

**Mohammad Yasin (Labour)** [6411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made a recent assessment of the potential merits of implementing a (a) resettlement and (b) reunification scheme for citizens of Lebanon with family connections to the UK.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** We are deeply concerned by the rising tensions and civilian casualties in Lebanon.

Lebanese nationals who wish to come to the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available.

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

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

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

We are monitoring the situation in Lebanon closely and keeping all existing pathways under constant review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6411>

### **Asylum: Visas**

**Andy McDonald (Labour)** [6258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward proposals to pilot a refugee visa scheme for people from countries with high asylum grant rates to allow them to travel to the UK to apply for asylum.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** The UK has always done our bit to help those fleeing persecution and continues to welcome refugees and people in need through our global resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship and the Mandate Resettlement Scheme. Alongside these schemes, we operate specific schemes for those fleeing Ukraine and Afghanistan, and an immigration route for British National (overseas) status holders from Hong Kong. There are also Displaced Talent initiatives which help displaced populations to access a skilled worker visa. The refugee family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection in the UK to stay with them or join them

here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Between 2015 and August 2024, 625,294 individuals were offered a route into the UK through these schemes and policies.

We are focused on ensuring existing pathways work effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6258>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship, and Mandate Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611cd056d3bf7f63b45df0ed/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611cd056d3bf7f63b45df0ed/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

*Information about the Ukraine Schemes 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 Afghanistan Schemes 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>

*and*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

*Information about the BN(O) Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

*Information about the Displaced Talent Initiatives, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skilled-refugees-contributing-1m-to-uk-economy-each-year>

### **British National (Overseas): Employment**

**Priti Patel (Conservative)** [6177] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the potential barriers to employment for people from Hong Kong who are resident in the UK under the British National (Overseas) visa (a) in general and (b) when that employment requires a Certificate of No Criminal Conviction to be secured from the Hong Kong authorities for the purposes of a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

**Reply from Alex Norris:** The Government is aware that some Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status holders [BN(O)s] can face barriers to employment in the UK. To support BN(O)s as they integrate into their communities, the department developed a Welcome Programme, which launched in April 2021. Through this programme, BN(O)s are able to access guidance and support on a range of issues including employment, education, housing and English language provision.

The Government has recently announced a “Jobs for Hongkongers” initiative, part of the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme. This will be delivered by The Growth Company and will support BN(O)s in England to find employment through an 8-week course. Support will be delivered in Cantonese, in person and remotely, allowing access to all who need support. Where a BN(O) requires a Certificate of No Criminal Conviction check, there is guidance on the process and sectoral examples for obtaining alternative checks on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6177>

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

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

*Information about the BN(O) Welcome Programme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hong-kong-uk-welcome-programme>

### **Undocumented Migrants**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [7406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of how many people are living in the UK illegally.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** By its very nature, it is not possible to know the exact size of the illegal population, or the number of people who arrive illegally, and so the Home Office does not seek to make any official estimates of the illegal population. In June 2019, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a note on '[measuring illegal migration](#)'.

The Home Office does publish statistics on detected irregular arrivals to the UK as part of the '[Irregular migration to the UK](#)' quarterly statistics release. However, this does not indicate the number of irregular migrants currently in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-07/7406>

### **Immigration Controls: Children**

**Andy McDonald (Labour)** [6257] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) amend the Immigration Rules entitled Child staying with or joining a Non-Parent Relative (Protection), published on 25 February 2016, to allow children to join wider family members and (b) take other steps to increase the number of refugees who are reunited with their family members in the UK.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Our refugee family reunion policy is intended to allow those granted protection status in the UK to sponsor their partner or children to stay with or join them here, provided they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country of origin to seek protection. Appendix CNP (Child Staying with or Joining a Non-Parent Relative) allows for a non-parent relative with protection status in the UK to sponsor a child to stay with or join them, where there are serious and compelling circumstances. This can be in situations where the child has no family other than the non-parent relative that could reasonably be expected to support or care for them.

Appendix CNP requires sponsors to demonstrate that suitable arrangements have been made for the child's care which serves to both ensure that children may only come to the UK through this route where it is in their best interest and prevents additional pressures on local authorities. Immigration Rules changes were introduced to Appendix CNP as part of the Autumn 2024 rules changes to simplify existing requirements and provide greater clarity to applicants and decision makers. These changes take effect from 8 November 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6257>

*Appendix CNP, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-child-staying-with-or-joining-a-non-parent-relative-protection>

### **Migrants: Health Services and Temporary Accommodation**

**Tom Hayes (Labour)** [8361] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to tackle misinformation relating to (a) migrant access to NHS services and (b) accommodation of asylum seekers.

**Reply from Andrew Gwynne:** As my Rt. Hon. friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said on 9 September 2024, the Online Safety Act will be the Government's key tool in combatting online mis- and disinformation.

The Department recognises the importance of reducing barriers to services for migrants, and encourages these groups to access the National Health Services' they are entitled to. The Government has published the Migrant Health Guide, which sets out guidance on the services which migrants are entitled to receive. This guidance is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide>



The Department of Health and Social Care works with the Home Office to ensure asylum seekers have access to health care. The Home Office will ensure that the asylum system operates fairly, and processes claims quickly.

The Department of Health and Social Care, along with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, the UK Health Security Agency, NHS England, the Home Office, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, are in the final stages of agreeing the principles, objectives, and priorities of a National Partnership Agreement which will set out the common aspirations to support the health and wellbeing needs of people seeking asylum. They will also support local systems, like integrated care boards, local authorities, voluntary, community, and social enterprises, and others, in delivering these locally.

NHS England has been working with the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence to support access to healthcare services for people on protection and resettlement routes, as well as people seeking asylum. NHS England has also worked with the Home Office to improve support during the Move On period, when people are granted leave to remain, and any change of accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/8361>

*The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's comment referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-09-02/3898>

### Asylum

**Anna Dixon (Labour)** [7210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle the backlog in asylum seeker claims.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** We are committed to restoring order to the asylum system, clearing the backlog to end the use of hotels.

The Home Secretary has removed the retrospective application of the Illegal Migration Act. This allows asylum claims from individuals who have arrived in the UK since 7 March 2023, to be considered against the existing legislative regime under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, rather than waiting in the queue eligible for support.

The Home Office's programme of transformation and business improvement aims to speed up decision making to reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or decision and remain in hotels. This will enable us to maximise our capacity and progress cases in a more efficient and cost-effective way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7210>

### Asylum: Employment

**Andy McDonald (Labour)** [6259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a right to work for asylum seekers who have (a) lodged an asylum application and (b) been waiting more than six months for a decision on their asylum application.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** As has been the case for many years, asylum seekers who have had their claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, can apply for permission to work. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Immigration Salary List. This list is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Whilst we keep all policies under review, there are no plans to change this policy. The Government is determined to restore order to the asylum system. We will ensure that the system operates fairly and with quicker processing of claims. This will see recognised refugees being able to access employment more quickly, whilst failed asylum seekers can be safely returned.

### **Asylum: Employment**

**Simon Opher (Labour)** [8506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of giving asylum seekers the right to work whilst their application is being processed.

**Reply from Seema Malhotra:** Asylum seekers who have had their claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, can apply for permission to work. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Immigration Salary List. This list is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Whilst we keep all policies under review, there are no immediate plans to change the existing policy. It is important that we distinguish between individuals who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules.

The Government is determined to restore order to the asylum system after it has been put under unprecedented pressure. We will ensure that the system operates fairly and with quicker processing of claims. This will see recognised refugees being able to work, whilst failed asylum seekers can be removed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-10/8506>

### **Asylum: Gender Based Violence**

**Laura Kyrke-Smith (Labour)** [8397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle violence against women and girls in the asylum system.

**Reply from Jess Philips:** The health and safety of asylum seekers is of paramount importance to the Home Office. We are committed to delivering an asylum process that is gender sensitive – building on the wider Government strategy to tackle violence against women and girls.

All decision-makers receive mandatory training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance, including specific guidance on gender issues, which covers specific forms of gender-based persecution.

The Home Office works closely with partners on a range of initiatives, including those which are reflected in our gender asylum policy guidance, for example providing information about safeguarding and signposting to support services and provision of gender specific interviewers and interpreters. You can find this guidance here: [Gender issues in asylum claims: caseworker guidance](#).

Our providers maintain high standards and follow established standard procedures to manage the safety, security and wellbeing of those we accommodate.

The Home Office has published the Asylum Support Contracts Safeguarding Framework at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-contracts-safeguarding-framework>

This framework sets out a joint, overarching approach, as well as the key controls and reporting mechanisms in place, across the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts, for safeguarding arrangements.

A 24/7 helpline provided by Migrant Help is available to raise any concerns.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/8397>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Migrants: Homelessness**

**Deidre Costigan (Labour)** [6785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking with (a) the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and

Local Government and (b) relevant organisations to increase the quality of data available to her Department on the number of (i) migrants with no recourse to public funds and (ii) other migrants who become homeless.

**Deidre Costigan (Labour)** [6786] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will have discussions with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on the potential impact of the no recourse to public funds condition on levels of homelessness; and if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of reviewing the operation of the condition.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** The Home Office is committed to understanding how the NRPF policy impacts different migrant groups through engagement with public and private sector organisations on a regular basis, including at the quarterly NRPF Stakeholder Forum. The Government is looking at homelessness levels carefully and will develop a new cross-government strategy, working with mayors and councils across the country to bring an end to homelessness.

The Home Office is in the process of migrating its casework operations to the new ATLAS system. Once fully migrated, it will be possible to explore what further information on NRPF can be produced using the new system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6785>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6786>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Homelessness**

**Deidre Costigan (Labour)** [6787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will discuss with the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs on the (a) adequacy and (b) efficiency of consular support with processing (i) identity and (ii) travel documents for undocumented migrants who are homeless in the UK.

**Reply from Angela Eagle:** The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office provides consular assistance to British nationals abroad.

The Home Office provides the Homelessness Escalation Service for organisations supporting non-UK nationals experiencing homelessness. Local Authorities, homelessness charities and immigration legal advisors can use the service to obtain current status information and to escalate outstanding immigration applications highlighting an individual's vulnerability connected to their experience of homelessness.

If an undocumented migrant does not have permission to remain in the UK, and wishes to return home voluntarily, they can get help to return to their home country from the Voluntary Returns Service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6787>

## **New Publications**

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Visas, security and access to services for Hongkongers living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2024-0129/CDP-2024-0129.pdf>

**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>

## News: Channel Migrants

**Keir Starmer preparing for small boat crossings to continue until 2036**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/starmer-preparing-for-small-boat-crossings-to-continue-until-2036-77svtmz3s>

**'Merchants of death' trial steps up fight against Channel smugglers**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cden09n621wo>

**More than 600 migrants cross Channel in one day**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cden88xk6eno>

**Baby dead and 65 rescued in Channel sinking**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly50n1v420o>

**Baby dies after migrant boat sinks in Channel**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/18/baby-dies-migrant-boat-sinks-channel/>

**Baby dies after migrant boat capsizes in Channel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/baby-dies-migrant-boat-channel-french-police-b2631448.html>

## News: Afghanistan

**Hundreds of Afghan soldiers to be allowed to relocate to UK after U-turn**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce8dl9jdwe7o>

**Britain could allow 500 Afghan special forces to come to UK**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/defence/article/britain-could-allow-500-afghan-special-forces-to-come-to-uk-ldh70zk2v>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**UK government not considering Scottish visa to attract migrants**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn5zdwrpn49o>

**Westminster denies looking at Scotland-specific immigration visa to plug employment gaps**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/home-office-scotland-visa-system-immigration-asylum-4825683>

**Fury as Home Secretary snubs pleas for Scottish visa**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24657589.fury-home-secretary-snubs-pleas-scottish-visa/>

**Home Office 'not considering' Scottish visa for migrant workers**

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/yvette-cooper-home-secretary-scottish-visa-system-fh5v688jc>

**Starmer poised to grant asylum to more than 60,000 after scrapping Rwanda scheme**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/10/17/starmer-60000-people-asylum-after-scrapping-rwanda/>

### Home Office to use cameras across Europe to track people smugglers

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/home-office-to-use-cameras-across-europe-to-track-people-smugglers-mcmmts3r>

### 60,000 illegal migrants will be allowed to stay in UK

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/home-office-new-hotels-channel-migrants-56wdt2937>

### Home Office urged to bring 'immediate end' to Glasgow asylum hotels

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-urged-to-bring-immediate-end-to-glasgow-hotels-for-asylum-seekers-4827385>

### Warning over Glasgow as UK Government could re-open asylum hotels

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/24658192.warning-glasgow-uk-government-re-open-asylum-hotels/>

### There's no quick fix for Britain's illegal migration quagmire

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/15/theres-no-quick-fix-for-britains-mass-migration-nightmare/>

### Migrant took own life after 'multiple failings' at UK detention centre

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn8yn7n745yo>

### Traumatised mum with British passport faces being kicked out of UK by Home Office

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/traumatised-mum-british-passport-faces-33888007>

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## Community Relations

### News

#### Ethnic minorities want their children to be proud of British history

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/14/ethnic-minorities-children-proud-britain-education-history/>

#### Black academics told being 'nice' perpetuates 'white supremacy'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/19/black-academics-told-nice-perpetuates-white-supremacy/>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Schools: Black History Month

**Tom Hayes (Labour)** [7126] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to support (a) schools and (b) colleges to mark Black History Month.

#### Ethnic Groups: Curriculum

**Tom Hayes (Labour)** [7127] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to improve the representation of people from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds within the national curriculum.

**Reply from Catherine McKinnell:** The government has established an independent Curriculum and Assessment Review, covering ages 5 to 18, chaired by Professor Becky Francis CBE. The review will seek to deliver a curriculum that reflects the issues and diversities of our society, ensuring all children and young people are represented in their learning. The review group has recently launched a call for evidence, setting out a number of key questions and themes where it would particularly welcome evidence and input. Following the independent review, all schools will be required to teach the core national curriculum.

Schools and colleges are free to decide which events to commemorate and what activities to put in place to support pupils' understanding of significant events and particular months or days dedicated to specific communities, such as Black History Month. Schools also have the opportunity to promote such events through the curriculum, for example through subjects such as history and citizenship. The flexibility in the history curriculum means that schools can teach Black history in all three key stages, and within citizenship teaching at key stage 4, pupils should be taught about the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7126>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7127>

*The call for evidence referred to above can be read at*

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/curriculum-and-assessment-team/curriculum-and-assessment-review-call-for-evidence/>

### **Pupils: Travellers**

**Kim Johnson (Labour)** [7869] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the Education Policy Institute's Annual Report 2024, published on 16 July 2024, what steps she plans to take to tackle disadvantage gaps identified in that report for (a) Gypsy and Roma pupils in (i) primary and (ii) secondary school and (b) other pupils; and whether she plans to implement that report's (A) policy recommendations for closing disadvantage gaps and (B) other policy recommendations.

**Reply from Catherine McKinnell:** Every child, regardless of background, deserves the opportunity to progress and succeed in school and beyond. This government is committed to breaking the link between young people's backgrounds and their future success.

The department recognises the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) children and young people and has an active GRT stakeholder group, which includes representatives from GRT communities and the education sector. The group is a valuable source of information and challenge for the department and works to inform thinking, policy and delivery, addressing barriers faced by GRT pupils.

In line with the recommendations of the Education Policy Institute's annual report, the government has committed to developing an ambitious Child Poverty strategy, implementing several initiatives aimed at boosting children's mental health and wellbeing, as well as investing in improving inclusivity and expertise to support children with special educational needs and disabilities in mainstream schools.

To support all young people to achieve and thrive, the department has started work to recruit an additional 6,500 expert teachers and launched an independent, expert-led curriculum and assessment review that will look closely at the key challenges to attainment. The department has also committed to provide breakfast clubs in all

state funded primary schools, ensuring every primary school child is well prepared for school.

In the 2024/25 financial year, over £7.8 billion of the schools' national funding formula funding has been allocated based on deprivation and other additional needs. In addition, in the last academic year, of the £7 billion allocated to support 16 to 18 year olds in education, nearly £600 million was targeted to support the needs of disadvantaged students.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-08/7869>

*The Education Policy Institute annual report, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/annual-report-2024/>

### **Motor Insurance: Racial Discrimination**

**Anna Dixon (Labour)** [7217] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether she has had discussion with the Financial Conduct Authority on the racial disparity in motor insurance premiums identified in the Citizens Advice report, Discriminatory pricing: exploring the ethnicity penalty in the insurance market, published in March 2022.

**Reply from Tulip Siddiq:** Treasury Ministers and officials have regular meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors on an ongoing basis.

Under the Equality Act 2010 insurers cannot use race as a risk factor when determining the price of insurance. The Government is also determined that insurers should treat their customers fairly and firms are required to do so under the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) rules.

The FCA's rules requires firms to ensure their products offer fair value (i.e. the price a consumer pays for an insurance product or service to be reasonable compared to the overall benefits they can expect to receive). The FCA has powers to act against firms that fail to comply.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7217>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.ctfassets.net/mfz4nbgura3g/4pMarg15BnFLsAzDaTjXfr/097aa1f2a2685c65858147c5bb344711/Citizens\\_20Advice\\_20-\\_20Discriminatory\\_20Pricing\\_20report\\_20\\_4\\_.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/mfz4nbgura3g/4pMarg15BnFLsAzDaTjXfr/097aa1f2a2685c65858147c5bb344711/Citizens_20Advice_20-_20Discriminatory_20Pricing_20report_20_4_.pdf)

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Family Resources Survey: Ethnic Groups**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL1462] To ask His Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to increasing the number of black and minority ethnic families sampled as part of the Family Resources Survey to improve the available data on poverty among different ethnic groups.

**Reply from Baroness Sherlock:** In the latest year [2022-23] of the Family Resources Survey approximately 11% of adults were black or minority ethnic individuals. This sample is large enough to provide income and poverty data breakdowns by ethnicity.

The Family Resources Survey sample is drawn by address with stratification of postcode areas by economic standing, such that the achieved sample is representative by economic status. The FRS sample is not drawn by any family characteristic, protected or otherwise, because only the address is known at the point of draw; the address' occupants are unknown until the later stage of interview. Thus, there is no direct mechanism to alter the issued sample to increase the number of black or minority ethnic families.

We already publish accredited official statistics, including poverty data broken down

by ethnicity, in the annual Family Resources Survey-based [Households below average income \(HBAI\) statistics](#).

In addition, we use the Family Resources Survey data to publish additional low income data by ethnicity in the [Ethnicity Facts and Figures portal](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-09/hl1462>

*Information about the Family Resources Survey, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/surveys/informationforhouseholdsandindividuals/householdandindividualsurveys/familyresourceessurvey>

## Press Release

**“We must show up for Black children in the youth justice system”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/we-must-show-up-for-black-children-in-the-youth-justice-system>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Racial Discrimination

**Kim Johnson (Labour)** [7864] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, whether she plans to respond to the report by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination entitled Concluding observations on the combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, published on 23 August 2024.

**Reply from Alex Norris:** The UK condemns all forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related forms of intolerance and we remain steadfast in our commitment to combatting it, at home and abroad. This includes bringing forward new legislation to tackle persistent racial inequalities.

We recognise the important work of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and are committed to working with them to ensure that no one should have to endure racism. In accordance with the Convention and as per the process outlined in the Committee’s report, we will be considering the Committee’s recommendations and will provide an update to the Committee on specific recommendations by August 2025, followed by a full periodic report on our progress by April 2028.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-08/7864>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://undocs.org/en/CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26>

#### Digital Technology: Disadvantaged

**Saqib Bhatti (Conservative)** [6591] To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of developing a digital inclusion strategy on the number of (a) anti-Semitic and (b) anti-Muslim incidents.

**Reply from Chris Bryant:** It is a scandal that the previous government did not introduce a digital inclusion strategy for ten years.

Digital inclusion is a priority for my department and for government, and work is ongoing to develop our approach to tackling digital exclusion and coordinate across



government departments. Digital inclusion means ensuring that everyone has the access, skills, support and confidence to participate in a modern digital society, whatever their circumstances.

Government will work closely with the third sector, devolved administrations, businesses and local authorities, many of whom have already implemented highly successful programmes, to ensure interventions are collaborative and targeted to individual needs.

In developing our plans, we will consider the impact of digital exclusion on all our communities, including Jewish and Muslim communities across the country.

We are working at pace to deliver a Digital inclusion national action plan for publication in early December, we are unable to announce this publicly but want to assure that digital inclusion is a priority for government.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6591>

### **Internet: Antisemitism**

**David Pinto-Duschinsky (Labour) [7391]** To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what recent estimate he has made with Cabinet colleagues of the number and proportion of antisemitic attacks associated with small forums spreading online hate.

**Reply from Feryal Clark:** The Online Safety Act (OSA) establishes Ofcom as the UK online safety regulator. The OSA gives online platforms new duties where there are risks of their services being used to carry out certain priority offences, including posting illegal antisemitic content which stirs up hatred.

Ofcom will set out steps in codes of practice that different platforms can take to fulfil these duties. Ofcom must consult on proposed steps. For these consultations, it publishes evidence about in-scope harms. For example, in November 2023, it published research into these matters for [its consultation on](#) its OSA 'illegal content duties' proposals.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/illegal-and-harmful-content/protecting-people-from-illegal-content-online>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7391>

*The Online Safety Act, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50/contents>

### **Internet: Antisemitism**

**David Pinto-Duschinsky (Labour) [7392]** To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of using powers under Schedule 11 of the Online Safety Act to extend category 1 regulation to online forums to help tackle antisemitic hate speech online.

**Reply from Feryal Clark:** The Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology will make Regulations pertaining to Schedule 11 of the Online Safety Act as soon as reasonably practicable.

Under the Act, all user-to-user services – including online forums - will be required to proactively tackle illegal hate speech, such as illegal antisemitic abuse. If such a service is likely to be accessed by children, they will also be required to protect children from encountering specific types of legal but harmful content. This includes legal content which is abusive or incites hate on the basis of race or religion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/7392>

*Schedule 11 of the Online Safety Act, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/50/schedule/11>

### **Hinduism: Religious Buildings**

**Laura Kyrke-Smith (Labour)** [8934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect Hindu places of worship.

**Reply from Dan Jarvis:** We are committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion and we will not tolerate anti-Hindu hatred in any form. Government and police routinely assess potential threats to ensure that protective measures are in place to protect Hindu communities and their places of worship against terrorism and hate crime.

Additionally, Hindu communities can apply to the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme. The scheme provides physical protective security measures (such as CCTV, intruder alarms and secure perimeter fencing) to places of worship and associated faith community centres of all other faiths in England and Wales that are particularly vulnerable to religiously or racially motivated hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-14/8934>

*Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Hinduism: Hate Crime**

**Laura Kyrke-Smith (Labour)** [8929] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to tackle anti-Hindu hatred in Aylesbury constituency.

**Reply from Alex Norris:** No one should ever be a victim of hatred because of their race or religion and the Government continues to work with police and community partners to monitor and combat this. This Government is committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion and we will not tolerate anti-Hindu hatred in any form.

From 2016/17 to 2022/23, under the Protective Security for Places of Worship Scheme, the Home Office has approved security measures at 523 places of worship across England and Wales, including Hindu temples. In 2024/25, £3.5 million will be available for the places of worship and associated faith community through the scheme.

More broadly, we continue to look at tackling all forms of religious hatred and the government is actively exploring a more integrated and cohesive approach to this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-14/8929>

*Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

## **New Publication**

**Fear & Hope 2024: The Case for Community Resilience**

<https://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Fear-and-HOPE-2024.pdf>

## **News**

**Antisemitic messages raked into golf club bunkers**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g5yw42leqo>

**Tory politician's wife jailed for race hate post**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp3wkzgpjxvo>

**Wife of Tory councillor jailed over racial hatred social media post after Southport stabbings**  
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/wife-tory-councillor-jailed-over-33915515>

**Tory councillor's wife jailed for two and a half years for inciting racial hatred**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/10/17/tory-councillors-wife-lucy-conolly-jailed-riots/>

**Tory councillor's wife jailed for inciting racial hatred before riots**  
<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/tory-councillors-wife-jailed-for-inciting-racial-hatred-before-riots-7b89t0vsx>

**Wife of Tory councillor jailed for stirring racial hatred after Southport attack**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/17/wife-tory-councillor-jailed-lucy-conolly-racial-hatred-southport-attack>

**Make black history mandatory in England to counter hatred, urges campaigner**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/14/make-black-history-mandatory-in-england-to-counter-hatred-urges-campaigner>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**John Swinney (SNP) [S6M-14899] Motion of Condolence** – That the Parliament expresses its shock and sadness at the untimely death of Alex Salmond; offers its deep sympathy and condolences to his family and friends; appreciates the many years of public service that he gave as an MP, MSP, and First Minister of Scotland, and recognises the substantial and significant contribution that he made over many decades to public life, Scottish and UK politics and the cause of Scottish independence.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-14899>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Speaker's Statement

**Mr Speaker:** ... the House will wish to take a moment to remember our former colleague Alex Salmond, who passed away at the weekend. He served the people of Scotland for over 30 years as a Member of this House, a Member of the Scottish Parliament and, for two terms, First Minister of Scotland. He was a tireless campaigner for Scottish independence, securing the UK Government's agreement to the 2014 referendum and playing a leading role in the yes campaign. His final departure from this House was in 2017, which marked the first occasion in more than three decades that he was not serving in an elected role either here or in Holyrood. He leaves a deep and lasting legacy behind

him. His sudden death at the weekend came as a complete shock. The thoughts of this whole House will be with his family and friends at this difficult time. There will be a short time for tributes following Defence questions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-14/debates/3F8BAF84-05BD-4DD2-9AAE-50C0A3F14D6F/Speaker%E2%80%99SStatement>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Students: Finance

**Kim Johnson (Labour)** [6600] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether she plans to introduce an alternative student finance product for Muslim students.

**Reply from Janet Daby:** The department is committed to introducing an Alternative Student Finance (ASF) product, compatible with Islamic finance principles, as quickly as it can. To support this, in November we are reconvening the ASF working group, made up of representatives from the Islamic community and finance sector. We have also appointed a secretariat to take forward the Sharia-certification of the ASF product. The department is currently considering how it can best drive forward further progress on ASF and will provide an update on plans in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-04/6600>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### National Memorial Arboretum

**Baroness Crawley (Labour)** [HL1196] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide the finances for a Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum to those of a Muslim faith who gave their lives in two World Wars, as announced in the March Budget.

**Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley:** Our country has a long history of commemorating and honouring the brave actions of service men and women during the two World Wars, and we will never forget the sacrifices they made for our future. The government will set out further details on our plans to commemorate and mark the service given by our Muslim communities in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-10-07/hl1196>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Stephen Flynn (SNP)** [243] **Death of Rt hon. Alex Salmond, former First Minister of Scotland** – That this House expresses its profound sorrow at the death of former First Minister of Scotland, Rt hon. Alex Salmond; sends its sympathy and condolences to his family, friends and legions of followers; recognises his immense contribution to Scottish public life and Scotland's modern political story; and deeply appreciates his service over many decades as an MP, an MSP and as First Minister to the people of Scotland and the cause of Scottish independence.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/62585>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

#### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill**

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

#### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

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

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

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

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

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee Report

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/56407/documents/5166>

#### **\*\* Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee Report

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/56407/documents/5166>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-18/debates/53AA32CA-8037-4CDC-8969-3B9DF148AACA/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-10-18/debates/53AA32CA-8037-4CDC-8969-3B9DF148AACA/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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

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

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-14/debates/02DF7C5F-C9E0-4CF2-9087-C294BCABFD79/Terrorism\(ProtectionOfPremises\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-10-14/debates/02DF7C5F-C9E0-4CF2-9087-C294BCABFD79/Terrorism(ProtectionOfPremises)Bill)

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**An inspection of Home Office management of contact with migrants who are without leave to enter or remain** (closing date 21 October 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>

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

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

**Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of practice for services, public functions and associations** (closing date 3 January 2025)  
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equality/equality-act-2010/code-practice-services-public-functions-and-associations-consultation>

**Your Police 2024-2025** (closing date 31 March 2025)  
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2024-2025/>

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

### **Black History Month**

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!**

### **Glasgow Black History Walking Tour**

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>

### **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)

This year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Scottish Interfaith Week, a community-led festival that celebrates Scotland's religious and cultural diversity. Individuals, faith communities, and organisations across Scotland are invited to host events for the festival. 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>

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

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>

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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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