

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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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Useful Links

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 been redesigned, so that links published in back 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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Question

Child Refugees

Tavish Scott: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding resettling child refugees from the Calais refugee camp. (S5W-4481)

Reply from Angela Constance: I met with the Immigration Minister on 11 October 2016 to discuss issues relating to refugees and asylum. During the meeting, I raised the plight of unaccompanied child refugees and made clear that Scotland was willing to play its part in helping to facilitate the transfer of such children. I have also written to the Immigration Minister on a number of occasions to raise matters of concern in relation to the asylum system and refugees. On 22 August 2016, I wrote to him about the circumstances of unaccompanied child refugees across Europe to urge him to increase the speed of response to the crisis.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-04481>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-02535 Gillian Martin: Syrian New Scots Resettlement Project, Aberdeenshire Council – That the Parliament congratulates Aberdeenshire Council on winning the Innovation Award at the 2016 Chartered Institute of Housing Excellence Awards for its Syrian New Scots Resettlement Project; recognises the importance of the role of local authorities, such as Aberdeenshire Council, in resettling refugees in Scotland; understands that Aberdeenshire Council will resettle 50 Syrian families in the area by the end of 2018, and wishes its Syrian New Scots Resettlement Project continued success.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02535>

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration Rules (International Students)

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-16/debates/3D102514-7D2F-40F5-909D-38A8C5E930D6/ImmigrationRules\(InternationalStudents\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-16/debates/3D102514-7D2F-40F5-909D-38A8C5E930D6/ImmigrationRules(InternationalStudents))

Immigration: Overseas Students

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-17/debates/6E52B411-2105-449F-912E-BA6CBDABF0B0/ImmigrationOverseasStudents>

UK Parliament European Committee B

European Union Agency for Asylum

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-15/debates/47e5e793-057b-47c5-af95-12cfa646b99a/EuropeanUnionAgencyForAsylum>

Calais Children and Immigration Act (House of Commons)

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): ... We remain absolutely committed to bringing all eligible children to the UK as soon as possible. More than 300 children have been transferred from France since 10 October. Transfers were resumed over the weekend, and another 19 girls assessed as being at high risk of sexual exploitation were brought to Scotland. It is important to note that all the children previously in the camp in Calais are now in the care of the French authorities. Staff from the UK supported the French operation to move the children from the container area in the camp to specialist centres across France, where they are receiving the care and protection they need.

Home Office staff, interpreters and social workers are currently visiting the centres to carry out the necessary assessments to determine whether it is in the best interests of the child to be transferred to the UK. The Government have continued to seek every opportunity to expedite this process, but as has previously been made clear we must work alongside the French and with their permission. I am grateful for the support of the local authorities that have stepped forward to accommodate the children and look forward to continuing to work closely with those authorities to ensure we do not place an unnecessary burden on them.

The Government are getting on with the job of bringing eligible children over to the UK, working closely with the French authorities to ensure that both Governments are working in the best of interests of these children. I hope that the whole House will join me in supporting that. ...

Tom Brake: ... What progress has the Home Secretary and her Department made with local authorities on agreeing the number of vulnerable children the UK will take from Calais and other European camps? Will the guidance and the criteria apply to other European countries, such as Italy and Greece? When will the criteria for those countries be produced? Why has the Home Office limited one of the criteria to Sudanese and Syrian unaccompanied children? Why are Eritrean children excluded? Can the Minister explain why they have chosen to exclude 16 and 17-year-old children from the eligibility criteria in Calais given the universal recognition that they are still children and still vulnerable? Given the Government's commitment to tackling modern slavery and exploitation at home and across the globe, will the Minister clarify why the vulnerability of these child victims is not included in the "at risk" criteria? Finally, what guarantees can the Minister give that the children who will eventually be allowed into the UK will not be deported on reaching the age of 18? ...

Robert Goodwill: ... It was absolutely right that, during the final days of the camp clearance, there was a pause. As the right hon. Gentleman said, there were some chaotic scenes, but they were not as chaotic as some of the scenarios that we had planned for, including violence, possible injury and even death, during that clearance. Now that the children have been transported to the reception centres—or welcome centres as the French call them—around the country, we can now assess them under the criteria of the Dubs amendment. More than 300 children have already been transferred to the UK, and we expect several hundred more to be transferred under both the Dubs amendment and the Dublin regulations. ...

Carolyn Harris: ... The qualifying eligibility criteria for children from Calais are a disgrace. The children have to meet one of the following criteria: they are aged under 12; they have been referred by the French authorities as being at high risk of sexual exploitation; they are aged under 15 and are Syrian or Sudanese; and they are aged under 18 and the sibling of a child in one of the former categories. They must also all meet the following criteria: it must be in the best interests of the child; they must have been in Calais on or before 24 October 2016; and they must have been in Europe before 20 March 2016. The criteria are a disgrace, and are certainly not in the spirit of the Dubs amendment. ...

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements followed by Q&A

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-16/debates/AF497695-37C8-46E9-92D5-300854DDEA74/CalaisChildrenAndImmigrationAct>

Immigration Act (House of Lords)

Lord Kennedy of Southwark: ... We are dealing with children who are alone and in the most vulnerable of situations, and it is regrettable that a broad provision is being tightly restricted in a way that goes against the spirit of what Parliament agreed. Why are the Government restricting the eligibility of children over the age of 12 to those from two countries only, whereas for those under 12 that does not apply? Whether they are aged 11 or 13, the one thing they have in common is that they are children at great risk of harm. However, with this policy, if you happen to be 13 and are not Syrian or Sudanese, the UK is going to turn its back on you. How is that in the best interests of the child? ...

Lord Dubs: ... Can the Minister confirm that, when the Government announced their response to Section 67 of the Immigration Act, the Government said they would respect the letter and spirit of that amendment? My contention is that the Government are doing neither. How can one say that young children refugees fleeing from Eritrea, Somalia and Afghanistan, for example, are not eligible to claim refugee status on a statistical basis? That is a breach of the 1951 Geneva Convention. ...

Lord Paddick: ... Having made an arbitrary decision on eligibility based on country of origin, which has no relevance to an individual's asylum claim, can the Minister explain why the Government are excluding children who potentially would have a valid asylum claim here in the UK? ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-16/debates/C734E8E5-0B2D-45EF-A3D4-741FAFB6FCA6/ImmigrationAct>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Amanda Solloway [52207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the suitability of the 28 day period given to people granted the right to remain in the UK to find housing and employment.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the Home Office under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If they are granted refugee status, this support ends 28 days later because they are given permission to work and can apply for any welfare benefits and local authority housing assistance for which they may be eligible.

We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and others to ensure that newly recognised refugees engage promptly with Jobcentre Plus and the local authority about these matters.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-08/52207/>

Immigration

Bridget Philipson [52363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from (a) EU and EEA countries and (b) non-EEA countries have submitted applications for permanent UK residency since the UK voted to leave the EU.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Statistics of decisions and grants of Documents Certifying Permanent Residence issued to EEA nationals and Permanent

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Residence cards issued to non EEA nationals are published quarterly in table ee_02_q of Immigration Statistics.

The most recent edition is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/list-of-tables#european-economic-area-eea>

The next set of Immigration Statistics covering the period July to September 2016 will be published on the 1 December.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-08/52363/>

Immigration: Children

Stuart McDonald [52360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to extend the scope of the scheme for transferring responsibility for relevant children under section 73 of the Immigration Act 2016 to include Scotland.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are consulting the Devolved Administrations on the extension of the transfer provisions in the Immigration Act 2016 to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We will confirm our plans in light of that consultation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-08/52360/>

Entry Clearances: English Language

Martyn Day [51793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow students involved in out-of-country appeals concerning Test of English for International Communication certificates obtained through the Educational Testing Service to attend and give oral evidence in person when those appeals are heard.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In respect of cases involving Educational Testing Service (ETS) appeals from overseas, the Court of Appeal has consistently upheld that the availability of an out of country appeal in respect of a relevant decision in an ETS case is an adequate remedy.

The operation of out of country appeals is a matter for Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service but they are well established, having been in place for a number of years and successfully used for a number of different appeal types.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-03/51793/>

Work Visas

Stuart McDonald: What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on reintroduction of the post-study work visa. [907222]

Roger Mullin: What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on reintroduction of the post-study work visa. [907224]

George Kerevan: What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on reintroduction of the post-study work visa. [907238]

Reply from the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Joseph Johnson): The UK has an excellent offer for overseas students who graduate here. They can remain in the UK to work following their studies by switching to several existing visa routes, including tier 2 skilled worker visas. Visa applications from students to study at Scottish universities have increased by 10% since 2010 and the most recent year, to June 2016, showed a continued year-on-year increase.

Stuart McDonald: The truth is that the options open to students for staying on after their studies are a second-rate substitute for a proper post-study work visa along the lines of

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

what the UK once had and what our competitor countries still have. As Scotland seeks to continue sustainable levels of population growth, will the Minister listen to the coalition of universities, students and businesses and champion a proper post-study work visa for the UK?

Reply from Joseph Johnson: We have a competitive post-study work visa. That is reflected in the fact that applications to our universities continue to rise and are up 14% since 2010. We continue to look for opportunities to support high quality institutions wherever they are in the country to recruit genuine students.

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-14/debates/9B2F1397-2833-4BED-B6E3-EA9F85997535/WorkVisas>

Visas: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [51922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) safeguards and (b) procedures are in place to ensure the fair and consistent operation of the Genuine Student Rule and Tier 4 interview policy by UK Visas and Immigration officers.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Interviews are conducted with international students as part of the visa application process in order to confirm that the applicant meets the requirements of the UK immigration rules, in particular that he or she is a genuine student. Entry Clearance Officers have access to detailed guidance on how the Genuine Student Rule should be implemented with reference to the relevant sections of the immigrations rules, and guidance when interviewing may be required to support decision making.

Entry Clearance Managers will conduct regular reviews on the Tier 4 decision making process and UKVI International have a specialist assurance function that reviews decision quality of PBS applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-04/51922/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [51923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has issued guidance on what questions are (a) appropriate and (b) inappropriate to be asked by UK Visas and Immigration officers when conducting Tier 4 interviews in relation to the Genuine Student Rule.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Entry Clearance staff are provided with full guidance on how the Genuine Student Rule should be implemented and this includes guidance on interviewing in support of making final decisions on Points Based System Tier 4 cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-04/51923/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [51925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken for processing appeals to Tier 4 visa decisions was in the last 12 months; what targets or limits she has set in relation to processing those appeals; and on how many occasions the length of time taken in such cases prevented a successful applicant from taking up a place at a UK higher education institution by country of origin of the applicant.

Reply for Robert Goodwill: The information for the average time taken for processing appeals to Tier 4 visa decisions in the last 12 months is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The listing of an appeal is the responsibility of HM Courts & Tribunals Service and as such the targets or limits set in relation to processing those appeals are not available to the Home Office.

We do not hold the information on how many occasions the length of time taken in such cases prevented a successful applicant from taking up a place at a UK higher education institution.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-04/51925/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [51957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on whether the operation of the Genuine Student Rule and Tier 4 interview policy by UK Visas and Immigration officers is (a) fair and (b) consistent.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are in constant engagement with stakeholders within the education sector to ensure that the rules and guidance within Tier 4 are operating as intended. Entry Clearance Managers conduct regular reviews on the Tier 4 decision making process and UKVI International have a specialist assurance function that reviews decision quality of PBS applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-04/51957/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL2678] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the claim that only one per cent of international students break the terms of their visa by refusing to leave after their course ends.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The independent Office for National Statistics has confirmed that the International Passenger Survey continues to be the best source of information to measure long-term international migration.

Data collected at the border does not record passengers' onward travel plans or duration of stay, so cannot be used to measure migration figures. Over time the data obtained through exit checks will contribute to the statistical picture and the ONS data on net migration figures, but it will not replace the current IPS survey.

We do not recognise the 1% figure as the proportion of international students that overstay. The Home Office is continuing to assess and analyse elements of the exit check data collected in relation to specific cohorts to understand the extent to which estimates provided are statistically robust. This level of detail is not yet available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-25/HL2678/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [52095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the consistency of applications of the provisions in the immigration rules on the genuine student rule.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All PBS tier 4 applications are subject to assessment against paragraph 245ZV(k) of the immigration rules which state the Entry Clearance Officer must be satisfied the applicant is a genuine student.

Entry Clearance Officers have access to detailed guidance on how the Genuine Student Rule should be implemented with reference to the relevant sections of the immigration rules, and guidance when interviewing may be required to support decision making.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Entry Clearance Managers will conduct regular reviews on the Tier 4 decision making process and UKVI International have a specialist assurance function that reviews decision quality of PBS applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-07/52095/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Temple-Morris [HL2328] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 11 October (HL1831), how many arrests of illegal immigrants, and how many arrests for immigration offences, there were in each of the last five years; and how many of those arrested in each year (1) were deported from the UK, (2) remained in custody, and (3) were released within the UK.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not possible to provide information specific to the number of arrests for illegal immigrants because immigration offences cover a wide range of activities and the data specific to arrests for illegal immigration cannot be separated from arrests for other immigration offences. Additionally, an individual may be arrested for committing more than one offence, but as only one offence per arrest is recorded in a format that can be reported on centrally it is not possible to provide complete figures on arrests by individual offences type.

Information on arrests – either by an Immigration Enforcement or Police Officer – for committing an immigration offence is available. For the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, our records indicate that there were 119,730 arrests.

Data on the custody or detention status of those arrested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost because checks of individual records would be required.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-13/HL2328/>

Refugees

Karen Lumley [52187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department provides to borough councils that have accepted refugee families to ensure successful integration into the community.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government provides information and support to areas participating in the resettlement of refugees and works with a wide range of partners including local authorities and civil society organisations to ensure that people are integrated sensitively into local communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-07/52187/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Greaves [HL2775] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether accommodation provided for refugee families settled directly from Syria is equipped with television sets and access to UK channels.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government provides funding to local authorities for accommodation to be provided to refugees resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme.

This covers the provision of food storage, cooking and washing facilities. We do not collect information on equipment such as television sets.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2775/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL3147] To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence they have of problems faced by asylum seekers granted refugee status when they first claim universal credit; and what steps they are taking to address such problems.

Reply from Lord Freud: People who have been granted limited or indefinite leave to remain as a refugee, or have discretionary leave to remain or humanitarian protection, are entitled to claim Universal Credit in the areas of the country where the full service for all claimant types is available, whilst their leave to remain in the country is valid.

Outside these areas they are entitled to claim other benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-09/HL3147/>

Refugees: Abuse

Anne McLaughlin [51785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2016 to Question 48325, whether her Department holds information on the number of investigations conducted into allegations by service users that they have suffered abuse or harassment from Compass asylum accommodation contractor or sub-contractor staff.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Since the start of the COMPASS contracts in 2012 our records indicate that the number of complaints about provider staff has increased in line with the supported population. There have been a total of 32 investigations conducted by provider senior management into individual complaints, 27 of these complaints were not upheld. Of the 5 complaints that were upheld either refresher training was delivered to staff or appropriate disciplinary action was taken.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-03/51785/>

Refugees: Children

The following five questions all received the same answer

Lord Eames [HL2769] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to accepting a greater number of unaccompanied child refugees into the UK.

Lord Eames [HL2770] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the closure of the refugee camp at Calais, whether they intend to revise the rules concerning the acceptance of child refugees into the UK.

Lord Eames [HL2771] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children have been accepted into the UK from the refugee camp at Calais.

Lord Eames [HL2772] To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the devolved administrations of the UK have been consulted on the plans for acceptance of unaccompanied child refugees.

Lord Eames [HL2773] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the cost of accepting unaccompanied child refugees into the UK to date; and what provision has been made to meet the cost of an increase in the number of qualified children being accepted into the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In response to the French Government's decision to close the camp in Calais, we have transferred over 200 asylum-seeking children to the UK, and we plan to transfer several hundred more children over the coming days and weeks.

Between 1 January and 1 October, over 140 unaccompanied asylum-seeking

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

children in Europe were accepted for transfer to the UK under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, of which over 80 are from France. This is in addition to our efforts in Calais.

Almost 3,000 people have been granted humanitarian protection under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began. In the year ending June 2016, almost 50% of those were children.

There were 3,472 asylum claims from unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the year ending June 2016, a 54% rise compared to the year ending June 2015.

We continue to consult with every part of the UK including the devolved administrations, to encourage local authorities across the country to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children under the National Transfer Scheme.

In July 2016, we increased the national rate of funding to local authorities taking responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children; from £34,675 to £41,610 a year for those aged under 16 and from £25,915 to £33,215 a year for those aged 16 or 17. These rates were set following analysis of the costs of providing support to the two age groups based on financial information supplied by local authorities. We will keep these arrangements under review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2769/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2770/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2771/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2772/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-27/HL2773/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Doocey [HL2852] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether all unaccompanied children they have brought to the UK from the Jungle camp in Calais are assessed by social workers or specialist charities for human trafficking or modern slavery indicators immediately upon their arrival.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum claimants who display possible indicators of trafficking are referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the appropriate First Responders. Those unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have recently been brought to the UK from Calais are assessed on arrival by Home Office officials who are trained to identify indicators of human trafficking or modern slavery and who are working closely with social workers and specialist organisations. Safeguarding checks are conducted before children brought to the UK in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are allowed to join relatives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2852/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Doocey [HL2853] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

accommodated any unaccompanied children from Calais in any immigration detention facility in the last month.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is not using immigration detention facilities to accommodate unaccompanied children from Calais.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2853/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Doocey [HL2854] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether children brought to the UK from Calais in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are given safeguarding assessments by social workers before being handed over to relatives claiming the children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum claimants who display possible indicators of trafficking are referred to the National Referral Mechanism by the appropriate First Responders. Those unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have recently been brought to the UK from Calais are assessed on arrival by Home Office officials who are trained to identify indicators of human trafficking or modern slavery and who are working closely with social workers and specialist organisations. Safeguarding checks are conducted before children brought to the UK in accordance with the Dublin Regulation are allowed to join relatives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2854/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Hylton [HL2873] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recommendations concerning guardianship in paragraphs 320 and 321 of the 2nd report of the EU Select Committee *Children in Crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU*, published on 26 July, and concerning the availability of legal aid for unaccompanied migrant children for the purposes of proceedings for family reunification, in paragraph 291.

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton [HL2874] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to ensure that child asylum applicants admitted to the UK are not moved to areas where specialist legal advice on immigration matters is unavailable.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government responded to the European Union Committee's report on 1 November. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) are looked after by local authorities, in keeping with arrangements for other children. They are provided with a social worker and an independent reviewing officer to oversee their care arrangements, as well as access to an independent advocate and an independent visitor. We are working with the Legal Aid Agency and local authorities to ensure that UASC get the legal advice they need.

Children are not eligible to sponsor relatives for family reunion under the Immigration Rules. Allowing them to do so would create perverse incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk dangerous journeys to the UK rather than stay with their family and seek protection in the first safe country they reach.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2873/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2874/>

Asylum: Children

Gareth Thomas [52490] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children have been accepted by each (a) region of England, (b) nation of the UK and (c) local authority in each of the last six years; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Annual Figures on the number of claims for asylum from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), including by country of nationality, are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release.

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April to June 2016, is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-stat>

A regional breakdown is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The Government is committed to ensuring that there is a more equitable distribution of UASC across the country and that no one authority has to care for more UASC than they are able to.

That is why we introduced the voluntary National Transfer Scheme and have consulted with every region in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on their capacity. In order to continue the success of the voluntary scheme more local authorities will need to participate and offer places for unaccompanied children from councils which are caring for disproportionately high numbers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-08/52490/>

Human Trafficking

Lady Hermon [51668] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of victims of human trafficking rescued in the UK in the last five years are (a) EU nationals and (b) non-EU nationals; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Information on all potential victims of modern slavery who are identified by the National Referral Mechanism is published by the National Crime Agency on a quarterly basis. This includes the country of origin of victims and can be found here:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-02/51668/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Chris Stevens (673) Refuweege winter clothes appeal – That this House commends the Refuweege Winter Clothes Appeal; notes that Refuweege is a community led project set up to ensure that all refugees arriving in Glasgow are welcomed to the city in true Glaswegian style; supports the project's objectives to ensure that it provides everyone who wishes to make a difference the opportunity to do so; further notes that the aim is to provide every refugee who arrives in the city with a community built welcome pack, and that each pack will contain three categories of items; essentials, Glasgow welcome and letters from the locals and that as a result of the final category each pack will be completely individual and ensures that on arrival in Glasgow people are left in no

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Early Day Motion (continued)

doubt as to their acceptance, their safety and their future; notes that the current appeal for winter clothing is for young and unaccompanied children arriving in the next few weeks; congratulates Refuweegee for their work; and wishes them continued success in their objectives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/673>

Press Releases

One year since the first Syrian arrivals

<http://news.gov.scot/news/one-year-since-the-first-syrian-arrivals>

Don't incite fear and hatred of migrants and refugees, MEPs urge EU countries

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161116IPR51353/don%E2%80%99t-incite-fear-and-hatred-of-migrants-and-refugees-meps-urge-eu-countries>

Migrants in limbo in Europe have the right to live in dignity

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/migrants-in-limbo-in-europe-have-the-right-to-live-in-dignity>

European day to end child sex abuse: irregular migrant children are among the most vulnerable, says Council of Europe's Anti-racism Commission

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/231-2016_11_14_StatementEndChildSexAbuseDay-en.asp

New Publications

Supreme Court judgment in the case of a deportation order made in respect of an Iraqi national who has lived unlawfully in the UK since 2000.

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0126-press-summary.pdf>

Supreme Court judgment in the case of an order for the deportation of a foreign criminal who has children who are citizens of and resident in the United Kingdom.

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0092-press-summary.pdf>

Migrant Destitution Toolkit: How to facilitate local partnership working and develop pathways out of destitution

<http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/SAMD%20Migrant%20Destitution%20Toolkit.pdf>

Factsheet: EEA Administrative Removal

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/EEA_Removal_Factsheet.pdf

Integration City: A new communities agenda for London

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Mayor_of_London_-_Intergration_Strategy_-_October_2016.pdf

Immigration and Asylum (continued) News

SNP minister fears Westminster visa plan will create two-tier university system

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/14909310.SNP_minister_fears_Westminster visa plan will create two tier university system/

Scottish passport plan could allow Scots to keep working and living in Europe

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14905299.Beyond_Brexit_Scottish_passport_plan_could_allow_Scots_to_keep_working_and_living_in_Europe/?ref=mr&lp=10

Number of asylum claims lodged in the EU this year passes one million

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/number-of-asylum-claims-lodged-in-the-eu-this-year-passes-one-million-1-4293445>

Scotland welcomes 1,200 Syrian refugees in one year

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38011087>

Over 1,200 Syrian refugees welcomed to Scotland in one year

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/over-1-200-syrian-refugees-welcomed-to-scotland-in-one-year-1-4291889>

Group of refugee children from Calais Jungle arrive in Scotland

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-children-scotland-edinburgh-dubs-amendment-just-arrived-a7415101.html>

Welcoming Syrians to Scotland: One Year On

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3057_welcoming_syrians_to_scotland_one_year_on

Syrian refugees feel safe and welcome in Moray

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/syrian_refugees_loving_life_in_moray

95% of new workers are foreigners

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/95-of-new-workers-are-foreigners-6c3m3b7jd>

Are 95% of new workers in UK really foreigners?

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/reality-check/2016/nov/17/reality-check-new-workers-foreigners-times>

Surge in eastern Europeans working in UK since EU referendum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/16/surge-eastern-europeans-working-uk-since-eu-referendum-brexit>

Number of Eastern European migrants working in the UK surges since EU referendum

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/16/number-of-eastern-european-migrants-working-in-the-uk-since-the/>

Home Office block on Afghan and Eritrean teen refugees 'a disgrace'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/16/home-office-block-on-afghan-and-eritrean-teen-refugees-a-disgrace>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Migrant teenagers without family in UK barred except Syrians and Sudanese

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/15/migrant-teenagers-without-family-in-uk-barred-except-syrians-and-sudanese>

Britain closes the door on child refugees promised a new life

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/britain-closes-the-door-on-child-refugees-promised-a-new-life-txtgk55kh>

Child trafficking: Scores missing from UK care homes

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37982221>

Warning over child asylum seekers and trafficked children missing from care

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3937250/Warning-child-asylum-seekers-trafficked-children-missing-care.html>

St Andrews University principal slams UK Government immigration policy

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/uk-politics/314409/exclusive-st-andrews-university-principal-slams-uk-government-immigration-policy/>

Curbs on foreign students ‘impoverish us’

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/curbs-on-foreign-students-impoverish-us-hldtg2w7j>

Britons with no passport struggling to rent due to immigration checks

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/14/british-citizens-without-passport-struggling-rent-property-immigration-checks>

Home Office agrees to review plan to deport Afghan teenager

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/18/home-office-agrees-review-plan-deport-afghanistan-teenager-bashir-naderi>

Bute turns to technology to give a voice to refugees

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/bute-turns-to-technology-to-give-a-voice-to-refugees-m057qcxzh>

Fahd Saleh: Syrian goalkeeper rebuilding his life and career as a refugee in England

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/37987486>

Deporting parents of EU-citizens

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/deporting-parents-of-eu-citizens-gfzvd3shq>

Give us back our borders! Major study finds immigration controls are the key Brexit demand of voters with nearly three quarters urging a visa system

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3941816/Give-borders-Major-study-finds-immigration-controls-key-Brexit-demand-voters-90-want-stay-single-market.html>

More than 1,300 foreign criminals, including killers, rapists and paedophiles have used human rights laws to stay in the UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3939970/More-1-300-foreign-criminals-including-killers-rapists-paedophiles-used-human-rights-laws-stay-UK.html>

Why Britain needs foreign students

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/why-britain-needs-foreign-students-hr0jpdccz>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Refugee oasis in Cardiff is helping transform lives

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-38028520>

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Community Relations

Press Release

Tolerance is a commitment 'to seek in our diversity, the bonds that unite humanity'

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55567>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions

Gypsy Travellers (Unauthorised Sites)

Peter Chapman: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on Police Scotland's standard operating procedures for unauthorised sites used by Gypsy Travellers. (S5O-00352)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Mattheson): Police Scotland's standard operating procedures are an operational matter for Police Scotland and fall within the chief constable's responsibilities.

Peter Chapman: In order to move Gypsy Traveller camps on from unauthorised sites, the police have resorted to using the Trespass (Scotland) Act 1865. However, the Lord Advocate has issued guidance against the use of that legislation. The main issue for Police Scotland seems to be that neither authorised halting sites nor the existing legislation is a solution to the issue. ...

Why is the Scottish National Party Government pressurising local authorities to waste time and money creating authorised halting sites that fail to solve the problems?

Reply from Michael Mattheson: Providing halting sites for Traveller communities and Gypsy communities is hardly a waste of public resources. I am appalled at the member's views on that matter.

Gypsy communities and Traveller communities have their rights, too, and as a society we should respect that and manage the issues as effectively as we can. Lead responsibility for dealing with the issues at a local level lies with local authorities, and the police can provide assistance to them as and when necessary.

We should not get into a battle of trading the individual rights of one group against those of another. That is divisive, and I hope that the member will reflect on his comments in relation to halting sites.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10628>

Equality (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Ethnic Groups: Veterans

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Ouseley [HL2877] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made regarding the employment prospects of black and minority ethnic personnel leaving the Armed Forces and entering the job market.

Lord Ouseley [HL2879] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to deal with reported discrimination in the job market experienced by black and minority ethnic personnel leaving the Armed Forces.

Reply from Earl Howe: The latest Department for Work and Pensions 'Labour market status by ethnic group' report, based on annual data to 2015, shows that the ethnic minority employment rate in 2015 was 62.8 per cent. The Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employment rates of Service leavers who have used the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) is 68 per cent, 5.2 percentage points higher than the general UK BAME population. This demonstrates that serving in the Armed Forces enhances the employment prospects of BAME Service leavers when they choose to enter the employment market at the end of their military career.

The CTP is the official Ministry of Defence (MOD) provider of resettlement services to members of the Armed Forces. The latest CTP Annual Statistics for Financial Year 2014-15 show that six months after leaving the Armed Forces BAME Service leavers who used CTP services had a lower estimated employment rate than white Service leavers (87 per cent). They also had a higher estimated unemployment rate and economically inactive rate. These differences were statistically significant and replicated differences seen in the general UK population. 89 per cent of CTP users were white, which was comparable to the UK population, where 86 per cent of the population was white.

All Service leavers bring significant transferable skills to the job market along with a proven ability to learn new skills and concepts quickly.

The CTP contract provides employers with unique access to the Service leaver talent pool. Employers can upload job opportunities to RightJob via the CTP website, which receives over 50,000 unique hits per month, and promotes employment opportunities through regular e-bulletins sent to over 20,000 active clients. Through the resettlement contract, the CTP can link employers with the best Service leaver candidates for their vacancies. The CTP offers a high quality, no-cost recruitment service for organisations looking to recruit highly motivated, skilled and experienced Service leavers.

The MOD and the CTP strive to further improve the employment prospects of BAME Service leavers and to work with other Government Departments to help overcome potential societal barriers which may be experienced by some. The MOD is not aware of any specific civilian employment discrimination related to the military service of BAME Service leavers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2877/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-01/HL2879/>

News

Breast cancer 'more often advanced' in black women

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-37991460>

Equality

News (continued)

Black women more likely to have advanced breast cancer

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-16/news/black-women-more-likely-to-have-advanced-cancer-diagnosed-wt7mhkfv>

BAME coach numbers stall in English football's four divisions

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/nov/15/bame-coach-numbers-stall-english-football>

Chair of BAME prize slams UK publishers after lack of submissions

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/nov/19/bame-prize-slams-uk-publishers-sunny-singh-jhalak-diversity-britain>

We hoped to see more black lives on our screens. Our hopes were dashed

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/18/black-lives-bbc-shoot-the-messenger-black-and-british>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Bullying and Harassment of Children and Young People in Schools

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10618&i=97647#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Questions

Bullying

Fiona Bruce: What steps [is the Minister] taking to tackle bullying in schools. [907230]

Reply from the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families (Edward Timpson): This week is national anti-bullying week, an opportunity for us to come together in condemnation of bullying in all its forms and consider how best to tackle it, particularly in our schools. The Government are providing 10 organisations with £4.4 million to enable them to deliver effective anti-bullying projects, including for children with special educational needs and disabilities and the victims of hate-related bullying, together with support for pupils and parents to report bullying online.

Fiona Bruce: Do Ministers share my concerns that no platforming and other endeavours to shut out free speech at universities are becoming increasingly close to bullying? What discussions have Ministers had with universities about this highly disturbing trend?

Reply from Edward Timpson: I think we can all agree that students should be able to challenge those they disagree with by means of open and robust debate. Academic freedom and freedom of speech are central to our higher education system. There is no place for intimidation to attempt to shut down open debate. Universities have a clear legal duty to secure freedom of speech for students, staff and visiting speakers, and they must have clear policies for how they will ensure that that can happen. Should my hon. Friend wish to discuss this further with either me or the Minister with responsibility for universities, I would be happy to oblige.

Daniel Zeichner: Sadly, bullying occurs in most schools. In some cases, it leads to young people effectively self-excluding from school, which puts themselves and their

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

parents in a particularly difficult position. Groups such as Red Balloon in my constituency do very good work. What support would the Minister give to such groups?

Reply from Edward Timpson: I agree with the hon. Gentleman. We can safely say that every school will have bullying at some point in some form, and we need to ensure they have the tools available to tackle it in the best way possible, particularly with the additional threat of cyber-bullying outside the school gates. ChildLine, which the Government help to fund, is receiving more calls. This will remain a very high-profile issue for years to come. That is why we support organisations to help schools more effectively tackle these issues, but we need to be alive to the new ways that bullying will emerge in the future. We will continue to work on that with all organisations, including Red Balloon.

Angela Rayner: After the EU referendum, teachers warned us of a disturbing rise in levels of racist bullying in schools, and now we are seeing the same following the election of Donald Trump in the US. In the spirit of Anti-bullying Week, will the Minister take this opportunity to condemn not only such bullying but the politicians whose hateful, divisive rhetoric has made some children think that this is acceptable?

Reply from Edward Timpson: As I said, I think we all condemn all forms of bullying, from wherever it comes and for whatever its purported reasons, but we also need to make sure that we educate our children to understand the effects that bullying has on others, so that, as they grow older, they do not repeat the mistakes of those who have gone before them.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-14/debates/017D4FA7-FA30-49C2-82CD-C44A0E66E881/Bullying>

Hate Crime

Lord Greaves [HL2829] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 18 October (HL Deb col 2279), what they consider to be the normal levels of hate crime; whether these are acceptable; and if not, whether they have a target for their further reduction.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no acceptable level for hate crime; it is a pernicious crime that affects victims disproportionately and it has no place in a Britain that works for everyone.

Government statistics show that 62,518 hate crimes were recorded by the police between April 2015 and March 2016. There was a sharp increase in racially and religiously aggravated crime in the month following the EU Referendum, but we have now seen a fall to pre-referendum levels.

One of the aims of Action Against Hate is to reduce incidence of hate crime through education and changing attitudes. We have not set a numerical target for this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-31/HL2829/>

Travellers

Kate Green [52675] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Institute for Public Research report on Roma communities and Brexit: integrating and empowering Roma communities in the UK, published on 24 October 2016.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Government has noted the conclusions of the report by the Institute for Public Policy Research report on Roma communities. The UK does have a strong legal framework which protects all individuals, including Roma, from racial and other forms of discrimination and hate crime, and will continue to do so after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-11/52675/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Gavin Newlands (677) Anti-bullying week 2016 – That this House notes Anti-Bullying Week which takes place from 14 to 18 November 2016; acknowledges that this week is used to shine a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year; expresses deep concern that the NSPCC state that more than 16,000 young people are absent from school due to bullying and potentially having a long-lasting negative impact on someone's life; believes that no one should live in fear of bullying; welcomes the Power for Good campaign that the Anti-Bullying Alliance have organised to help encourage individuals to play their part in stopping the bullying that too many people, particularly young people, face on a daily basis; congratulates Gallowhill Primary School on winning NSPCC School of the Year for the work that the pupils have done to tackle cyberbullying with their popular Oor Bullie comic book; and encourages everyone to play their part in helping to end bullying of young people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/677>

Press Releases

David Lammy's speech to the National Police Conference

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/david-lammys-speech-to-the-national-police-conference>

Government awards £700k to tackle hate crime

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-awards-700k-to-tackle-hate-crime>

OSCE/ODIHR publishes 2015 hate crime data on International Day for Tolerance, calls for renewed efforts to meet data-collection commitments

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/282241>

New Publications

Open letter to the Prime Minister: Review of Racial Bias and BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/569218/open-letter-to-prime-minister.pdf

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568680/bame-disproportionality-in-the-cjs.pdf

Hate Crime Data 2015: Full Findings

<http://hatecrime.osce.org/what-hate-crime/racism-and-xenophobia>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications (continued)

Hate Crime Data 2015: Key Findings

<http://hatecrime.osce.org/sites/default/files/documents/Website/Infographics/2015-hatecrimedata.pdf>

Full Findings for the United Kingdom

<http://hatecrime.osce.org/united-kingdom>

Incitement in media content and political discourse in EU Member States

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-media-and-incitement-0_en.pdf

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust resources, including free online workshops for educators, activity organisers, and youth champions

<http://hmd.org.uk/interactive/>

News

Scotland has worst areas in UK for racist and homophobic tweets, survey reveals

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14908417.Scotland has worst areas in UK for racist and homophobic tweets survey reveals/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14908417.Scotland+has+worst+areas+in+UK+for+racist+and+homophobic+tweets+survey+reveals/)

Twitter's worst hatemongers are Scottish

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-16/scotland/twitters-worst-hatemongers-are-scottish-29hd7tprt>

Children see 'worrying' amount of hate speech online

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-37989475>

Ethnic minorities more likely to be jailed for some crimes, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/16/ethnic-minorities-more-likely-to-be-jailed-for-some-crimes-report-finds>

When swastikas were sprayed near a Jewish school in London, a local Muslim man was first to respond

<https://www.indy100.com/article/swastikas-jewish-school-hackney-muslims-shomrim-7420366>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Sharia Councils

Written evidence:

Muslim Women's Network UK

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/written/42750.pdf>

National Secular Society

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/written/43237.pdf>

Other UK Parliament and Government Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into Sharia Councils (continued)

Apna Haq

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/written/42739.pdf>

Suleman Nagdi

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/written/42872.pdf>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/ethnicitypaygap.html>

EU Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom (Right to Stay)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/eucitizensresidentintheunitedkingdomrighttostay.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/studentssupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (closing date 7 December 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/human-trafficking-team/a-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy>

Section 9(2)(b)(i) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 - support for adult victims (closing date 23 December 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00509045.pdf>

Issues for migrants on early settlement in the UK (closing date December 2016)

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RTYR_orgs_1

Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review (closing date 6 January 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

Consultations (continued)

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_rr_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Policy on Prosecuting Crimes against Disabled People [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_dhc_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_ht_consultation_2016.html

Draft Referendum Bill (closing date 11 January 2017)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507743.pdf>

Police Scotland: local policing (consultation open during the whole year)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

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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

Scottish Winter Festivals

All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.

Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns celebrations, boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so the Scottish Government, BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's Winter Festival celebrations. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-guidelines.pdf>.

An application form is available at

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-application.docx>

Year of Innovation, Architecture & Design

All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.

Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, innovation and narrative plays a full part in the celebration of the themed year.

The Scottish Government and BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's celebrations. We believe that in order to fulfil our potential as individuals and communities of place, culture and ethnicity that we should

Funding Opportunities (continued)

celebrate and promote our diversity. This reflects our shared objective to build an 'Inclusive National Identity' which celebrates Scotland's vibrant, diverse, confident and dynamic people. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-guidelines.pdf> and the application form is available at <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-application.docx>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

How Technology Can Empower Local Refugee Communities

23 November 2015 – webinar (3.00)

Discussion of the role that information and communications technology plays in improving the lives of refugees. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j9xh8x6>

**** this week!**

Involving Ethnic Minority Communities in Outdoor Activities

24 November 2016 in Glasgow (10.00-2.30)

Conservation Volunteers information and networking event to explore children and adults from Ethnic Minority and diverse communities to get involved in outdoor activities, For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/involving-ethnic-minority-communities-in-outdoor-activities-tickets-28504430519>

**** this week!**

Health in Faith Conference and Dinner

26 November 2016 in Glasgow (2.00-6.00)

Waverley Care event to celebrate the efforts that people of faith have made and continue to make in the fight to end HIV and AIDS in Scotland and around the world. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/qnhq3cq>

**** this week!**

Dare to Dream

Until 30 November 2016

The Scottish Storytelling Centre festival invites everyone to discover the stories of the past and dream the stories of the future. For information see

<http://www.daretodream.scot/#home>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

30 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Enhanced by our Diversity, Combined by our Humanity

30 November 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

BEMIS and TRACS conference bringing together practitioners, policy-makers and academics to discuss how best to foster good relationships at a community level and

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

promote a dynamic, inclusive Scottish national identity for the future. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j7qkzq7>

Knowing your rights: Disability Discrimination

2 December 2016 in Edinburgh (10.30-3.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission training for those who work with disabled people and may provide people with advice or be involved in promoting disability rights. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xii_ehrc2.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

Working with Interpreters

6 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

31 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

7 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

The Legal and Human Rights Implications of Brexit on EU Migration

8 December 2016 in Glasgow (5.00-6.30)

JUSTICE Scotland and the Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider the implications of Brexit for work and retirement; private and family lives; study; housing and property ownership and capital interests. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xii_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

Engaging hard to reach groups

13 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

Community Sponsorship – What Do You Need to Know?

15 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

5 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about the new UK Government scheme to enable community groups to sponsor refugee families. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training on issues related to EEA nationals' access to services and important changes in regulations. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (1.15-4.15)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (1.15-4.15)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system operates, and barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Discrimination Law in 2017

23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to review recent changes in employment law. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactsotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

National Holocaust Memorial Day

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

The theme of this year's memorial event is "How can life go on?" For information please contact Maureen Sier maureen@interfaithscotland.org

Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening

27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for women, particularly disabled, BME, older and trans women, to volunteer to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hz2vfv9>

Cultural Competence

31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jdfkkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Separated Children

9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about supporting separated child refugees. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Refugee Rights to Housing

30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course about refugee housing rights. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

BBC Democracy Live http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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

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