

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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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 Motions

S5M-04339 Bob Doris: EIS, Myths of Immigration Educational Booklets Aiming to Tackle Racism in Schools – That the Parliament recognises the good work of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) for introducing its Myths of Immigration booklets, which target early to secondary years students, providing guidance and strategies in anti-racist literature that challenge myths and misunderstandings of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; acknowledges in particular the work of the EIS, Show Racism the Red Card and the Scottish Refugee Council, especially Jenny Kemp, Samreen Shah, Nicola Fisher, Margaret Smith, Nicola Hay and John Wilkes for their participation and speeches following the preview of the booklets in the Parliament; notes their dedication across Scotland in aiming to teach children and educators the importance of such literature; commends the ongoing and proactive anti-racist work and traditions of the EIS, which spans generations, and believes that these resources are timely given the implications arising from Brexit, the Trump presidency and the current international situation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04339>

S5M-04405 Sandra White: Dunkirk Digital Classroom Supporting Young Refugees – That the Parliament notes the creation of a digital classroom for child refugees, which will provide access to learning for children living in the Dunkirk camp in northern France; understands that the school has been developed by the digital agency company, Equator, and includes a wireless projector, 20 students’ tablets and a teaching pad, plus a range of educational apps aimed at children aged 3 to 18; considers that up to 150 children who have never received structured education as a result of the disruption to their lives will benefit from the scheme, and commends the work of Equator to support and develop children living in refugee camps to help build a future and integration for those fleeing war and suffering.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04405>

S5M-04285 Alex Rowley: Home Office Decision to Forcibly Deport Irene Clennell – That the Parliament deplores the Home Office's decision to forcibly deport Irene Clennell from the country; understands that Irene first came to the UK in 1988, has been married to John, a British citizen, for 27 years and had been granted indefinite leave to remain; recognises that she has a life and family in the UK, including two children and one grandchild; understands that the reason for Irene’s deportation is due to the length of time she spent out of the country when visiting her dying parents in Singapore; believes that this demonstrates that the UK Government’s spousal visa system needs reformed to stop the tearing apart of British families that live, work and contribute together, in the Clennell's case for the last 30 years; considers that the situation must be dealt with as a matter of urgency as Irene’s husband is seriously ill; condemns the decision to deport being made on a Sunday, which, it believes, results in difficulty in contacting organisations or solicitors to help fight it; understands that Irene was sent to the Dungavel detention centre on 19 January 2017, where she was held until being deported directly from there on 26 February; calls on the Scottish Government to make direct representation to the UK Government to review this case urgently; condemns the Home Office decision to keep Dungavel open after announcing its closure in 2016, and echoes the sentiments of Amnesty International that “there must be a more humane approach to housing refugees and asylum-seekers, and efforts made to solve the destructive impact that being in detention causes, and the terrible toll it takes on the most vulnerable people”.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04285>

UK Parliament Debate

Torture and the Treatment of Asylum Claims

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-02/debates/7E90367A-397A-4030-B2AC-8B2E84D5C25B/TortureAndTheTreatmentOfAsylumClaims>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Leaving the EU: EU Nationals in Scotland

4. **Ian Murray:** What discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU on the status of EU nationals living in Scotland after the UK leaves the EU. [908901]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): I have regular conversations with the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU on a number of

issues. The UK Government have made it absolutely clear in their White Paper that securing the rights of EU citizens in the UK and of UK citizens in the EU is one of our top priorities in the Brexit negotiations.

Ian Murray: The Secretary of State's answer is not very reassuring given the speculation about a potential cut-off date for EU nationals later this month. The other place will vote on an amendment today that will secure the residency rights of EU nationals. If that is passed, will the Secretary of State urge his colleagues to end this disgraceful uncertainty on residency rights for EU nationals, who contribute so much to the Scottish and UK economies? If he does not, he will send out a very strong message that he is willing to use the lives of EU nationals as a bargaining chip for a hard Tory Brexit.

Reply from David Mundell: ... EU citizens in Scotland, and indeed in the whole United Kingdom, make a significant contribution to civic life and the economy of our country. As the Prime Minister has repeatedly made clear, we want those people to stay. She has sent out a very clear message, and it is clearly set out in the White Paper. We do not believe that the Withdrawal from the European Union (Article 50) Bill is the place to set it out. ...

12. **Shailesh Vara:** ... Does my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State agree that the business community in Scotland shares a far more positive and optimistic outlook, rather than the forever-negative comments from the Scottish Government? [908909] ...

Reply from David Mundell: I know that businesses across Scotland value the contribution that EU citizens make to their businesses, and I am clear with them that even when the UK leaves the EU, it will be important for EU citizens still to come to Scotland and play an important part in our economy.

Margaret Ferrier: A recent report from the British Medical Association shows that 40% of European doctors might leave the UK after Brexit because of the Government's shameful inaction on giving a clear guarantee to EU nationals. Why will the UK Government not do the right thing and give a clear guarantee to EU nationals, who are a valued part of our society in Scotland, that they have the right to remain?

Reply from David Mundell: I am absolutely clear about the importance we place on the role of EU nationals in the economy and the health service, but I would take the hon. Lady's comments about encouraging doctors and other medical professionals to come to Scotland a lot more seriously if her Government had not decided to tax them more than any other part of the UK.

Bob Blackman: Does my right hon. Friend agree that as well as safeguarding the role of EU citizens in the UK after we leave the EU, it is vital that we safeguard Scots people who have gone to live in other parts of the EU?

Reply from David Mundell: I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend. It is vital that we secure the position of UK citizens in the EU, many of whom are Scots, and it is perfectly legitimate to take forward that issue in conjunction with securing the rights of EU citizens in Scotland and the rest of the UK. I am hopeful that that can be dealt with very early in the negotiations.

David Anderson: It is clear that the Government are happy to play political football with these people's lives. It shows contempt for 12,000 people working in our health and social care service in Scotland and for 20,000 people working in the food industry, which the Secretary of State has just bragged is the most important part of Scottish industry. When will he stop treating these people this way and give them the guarantee they need to live a happy and secure life in Scotland?

Reply from David Mundell: I have made it absolutely clear, as has the Prime Minister, how much we value the contribution that EU nationals make in Scotland to both the economy and civic society. We want them to stay, but we also want UK nationals elsewhere in the EU to be able to stay where they are.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-01/debates/86A2A3B7-F022-4F5A-B44B-EEC33AA53DB2/LeavingTheEUEUNationalsInScotland>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield [64102] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals who have been rejected for permanent residence have since been asked to leave the UK in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Immigration Statistics (table ee_02_q) include quarterly data on grants, refusals and invalid applications for Documents Certifying Permanent Residence for EEA nationals.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572387/eea-q3-2016-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64102/>

Refugees: Children

Catherine West [64026] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 8 February 2017, HCWS467, what consultations she had on what dates prior to the decision to reduce the number of unaccompanied child refugees taken by the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On the 13 May 2016 the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016 the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK.

This was followed by regional events in Leicester, Exeter, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Huntingdon, Bedford, Birmingham, Manchester, Llandidrod Wells, Edinburgh and two further events in London. These events outlined how unaccompanied children arriving from Europe would be placed into local authority care through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and were attended by representatives from over 400 local authorities.

Following this nationwide programme of events, in September 2016 I wrote again to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland asking them to confirm how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children they could accommodate under the NTS. Home Office officials also maintained an ongoing dialogue with individual local authorities and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships.

We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children before participating in the NTS

Local authorities told us they had capacity for an additional 400 UASC until the end of the 2016/17 financial year. This is in addition to the unaccompanied children already in local authority care. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases will require a local authority placement in circumstances where the reunion does not work out

It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the National Transfer Scheme to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64026/>

Refugees: Children

Thangam Debbonaire [64075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the written statement of 8 February 2017, HCWS467, what estimate she and her counterparts in Europe have made of the number of unaccompanied child asylum seekers in Europe (a) not in care of national authorities, (b) without official protection and (c) otherwise at large; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The European Commission has recently published the ninth report on relocation and resettlement which includes estimates of the number of unaccompanied children currently in Europe. The report can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170208_ninth_report_on_relocation_and_resettlement_en.pdf

The Government has a clear strategy for addressing the migration crisis; we invest significantly in upstream interventions and we resettle the most vulnerable directly from the affected regions, including children. We are clear that we do not want to incentivise perilous journeys across Europe, particularly by the most vulnerable children. That is why we have committed to resettle 20,000 Syrian nationals through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and 3,000 of the most vulnerable children and family members under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme over the course of this Parliament.

The UK has established a £10 million Refugee Children's Fund to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64075/>

Refugees: Children

David Burrowes [64078] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities (a) provided and (b) offered places under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; and how many places were so provided or offered by each such authority.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On the 13 May 2016 the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016 the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK.

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Following this nationwide programme of events, in September 2016 I wrote again to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland asking them to confirm how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children they could accommodate under the NTS. Home Office officials also maintained an ongoing dialogue with individual local authorities and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships.

We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children before participating in the NTS

Local authorities told us they had capacity for an additional 400 UASC until the end of the 2016/17 financial year. This is in addition to the unaccompanied

children already in local authority care. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases will require a local authority placement in circumstances where the reunion does not work out

It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the National Transfer Scheme to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64078/>

Refugees: Children

Tulip Siddiq [64092] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to find out from local authorities what capacity they have to accommodate child refugees.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On the 13 May 2016 the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016 the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK.

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It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the National Transfer Scheme to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64092/>

Refugees: Children

Barry Sheerman [64122] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that unaccompanied child refugees do not fall victim to human trafficking.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government takes child trafficking extremely seriously and is determined to continue to take action to combat it. The Government will publish a safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum

seeking children by 1 May 2017. This will bring together a number of strands of ongoing work to develop a more holistic and comprehensive approach to safeguarding unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children.

In addition, on 16 February 2017 the Home Secretary announced a range of measures to protect children including unaccompanied asylum seeking children, from the risk of trafficking. These measures included the launch of the Child Trafficking Protection Fund which will provide nearly £2.2m for projects protecting vulnerable children in the UK and overseas who are at risk of trafficking. In addition, the Government made clear its intention to roll out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) in Wales, Hampshire and Greater Manchester ahead of full national rollout. ICTAs will provide specialist support and act in the best interests of trafficked children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64122/>

Refugees: Children

Will Quince [64871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to consult with local authorities on whether they can make more places available under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: On February 8, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act following consultation with local authorities on capacity. We ran a full consultation process, with regional events in every part of England, one in Scotland and one in Wales. Over 400 local authority representatives attended the regional events. Any further places offered by local authorities will be gratefully received, and we will use them to fulfil our existing commitments, including ensuring a fairer distribution of children between local authorities through the National Transfer Scheme.

In July 2016 the Government significantly increased the funding it provides to local authorities who look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Local authorities now receive £41,610 per annum year for each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged under 16 and £33,215 per annum for unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged 16 and 17. This represents a 20% and 28% increase in funding respectively. In addition, the Government went further and also increased the funding it provides to local authorities for those young people who turn 18 and go on to attract leaving care support by 33%. We will be working with local authority partners to conduct a review of our funding rates and remain fully committed to maintaining the current rates.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-21/64871/>

Refugees: Children

Will Quince [64872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that children outside of formal camps in Greece and Italy are assessed for relocation to the UK under the Dublin Regulation and Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We have seconded an expert to Greece to support these efforts, and are working in conjunction with the Greek authorities, UNHCR and NGOs to identify children whose best interests may be served by a transfer to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act, pending the publication of the basis on which the transfers will be made.

In Italy, our long-standing secondee is also working closely with the Italian authorities. Our secondees are also working to support the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin Regulation, in order to ensure that children with close family in the UK can be reunited. Furthermore, the UK has established a £10

million Refugee Children's Fund to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-21/64872/>

Refugees: Children

Will Quince [64873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the eligibility criteria for the 150 remaining places announced under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, and for any further transfers to the UK, will prioritise individual vulnerability and the best interests of children.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We will announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests, under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-21/64873/>

Asylum

Stuart McDonald [63330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 15 April 2016 to Question 34251, how many decisions on international protection her Department made from 1 April 2016 to 31 December 2016 with further submissions lodged under rule 353 of the Immigration Rules in respect of (a) grants on protection grounds, (b) grants on non-protection grounds, (c) decisions to treat as a fresh claim and then refused, (d) further submissions refused and (e) further submissions withdrawn before any decision is made.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office releases national statistics on immigration as part of the transparency agenda. Information on asylum claims lodged and the number of outstanding cases forms part of information already released by the Home Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2016/asylum>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-07/63330/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-15/34251/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Stuart McDonald [65370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what role Asylum Support Medical Advisors play in decisions made by the Home Office on support at Regulation 3(2)(b) of the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation of Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005, what qualifications are needed to become such an advisor; how many such advisors have a contract with the Home Office in 2016; and what oversight arrangements the Home Office have in place for monitoring the work of those advisors.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Under the specified provision, an applicant is eligible for Section 4 support if they are unable to leave the UK by reason of a physical impediment, or other medical reason. When an applicant submits medical evidence in this regard, caseworkers may consider whether to refer the case to the Asylum Support Medical Adviser (ASMA) regarding the impact of the applicant's medical condition on his ability to undertake international travel. All ASMA advisors are registered with the General Medical Council (GMC), and the Home Office is reviewing its relationship with the ASMA advisors, including the oversight of their operations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65370/>

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Margaret Ferrier [64957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with her (a) Italian and (b) Greek counterparts on resettling unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from those countries under the Dubs amendment provisions.

Margaret Ferrier [65023] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children through the Dubs amendment provisions (a) have been resettled in the last and (b) will be resettled in the next 12 months from (i) France, (ii) Italy and (iii) Greece.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: On February 8, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act following consultation with local authorities on capacity. In 2016 over 900 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were transferred to the UK, of which over 750 have been transferred from France, of which over 200 came under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We will announce in due course the basis on which further 150 children will be transferred from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests, under section 67 of the Immigration Act. The Home Secretary and I have both met with our Italian counterparts recently to discuss how we can support them; discussions are ongoing. The Home Secretary has spoken with her Greek colleagues to discuss the Migration crisis. We have seconded an expert to Greece to support these efforts, and are working in conjunction with the Greek authorities, UNHCR and NGOs to identify children whose best interests may be served by a transfer to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act, pending the publication of the basis on which the transfers will be made. In Italy, our long-standing secondee is also working closely with the Italian authorities. Our secondees are also working to support the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin Regulation, in order to ensure that children with close family in the UK can be reunited.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/64957/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/65023/>

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Margaret Ferrier [65024] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with South Lanarkshire Council on that area's capacity for resettling unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Margaret Ferrier [65025] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were resettled in (a) South Lanarkshire Council area and (b) Scotland under the Dubs amendment in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On 13 May 2016, the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016, the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK. This was followed by regional events in England and in Scotland and Wales.

On 8 September last year, I wrote to all local authorities in England, Wales and

Scotland asking them to confirm how many places they could offer to accommodate unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Home Office officials also maintained an ongoing dialogue with individual local authorities and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships throughout.

In 2016 over 900 unaccompanied asylums seeking children were transferred to the UK, of which over 750 have been transferred from France, of which over 200 came under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

This is a voluntary scheme whereby local authorities sign up to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking children on a voluntary basis.

We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children before participating in the NTS. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out.

Every region in England is participating in the NTS and we are working very closely with local authorities in Scotland and Wales who have also responded positively

We are grateful for to local authorities across the UK, including South Lanarkshire, for coming forward to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the NTS to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/65024/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/65025/>

Asylum: Children

Thangam Debonnaire [65067] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department has had with local authorities on the number of unaccompanied refugee children to be resettled as required by the Immigration Act 2016; how many local authorities have (a) responded and (b) not responded to those consultations; and of those that have responded how many have said they (i) can place a child or children and (ii) cannot place any children.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On 13 May 2016, the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016, the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK. This was followed by regional events in England and in Scotland and Wales.

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unaccompanied asylum seeking children on a voluntary basis.

We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children before participating in the NTS.

Our consultation with local authorities indicated that there was capacity for an additional 400 UASC. This is in addition to the unaccompanied children already in local authority care. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases will require a local authority placement in circumstances where the reunion does not work out. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out.

Every region in England is participating in the NTS and we are working very closely with local authorities in Scotland and Wales who have also responded positively.

It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the NTS to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/65067/>

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Jim Cunningham [65258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with Coventry City Council on that area's capacity for resettling unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Jim Cunningham [65259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were resettled in (a) Coventry City Council area and (b) the West Midlands under the Dubs amendment provisions since May 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On 13 May 2016, the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016, the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK. This was followed by regional events in England, including an event in the West Midlands, and in Scotland and Wales.

On 8 September last year, I wrote to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland asking them to confirm how many places they could offer to accommodate unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Home Office officials also maintained an ongoing dialogue with individual local authorities and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships throughout. In 2016 over 900 unaccompanied asylums seeking children were transferred to the UK, of which over 750 have been transferred from France, of which over 200 came under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The NTS is a voluntary scheme whereby local authorities sign up to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking children on a voluntary basis. We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children

before participating in the NTS. Every region in England is participating in the NTS and we are working closely with local authorities in Scotland and Wales who have also responded positively. We are grateful to all local authorities who continue to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children, including Coventry City Council. It is for individual local authorities to decide the number of children they are able to accommodate but we continue to work with those not currently participating in the NTS to support them to do so at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65258/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65259/>

Asylum: Children

David Warburton [65438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the most recent consultation with local authorities took place on their capacity to receive vulnerable children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; and what steps her Department is taking to consult local authorities on whether they can make more places available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In accordance with the Immigration Act 2016 the Government conducted a comprehensive consultation with local authorities across the UK in order to assess capacity for the care of unaccompanied children. On 13 May 2016, the then Immigration Minister wrote to all local authorities to provide an update on the launch of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and to encourage local authorities to participate in all schemes designed for children. On 7 June 2016, the then Immigration Minister, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families and the then Minister with responsibility for Syrian Refugees attended a national launch event in London which was attended by local authorities from across the UK. This was followed by regional events in England and in Scotland and Wales.

On 8 September last year, I wrote to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland asking them to confirm how many places they could offer to accommodate unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Home Office officials also maintained an ongoing dialogue with individual local authorities and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships throughout.

This is a voluntary scheme whereby local authorities sign up to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking children on a voluntary basis.

We asked local authorities to consider carefully whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care of these unaccompanied children before participating in the NTS

Our consultation with local authorities indicated that there was capacity for an additional 400 UASC. This is in addition to the unaccompanied children already in local authority care. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases will require a local authority placement in circumstances where the reunion does not work out.

We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out. Every region in England is participating in the NTS and we are working very closely with local authorities in Scotland and Wales who have also responded positively.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65438/>

Asylum: Children

Heidi Allen [65759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what each response was from those local authorities which replied to her letter of September 2016 requesting confirmation of how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children they could accommodate.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I wrote to local authorities on 8 September last year asking them to confirm via their Strategic Migration Partnership the number of unaccompanied children who could be placed in their local authority area. We received a range of responses from Strategic Migration Partnerships but also from local authorities directly. Based on those responses and our extensive consultation over the summer we calculated they had capacity for an additional 400 unaccompanied asylum seeking children until the end of the 2016/17 financial year. This is in addition to the many unaccompanied children already in local authority care. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases will require a local authority placement in circumstances where the reunion does not work out.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65759/>

Asylum: Accommodation Centres

Anne Main [64009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the length of stay in initial accommodation in the asylum system.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office aims to move asylum seekers from Initial Accommodation to Dispersed Accommodation within 19 days. Some asylum seekers stay in Initial Accommodation for shorter or longer periods depending on their individual needs; the Home Office closely monitors the length of stay. The Home Office is working closely with its providers to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation to allow asylum seekers to move on from initial accommodation within an appropriate timescale.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64009/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq [64464] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the daily cost to the public purse is of detaining an individual in (a) a short-term holding facility and (b) an immigration removal centre.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes, once a quarter, the average cost per day of immigration detention as part of Immigration Statistics. This can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2016>

The Home Office is not able to calculate the average daily cost of short term holding facilities and immigration removal centres without incurring disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-20/64464/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq [64608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people detained in an immigration removal centre were subsequently removed or deported from the UK in each year from 2013 to 2017.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The number of people leaving detention, by reason is published in tables dt_05 and dt_05_q in 'Immigration Statistics, July - September 2016', available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572384/detention-q3-2016-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-20/64608/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tom Brake [65362] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to table dt 09 q of the Quarterly Immigration Statistics, October to December 2016, for what reasons two children who left immigration detention in the fourth quarter of 2016 has been detained for between 29 days and two months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office does not routinely comment on individual immigration cases.

Currently, unaccompanied children under the age of 18 may be detained only in a limited number of very exceptional circumstances. Such detention is usually pending alternative care arrangements being made (with relatives or local authority children's services), would be for the shortest possible time, and would not take place in an immigration removal centre.

The Home Office is committed to protecting unaccompanied asylum seeking children - ending the routine detention of children for immigration purposes and fundamentally changing the system to ensure their welfare is at the heart of every decision we make.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65362/>

Human Trafficking

Edward Garnier [64701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people convicted of human trafficking in the UK who returned to their country of origin to serve their sentence have had their assets (a) in the UK or (b) overseas seized to compensate (i) victims of trafficking, (ii) police forces and (iii) HM Treasury; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Data on the number of convicted human traffickers returned to their countries of origin to serve the sentence and whose assets (whether in the UK or overseas) have also been seized to compensate victims, police forces and HM Treasury is not collated centrally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-21/64701/>

Human Trafficking

Edward Garnier [64829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to encourage the seizure of assets of human traffickers at the point of arrest, rather than conviction.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Modern Slavery taskforce, chaired by the Prime Minister, is coordinating activity across law enforcement agencies to ensure that powers available to disrupt, deter and prevent human trafficking are used to best effect.

This includes powers under Section 12 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to detain vehicles, ships and aircraft from those arrested on suspicion of human trafficking offences and wider powers available under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-21/64829/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Jim Cunningham [65369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of children brought into the UK by people traffickers in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Modern Slavery remains a largely hidden crime and it is challenging to accurately assess its prevalence. The Government holds data on

potential victims of trafficking referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The link below provides NRM statistics which include data on the number of non-UK national children aged 17 years and under (at the time of referral) referred to the NRM because of a human trafficking claim.

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

Data for the first three quarters of 2016 is available within the link. The final quarter and annual summary is due to be published in March 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65369/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration

Lord Green of Deddington: To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the change in the total number of households in the United Kingdom between 2010 and 2014 is attributed to households with a non-United Kingdom born household reference person.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth) My Lords, according to the Office for National Statistics, 90% of the growth in households from 2010 to 2014 can be attributed to households with a household reference person born outside the UK.

Lord Green of Deddington My Lords, I have been asked to explain that a "household reference person" is modern bureaucratic-speak for head of household. Now we know what we are talking about, I thank the Minister for his response. Does he agree that we should welcome the many contributions that immigrants make to our society and economy, but that we should also be frank about the costs? Does he recall telling this House on 19 January that in the main scenario, just over one-third of additional households were due to net migration? Yet today he tells us that in the most recent period, 90% of additional households were headed by an immigrant. Surely it is now obvious that the DCLG should be using the high-migration scenario—that is, the one that implies a demand for a new house for a migrant family every five minutes, night and day.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, it is the case that 37% of household growth is due to net migration. I certainly endorse the noble Lord's comment that we have every reason to be grateful for immigration; it adds to the diversity of national life and makes a significant contribution to national life, not least to the public services.

Lord Clark of Windermere: ... will the Minister also confirm that about 60,000 individuals from the European Union are working in our National Health Service, and that the service would collapse completely without them?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Lord for correcting me in relation to the Foreign Secretary. I certainly was not trying to whip up a campaign on his behalf, and I now know that there would be no point in doing that any way.

The noble Lord's very serious point about the contribution of EU citizens—as well as of other people who were not born in this country—to public services, including the National Health Service, is well made and the Government are well aware of that.

Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton: My Lords, I would not dream of asking the Minister a question about how many EU citizens are involved in building houses because he is very proficient and I am sure he would not have that information. However, would he agree with my observation that many houses—for both incoming and existing families—are built with the endeavours of migrant workers from the EU?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Baroness is very

kind and her point is well made. It is certainly the case that a significant number of people who work in construction are from communities that were born overseas. We have regular discussions with the construction management board to ensure that the needs of that sector are taken account of, in view of the independent Farmer review which looked at that area.

Lord Bilimoria: My Lords, does the Minister agree that our universities are—along with those in the United States of America—the best in the world? This is greatly because of the foreigners who make up almost one-third of our academics. According to a recent report, almost 50% of academics in some subjects are from abroad. Without them we would not have excellence. It does not matter that they were foreign born: they are of benefit to this country.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Lord makes a very important point about our universities, which I think are the best in the world, independently of America. Many people in them are undoubtedly from overseas, including many students.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, the Minister rightly pointed to the contribution made by immigrants to the health service, but a growing proportion of households have someone needing care at home. A report today from the TUC suggested that 7% of social care workers are from other EEA countries, with others from outside the EU as well. What effect would it have on informal care in the home if immigration were significantly reduced?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Baroness makes a very valuable point about the care sector, a large number of the employees of which undoubtedly come from overseas—not just the European communities. The Government are well aware of this and it will inform our immigration policy. We recognise that we need significant numbers of the brightest and best people with particular skills for our public services and elsewhere.

Lord Low of Dalston: My Lords, does the Minister agree that, as the series of questions to which we have just listened shows, it is completely counter-productive to keep harping on about the quantity of immigration, not the quality?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, I think that that is the essence of the Government's policy. We recognise the need for particular skills. We recognise that over time we have relied on the skills of immigrant communities who have made a massive contribution to national life, and continue to do so. I endorse what the noble Lord said.

Lord Tebbit: My Lords, we have heard a number of questions and all of them have commented on the very good things—the advantages of immigration to this country. Will my noble friend tell me how many of those convicted of terrorism or aiding terrorism have been immigrants, and how many of them have been the children of immigrants?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, my noble friend will appreciate that I do not have those figures to hand, but it is undoubtedly the case that there are people from any community who are involved in crimes—terrorist crimes or other crimes. I will endeavour to get the figures that my noble friend asked for and ensure that a copy of the letter is placed in the Library.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-01/debates/18466AAA-E011-4D3E-B6BB-2130297655DA/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5438] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will accept unaccompanied child refugees under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in the financial year 2017–18.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the Immigration Act we made

a commitment to transfer a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children to the UK. On 8 February the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act. This includes the more than 200 children already transferred under section 67 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. This number has been agreed following consultation with local authorities on their capacity to accommodate and care for unaccompanied children. We will announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-20/HL5438/>

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL5544] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants study of the impact of the right to rent checks on migrants and ethnic minorities in England.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants' report includes findings about discrimination in relation to the Right to Rent scheme, but the Government's view is that JCWI does not provide clear evidence that discrimination has arisen as a consequence of the scheme. However, the Government takes this issue seriously, and officials will meet with JCWI in order to discuss the findings in their report.

The Government's own evaluation of phase one of the scheme, in parts of the West Midlands, found no evidence of discrimination in terms of outcomes for prospective tenants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-22/HL5544/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Chris Law (1004) Deportation of Irene Clennell – That this House condemns the deportation of Irene Clennell, who has been married to a British man for 27 years and has two British sons and a granddaughter, to Singapore, due to her spending periods of time in Singapore caring for her elderly parents and invalidating her residential status; notes that Mrs Clennell was detained at a routine appointment at an immigration reporting centre in Middlesbrough and held prior to deportation in Scottish detention centre Dungavel House, which is infamous for abuse and inhumanity, and on Sunday morning was taken from Dungavel to Singapore, with just £12 in her pocket, without any of her clothes or belongings, leaving behind her sick husband Jon, for whom she is a carer; further notes that this is just one example of the Government's relentless drive towards unrealistic migration caps that don't take real lives into account and tear apart families; and urges the Home Office to develop a more humane approach to immigration rules immediately.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1004>

Press Releases

Roundtable on unaccompanied children

<http://news.gov.scot/news/roundtable-on-unaccompanied-children>

Missing refugee children: MEPs call for better protection

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170228IPR64281/missing-refugee-children-meps-call-for-better-protection>

New Publications

UK policy on torture and the treatment of asylum claims

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0067/CDP-2017-0067.pdf>

Handbook on Statelessness in the OSCE Area: International Standards and Good Practices

<http://www.osce.org/handbook/statelessness-in-the-OSCE-area?download=true>

News

Rejection of EU citizens seeking UK residency hits 28%

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/27/rejections-eu-citizens-seeking-uk-residency>

Rudd says child refugee criticism is 'fake news'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-02-27/news/refugee-outcry-is-branded-fake-news-30g6c2pl6>

Child refugees recall 'traumatic' journey to safety in talks with First Minister

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/379694/child-refugees-recall-traumatic-journey-to-safety-in-talks-with-first-minister/>

Young refugees share their stories with the First Minister

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3079_young_refugees_share_their_stories_with_the_first_minister

Frazer - unaccompanied refugee children must be welcomed

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

"We are people, not numbers" as migrant families fight to stay together

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15134370.quot_We_are_people_not_numbers_quot_as_migrant_families_fight_to_stay_together/

Stats on separated families lead to calls to devolve immigration

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15134434.Calls_to_devolve_immigration_over_the_plight_of_separated_Scottish_families/

Stranded refugees denied UK asylum face 'life in limbo'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/05/refused-asylum-seekers-suicide-rules-uk>

UK may return tortured asylum seekers to country they fled, says immigration minister

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seeker-torture-uk-refugee-immigration-minister-a7608206.html>

More asylum seekers are being 'left destitute' in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-39105929>

Councils ask why offer to house child migrants was turned down

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/04/councils-spaces-child-refugees-dubs-amendment>

Rebellion against migrant status for foreign students

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-01/news/rebellion-against-migrant-status-for-foreign-students-h6jf6tszw>

The struggle to be British: my life as a second-class citizen

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/02/struggle-british-life-as-second-class-citizen>

'It has been a long road to get to the UK'

http://www.bbc.com/news/video_and_audio/features/magazine-39133637/39133637

Refugees deserve compassion, not condemnation

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/jane-bradley-refugees-deserve-compassion-not-condemnation-1-4382741>

On asylum and refugees, Britain left Europe years ago

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/01/how-britain-hard-stance-refugees-reshaping-european-policy>

Britain is one of worst places in western Europe for asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/01/britain-one-of-worst-places-western-europe-asylum-seekers>

EU migrants should have skills, public tells BBC Wales poll

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-39114914>

They left Afghanistan a family of nine. They arrived in the UK a family of two

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/01/left-afghanistan-family-of-nine-arrived-uk-family-of-two>

'Hero' neighbour faces deportation from UK three weeks after saving children from fire

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hero-saved-children-withington-fire-robert-chilowa-deportation-home-office-a7610571.html>

Man who saved two children from Manchester fire to be deported

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/03/man-who-saved-two-children-from-house-fire-to-be-deported-from-uk>

Man who saved children from house fire faces deportation from the UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/04/man-saved-children-house-fire-faces-deportation-uk/>

Woman deported to Singapore despite 27-year marriage

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39099574>

Deported grandmother: I've been treated as a terrorist

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15121966.Deported_grandmother_I_ve_been_treated_as_a_terrorist/

Gran deported from Scotland after 30 years in Britain

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15119565.Gran_deported_from_Scotland_after_30_years_in_Britain/

Fundraising drive for deported woman passes £30k

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/fundraising-drive-for-deported-woman-passes-30k-1-4377768>

Fundraising campaign for mother deported from Dungavel after 30 years in UK reaches £27k

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/fundraising-campaign-mother-deported-dungavel-9927620>

Woman deported to Singapore after almost 30 years living in the UK with her British husband and sons

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/woman-irene-clennell-uk-deport-singapore-british-husband-durham-immigration-detention-centre-a7601441.html>

Irene Clennell tells of 'deeply humiliating' deportation from UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/02/grandmother-tells-of-deeply-humiliating-deportation-from-uk>

I was forcibly deported from the UK like a terrorist, restrained and under guard

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/02/irene-clennell-deported-uk-terrorist>

Deported woman's family say Amber Rudd lacks compassion

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/27/deported-grandmothers-irene-clennell-family-amber-rudd-lacks-compassion>

Grandmother deported after 27 years in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-02-27/news/grandmother-deported-after-27-years-in-britain-lfwd6bp3k>

Grandmother who has been married to Briton for 27-years is deported to Singapore with just £12 in her pocket

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/27/grandmother-has-married-briton-27-years-deported-singapore-just/>

Grandmother, 53, is deported to Singapore leaving her British husband and their two sons behind despite living here for 27 years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4263960/Grandmother-deported-Singapore-leaving-British-husband.html>

Bangor Uni student wins deportation appeal, MP says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-39110635>

Bangor University student deportation threat 'brutal'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-39098562>

Bangor student 'picked off' for following rules, MP says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-39113882>

Student 'desperate to get back to studies' after removal from UK is halted

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/28/deportation-student-halted-hours-board-plane>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-04407 John Mason: Asad Shah's Example – That the Parliament deplores the news that, despite being in jail, the murderer of Asad Shah has been releasing recordings and building an online following; understands that the support Tanveer Ahmed has seen in Pakistan highlights the existing faultlines regarding the treatment of blasphemy in that country, with it still being punishable by death; believes that the example set by Mr Shah in showing love and compassion to all his neighbours, regardless of their faith, provides the perfect counterpoint to the clarion call of hatred made by extreme factions; considers that there is no place for such laws or attitudes towards blasphemy, and seeks a world where there is freedom of religion and belief, including the freedom to change or abandon one's religion.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04407>

New Publication

The meaning of racial or ethnic origin in EU law: between stereotypes and identities

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=43228

News

I feel torn about 'Extremely British Muslims' – it's not perfect, but at least it's making an effort

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/extremely-british-muslims-muslim-documentary-channel-4-islam-not-perfect-a7610356.html>

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Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-01/debates/35FBCC69-5F6B-498A-A22F-6D77774E99D0/EqualityAndHumanRightsCommission>

Press Release

Increase in BME workplace progression could give UK economy a £24bn boost – Baroness McGregor-Smith Review finds

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-in-bme-workplace-progression-could-give-uk-economy-a-24bn-boost-baroness-mcgregor-smith-review-finds>

New Publications

Race in the workplace: The time for talking is over. Now is the time to Act.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf

Government response to “Race in the workplace”

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594365/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review-response.pdf

News

Young Scot Fairer Future for Race Equality in Scotland

Young Scot is working with the Scottish Government to set up a team of 15 people, aged 14-21 to create a young people’s vision for Race Equality in Scotland. They are looking for young people from ethnic minority communities and those who are passionate about race equality to participate. No previous experience required! For information see <http://young.scot/things-to-do/events/aberdeen/fairer-future-for-race-equality-in-scotland/>

BME career progression 'could add £24bn a year to UK economy'

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2017/feb/28/bme-career-progression-could-add-24bn-a-year-to-uk-economy>

White civil servants are paid almost £10,000 more than their BME counterparts

https://www.indy100.com/article/black-minority-ethnic-civil-servants-pay-gap-parliament-question-and-answer-philip-davies-7611351?utm_source=indy&utm_medium=top5&utm_campaign=i100

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister’s Questions: Mental health

Steve Reed: Young black men who use mental health services are more likely than other people to be subject to detention, extreme forms of medication and severe physical restraint, and, in extreme cases, this has led to death, including that of my constituent Seni Lewis. Too many black people with mental ill health are afraid to seek treatment from a service they fear will not treat them fairly. Will the Prime Minister meet me and some of the affected families to discuss the need for an inquiry into institutional racism in the mental health service? [908984]

Reply from the Prime Minister: ... It is precisely because of concern about how various people were being treated within our public services that last year I introduced a racial audit of the disparity of treatment within public services. As Home Secretary, I saw this when I looked at the way that people, particularly black people with mental health issues, were being dealt with by the police and in various forms of detention. That is exactly the sort of issue that we are looking at. I am very happy for the hon. Member for Croydon North (Mr Reed) to write to me with the details of the particular issue that he set out.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-01/debates/62A8D14B-06F5-461B-B9F9-D20941A86413/Engagements#contribution-53C825E6-76C0-44B9-920E-992161A2290F>

Prime Minister’s Questions: Antisemitism

Bob Blackman: We are rightly proud that young people can study at our colleges and universities regardless of race, creed or colour, yet this week Jewish students are being subjected to intimidation, fear and anti-Semitism as the result of the so-called Israeli apartheid week. What action can my right hon. Friend take to make sure that chancellors

and principals ensure that anti-Semitism is not allowed to prosper on campuses? [908993]

Reply from the Prime Minister: First, I want to assure my hon. Friend that higher education institutions have a responsibility to ensure that they provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students. We expect them to have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, and to investigate and swiftly address hate crime, including any anti-Semitic incidents that are reported. I know that my hon. Friend the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation has recently written to remind institutions of these expectations, and he has also urged them to follow the Government's lead in adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-01/debates/62A8D14B-06F5-461B-B9F9-D20941A86413/Engagements#contribution-366A0E88-F597-4BCE-AD13-B88F691C81AE>

Asad Shah

Stewart McDonald: ... On 24 March, it will be exactly one year since the shopkeeper Asad Shah was killed in my constituency by a man called Tanveer Ahmed. Members may know that the newspapers today cover a "celebration"—I hate to call it that—of Asad Shah's death and the veneration of his murderer in Pakistan. Mr Shah was one of the most gentle and kind people ever to own a shop anywhere in the United Kingdom. He was loved by many people in the south side of Glasgow. Will the Leader of the House join me in condemning the horrifying display that we can see in newspaper and online coverage? Will he also do something to ensure that what we remember is the kindness of this wonderful man and his wonderful family, not the demagoguery of the man who took him from us?

Reply from David Lidington: I willingly join the hon. Gentleman, and I am sure the entire House, in expressing unreserved revulsion at and condemnation of the event he describes. It is, frankly, sickening to hear that human beings could be prepared to behave in such a fashion. I remember, from reading and seeing news reports just under a year ago, the sense of shock and genuine grief on the part of people in the south side of Glasgow. People from very different ethnic and religious heritages felt that they had lost a friend and a devoted champion of community life. That is how we should remember.

In a sense, the best tribute would be for people in Glasgow in particular, and all of us, to redouble our resolve to eradicate from our society this scourge of bigotry, whether it is based on racial, religious or any other grounds.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-02/debates/2FD394E4-EFD4-43AC-BE40-6CF82F25A268/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-D6225E7B-DA0B-42E1-9C05-BD4DAE2616D7>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Internet: Hate Crime

Nusrat Ghani [65360] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to his answer of 25 January to question 61017, for what reasons offences committed online are not recorded and what the estimated cost of keeping such records is.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The College of Policing Hate Crime Operational Guidance, issued in 2014, makes clear that hate crimes committed online should be recorded in the same way as all others:

http://www.report-it.org.uk/strategy_and_guidance.

The Home Office is responsible for the collection and publication of data on police recorded crime, including hate crime. Information on whether a crime was

committed online (in full or in part) has been collected on a mandatory basis since April 2015. The Home Office plans to publish information on the proportion of police recorded hate crime that is identified as being online in their Hate Crime England and Wales 2016/17 bulletin which is due for publication in October 2017

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65360/>

Antisemitism: Prosecutions

Gregory Campbell [65328] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many people were charged with offences related to Anti-Semitism between 24 June and 24 December in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016.

Reply from Marcus Jones: There are five monitored strands of hate crime covering hostility on the basis of disability, sexual orientation, transgender identity, race and religion. There is no disaggregation beyond this, although police systems are currently being developed to cover the disaggregation of religion. Under the Code for Prosecutors, Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors must have regard to whether the offence was motivated by any form of discrimination. This is over and above the requirements of the specific legal framework for hate crime. Prosecutors are supported to identify appropriate evidence in any such case by legal guidance and material developed with the input of the Community Security Trust.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65328/>

Hate Crime: Wales

Stephen Doughty [65502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime have been (a) reported and (b) prosecuted in each of the last 12 months in each police force area in Wales.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office collect and publish statistics on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police on an annual basis. In 2015/16, the most recently published data, the police recorded 2,405 hate crimes in Wales. The statistical bulletin, which includes the number of hate crimes recorded by police force area (Appendix Table 2.01), can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>.

The Home Office does not hold data on the number of hate crimes prosecuted in the last 12 months. Data for the number of prosecutions for the year ending March 2016 is to be published by the Ministry of Justice in May 2017. The Home Office does hold some data on the outcomes of hate crimes recorded by the police, which can be found in the hate crime bulletin referenced above, but it is not broken down by police force area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-24/65502/>

New Publication

2017 State of Hate Report

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk//launch.aspx?eid=3a775a92-2424-4e47-8166-4b6d6b344fd5>

News

Scots student who linked racism with nationalism quits Twitter over safety fears

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15123522.Scots_student_who_linked_racism_with_nationalism_quits_Twitter_over_safety_fears/?ref=mr&lp=10

Murderer Tanveer Ahmed inspires Pakistani hardliners from Scottish jail

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39112840>

Shopkeeper Asad Shah's killer banned from making calls in jail after hate messages surface online

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/shopkeeper-asad-shahs-killer-banned-9937378>

Are these Britain's most racist musicians? 'Jew Jew Train' among sick lyrics of extreme right-wing bands revealed in a hate report

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4261906/Are-Britain-s-racist-musicians.html>

Yes, Trevor Phillips: you can be black and a racist too

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/27/trevor-phillips-political-correctness-racism-prejudice>

Man smashed in head with hammer at car boot sale 'after racist row over £1 cuddly toy tiger'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/man-smashed-head-hammer-car-9962008>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Policing 2026 Strategy

Douglas Ross: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the consultation document, "Policing 2026: Our 10 year strategy for policing in Scotland". (S5T-00419)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson): We welcome yesterday's publication of the draft policing 2026 strategy, which sets out the steps that the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland propose to take in order to better meet the policing challenges of the future. We very much support the strategy's clear focus on improving the operational capacity of our police and enhancing the quality of service that the public receive. Once finalised, the document will play a key role in shaping the direction of policing, and I encourage all those who have an interest in participating in the consultation to do so now that it is under way.

Douglas Ross: Yesterday, we learned—not from the 2026 strategy but from the accompanying press conference—that 400 officers will be cut from the single force by 2020 and that officers are currently backfilling administrative roles. That latter admission came just a week after I had received a letter from Police Scotland's deputy chief officer, David Page, denying that such a backfilling policy existed.

I agree with the cabinet secretary that we must respond to the strategy, but what confidence can the public have in responding to it if it does not even mention police officer numbers? Furthermore, the word "rural" is not mentioned once in the strategy, despite our rural population growing at a faster rate in recent years than the population in

the rest of Scotland. Does the cabinet secretary agree that that is a crucial consideration? What assurances will he give that rural communities will not be overlooked?

Reply from Michael Matheson: I will try to unpick a few of the points that Douglas Ross has made. I reiterate that the chief constable and the Scottish Police Authority have issued a draft proposal on a change in the staff mix that they wish to have in Police Scotland. It is right to recognise that the nature of the crime that the police service deals with and the demands that are placed on it have significantly changed over the past 10 years. The police service has to deal with the demands arising from mental health issues, missing persons, vulnerable individuals and an ageing population. In addition, crimes are now taking place in a private place. We have seen a big drop in the number of crimes that take place in a public place, particularly crimes of violence, and those have moved into private places, with an increase in domestic violence being reported. We have also seen an increase in cyber-related crime.

It is important that the police have the right mix of staff with the right skills to be able to deal with such crimes and meet new and emerging threats effectively. I have said that on a number of occasions—and we set that out in our manifesto last year as part of the election campaign. The chief constable has also set out his vision of how that can best be achieved over the next 10 years. Part of that is to make sure that some of the transformation that has not taken place—as the chief constable also confirmed—in Police Scotland’s corporate and support role takes place. Much of that has remained the same as it was under the legacy forces. Part of it is about moving out officers who have been in those roles and giving them front-line responsibilities and reforming how support is provided to officers to support the corporate and wider support needs of the organisation. That is to be welcomed, and there are important lessons in that for us to consider over the coming weeks.

Rural matters are a significant issue for Police Scotland. We would expect that area to be included in the final strategy. No doubt the member will want to make his views known to Police Scotland and to make his own submission to the consultation exercise, and no doubt he will choose to focus on issues of rural concern.

Douglas Ross: If the chief constable was able to tell a press conference immediately after the release of the strategy about those issues, why are they not in the consultation in order to get the public’s feedback? That is an issue of concern.

I will concentrate on one other issue: technology. By its own admission, Police Scotland’s technology is “slow and outdated” and there is “duplication of input”. Those problems were supposed to have been overcome by the merger and the—now failed—i6 project. Technology is a linchpin of the strategy, but the single force’s track record on that front has been poor to date. We now learn that Police Scotland “will invest in technology streamlining processes through greater self-service and automation.”

That could further distance officers from people in local communities who just want to speak to their local officer. What safeguards can we take from the strategy that those ties will not be further eroded?

Reply from Michael Matheson: The member again fails to recognise that this is a draft strategy, which Police Scotland, along with the Scottish Police Authority, has issued to allow people to comment and express their views on. The issues that the member raises can be considered over the period of the consultation exercise.

The vast majority of information technology infrastructure in Police Scotland was inherited from the legacy forces. In addition, the genesis of the i6 initiative goes back when the legacy forces were looking for a single police IT system. The company that was appointed to deliver the i6 programme has not done so. We provided additional reform money in the budget that we took through Parliament

last week to allow the necessary IT investment to be made to support the police in releasing the capacity in the organisation that is, at present, being taken up by slow, outdated IT systems. That is the type of thing that, as the chair of the Scottish Police Authority and the chief constable set out, will be a key priority as the service moves forward with the strategy in the coming years.

Ben Macpherson: For context on these islands, can the cabinet secretary provide some detail of how the number of police officers in England and Wales compares to the number of police officers in Scotland?

Reply from Michael Matheson: I am clear that the purpose behind any strategy that is approved by the Scottish Government must be to ensure that we have sufficient police officers to deliver the safety and security of the people of Scotland. Over the past 10 years, we have been committed to having 1,000 extra police officers, and there are no plans to change police officer numbers in the forthcoming financial year. The present number of police officers in Police Scotland is 17,256.

I will not accept a strategy that follows the approach that has been taken by the Home Secretary in England and Wales, which has destroyed some aspects of police operation in England and Wales through the loss of 19,000 police officers over the same period in which we have been protecting police numbers. The loss of those officers has had a direct impact on the quality of policing in England and Wales. The “Policing 2026” strategy is not about delivering that; it is about improving capacity and the service that the public receive from Police Scotland.

Willie Rennie: I asked the First Minister about the issue last week, so I am intrigued by the answers that have been given today and the statement that was made yesterday by the chief constable. The First Minister denied that there is any change in policy. She committed the Government to the policy of having 1,000 extra officers and said that that was not going to change this year. I have a precise question for the justice secretary: if the chief constable wants to reduce the number of police officers by 400, as he stated yesterday, will he have the backing of the justice secretary?

Reply from Michael Matheson: As I said yesterday, we will consider the details of the draft strategy, the feedback from the consultation and the final strategy before it is approved by the Government. On that basis, the answer is yes, because the strategy will have to be approved by the Government.

John Finnie: Does the cabinet secretary agree that the obligation on our chief constable is to assess the risks and put in place mechanisms to address those risks? This is not necessarily about officer numbers or buildings; it is about the quality of service. Will he undertake to move the conversation away from this obsession with the figure of 17,234 officers and, if the chief constable approaches him with further requests that are based on an evidenced need in the light of developing threats and things, support those requests?

Reply from Michael Matheson: As I mentioned, and as I have stated on a number of occasions, it is important that the police are able to respond to the changing nature of our society and the changing nature of crime. We must ensure that the police service is able to keep pace with changes at a societal level and at a criminal level. As the chief constable set out, the intention behind the strategy is to ensure that the police service can meet those challenges effectively, delivering better capacity within Police Scotland and a better service to the public. I am clear about the need to deliver those things, which is why I have said repeatedly that the issue is to get the right staff mix in the police service so that it can deliver a first-class service to the people of Scotland and keep them safe. I will continue to have discussions with the chief constable over the coming weeks, as the consultation is undertaken and after it has been completed, on how we can ensure that Police Scotland is able to do that not just in some parts of Scotland but right across the country.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10811&i=99039#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

Holyrood's European Committee calls for a bespoke solution on Brexit

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/103792.aspx>

Devolved legislatures agree areas of common concern on Brexit

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/103803.aspx>

Policing 2026

<http://news.gov.scot/news/policing-2026>

New Publication

Determining Scotland's future relationship with the European Union

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_European/Reports/CTEERCS052017R04.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Forced Marriage

The following two questions both received the same answer

Nusrat Ghani [64189] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, on how many occasions in the last year schools have made representations to her Department about girls being married under religious law while below the age of 16.

Nusrat Ghani [64192] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many times schools have reported concerns to her Department or to other relevant authorities on missing children in the context of trafficking for forced marriage.

Reply from Edward Timpson: We have not found any instances where in the last year schools have made representations to this Department about marriage under religious law below the age of 16, or reported concerns about children missing in the context of trafficking for forced marriage. Safeguarding concerns in relation to such issues should be reported to the local authority in line with local procedures.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64189/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64192/>

Honour Based Violence

Nusrat Ghani [64191] To ask the Attorney General, how many cases dealt with by the CPS were flagged as being cases of honour-based violence in the most recent year for which data is available.

Reply from Jeremy Wright: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) uses a monitoring flag to collect data to show the number of defendants prosecuted for offences relating to 'so-called' honour-based violence (HBV). The flag is applied where any offence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse has been carried out in the context of HBV. During the financial year 2015-16 the CPS received 216 HBV referrals from the police, 182 of these were prosecuted.

Other News

Supreme Court to sit in Scotland

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/news/supreme-court-to-sit-in-scotland.html>

Interfaith listening service eases strain of court experience

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

Inside Britain's sharia councils: hardline and anti-women – or a dignified way to divorce?

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/mar/01/inside-britains-sharia-councils-hardline-and-anti-women-or-a-dignified-way-to-divorce>

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>

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Destitution and asylum in Scotland (closing date 8 March 2017)

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/Destitution_and_Asylum_Call_for_Evidence_Final_20170125.pdf

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (closing date 14 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/draft-gender-representation-on-public-boards/>

**** Scottish Prison Service Corporate Plan 2017-20** (closing date 17 March 2017)
<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/News/News-4872.aspx>

Changes to The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014 arising from the Immigration Act 2016 (closing date 23 March 2017)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590887/tpc-bail-consultation.pdf

Commission on Parliamentary Reform (closing date 27 March 2017)
<https://parliamentaryreform.scot/have-your-say/>

EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (closing date 31 March 2017)
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=54326

**** Housing for disabled people** (closing date 18 April 2017)
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-housing-disabled-people>

**** Policing 2026: Draft Strategy** (closing date 8 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

**** Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures** (closing date 28 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/support-and-wellbeing/improving-educational-outcomes-for-children/>

**** Here to Stay? Young Eastern Europeans' experiences of life in the UK** (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/heretostayproject>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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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 Government Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund
closing date for applications: 17 March 2017

Scottish Government funding for projects that work with, or on behalf of, people who are

disadvantaged due to protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender (sex), gender identity/ reassignment, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Applications can be made by incorporated third sector organisations, community interest companies, statutory bodies, and partnerships where the lead applicant must be an incorporated Third Sector organisation. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/equality-fund/>

Scottish Government Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund
closing date for applications: 17 March 2017

Scottish Government funding fund for projects to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls, including projects that build capacity in local partnerships to strengthen responses to violence and abuse, the delivery of frontline services, or projects which focus on prevention and early intervention. Applications can be made by incorporated third sector organisations, community interest companies, statutory bodies, and partnerships where the lead applicant must be an incorporated Third Sector organisation. For information see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/violence-against-women/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** *this week!***

The Holocaust: an Introduction - Part 2

Online – third of three sessions: 6 March

Yad Vashem course about the Holocaust, an inconceivable historical event, an idea so inhumanly warped that spread like wildfire through an entire continent, instigating the systematic annihilation of millions of Jews. For information see

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-2>

**** *this week!***

Your Parliament, Your Voice - The voice of ethnic minorities in the Scottish Parliament

6 March 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

Commission on Parliamentary Reform and CEMVO Scotland event to consider how the Parliament can engage better with the people of Scotland and how its work can be improved to deliver better scrutiny. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jvfo8yl>

**** *this week!***

Engaging hard to reach groups

8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** *this week!***

Human Rights Tour

8 March 2017 in Aberdeen (9.30)

British Institute for Human Rights event to raise awareness about human rights and their relevance in everyday life. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hgayrj>

**** *this week!***

Leadership Skills for BME Workers

11 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

STUC training to improve or develop leadership skills. For minority workers who hold

positions of responsibility in their union, or who would like to become more involved in their union in the future. For information contact Kirsten McTighe kmctighe@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8148.

Equality and Human Rights Law after Brexit

13 March 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-1.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider what Brexit might mean for equality and human rights in Scotland, and how we can secure strong protection for equalities and fundamental rights following Brexit. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jpg5r6b> or contact Kyle Mulholland 0141 228 5925 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Honour-Based Violence: Who is Doing What to Whom, and Why?

14 March 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to discuss the meaning of Honour in the context of Honour-based violence, the influence of family, community, faith, tradition, migration and gender in victims/survivors' experiences, links to domestic abuse and gender-based violence, the long term impact and consequences of Honour-based violence on minority ethnic women children and young people, and appropriate service responses to supporting survivors. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hzeo96f>

Employability & Muslim Women in Scotland

20 March 2017 in Edinburgh (12.00)

Amina event bringing together employability providers to facilitate discussion, create new partnerships and work together to foster best practice, ensuring that services address the needs of Muslim women. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hm4wf4p>

Race Equality Framework anniversary

21 March 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-4.00)

Scottish Government event one year after the official launch of the Race Equality Framework to explore the story so far with Scottish Government's recently appointed Race Equality Framework Adviser, Kaliani Lyle, and Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities. The outcomes of discussion on the day will help develop future work towards achieving the Framework's goals and visions. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zdx9ndb>

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

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

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/>

Engaging Young Refugees: An equipping day for Youth Workers

23 March 2017 in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, and Inverurie (1.00-4.30)

Church Response For Refugees online training for those wanting to engage with young refugees and unaccompanied minors in their community. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hbthqpg>

Talking to Young People about Equality

23 March 2017 in Fife (venue tbc) (6.00-9.00)

Youth 1st workshop to help Youth Workers to begin a dialogue about equality with young

people and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information contact Gayle Brown 01592 645 355 / gayle@youth1st.co.uk or see <https://www.fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8004>

Brexit and its implications for rights

27 March 2017 in Edinburgh (2.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland seminar to provide information around the structure and law on rights in Europe currently and the Brexit process in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z6csuts> or contact hrcscotland@gmail.com

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.

**** Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People**

30 (9.30-4.30) and 31 (9.30-12.30) March 2017 in Edinburgh

26 (9.30-4.30) and 27 (9.30-12.30) April 2017 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to include definitions of domestic abuse; how domestic abuse affects women and families from BME communities, and BME children and young people; the concept of 'honour' and how it affects BME women experiencing domestic abuse; forced marriage; and immigration issues including entitlement to support. For information see <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/events-training/> or contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

Cultural Competence

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

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.

Working with Interpreters

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.

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

7 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.

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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 <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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 <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

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

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