

## 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.*

### Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Independence Referendum & Devolution	Funding Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links

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

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

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-04652 Ross Greer: Deportation of Refugees After Five Years** – That the Parliament condemns the UK Government's new policy to permit the deportation of refugees after five years of living in the UK; considers that this creates an unacceptable level of additional stress and anxiety for refugees who have already suffered the trauma of having to flee their homes; notes that this policy is premised on undertaking an official review of the safety of the country of origin; recalls that the Home Office has already deported thousands of young people to dangerous countries, including Afghanistan and Iraq, who had originally arrived in the UK as unaccompanied child asylum seekers; considers that Home Office reviews of the safety of countries does not reflect the real danger to life that is present, and calls on the UK Government to abandon this policy and instead secure the right of refugees to remain in the UK permanently.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04652>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Immigration Rules

**The Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill):** My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in immigration rules [HC 1078].

The changes include a new requirement that individuals over the age of 18, who are applying for entry clearance under the tier 2 general route to work in education, health and social care sectors, must provide a criminal record certificate from any country in which they have lived for 12 months or more in the previous 10 years. This requirement will also apply to the partner of the applicant and a partner applying to join an existing tier 2 migrant in one of these work sectors.

This is the second stage in a phased implementation of the requirement. It currently applies to individuals over 18 applying for entry clearance under tier 1 to come to the UK as entrepreneurs or investors, and their adult dependents. The Home Office will continue to monitor implementation with a view to extending the requirement to other migrants in the future.

On 24 March 2016 the Government announced two phases of reforms to tier 2, following a review by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. The first phase was implemented on 24 November and the changes being laid today implement the second phase of the announced reforms. The changes also update the codes of practice relating to skilled workers, and make other minor updates to the rules for work routes.

Further changes are being made to amend or clarify other provisions in the immigration rules. [HCWS542]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-16/debates/1703167400010/ImmigrationRules>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Public Sector: Migrant Workers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Philippa Whitford** [67253] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether any exemptions from the Immigration Skills Charge will be available to (a) NHS and (b) other public sector employers.

### NHS: Migrant Workers

**Philippa Whitford** [67299] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the cost of the Immigration Skills Charge to the NHS in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20 and (d) 2020-21.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** Exemptions from the Immigration Skills Charge for employers were announced on 24 March 2016. These include exemptions for employers of specified occupations skilled to PhD level and individuals switching from a Tier 4 student visa to Tier 2 (General). All employers, including the NHS and other public sector employers, who recruit workers through the Tier 2 skilled worker route will benefit from these exemptions.

We have not estimated the annual cost of the charge to providers. The cost will depend on employer use of the Tier 2 skilled worker route.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67253/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67299/>

### Migrant Workers: NHS

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Philippa Whitford** [66866] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether

exemptions from the immigration skills charge will be available to NHS employers.

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Philippa Whitford** [66867] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will estimate the cost of the immigration skills charge to providers in financial year 2017-18.

**Philippa Whitford** [67154] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the Government plans to support the NHS to mitigate the financial cost of the immigration skills charge for financial year 2017-18.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** Exemptions from the Immigration Skills Charge for employers were announced on 24 March 2016. These include exemptions for employers of specified occupations skilled to PhD level and individuals switching from a Tier 4 student visa to Tier 2 (General). All employers, including the NHS, who recruit workers through the Tier 2 skilled worker route will benefit from these exemptions.

We have not estimated the potential annual cost of the charge to providers. The cost will depend on employer use of the Tier 2 skilled worker route. The Government has no plans to reimburse the cost of the Immigration Skills Charge for any employer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66866/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66867/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-08/67154/>

### **Paramedical Staff: Migrant Workers**

**Luciana Berger** [66968] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU countries working in the NHS as paramedics; what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the number of such paramedics; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect on NHS productivity of that change in the number of paramedics.

**Reply from Philip Dunne:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 March 2017 to Question 66047.

The potential effect on nationals and productivity of leaving the European Union will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations. My Rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. It is the Government's aim to get the best settlement for the United Kingdom in all areas including the healthcare system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66968/>

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/66047/>

### **Paediatrics: Migrant Workers**

**Luciana Berger** [66969] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU countries working in the NHS as paediatricians; what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the number of such paediatricians; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect on NHS productivity of that change in the number of paediatricians.

**Reply from Philip Dunne:** NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record.

In November 2016, 777 medical staff in the paediatric group working in NHS trusts

and clinical commissioning groups declared their nationality as other European Union nationals, excluding the United Kingdom.

Staff have been included who are only in the paediatric group.

The November data is the most recent data available.

The potential effect on nationals and productivity of leaving the EU will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations. My Rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. It is the Government's aim to get the best settlement for the UK in all areas including the healthcare system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66969/>

### **Gynaecology: Migrant Workers**

**Luciana Berger** [66970] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU countries working in the NHS as gynaecologists; what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the number of such gynaecologists; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect on NHS productivity of that change in the number of gynaecologists.

**Reply from Philip Dunne:** NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record.

In November 2016, 24 gynaecologists working in NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups declared their nationality as other European Union nationals, excluding the United Kingdom.

Staff have been included where their specialty is Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the secondary area of work is Gynaecology.

The November data is the most recent data available.

The potential effect on nationals and productivity of leaving the EU will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations. My Rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. It is the Government's aim to get the best settlement for the UK in all areas including the healthcare system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66970/>

### **Nurses: Migrant Workers**

**Catherin McKinnell** [67121] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, with reference to the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that nurses remain on the shortage occupation list, what assessment he has made of the effect of pay restraints on long-term retention and recruitment rates for NHS nurses.

**Reply from Philip Dunne:** The independent NHS Pay Review Body (for Agenda for Change staff) and the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration (employed doctors and general and medical and dental practitioners) have been in place for decades and are relied on by government and other stakeholders, for example, National Health Service trades unions, NHS Employers, NHS Providers, NHS Improvement, Health Education England, Health Education England, to consider all the written and oral evidence it receives and to make recommendations on the level of pay award that will enable the NHS to continue to recruit, retain and motivate the staff it needs.

The standing remits of both Pay Review Bodies requires it to consider the Government's inflation target as part of a range of factors in reaching its recommendations:

- the need to recruit, retain and motivate suitably able and qualified staff;
- regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff;

- the funds available to the Health Departments, as set out in the Government's Departmental Expenditure Limits;
- the Government's inflation target;
- the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the NHS;
- the overall strategy that the NHS should place patients at the heart of all it does and the mechanisms by which that is to be achieved;
- the Review Body may also be asked to consider other specific issues; and
- should take account of the legal obligations on the NHS, including anti-discrimination legislation regarding age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and disability.

The NHS Pay Review Body received evidence on the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that nurses remain on the shortage occupation list as part of its consideration for this year's pay round and will be part of its consideration for the next annual pay round.

Both Pay Review Bodies received evidence on inflation forecasts as part of its consideration for this year's pay round and will be part of its consideration for the next annual pay round.

Both Pay Review Bodies received evidence on agency spend for this year's pay round and expect this to feature as part of its consideration for the next annual pay round.

My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State introduced a series of radical measures to bring agency spending back under control in 2015, including price caps limiting the amount a trust can pay to an agency for temporary staff. The measures are working as of Quarter 3, 2016/17 the NHS had spent £1 billion less on agency staff than it was projected to had we not taken tough action to bring in controls on agency spending, with further savings forecast for the current financial year.

Both Pay Review Bodies set out very clearly its rationale for the 1% recommendation for 2016/17 which the Government accepted in full.

We have now received both reports for 2017/18, which we will consider very carefully and which we will publish in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-08/67121/>

### **Visas: Hearing Impairment**

**Alison Thewliss** [67026] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional support her Department provides for people who are deaf and hard of hearing during visa application processes.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Staff are available at visa centres to assist applicants who have a disability (including those who are deaf or hard of hearing). We also encourage applicants who have a disability (or who have accessibility requirements) to bring someone to assist them if needed.

Furthermore, the new Access UK online application system, which aims to replace all existing paper and online application forms has been developed to support users with access needs, particularly in regards to navigation, compatibility with support tools, content and structure.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-08/67026/>

### **Refuges: Finance**

**Helen Hayes** [66447] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed supported housing funding model on the (a) level of funding to and (b) viability of women's refuges.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** In his Ministerial Statement to the House of Commons on 15th September 2016 the Secretary of State confirmed that from 2019/20 we will bring in a new funding model that will ensure that the supported

housing sector continues to be funded at current levels, taking into account the effect of Government policy on social rents.

We are confident that this model will meet the needs of the sector but we recognise that there will be some particular challenges that may remain for very short term accommodation such as that which can be offered by women's refuges. We are continuing to work with the sector to develop an appropriate funding mechanism for providers of short term accommodation.

A DWP/DCLG twelve week consultation on supported housing ended on 13 February. We are analysing the responses and we and DCLG aim to jointly publish a Green Paper in the Spring.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-03/66447/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-09-15/debates/16091528000020/HousingBenefit>

### Asylum

**Stuart McDonald** [52829] 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 30 September 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, (e) further submissions rejected as not in correct format or (f) further submissions withdrawn before any decision 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/2016-11-14/52829/>

*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: Palestinians

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Flick Drummond** [66507] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum in the UK were made by visiting members of the Palestine Youth Orchestra during its tour of the UK during (a) July and (b) August 2016.

**Flick Drummond** [66508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum in the UK were made by people from the Occupied Palestinian Territories during (a) July and (b) August 2016.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The information requested is not held in a readily reportable format. Information on claims is published as part of the Government's Immigration Statistics quarterly release and can be found at

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-03/66507/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-03/66508/>

### **Asylum: Cameroon**

**Alison Thewliss** [66799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance she has issued to her Department's caseworkers on asylum applications from English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** No country specific guidance has been issued on asylum applications from English-speaking regions of Cameroon.

However, where a particular issue is raised in an individual application and there is no published guidance caseworkers can request the latest available country information on that issue through an information request service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66799/>

### **Asylum: Children**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Alasdair McDonnell** [66975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to resettle child refugees in (a) the UK and (b) Northern Ireland.

### **Asylum: Northern Ireland**

**Alasdair McDonnell** [66977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were resettled in Northern Ireland under the Dubs amendment in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children are supported by the relevant authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and in accordance with their respective children's legislation. In July last year the Government introduced the National Transfer Scheme to ensure there is a more even distribution of caring responsibilities for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children across the country.

We are working to extend the transfer provisions in the Immigration Act 2016 to the devolved administrations by the draft affirmative procedure. Building upon Northern Ireland's positive contribution to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme the Home Office continues to be in contact with the Northern Ireland Executive at ministerial and official level including discussions regarding unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We remain open to any offers of NTS places from the relevant authorities in the devolved administrations however no unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been resettled in Northern Ireland under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 yet.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66975/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66977/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Davd Burrowes** [66928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate of 6 March 2017, Official Report, column 561, when the current system of detention reviews will be replaced by individual removal assessments and reviews.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Following publication of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's Report into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons on 14 January 2016, work continues on designing and implementing a more effective case management process to replace the existing method of reviewing detention. Case Progression Plans are intended to act as the single caseworking record for all individuals entering immigration detention. These Plans will replace detention reviews and other documentation currently used by the Detention Gatekeeper when assessing suitability for detention, and will ensure

that caseworkers focus on progression towards an individuals' return.

Wider rollout of Case Progression Plans is planned for later this year, subject to the findings from the evaluation of the pilot phase.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-07/66928/>

The oral contribution referred to in the above question can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-06/debates/BDA903C2-F08C-4817-8555-899BE79AE643/ImmigrationIndefiniteDetention#contribution-7ECF8FA3-03D4-4F48-8EF9-5524DD13DA4C>

Stephen Shaw's report can be read at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/490782/52532\\_Shaw\\_Review\\_Accessible.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf)

The Government response to Stephen Shaw's report can be read at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/492227/gov\\_paper\\_2\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492227/gov_paper_2_.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Refugees: Children

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett** [HL5645] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the statement by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, published on 22 February, on the need to protect unaccompanied child refugees from modern slavery and other forms of exploitation.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We note the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's statement and welcome the focus on the UK's wider support for vulnerable refugee children and efforts to prevent human trafficking at source. We will continue to engage closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on these issues.

The UK has established the £10 million Refugee Children's Fund which is providing targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children migrating through Greece and other transit countries. The fund is providing additional and improved safe accommodation spaces for children, with 24 hour care and specialist support. The fund also provides specialist training for officials and volunteers as well as legal support and advice.

We are working internationally to help prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims. The Prime Minister pledged £33.5m of official development assistance funding, to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice by working in partnership with key countries. The PM Taskforce is also making progress bringing the collective weight of Government to bear. We are already seeing progress in intelligence gathering and are developing our international strategy to tackle the threat overseas and deepen law enforcement cooperation. This will enable us to investigate, prosecute and otherwise disrupt the activity of slave-drivers and traffickers of human beings. We also work closely with Europol and Eurojust to facilitate cross-border operations and joint investigations with European law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-27/HL5645/>

### Refugees: Children in Care

**Lord Alton of Liverpool** [HL5689] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to (1) the correspondence sent by Lord Alton of Liverpool on 20 February on behalf of ECPAT UK concerning missing, trafficked and unaccompanied children, and (2) the findings of the report by ECPAT UK, *Heading back to harm*, published in November

2016, that (a) a number of local authorities were unable to provide figures on the number of trafficked and unaccompanied children who had gone missing from care and had not been found, (b) some police forces did not hold figures on the number of children reported missing to them who were trafficked or unaccompanied, and (c) 167 trafficked and 593 unaccompanied children had gone missing from care in the year to September 2015.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** Baroness Williams has received the correspondence sent by Lord Alton of Liverpool on 20 February on behalf of ECPAT UK and will respond in due course.

There is nothing more important than keeping vulnerable children safe from harm. The Government's comprehensive framework for safeguarding all children includes making sure local authorities are aware of the risk that they may go missing due to being trafficked.

Local authorities have a duty to record data on every episode of a child missing from care or away from placement without authorisation and to report on this, as well as on the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for whom they are responsible, through their annual data returns on looked after children.

The National Crime Agency is also working with the relevant police leads to ensure the consistent recording of figures on the number of children reported missing to them who were trafficked or unaccompanied.

In developing the strategy for the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children, we will be consulting with local authorities to identify further actions that might be taken to prevent these children going missing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-28/HL5689/>

*The report referred to in the above question can be read at*

[http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/hbth\\_report2016\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/hbth_report2016_final_web.pdf)

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Lord Scriven** [HL5742] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the extent to which the latest Home Office guidance on LGBT asylum seekers from Afghanistan, which states that it may be a safe and viable option for a gay man to relocate to Kabul, whilst also identifying multiple risks to LGBT Afghans from their own families, from Afghan laws, and from Taliban insurgents, conforms to UNHCR guidelines on refugees, which specify that LGBT people should not be required to change or conceal their identity to avoid persecution.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Our guidance fully complies with the Supreme Court judgement in HJ (Iran) which held that a person should not be required to 'modify their beliefs' or 'act discretely' in order to avoid persecution; if, on the other hand, they choose to do so for other – for example, private – reasons, then they may not be a refugee. Paragraphs 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.57 of the Home Office's Country Policy and Information Note 'Afghanistan: sexual orientation and gender identity' (published in January 2017) explicitly sets this out. Our guidance also complies with the Upper Tribunal's decision in the country guidance case of AJ (Risk of Homosexuals) Afghanistan CG [2009] UKAIT 00001. The position has not significantly changed for LGBT people in Afghanistan since 2009, therefore the Upper Tribunal's conclusion that internal relocation *may* be possible, depending on individual circumstances, remains valid and the Home Office guidance provides the context against which that assessment must be made in individual cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-01/HL5742/>

## Press Releases

### **Sham marriage gang sentenced**

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest\\_news/sham-marriage-gang-sentenced/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/sham-marriage-gang-sentenced/)

### **At Security Council, UN officials urge governments to implement rules on prosecuting traffickers**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56355#.WMqSQ3R96nY>

## New Publications

### **Precarious Citizenship: Unseen, settled and alone – the legal and protection needs of ‘undocumented’ children and young people in England and Wales**

<http://miclu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Precarious-Citizenship-Report.pdf>

### **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Immigration detention**

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806fbf12>

### **Together in the EU - Promoting the participation of migrants and their descendants**

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2017-together-in-the-eu\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-together-in-the-eu_en.pdf)

### **Together in the EU infographic**

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/together\\_in\\_the\\_eu\\_infographic.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/together_in_the_eu_infographic.pdf)

## News

### **New immigration charge ‘could cost NHS millions of pounds’**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/385570/top-academics-to-leave-uk-amid-real-and-immediate-concerns-over-brexit/>

### **PM’s position ‘clear’ on including students in immigration target – spokesman**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/387554/liam-fox-says-foreign-students-have-a-value-to-uk/>

### **Migrants have raised school standards in London, says Gove**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-39285039>

### **MSPs warned asylum seeking process in UK ‘senseless and inhumane’**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15162263.MSPs\\_warned\\_asylum\\_seeking\\_process\\_in\\_UK\\_senseless\\_and\\_inhumane/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15162263.MSPs_warned_asylum_seeking_process_in_UK_senseless_and_inhumane/)

### **‘Culture of disbelief’ is putting asylum seeking children at risk**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/culture-disbelief-putting-asylum-seeking-children-risk>

### **Charities criticise new government rules on Dubs child refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/14/charities-criticise-government-rules-on-dubs-child-refugees>

### **Syrian refugees arrive in Scotland on Glasgow chartered flight**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-39299312>

### **200 Syrian refugees arrive in Scotland under resettlement scheme**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15162462.200\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_arrive\\_in\\_Scotland\\_under\\_resettlement\\_scheme/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15162462.200_Syrian_refugees_arrive_in_Scotland_under_resettlement_scheme/)

### **200 Syrian refugees arrive in Scotland under resettlement scheme**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/388485/200-syrian-refugees-arrive-in-scotland-under-resettlement-scheme/>

### **Afghan refugee talks about his journey to Glasgow**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15165783.Afghan\\_refugee\\_Glasgow\\_is\\_cold\\_but\\_the\\_people\\_are\\_warm\\_/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15165783.Afghan_refugee_Glasgow_is_cold_but_the_people_are_warm_/)

### **Child refugees are our Bairns**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/child\\_refugees\\_are\\_our\\_bairns](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/child_refugees_are_our_bairns)

### **'Hundreds' used Sikh passport scam to enter Britain illegally**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-15/news/hundreds-used-sikh-passport-scam-to-enter-britain-illegally-n25bbwhxf>

### **Workers from outside EU face criminal record check**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-17/news/workers-from-outside-eu-face-criminal-record-check-sc8rlmjnv>

### **Record numbers of EU nurses quit NHS**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/18/nhs-eu-nurses-quit-record-numbers>

### **Record numbers of nurses from EU quitting their NHS jobs**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/record-numbers-eu-citizens-nurses-brexit-quitting-nhs-staffing-crisis-right-to-remain-theresa-ma-a7637176.html>

[TOP](#)

## **Community Relations**

### **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**S5M-04624 Sandra White: Congratulations to Central and West Integration Network on Project Funding** – That the Parliament congratulates the Central and West Integration Network in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency on being awarded a £48,248 Young Start grant to establish an after school youth project for young people who are black or minority ethnic, asylum seekers or refugees; believes that the project will benefit 100 young people and encourage friendships, help reduce isolation and increase children's confidence in themselves, and welcomes the allocation of this funding to help provide development and support for young people across Glasgow.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04624>

### **News**

**Eskdalemuir Buddhist centre founder Akong Rinpoche film premiered**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-39266257>

**'My mum always told me I was white, like her. Now I know the truth'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/mar/18/my-mum-always-told-me-i-was-white-like-her-now-i-know-the-truth>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Apprentices: Ethnic Groups**

**Andrew Stephenson** [67229] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she plans to take to encourage people from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds to undertake apprenticeships.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** We are committed to increasing the proportion of apprentices with a Black and Minority Ethnic background (BAME) by 20% by 2020, as part of the overall commitment to reach 3 million Apprenticeship starts in England.

We have taken action through our current marketing campaign, 'Get in Go Far' to ensure that there is clear representation from apprentices from BAME backgrounds, including showcasing BAME apprentices in high status professional roles.

On 21 February 2017 we launched the Apprenticeships Diversity Champions Network. This network, chaired by Nus Ghani MP, will be engaging and inspiring employers and communities to ensure that apprenticeships are represented by people from a diverse range of backgrounds, reflecting the widest spectrum of our society. The 23 members are committed to encouraging other employers to promote diversity in apprenticeships, and to championing apprenticeships in BAME communities.

The National Careers Service provides information about learning and work, with a helpline giving professional advice on making the right choices, before and during apprenticeships.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67229/>

#### **Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups and Females**

**Jim Cunningham** [67068] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of trends in the representation of (a) women and (b) people from BAME backgrounds in the armed forces in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Mark Lancaster:** There has been some excellent work across Defence in the area of diversity and inclusion. However, progress in terms of the representative rates of our people - both military and civilian - has been too slow. Although it is improving, it is clear that there is still much more that we need to do if we are to successfully attract and retain diverse talent both now and in the future.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is working towards a target of 15% female recruitment to the Armed Forces by 2020. The Department is also working towards a target of 10% of recruits to come from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds by 2020.

These are challenging targets, however they will help make the Armed Forces more diverse and reflect the society they serve. Work to meet these targets includes better understanding and greater engagement with the communities we want to recruit from; reviewing recruitment processes and better targeting our marketing and communications.

As at 1 October 2016 recruitment of female military personnel was 11.5% of total intake and recruitment of BAME military personnel was 5.8% of total intake. Full details of the MOD's performance against the 2020 diversity intake targets, including historic trends from September 2013, can be found in our publication 'UK Armed Forces Biannual Diversity Statistics' the latest edition of which (October 2016) is available at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2016>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-08/67068/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Professions: Equality

**Baroness Afshar** [HL5806] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Nash on 6 March, what measures are in place to support minority women who choose atypical professions to embark on such careers and continue them effectively and to deal with public prejudices that prevail about such work not only on grounds of gender, but also colour and creed.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** The Equality Act 2010 prohibits unlawful discrimination in employment on grounds of gender, race and religion.

Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith's recent report into the issues faced by business in developing Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) talent from recruitment through to the executive layer made a number of recommendations for both Government and business.

The Government welcomed Baroness McGregor-Smith's report and is encouraging businesses to take forward her recommendations. The practicalities of implementation will differ depending on the business in question but we will be working with Business in the Community in supporting companies to make these changes. These include developing a simple guide on how to discuss race in the workplace, an online portal of best practice and celebrating success through a list of the top 100 BME employers.

Dame Louise's Casey's review of integration and opportunity, published in December 2016, also highlights the employment prospects and English language proficiency among certain groups, including minority women. The Government is currently reviewing its findings and will respond in the coming months.

Ensuring the labour market provides equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, religion or gender, will require a joint effort with Government working with the private sector and organisations like Business in the Community to deliver the lasting change needed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5806/>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-06/debates/82D894ED-0770-4BCF-AEF8-2FA23F7ADE42/CareersAdviceAndGuidance#contribution-D8B6E732-E770-41CE-9216-175776BB727E>

*The McGregor-Smith Report referred to in the above answer can be read at*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf)

*The Casey Review referred to in the above answer can be read at*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/575973/The\\_Casey\\_Review\\_Report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf)

## New Publications

**Equality Impact Assessment Results – The Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030**

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00515302.pdf>

**Muslim Youth and Political Participation in Scotland**

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/media/sites/researchwebsites/youngmuslims/MuslimYouthScotland.pdf>

## News

**Historical dramas 'limit UK black actors'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-39319503>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Anti-Semitism

**Jackson Carlaw:** To ask the Scottish Government what the outcome was of the discussions between it and the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities regarding the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism. (S5O-00791)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance):** Scottish Government officials are due to meet the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities and the Community Security Trust on 23 March 2017 to discuss these issues. I refer the member to my written answer S5W-05829, which indicated that the Scottish Government agrees with the definition that has been adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

**Jackson Carlaw:** I still receive regular inquiries from constituents in Eastwood, which is where the largest Jewish community in Scotland resides, and they are very grateful for the personal support of the First Minister, who recently attended an event in the community. I am grateful to the cabinet secretary for what she has said. I hope that we can achieve an early outcome in which Scotland can join the other Governments that have adopted the resolution.

**Reply from Angela Constance:** I am grateful to Mr Carlaw for the tone and tenor of his supplementary point. I also point out that, just a few days ago, in a written answer to Ross Thomson on the same issue, I replied:

“We agree with the definition produced by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and consider the resolution they have adopted to be a helpful guide to the different manifestations of anti-Semitism.”—[Written Answers, 14 March 2017; S5W-07668.]

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10841&i=99298#ScotParlOR>

*The written answers referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05829>

and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-07668>

## Sectarianism

**James Dornan:** To ask the Scottish Government how it will take forward the recommendations of the advisory group on tackling sectarianism. (S5O-00787)

**Reply from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (Annabelle Ewing):** The Scottish Government has been working to take forward the recommendations of the advisory group with relevant organisations since publication in May 2015. I tasked former advisory group chair, Dr Duncan Morrow, with conducting a review of the implementation of the recommendations, and his findings were published on 6 March 2017. Dr Morrow gathered evidence from a wide range of sources, including the Scottish Government and all parties in the chamber, and I would like to thank everyone for their constructive contributions. It is very clear from the review that work remains to be done and that we all have a responsibility to meet that challenge. The Scottish Government is fully committed to building on Dr Morrow's work. We have invested £12.5 million over the last five years to tackle sectarianism, including £9.3 million directly invested in community-based projects across Scotland—more than any Government before.

**James Dornan:** The minister will be aware that Dr Morrow asks frequently in his report: "If not strict liability, then what?"

Does the minister agree that the introduction of strict liability on Scottish football clubs would go some considerable way towards reducing not only sectarianism but homophobia, misogyny and other unacceptable behaviours in Scottish football.

**Reply from Annabelle Ewing:** I am aware of Dr Morrow's comments in that regard, and I am also aware that Mr Dornan is proposing a member's bill on strict liability. The consultation period is on-going and I look forward to seeing its results, in due course.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with the Scottish Premier Football League, the Scottish Football Association, clubs and other partners to ensure that the recently revised rules and associated guidelines on unacceptable conduct are robust, transparent and effective. The revised rules and guidelines are welcome, but without a concerted and sustained effort, we will not be able to eradicate offensive behaviour from our national game. There is scope to do more, and I encourage the SPFL and the SFA to work to that end.

**Douglas Ross:** ... The minister will be aware that the advisory group also recognised the risk that strict liability could have unintended consequences. One of those unintended consequences would be the cost to clubs. A club in my region—Elgin City FC—has submitted a response to Mr Dornan's member's bill consultation saying that "a system of strict liability would leave us open to crippling and business-ending costs".

What is the minister's response to that concern.

**Reply from Annabelle Ewing:** I hear what the member says. The process of Mr Dornan's consultation is, of course, on-going. I imagine that Mr Ross would wish to consider making his own representations to it, as well. The Government will consider and reflect on the results of that consultation when they are presented to us.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10841&i=99295#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Religious Hate Crimes

**S5W-07442 Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government how many religious hate crimes have been recorded in each local authority area in each (a) year since 2007 and (b) month since April 2016, broken down by the (i) faith group, (ii) gender, (iii) race and (iv) country of origin of the victim; how many cases led to a person being (A) arrested, (B) charged, (C) prosecuted and (D) convicted; how many convictions led to a (1) custodial sentence, broken down by average length of sentence, (2) fine, broken down

by average size of fine and (3) other form of disposal; what information it has regarding the reasons for deciding not to charge or prosecute, and how many cases remain ongoing investigations.

**Reply from Annabelle Ewing:** The Scottish Government does not hold data on arrests and it is not possible to derive information on religious hate crimes from the recorded crime database. With regards to people being charged the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have published information up to 2015-16 on hate crime charges reported to them by the police:

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>

This report contains details on the number of charges where a decision is awaiting on how to proceed and where it was decided not to proceed to court. The reasons given for why cases were not proceeded to court ("no action") are presented in Table 8. It is not possible to derive a local authority breakdown from the COPFS database.

Neither the Scottish Government or the COPFS hold information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim.

Statistics on the number of people proceeded against and convicted for crimes with a religious aggravator recorded by local authority is available from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre - Bib number 58574. Statistics are presented on a financial year basis up to 2015-16 and are not available on a monthly basis thereafter.

The following table shows the sentencing information requested. Please note that the statistical sources in this answer are not directly comparable due to timing differences. For example, the COPFS figures measure individual charges at the case marking stage while the sentencing information are representative of closed cases that have reached a final verdict in court. This means information relating to an individual could be recorded in different years depending on the stage of the justice system. In addition, a court case can cover more than one charge or count of recorded crime but the sentencing statistics only count the main charge in a case.

**People convicted with a religious aggravator recorded against the main charge, by main penalty 2007-08 to 2015-16**

	2007 - 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	2010 - 11	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15	2015 - 16
Custody	29	39	28	38	61	40	38	41	38
Community Sentence	34	43	30	49	83	63	62	65	65
Fine	171	164	143	142	183	124	109	95	111
Other	26	44	34	46	43	45	47	40	31
Total convictions	260	290	235	275	370	272	256	241	245

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-7442>

**Race Hate Crimes**

**S5W-07445 Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government how many race hate crimes have been recorded in each local authority area in each (a) year since 2007 and (b) month since April 2016, broken down by the (i) race group (ii) gender and (iii) country of origin of the victim; how many cases led to a person being (A) arrested, (B) charged, (C) prosecuted and (D) convicted; how many convictions led to a (1) custodial sentence, broken down by average length of sentence, (2) fine, broken down by average size of fine and (3) other form of disposal; what information it has regarding the reasons for deciding not to charge or prosecute, and how many cases remain ongoing investigations.

**Reply from Annabelle Ewing:** The Scottish Government does not hold data on

arrests but it is possible to derive information on racial hate crimes from the recorded crime database. Crimes of racially aggravated harassment and racially aggravated conduct recorded by the police broken down by local authority is available from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre - Bib number 58575.

With regards to people being charged the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) have published information up to 2015-16 on hate crime charges reported to them by the police:

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>

This report contains details on the number of charges where a decision is awaiting on how to proceed and where it was decided not to proceed to court. The reasons given for why cases were not proceeded to court ("no action") are presented in Table 8. It is not possible to derive a local authority breakdown from the COPFS database.

Neither the Scottish Government or the COPFS hold information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim.

Statistics on the number of people proceeded against and convicted for crimes with a racial aggravator recorded, broken down by local authority, is available from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre - Bib number 58575. Statistics are presented on a financial year basis up to 2015-16 and are not available on a monthly basis thereafter.

The table below shows the sentencing information requested. Please note that the statistical sources in this answer is not directly comparable due to timing differences. For example, the COPFS figures measure individual charges at the case marking stage while the sentencing information are representative of closed cases that have reached a final verdict in court. This means information relating to an individual could be recorded in different years depending on the stage of the justice system. In addition, a court case can cover more than one charge or count of recorded crime but the sentencing statistics only count the main charge in a case.

People convicted with a racial aggravator recorded against the main charge, by main penalty 2007-08 to 2015-16

	2007 - 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	2010 - 11	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15	2015 - 16
Custody	135	110	92	110	139	122	134	145	155
Community Sentence	111	117	93	127	135	184	190	188	192
Fine	342	287	309	279	272	271	247	260	281
Other	86	69	69	98	98	119	128	109	133
Total convictions	674	583	583	614	614	696	699	702	761
Average custodial sentence (days)	181	241	241	216	216	195	252	255	195
Average fine (£)	288	288	288	323	323	302	285	316	299

Source: Criminal Proceedings database

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-7445>

### Definition of anti-Semitism

**S5W-07668 Ross Thomson:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-05829 by Angela Constance on 11 January 2017, whether it has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

**Reply from Angela Constance:** We agree with the definition produced by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and consider the resolution they

have adopted to be a helpful guide to the different manifestations of anti-Semitism.  
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-7668>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05829>

### **Anti-Semitism**

**S5W-07667 Ross Thomson:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to tackle anti-Semitism.

**Reply from Angela Constance:** We promote and support the development of inter-faith relations and dialogue through funding of £145,000 (2016-17) for Interfaith Scotland. We support the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and Interfaith Scotland to deliver Scotland's National Holocaust Memorial Day event each year promoting a multi-faith and multi-cultural society based on mutual trust, respect and understanding, as well as work on citizenship education under Curriculum for Excellence which includes an annual visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Officials will meet with representatives of the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities and the Community Security Trust to discuss a recent report which showed a rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the UK. Whilst levels of hate crime against Jewish people in Scotland remain very low, we are not complacent and will continue to take action and send a strong message that anti-Semitism is unacceptable.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-7667>

### **Sectarianism**

**S5W-07822 Annie Wells:** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of (a) claims that a culture of denial exists regarding the extent of problems caused by sectarianism and (b) recommendations that a review of hate crime legislation should consider how sectarianism and sectarian incidents could be integrated into a more general approach.

**Annabelle Ewing:** As part of his independent 'Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland', Dr Duncan Morrow, former Chair of the Advisory Group, gathered evidence from a wide range of sources across Scottish society, including all political parties represented in the Scottish Parliament, and presented a number of constructive findings and recommendations. This highlighted concerns that a culture of denial and a lack of urgency exists in some quarters when it comes to tackling sectarianism.

It is very clear from the review that, while progress has been made, more work remains to be done to eradicate sectarianism and that we all have a responsibility to meet this challenge. I welcome Dr Morrow's Review and will give full consideration to the findings and recommendations.

I am aware that a number of organisations, such as the Law Society, Stonewall and the Equality Network, have expressed support for the idea of consolidated hate crime legislation. That is why I have commissioned the independent 'Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Scotland' to ensure that all communities subjected to hate crime have appropriate redress to law and that our legislation is fit for the 21st century. The review, which began on 30 January 2017, will consider all hate crime legislation, including legislation which supports tackling sectarianism. I look forward to Lord Bracadale presenting his findings in due course.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-07822&ResultsPerPage=10>

*Dr Morrow's Review, referred to above can be read at*  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514870.pdf>

*Information about the Bracadale Review, referred to above, can be read at*  
<http://news.gov.scot/news/hate-crime-legislation-review>

### **Third party reporting of hate crime**

**S5W-07664 Anas Sarwar:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00690 by Angela Constance on 23 February 2017 (Official Report, c. 2), whether it will publish the review on the effectiveness of third-party reporting and the report from the independent advisory group on hate crime, prejudice and community cohesion.

**Reply from Angela Constance:** Police Scotland's review of third party reporting was internal and they have no plans to publish it. The report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion was published in September 2016, and a copy can be found at

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/report-independent-advisory-group-hate-crime-prejudice-community-cohesion/>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-07664>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10798&i=98967#ScotParlOR>

## **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**S5M-04639 Anas Sarwar: European Court of Justice Ruling and its Impact on Religious Hatred** – That the Parliament expresses its disappointment at the European Court of Justice's decision that it believes allows employers to ban their workers from wearing items at work that they regard as religious symbols, including headscarves, skull caps and turbans; considers that this ruling will make it even more difficult for people from religious communities, including Muslim women who wear a headscarf, Jewish men who wear and skull cap and Sikhs who wear a turban, to enter the job market in the future; agrees with Amnesty International that this will open a backdoor to prejudice at a time when identity and appearance have become a political battleground and when people need more protection against prejudice, not less; considers that this is part of a worrying trend of increasing religious prejudice, particularly Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, across mainland Europe; expresses concern at the rising support for parties and politicians who it considers openly incite religious hatred, such as Geert Wilders in the Netherlands and Marine Le Pen in France; believes that everyone must redouble their efforts to confront all forms of religious discrimination, and calls on the Scottish Government to set out what implications this ruling will have for employees in Scotland and its courts.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04639>

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A**

### **Visible Religious Symbols: European Court Ruling**

**col 409 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Women and Equalities (Caroline Dinenage):** ... The Government are completely opposed to discrimination, including on grounds of gender or religion, or both. It is the right of all women to choose how they dress, and we do not believe that the judgments change that. Exactly the same legal protections apply today as applied before the rulings.

In both the Achbita case and the Bougnaoui case, the judgment was that there was no direct discrimination, but that there was some discrimination. A rule is directly discriminatory if it treats someone less favourably because of their sex, race, religion or whatever. A rule is indirectly discriminatory if, on the face of it, it treats everyone the same, but some people, because of their race, religion, sex and so on, find it harder to comply than others do. Indirect discrimination may be justifiable if an employer is acting in a proportionate manner to achieve a legitimate aim.

The judgments confirm the existing long-standing position of EU and domestic law that an employer's dress code, where it applies to and is applied in the same way to all employees, may be justifiable if the employer can show legitimate and proportionate grounds for it. Various cases show that such an employer needs to be prepared to justify those grounds in front of a court or tribunal if need be. That will remain the case and that is the case with these judgments, which will now revert to the domestic courts.

I am aware of some concern that the judgments potentially conflict with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, particularly in the case of Nadia Eweida, the British Airways stewardess banned from wearing a small crucifix but whose case the ECHR upheld. We do not believe that the different judgments are in conflict. Both the CJEU and the ECHR were trying to assess the balance in each case between the religious needs of the employee and the needs of the employer. In Eweida, the assessment favoured the employee; in another ECHR case, and also in the Achbita case, the assessment favoured the employer. We will still take action to ensure that the current legal position is set out. We will be working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to update guidance for employers on dealing with religion or belief in the workplace. The guidance will be revised to take account of the CJEU judgments, too. We will make it absolutely clear to all concerned that the Equality Act 2010 and the rights of women and religious employees remain unchanged.

Like any judgment of the CJEU, for the time being, Achbita and Bougnaoui need to be taken into account by domestic courts and tribunals as they consider future cases. The law is clear and remains unchanged. However, because of our absolute commitment to ensuring that discrimination and prejudice are never encouraged or sanctioned, we will keep the issue under very close review.

*col 410* **Mrs Miller:** In this country, we have a long tradition of respecting religious freedom and, frankly, many people will listen in disbelief to the Court's ruling that a corporate multinational such as G4S risks having its corporate neutrality undermined by a receptionist in Belgium wearing a headscarf. At what point did the law decide that expressing religious belief through a cross, a turban or a headscarf is a threat to organisational neutrality? Here in the House of Commons, our staff pride themselves on their neutrality, but will such organisations be forced to consider this new ruling? If not, in what circumstances could an organisation legitimately require such neutrality from its workers? Surely there are serious potential implications for those who deliver public services.

One group is specifically affected—Muslim women, who already experience twice the unemployment rate of the general population. The Government need to monitor the situation carefully to ensure that employers do not use the ruling to effectively exclude thousands of Muslim women from the workplace.

**Caroline Dinéage:** Dress codes are a matter for individual employers and will depend on the particular type of work involved, the environment and the safety considerations, above all. The CJEU has found that these cases would constitute indirect discrimination and has referred them back to the national courts to consider whether, based on the specifics, they would be unlawful. The UK's legal position has not changed. The EHRC has already published guidance for employers on religion and belief in the workplace, and we will work with it to update that guidance to take account of these rulings and to carefully explain how they should be interpreted in UK workplaces. ...

*col 411* We are dealing with two cases here. The first, Achbita, was about whether a dress code banning the outward expression of personal belief was directly or indirectly

discriminatory against a female Muslim who was sacked for wearing a headscarf. The second, Bougnaoui, concerned the same point, but it also raised the issue of whether a customer's request not to be served by an employee wearing a headscarf can be a genuine occupational requirement. The ruling confirmed the current position under EU and domestic discrimination law: that a dress code that applies and is applied in the same way to all employees does not constitute direct discrimination but may constitute indirect discrimination. However, importantly, an employer's willingness to take account of a customer's wishes about staff wearing religious dress does not constitute a genuine occupational requirement. ...

*col 412 Eric Pickles:* ... I hope that [the new guidelines] will reflect British values, which demand that Muslim women should be able to wear the hijab, that Sikhs should be able to wear the turban, that Jewish people should be able to wear a kippah and that Christians can wear a cross. ...

*col 413 Caroline Dinéage:* Multiculturalism and the multiplicity of different faiths and religions in this country is one of our great strengths. We should recognise that many people follow their faith and that some people follow none, but we want a society that treats people equally and with respect, whatever their faith happens to be, or if they have none. ...

*col 415 Chuka Umunna:* I do not like this word "tolerate." In this country, we do not tolerate people; we respect and embrace all cultures. Despite that, we know that Islamophobia is not only widespread but rampant. ... My worry is that those who read the reports on the CJEU decision will see it as a green light to engage in further discrimination in the workplace. ...

*col 416 Yasmin Qureshi:* A person's ability to do 99.9% of jobs, including that of security guard, is not affected by whether they wear a skull cap, headscarf, turban, cross, mangalsutra or tilaka. Can this ECJ judgment be rejected in domestic law to prevent confusion among employers about its having any bearing on this country? ...

*col 417 Caroline Dinéage:* Domestic equality legislation is very clear. Employers do not need to change any legitimate policies on dress code in the workplace, but it is vital that employers and employees understand what the law allows them to do, and that is what this is about. We do not want any employers mistakenly thinking that this ruling gives them any authority to sack public-facing staff who wear headscarves or any other religious symbols. Those protections are already clear in domestic law, and we will always make sure that they are most strongly enforced. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-15/debates/599884E8-6E05-41C0-8FD3-B6F5A6E1F45F/VisibleReligiousSymbolsEuropeanCourtRuling>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### Prime Minister's Questions

Q11. **Tim Loughton:** ... will the Prime Minister take the opportunity to stick the knife into the ridiculous Court of Justice of the European Union, which ruled yesterday that employers can ban their staff from wearing signs of religious or political belief, and reiterate that reasonable freedom of expression should never be snuffed out by insidious political correctness? [909267]

**The Prime Minister:** We have, as my hon. Friend knows, a strong tradition in this country of freedom of expression. It is the right of all women to choose how they dress and we do not intend to legislate on this issue. He raised the broader issue of symbols, but this case came up particularly in relation to the wearing of the veil. There will be times when it is right to ask for a veil to be removed, such as at border security or, perhaps, in court. Individual institutions can make their own policies, but it is not for Government to tell women what they can and cannot wear. We want to continue that strong tradition of freedom of expression.

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Social Networking: Harassment

**Anna Turley** [67255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to require operators of social media platforms to report communications sent via their service which could reasonably be interpreted as containing content which would constitute an offence under section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 or section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 to a relevant police force.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** We expect social media companies, and internet platforms, to have robust processes in place and to act promptly when abuse is reported. The Government continues to work closely with social media companies and other relevant actors and experts to make sure they are committed to protecting those who use their platforms.

The Government is absolutely clear that harassment and abuse in whatever form and whoever the target is totally unacceptable, and that this should be reported to the police. This includes harassment committed in person, or using phones or the internet. The Crown Prosecution Service published guidance to prosecutors in October on crimes involving social media.

The Criminal Justice Act 2015 strengthened two existing communications offences: section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 which can now be used to prosecute misuse of social media. The police now have longer to investigate either offence, and the maximum penalty for the former has been increased to two years imprisonment.

In addition, the Home Office has allocated £4.6m of the Police Transformation Fund specifically to begin the critical work of setting up a comprehensive and joined up programme of digital transformation across policing. This money will help provide a step-change in digital capability, funding police led programmes that will work to equip forces with the tools to effectively police a digital age and protect victims of digital crime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67255/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### EU Court of Justice Ruling: Religious Signs

*The above statement was repeated by Baroness Williams of Trafford*

*col 1869* **Baroness Gale:** My Lords, I thank the Minister for her Statement. The court ruling, however, raises some real concerns about religious freedom in the workplace, including those of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab. Although I think the Minister has been quite clear in her Statement, will she say positively that people can express their faith at the workplace, and in a professional manner, as they choose? Can she confirm that the Government believe that preventing women wearing the hijab, as exemplified in this case, is simply and unconditionally wrong? ...

*col 1870* **Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... we will protect and uphold the freedoms that have been allowed in this country, as we always have done. It will not affect our domestic law. ... As far as this country is concerned, nothing changes. ...

*col 1871* **Baroness Warsi:** ... The Minister may be aware of a YouGov poll that was done immediately after this ruling which showed that 42% of Brits would support such a ban in the workplace, or at least employers having the ability to impose such a ban in the

workplace. ...

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My noble friend makes an encouraging point—that 58% of people would not want such a ban imposed. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-15/debates/41DE7DC9-11C6-4BFB-9BD0-81C3A4AE1D89/EUCourtOfJusticeRulingReligiousSigns>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Social Media: Online Abuse

**Baroness Nye:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to create statutory guidance to ensure that social media sites address online abuse.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Home Office (Baroness Shields)** My Lords, the growth of the internet has brought us many opportunities but unfortunately, all too often, it has been exploited by those who seek to use it as a tool to spread hatred and to target individuals and communities because of who they are or what they believe. The Government are determined to do everything possible to stamp out hate crime. The UK already has some of the strongest legislation on hate crime anywhere in the world, and these laws apply online. We will continue working with a broad range of stakeholders both nationally and globally as we seek to eradicate the threats and harms that we face. ...

**Baroness Howe of Idlicote:** My Lords, does the Minister accept that it is far too easy to access abusive and explicit content on social media services, including Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Yik Yak, Vine, Kik and doubtless many others, and that such companies need to do more to help parents in their parenting so that children can take advantage of technology in a safe and responsible way.

**Reply from Baroness Shields:** The noble Baroness is absolutely correct. It is indeed important that companies should take responsibility for their actions. The majority of internet platforms are based overseas and provide global services, and as the House is fully aware, there is significant complexity around introducing any regime that governs online activity, including keeping any such obligation current given the speed of the evolution of technology, the global nature of the internet and the extraterritorial nature of the jurisdiction that applies.

**Lord Elton:** My Lords, are the laws enforced by the authorities both online and offline the same? If not, why not, and will that be rectified in the legislation presently going through this House?

**Reply from Baroness Shields:** Yes. I should say to my noble friend that we are clear that what is illegal offline is also illegal online. Legislation is in place to deal with internet trolls, cyberstalking, harassment, revenge porn and the perpetrators of grossly offensive, obscene or menacing behaviour. ...

**To read the full question and answer session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-15/debates/8B78D2F8-97B9-43FB-935B-D82C9CB52B9F/SocialMediaOnlineAbuse>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Antisemitism

**The Marquess of Lothian** [HL5760] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by the Community Security Trust *Antisemitic Incidents* which reported an increase in antisemitic incidents in 2016, what action they are taking (1) to protect the UK Jewish community, and (2) to promote a culture of tolerance and inclusion.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The Government takes the security of

the Jewish community in the United Kingdom very seriously and recently announced a £13.4 million contribution for 2017/18 to the Community Security Trust. The Trust provides security guards and protection to independent and state Jewish schools, nurseries, synagogues and community sites.

Our cross-government working group to tackle anti-Semitism ensures that we are alive to any new issues and concerns the Jewish community might have and that we can respond quickly and effectively. In December 2016, the United Kingdom became the first European Union country to formally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism. We recently published a progress report on our efforts to tackle anti-Semitism (attached) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-semitism-update>

The Government's Hate Crime Action Plan and integration programme set out our actions to prevent hate crime and promote cohesion more broadly.

[Anti-Semitism update](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-01/HL5760/>

## UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

**Inquiry into Hate crime and its violent consequences: Oral evidence session**

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/oral/48836.html>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Dawn Butler (1057) UN international day for the elimination of racial discrimination**

– That this House notes the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2017; reaffirms this House's commitment to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms from our society; and calls on the Government to officially mark the observance annually on 21 March each year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1057>

## Press Releases

**Religious symbols ruling does not mean staff can be targeted for dismissal**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/religious-symbols-ruling-does-not-mean-staff-can-be-targeted-dismissal>

**EU Court decision on workplace ban on headscarf legitimises discrimination of Muslim women**

<http://www.enar-eu.org/EU-Court-decision-on-workplace-ban-on-headscarf-legitimises-discrimination-of>

## New Publications

**An internal rule of an undertaking which prohibits the visible wearing of any political, philosophical or religious sign does not constitute direct discrimination**

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-03/cp170030en.pdf>

**UK Parliament briefing: UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**  
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0092/CDP-2017-0092.pdf>

## **News: European Court of Justice**

**EU workplace headscarf ban is legal, says ECJ**  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39264845>

**European Court of Justice rules workplace headscarf ban is not discriminatory**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15154547.European\\_Court\\_rules\\_workplace\\_headscarf\\_ban\\_is\\_not\\_discriminatory/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15154547.European_Court_rules_workplace_headscarf_ban_is_not_discriminatory/)

**Theresa May on veil ruling: Women have a right to choose how they dress**  
<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/uk-politics/387413/theresa-may-on-veil-ruling-women-have-a-right-to-choose-how-they-dress/>

**European court rules employers can ban women from wearing Islamic headscarves and religious symbols**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/european-court-justice-islamic-headscarf-hijab-ban-employers-legal-religious-symbols-case-belgium-a7628626.html>

**Europe has started to enshrine Islamophobia into law – history tells us this can't end well**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/europe-islamophobia-headscarf-eu-court-ruling-hijab-a7629531.html>

**Europe's right hails EU court's workplace headscarf ban ruling**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/mar/14/employers-can-ban-staff-from-wearing-headscarves-european-court-rules>

**The hijab ruling is a ban on Muslim women**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/15/hijab-ruling-muslim-women-religious-identity-european-court-of-justice-resistance>

**The headscarf ruling: the toughest decisions have been left to national courts**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/14/the-guardian-view-on-the-headscarf-ruling-the-toughest-decisions-have-been-left-to-national-courts>

**'Faith communities are not welcome in Europe': views on the headscarf ban ruling**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/14/faith-communities-are-not-welcome-in-europe-views-on-the-headscarf-ban-ruling>

**Employers can ban the burka, European court rules**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/14/employers-can-ban-workers-wearing-headscarves-rules-european/>

**Church of England attacks 'troubling' European court ruling which says employers can ban workers from wearing Christian crosses**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/14/church-england-attacks-troubling-european-court-ruling-says/>

**Headscarf ban ruling 'will not apply in UK'**  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-15/news/headscarf-ban-ruling-will-not-apply-in-uk-vmrmhcztz>

**An employer who bans all religious clothing at work is not one I'd want to work for**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/hijab-headscarf-ban-employment-law-not-one-id-want-to-work-for-a7636061.html>

**Bosses can ban workers from wearing Islamic headscarves or other religious symbols, EU's top court rules**  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4311846/Bosses-ban-workers-wearing-Islamic-headscarves.html>

## **News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination**

**Islamophobia stops young Muslims playing bigger role in politics**  
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/press/news/2017/03/youngmuslims/>

**Muslims in Scotland 'put off political participation by Islamophobia and bias'**  
<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/387253/muslims-in-scotland-put-off-political-participation-by-islamophobia-and-bias/>

**1 in 3 BAME people have witnessed or experienced racist abuse since Brexit vote, finds TUC poll**  
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/black-workers/1-3-bame-people-have-witnessed-or-experienced-racist-abuse-brexit-vote>

**Brexit vote 'gave racism a new lease of life', study shows**  
<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/388525/brexit-vote-gave-racism-a-new-lease-of-life-study-shows/>

**Google condemned by MPs after refusing to ban anti-Semitic YouTube video by ex-KKK leader**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/youtube-google-kkk-video-refuses-to-take-down-antisemitic-david-duke-a7629861.html>

**Google lets antisemitic videos stay on YouTube**  
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/google-lets-antisemitic-videos-stay-on-youtube-t83x06d2v>

**Why won't YouTube and Google consider moderators to tackle online hate?**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/16/youtube-google-hate-speech-moderators>

**Outrage as would-be Glasgow University rector calls for Muslim group to be banned**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15158796.Outrage\\_as\\_would\\_be\\_Glasgow\\_University\\_rector\\_calls\\_for\\_Muslim\\_group\\_to\\_be\\_banned/?ref=mr&lp=2](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15158796.Outrage_as_would_be_Glasgow_University_rector_calls_for_Muslim_group_to_be_banned/?ref=mr&lp=2)

**Anger over plans for Capital neo-Nazi White Pride march as Sikhs gather**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15151219.Watch\\_Anger\\_over\\_plans\\_for\\_Capital\\_neo\\_Nazi\\_White\\_Pride\\_march\\_as\\_Sikhs\\_gather/?ref=mr&lp=4](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15151219.Watch_Anger_over_plans_for_Capital_neo_Nazi_White_Pride_march_as_Sikhs_gather/?ref=mr&lp=4)

**'Neo-Nazis' plan White Pride march on same day as Sikh religious festival**  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/neo-nazis-national-front-white-pride-day-alt-right-scotland-edinburgh-unite-a7636611.html>

**London anti-racism march draws tens of thousands of protesters**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/18/london-anti-racism-march-draws-tens-of-thousands-of-protesters>

**Stamford Hill 'anti-Jewish' sign was art project**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-39275581>

**Man behind 'Beware of Jews' sign in North London says it was just part of art project on 'identity'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/beware-the-jews-sign-stamford-bridge-north-london-man-franck-allais-identity-art-project-anti-a7631661.html>

**'Beware of Jews' sign put up yards from London synagogue**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/beware-of-jews-sign-stamford-bridge-synagogue-london-anti-semitism-yetev-lev-a7630491.html>

**Artist behind 'beware of Jews' sign apologises for causing offence**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/15/beware-jews-road-sign-north-london-reported-police>

**'Despicable antisemitic' street sign is revealed as art project**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-15/news/despicable-antisemitic-street-sign-is-revealed-as-art-project-20tcr7kx7>

**Police quiz artist over 'Beware of the Jews' sign that was put up in one of London's largest Orthodox Jewish communities**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4321604/Police-quiz-artist-Beware-Jews-sign.html>

[TOP](#)

## **Independence Referendum and Devolution**

### **UK Parliament Debate**

**Scottish Devolution and Article 50**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-15/debates/DCE5D6E4-3E9C-46EC-BC48-0EF64C9AC13B/ScottishDevolutionAndArticle50>

### **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

#### **Scottish Independence Referendum**

**Lord West of Spithead:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what response has been given to the Scottish First Minister in response to her request for a further referendum on Scottish independence.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office and Scotland Office Lord Dunlop):** My Lords, a little over two years ago people in Scotland voted decisively to remain part of our United Kingdom in a referendum. The UK Government remain of the view that there should not be a further referendum on independence. Even at this late hour we call on the Scottish Government to take it off the table. Another referendum would be divisive and cause huge economic uncertainty at the worst possible time. ...

**Lord West of Spithead:** ... Does the Minister not agree that, to give clarity to the people of Scotland, if a referendum is allowed it is essential that it is held after the Brexit negotiations are completed, not in the midst of complex negotiations with no ability whatever to understand the implications of the detailed agreements being worked on?

**Reply from Lord Dunlop:** ... Regarding the negotiations, Nicola Sturgeon said yesterday that she wanted the UK to get a good deal. I can think of nothing more

calculated to undermine the achievement of a good deal than holding a divisive and disruptive independence referendum during the last six months of one of the most important peacetime negotiations this country has ever faced. At this time we should be working together to get the best possible deal for the whole of the UK and each part of it, particularly Scotland.

**Lord McAvoy:** ... The most important point is that there is no desire in Scotland for another referendum. It is simply not in Scotland's best interest, especially not at a time when we need stability and a period of relative calm, not yet more uncertainty. Before the 2014 vote the SNP said that the referendum was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and promised that it would abide by the result. The fact is that ever since it lost in 2014 the SNP has been agitating for another referendum and will seize upon any excuse. Scottish Labour MSPs will oppose a second referendum in the Scottish Parliament, but if it is successful and comes here the Labour Party will not oppose it. ...

**Reply from Lord Dunlop:** ... I strongly agree with what he said. We must respect the result of the independence referendum that took place in 2014. As Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon said, it was a once-in-a-generation vote. Both sides signed the Edinburgh agreement, which committed to respect that result. Only two-and-a-half years after that vote, which was won by more than 10 points—a result that was fair, legal and decisive—the First Minister is now calling for another vote. All the evidence is quite clear that people in Scotland overwhelmingly do not want another divisive, disruptive referendum. They know the damage that it would do to the Scottish economy and Scottish jobs, taking the eye off the ball of the domestic agenda: schools, hospitals and getting the economy going again. That is what we should focus on.

**Lord Stephen:** My Lords, does the Minister agree that there is no justification for a second independence referendum and that the best way for that to be made clear is for the UK Government to make a simple, clear statement to the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish people on that issue? It is not what people in Scotland want, not now nor after Brexit. The SNP should stand by the Edinburgh agreement and stick to their word—that this was once in a generation, not a “neverendum” to be repeated and repeated. What we on these Benches and the people of Scotland want is a Scottish Government focusing on better outcomes for the people of Scotland on health and education, not what is best for the SNP and its obsession with independence.

**Reply from Lord Dunlop:** The UK Government and the Prime Minister could not be clearer: we do not think there that should be a further referendum on independence, for all the reasons that the noble Lord and others have given. Even at this late stage, the Scottish Government can and should take that referendum off the table. ...

**To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-14/debates/8C921DC1-1884-4D48-8647-3380DA774122/ScottishIndependenceReferendum>

## Press Releases

### Scotland must have choice over future

<http://news.gov.scot/news/scotland-must-have-choice-over-future>

### First Minister speech

<http://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/first-minister-speech-1>

### Referendum must be ‘made in Scotland’

<http://news.gov.scot/news/referendum-must-be-made-in-scotland>

**PM bid to block Scotland's choice "undemocratic and unsustainable"**

<http://news.gov.scot/news/pm-bid-to-block-scotlands-choice-undemocratic-and-unsustainable>

## **New Publication**

**The implications for the Scottish devolution settlement of triggering Article 50**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0083/CDP-2017-0083.pdf>

## **News: Announcement to seek a second Independence Referendum**

**Scottish independence: Nicola Sturgeon to seek second referendum**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39255181>

**Scottish independence: May 'should not block referendum'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39263613>

**First Minister Nicola Sturgeon blames UK government as she calls second independence referendum**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153686.Sturgeon\\_blames\\_UK\\_government\\_as\\_she\\_calls\\_second\\_referendum/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153686.Sturgeon_blames_UK_government_as_she_calls_second_referendum/)

**Sturgeon accused of putting party before country**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15153667.Sturgeon\\_accused\\_of\\_putting\\_party\\_before\\_country/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15153667.Sturgeon_accused_of_putting_party_before_country/)

**May decries Sturgeon for "playing politics" with the future of Britain after calling for indyref2**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153649.May\\_decries\\_Sturgeon\\_for\\_quot\\_playing\\_politics\\_quot\\_with\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_Britain\\_after\\_calling\\_for\\_indyref2/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153649.May_decries_Sturgeon_for_quot_playing_politics_quot_with_the_future_of_Britain_after_calling_for_indyref2/)

**Independence would mean 'turbo-charged austerity' for Scotland, says Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15151785.Independence\\_would\\_mean\\_turbo\\_charged\\_austerity\\_for\\_Scotland\\_says\\_Corbyn/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15151785.Independence_would_mean_turbo_charged_austerity_for_Scotland_says_Corbyn/)

**Scottish independence: Nicola Sturgeon to seek Indyref2**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-independence-nicola-sturgeon-to-seek-indyref2-1-4390532>

**Sturgeon seizes initiative but bowing to inevitable**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/analysis-sturgeon-seizes-initiative-but-bowing-to-inevitable-1-4391293>

**Theresa May: Indyref2 would create 'uncertainty and division'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/theresa-may-indyref2-would-create-uncertainty-and-division-1-4390848>

**Nicola Sturgeon confirms plan to announce second independence referendum**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-confirms-plan-announce-10018461>

**Sturgeon announces plans for second Scottish independence referendum**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/385746/corbyn-bids-to-clarify-position-on-second-scottish-independence-referendum/>

**SNP warns Theresa May not to block second Scottish independence referendum**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/386327/uk-moves-closer-to-eu-exit-as-parliament-clears-way-for-brexit-talks/>

**Sturgeon's indyref2 demand is 'utterly irresponsible', says Davidson**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/uk-politics/385945/sturgeons-indyref2-demand-utterly-irresponsible-says-davidson/>

**Greens back indyref2 demand to give Sturgeon a Holyrood majority**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/uk-world/385964/greens-back-indyref2-demand-give-sturgeon-holyrood-majority/>

**Scots second referendum 'divisive' at time of uncertainty – UK Government**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/385957/scots-second-referendum-divisive-at-time-of-uncertainty-uk-government/>

## **News: UK Government response**

**May: Indyref2 'fundamentally unfair to the Scottish people'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/may-indyref2-fundamentally-unfair-to-the-scottish-people-1-4394431>

**SNP say Conservatives are running scared of independence vote**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39299305>

**Scottish independence: Sturgeon 'determined' to have second vote**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39293384>

**Nicola Sturgeon: indyref2 refusal seals 'fate of the union'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/nicola-sturgeon-indyref2-refusal-seals-fate-of-the-union-1-4394215>

**Indyref2: Sturgeon 'determined' poll will be held in 2 years**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/indyref2-sturgeon-determined-poll-will-be-held-in-2-years-1-4394329>

**Sturgeon accuses May of 'democratic outrage' after PM rejects her demand for second referendum**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15162538.Sturgeon\\_accuses\\_May\\_of\\_democratic\\_outrage\\_after\\_PM\\_rejects\\_her\\_demand\\_for\\_second\\_referendum/?ref=mr&lp=4](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15162538.Sturgeon_accuses_May_of_democratic_outrage_after_PM_rejects_her_demand_for_second_referendum/?ref=mr&lp=4)

**Nicola Sturgeon makes clear she remains determined to hold indyref2**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15162539.Sturgeon\\_makes\\_clear\\_she\\_remains\\_determined\\_to\\_hold\\_indyref2\\_on\\_her\\_desired\\_timescale\\_despite\\_May\\_39\\_s\\_rejection/?ref=mr&lp=8](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15162539.Sturgeon_makes_clear_she_remains_determined_to_hold_indyref2_on_her_desired_timescale_despite_May_39_s_rejection/?ref=mr&lp=8)

## **News: Other Independence Referendum and Devolution**

**Young Muslims politicised by Scotland's 2014 referendum**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153648.Young\\_Muslims\\_politicised\\_by\\_Scotland\\_39\\_s\\_2014\\_referendum/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15153648.Young_Muslims_politicised_by_Scotland_39_s_2014_referendum/)

[TOP](#)

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-04687 Claudia Beamish: Akong - A Remarkable Life** – That the Parliament recognises the life work of Chöje Akong Tulku Rinpoche, co-founder of the Kagyu Samye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Eskdalemuir, Langholm; notes that the film, Akong - A Remarkable Life, sold out when it premiered at the monastery on 16 March 2017; further notes that the film charts Akong Rinpoche's perilous escape from Chinese-invaded Tibet in 1959 to becoming a refugee, first in India and then in the UK; understands that it documents his teachings and charity work, which, most notably, launched a series of humanitarian projects in Tibet through his charity, ROKPA; sadly acknowledges Akong's tragic murder in 2013 while conducting humanitarian work in China, and recognises how much there is to learn from his legacy.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-04687>

[TOP](#)

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Forced Marriage

*The following six questions all received the same answer*

**Sarah Champion** [67628] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what steps she is taking to prevent children under the age of 16 from becoming victims of forced marriage.

**Sarah Champion** [67629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what assessment she has made of the ability of the police to identify men at risk of or male victims of forced marriage.

**Sarah Champion** [67633] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what steps she is taking to ensure that police forces in England and Wales can recognise the signs of forced marriage.

**Sarah Champion** [67635] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on encouraging other countries to strengthen their laws and policing to prevent forced marriage.

**Sarah Champion** [67636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what steps she is taking to prevent people with learning disabilities from becoming victims of forced marriage.

#### Forced Marriage: Pakistan

**Sarah Champion** [67634] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016, published on 9 March 2017, what representations the Government has made to the Government of Pakistan on that country's connection with forced marriage in the UK.

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage. With our dedicated joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) - Home Office led Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)

leading efforts to combat it at home and abroad. We know that forced marriage can be a hidden crime, and we want to see more victims coming forward. That is why we have introduced lifelong anonymity for victims through the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

We are absolutely committed to ensuring that the police and other agencies understand this crime and respond effectively. The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims and professionals, and also carries out a comprehensive outreach programme of over 100 events a year for statutory agencies such as the police, as well as affected communities. In addition, the FMU has published statutory guidance and made available free e-learning which highlights that forced marriage can affect men and boys as well as women and girls, and that those with learning and other disabilities may be particularly vulnerable. In December 2016, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and police published their first ever joint forced marriage investigation and prosecution protocol, to highlight the importance of working in partnership.

Cases involving very young children often involve the promise of a future marriage rather than an imminent marriage. Anyone with concerns about a potential victim of any age can contact the FMU for advice.

We know there is more to do and we will continue to work with the police, CPS and College of Policing to drive improvements in the enforcement response, including through the National Oversight Group chaired by the Home Secretary.

The Home Office works closely with the FCO on this issue. The Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Mr Sharma, met political and non-Governmental organisation (NGO) representatives from the British-Pakistani community on 4 January 2017. Their discussion focused on challenges of looking after the interests of British citizens who spend time in and have family ties with Pakistan, and included the subject of forced marriage.

Wider work to tackle forced marriage overseas includes the Department for International Development's £39 million regional programme "Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage", which supports UNICEF/UNFPA in 12 priority countries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67628/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67629/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67633/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67635/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67636/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67634/>

*The Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016 referred to in the above questions can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2016>*

## Press Release

**Alok Sharma extends his wishes for a happy Holi Festival**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alok-sharma-extends-his-wishes-for-a-happy-holi-festival>

## News

**Baroness Warsi: I'm both 'us' and 'them'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/magazine/the-sunday-times-magazine/im-both-us-and-them-qs3lnc2tk>

[TOP](#)

## Other 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/>

**Billion pound loss in volunteering effort**

<http://visual.ons.gov.uk/billion-pound-loss-in-volunteering-effort-in-the-last-3-years/>

[TOP](#)

## 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>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590887/tpc-bail-consultation.pdf)

**\*\* Scottish Household Survey 2018-21 Questionnaire review** (closing date 27 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514493.docx>

**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](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/>

**\*\* Inquiry into housing for disabled people** (no closing date given)  
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-housing-disabled-people>

**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>

[TOP](#)

## **Job Opportunities**

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

[TOP](#)

## **Funding Opportunities**

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Community Safety Tackling Sectarianism Fund**  
**closing date for applications: 21 March 2017**

Scottish Government funding to improve overall understanding of the nature and extent of sectarianism in modern Scotland, including providing information on the nature and extent of sectarianism in Scotland and specifically how it is understood in, and impacts on, individual communities across Scotland; the extent to which tackling sectarianism is a priority for individual communities and the level to which communities are prepared to engage in open and frank dialogue with one another on this issue; and the effectiveness of different interventions, and what can be learned from interventions which fail to have

the intended impact and how interventions can be mainstreamed successfully. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/index.php?cID=198>

[TOP](#)

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

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

### **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>

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

### **Code of Fundraising Practice Consultation Events**

20 March 2017 in Inverness (12.30-2.00)

24 March 2-17 in Dundee (12.30-2.00)

29 March 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-2.30)

31 March 2017 in Glasgow (3.00-4.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator discussions on the proposed changes to the Code of Fundraising Practice. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/code-of-fundraising-practice-consultation-events>

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

### **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>

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

### **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/>

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

### **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/>

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

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Talking to Young People about Equality**

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

Youth 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gayle@youth1st.co.uk) or see <https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

### **Integration and Working with Syrian Families**

1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they

move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

[TOP](#)

## 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](http://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](http://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/>

[TOP](#)



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/>

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