

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The UK Parliament is in recess until 9 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Schools: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

S5W-11205 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on making the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programme available to primary schools.

Reply from John Swinney: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in Scotland is delivered by colleges, community learning and development and third sector providers to adults. It is offered as a subject in secondary schools giving young people the chance to achieve an SQA ESOL qualification in school.

English language support in primary and secondary schools falls under the Additional Support for Learning Act 2004, (as amended), and requires education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of

pupils for whose education they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11205>

Schools: English as a second language

The following two questions both received the same answer

S5W-11206 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many children start primary school with English as their second language, and what support it provides to schools with a high proportion of such pupils.

S5W-11208 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many children start primary school with little or no fluency in English, and what support it provides to schools with a high proportion of such pupils.

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Government carries out a census of school pupils every September. The results of the 2016 pupil census show the following for pupils with English as an Additional Language:

Number of P1 Pupils with English as an Additional Language by level of English

	New to English	Early Acquisition	Developing competence	Competent	Fluent
P1	1,546	852	467	226	221

The Additional Support for Learning Act 2004, (as amended), requires education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of pupils for whose education they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs. English as an additional language has been identified as a potential additional support need specifically within the Act's Code of Practice. Pupils will have differing levels of need for support depending on their level of English language competence and their individual circumstances. It is the responsibility of each individual education authority to take their statutory duties into account, establish their priorities in light of local circumstances and to allocate their resources appropriately.

Where such pupils are also affected by poverty, schools and local authorities can use some the funding they are receiving in support of the Scottish Attainment Challenge to ensure that they are provided with the support they need to benefit from any of the activities in place to close of poverty related attainment gap.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11206>

and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11208>

Asylum accommodation

S5W-11148 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government (a) whether and (b) for what reason the (i) repairing standard, (ii) tolerable standard, (iii) Scottish housing quality standard and (iv) Scottish social housing charter applies to asylum accommodation in Scotland managed by Serco as part of its Compass contract with the Home Office.

Reply from Kevin Stewart: Provision of accommodation for asylum seekers is reserved by the Scotland Act 1998 to the UK Parliament. The tolerable standard applies to all housing in Scotland, other than mobile homes and temporary structures. The Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) applies to self-contained housing let under a secure tenancy. The repairing standard applies to housing let by a private landlord under an assured tenancy, under the new private residential tenancy introduced by the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016, and under some other types of tenancy.

The standard that would be provided for asylum accommodation in any particular

case therefore depends on the whether the accommodation is owned by a private or registered social landlord. The Scottish Social Housing Charter sets the standards and outcomes that all social landlords should achieve for their tenants and other service users, and would apply if an asylum seeker received housing or services from a local authority or registered social landlord. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities has written to the UK Government to say that the Scottish Government believes that accommodation provided to asylum seekers in Scotland should meet SHQS.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11148>

Asylum accommodation

S5W-11149 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has (a) internal and (b) commissioned legal advice on whether Scottish housing legislation and standards apply to asylum accommodation managed by Serco as part of its Compass contract with the Home Office and, if so, whether it will publish this advice.

Reply from Kevin Stewart: Provision of support for asylum seekers (including accommodation) is reserved by the Scotland Act 1998 to the UK Parliament.

The Scottish Government does not hold legal advice on these matters. It would be for Serco and the Home Office to determine how Scottish Housing legislation and standards apply to asylum accommodation and for the courts to determine any dispute.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11149>

Asylum accommodation

S5W-11150 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has shared with (a) Serco and (b) the Home Office any (i) internal and (ii) commissioned legal advice on whether Scottish housing legislation and standards apply to asylum accommodation managed by Serco as part of its Compass contract with the Home Office.

Reply from Kevin Stewart: Provision of support for asylum seekers (including accommodation) is reserved by the Scotland Act 1998 to the UK Parliament.

Please also see response to S5W-11149 on 21 September 2017. It would be for Serco and the Home Office to take their own legal advice on these matters.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11150>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11149>

Asylum accommodation

S5W-11151 Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is lawful for evictions of asylum seekers from asylum accommodation managed by Serco as part of its Compass contract with the Home Office to proceed without any recourse to, or oversight by, a Scottish court, and what the reasons are for its position on this matter.

Reply from Kevin Stewart: Provision of support for asylum seekers (including accommodation) is reserved by the Scotland Act 1998 to the UK Parliament.

It would be for Serco to satisfy itself as to the lawfulness of its activities and for the Home Office to oversee the activities of its contractor.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11151>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-07765 Alexander Stewart (Conservative): Human Trafficking Highlighted in Dunfermline and Across Scotland – That the Parliament acknowledges that human trafficking is not just confined to major cities; notes that Dunfermline featured on a list of places in Scotland where victims have been identified over the last five years; understands that figures, which have recently been published as part of Scotland's strategy to deal with trafficking and exploitation, suggest that, although the crime has been identified at 272 locations across the country's 32 local authorities, 54% of people do not believe that it is an issue in their area; condemns human trafficking as an appalling abuse of human rights, which impacts on some of the most vulnerable in society and has wide-reaching consequences; notes that these latest figures record over 1,500 potential victims in 2016, which represents a 52% increase on 2013; believes that greater awareness of this exploitation of adults and children will be key to bringing it to an end; acknowledges the work of the organisations that are backing such an awareness-raising campaign, which include Police Scotland, Migrant Help and the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance; stresses the importance of bringing this largely hidden crime out into the open, and encourages people to report any concerns they may have, regardless of how minor they feel these concerns might be.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-07765>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [9158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 July 2017 to Question 5241, what her Department's definition is of an exceptional circumstance that would validate a refund to people who have submitted a visa application under her Department's Priority Service scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UK Visas and Immigration consider all requests for refunds on a case by case basis. Whether a refund is issued will depend on the specific circumstances of each case.

Requests should be made via the complaints process:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure#how-to-complain>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-06/9158/>

Entry Clearances: South Asia and Abu Dhabi

The following three questions all received the same answer

Mike Gapes (Labour (Co-op)) [10257] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to process entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé at visa offices in (i) New Delhi, (ii) Mumbai, (iii) Chennai, (iv) Islamabad, (v) Dhaka and (vi) Abu Dhabi in each of the last 12 months.

Mike Gapes (Labour (Co-op)) [10259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was to process priority entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé at visa offices in (a) New Delhi, (b) Mumbai, (c) Chennai, (d) Islamabad, (e) Dhaka and (f) Abu Dhabi in each of the last 12 months.

Entry Clearances

Mike Gapes (Labour (Co-op)) [10258] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many entry clearance applications for a (a) spouse and (b) fiancé have not been processed within 12 weeks in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at the following address: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-12/10257/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-12/10259/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-12/10258/>

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [6822] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what assessment she has made of whether uncertainty around the future status of non-UK EU citizens in the UK will lead to discrimination in the job market; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Employment discrimination on grounds of nationality is in most cases prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and will remain so.

The Government has made clear that workers' rights that are enjoyed under EU law, including anti-discrimination rights, will also continue to apply after we have left the European Union. Unlawful discrimination against non-UK EU citizens is and will remain unacceptable.

The Government Equalities Office (GEO) is aware of, and is looking into, the reports of discrimination against non-UK EU nationals seeking employment which the hon. Member has recently forwarded to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU. The GEO sponsors the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which has powers to enforce the Equality Act 2010 in cases where it suspects unlawful discrimination in employment may have occurred.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6822/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

The following three questions both received the same answer

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [8889] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department erroneously sent deportation letters to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK.

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [8890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what level of seniority the Official holds who was responsible for signing-off deportation letters which were erroneously sent by her Department to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) [9652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a policy decision was taken to send letters to EU citizens lawfully living in the UK asking them to leave.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There has been no policy change with regards to EEA citizens living in the UK and the Home Office is absolutely clear that the rights of EEA citizens living in the UK remain unchanged. It is Home Office policy that any person who is not lawfully resident in the UK is liable for removal and may be notified accordingly by the Home Office. I regret that, in this instance, officials made an operational error and issued enforcement letters incorrectly.

The Home Office acted swiftly to correct the error and I have personally written to

all those affected to apologise for any stress or concern that this caused.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8889/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-05/8890/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-08/9652/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL1439] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people claimed asylum in the UK on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity in the last 18 months; and of those that did, how many have been granted the right to remain in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation. Work is ongoing to assure the quality of the data for publication in line with reporting standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-07/HL1439/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Visas

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench) [HL1360] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether biometric and fingerprint data taken from a visa applicant's application to enter the UK are deleted from any database if that applicant is subsequently refused entry; and if not, for what specific purpose the data are retained.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Fingerprints taken from visa applicants are normally retained for up to ten years regardless of whether the application was successful, as set out in regulations made under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

This enables the Secretary of State to identify easily those who make further applications for visas to come to the UK, preventing immigration abuse and those who are a risk of high harm from entering the country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1360/>

Immigration: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1325] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the comments by a Home Office spokesperson, reported in The Guardian on 4 August, that they have "provided refuge or other forms of leave to more than 8,000 children", how many of those children were granted (1) asylum, and (2) other forms of leave broken down by (a) the types of leave granted, and (b) the number of children granted each form of leave.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016 the UK granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children. This figure includes children granted asylum or another form of leave following an asylum claim, children resettled under our resettlement programmes and those children who were granted family reunion visas.

The forms of leave granted to children who have made an asylum claim can include Refugee Leave, Humanitarian Protection, UASC Leave, Discretionary Leave, Grants of Family or Private Life Leave To Remain or Leave Outside The

Rules. Children who are resettled to the UK under our resettlement programmes are granted Humanitarian Protection status or Indefinite Leave to Remain depending on the specific resettlement programme. Family reunion visas can be granted to family members of those granted Refugee Status or Humanitarian Protection in the UK, and are granted Leave in line with their relative.

The Home Office publishes the number of Asylum applications from main applicants, by age in table as_03 of the *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593028/asylum2-q4-2016-tables.ods

[Asylum 2 Q4 2016 tables](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1325/>

The news report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/aug/04/refugee-children-could-be-separated-from-their-families-after-brexit>

Immigration: Syria

Stephen Doughty (Labour (Co-op)) [10279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Syria have been granted indefinite leave to remain in each of the last 12 months; and how many are resident in each local authority area.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Annual statistics on the number of Syrian nationals granted settlement (indefinite leave to enter or remain) are published in settlement table se_03 in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics, April - June 2017'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables#settlement>.

Information on how many Syrian nationals granted settlement are resident in each local authority area is not available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-12/10279/>

Asylum

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) [HL1290] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recommendations of the report *Refugees Welcome?* by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, what measures they have taken to improve the experience of successful asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are working to ensure that asylum seekers in Home Office accommodation who are granted refugee status are able to access the mainstream benefits system smoothly if they continue to need support to cover their living needs.

In particular, we have established a new process that provides additional support to refugees during their transition on to mainstream benefits. That support involves offering a prompt appointment with the Department for Work and Pensions' "vulnerable persons" service, and further assistance to ensure they receive the first payment of any benefit they are entitled to before their Home Office support comes to an end.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1290/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0004/0316/APPG_on_Refugees_-_Refugees_Welcome_report.pdf

Asylum

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) [HL1291] To ask Her Majesty's

Government what lessons have been learned from the integration of recent Syrian refugees, in particular in relation to the provision of (1) housing, (2) National Insurance numbers, and (3) support in finding employment; whether those lessons are being deployed to ensure effective integration and support for successful non-Syrian asylum seekers; and if so, how.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The ability to plan for the arrival in the UK of those refugees who have been resettled in this country because they are fleeing the conflict in Syria has meant that we are able to provide appropriate support upon arrival. This involves planning for their accommodation and providing caseworker support to access public services, including the service provided by DWP. A pilot to provide bespoke employment support is also in place. Additional funding has been made available by the Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions to provide increased levels of English for Speakers of Other Languages tuition, which will also significantly improve the chances of finding employment. We will evaluate the results of the programme, including the employment pilot, to see what lessons may be learnt.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1291/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL1267] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the response by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 4 July (HL Deb, cols 788–9) and her Written Answer on 31 July (HL668), regarding rates of pay for work undertaken by immigration removal centre detainees, whether any of the work undertaken by those detainees was duplicated by staff or employees of (1) the Home Office, or (2) the Immigration Removal Centre; if so, what were the rates paid to those detainees for that work; and what is their assessment of why no savings or efficiencies have been realised by the Home Office or private service providers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not permitted contractually for private service providers to use the detainee paid work scheme to replace staffing obligations in immigration removal centres.

None of the work undertaken by detainees on a voluntary basis in this scheme is duplicated by staff or employees of either the Home Office or the private service provider and there are no savings or efficiencies realised by the Home Office or private service providers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1267/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-04/debates/401FC5D3-ED0D-4EDB-B850-370FE376412B/ImmigrationCentreDetaineesPay>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-07-11/HL668/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL1455] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of detaining (1) persons awaiting deportation who have served custodial prison sentences, and (2) others awaiting deportation, in separate establishments.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All individuals entering immigration detention are risk assessed and accommodated under the processes set out in Detention Services Order 03/2016.

The Home Office seeks to remove foreign national offenders at the earliest opportunity. Where that is not possible, foreign national offenders awaiting deportation will normally be transferred into immigration detention on completion

of their sentence. However, those assessed as unsuitable for the immigration detention estate, for reasons of safety and control, remain in prison. We continue to keep the management of foreign national offenders in the detention estate under review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-07/HL1455/>

New Publications

Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom

<http://detentionforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Sept-2017-DF-Immigration-Detention-Briefing-.docx>

Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Harrowing_Journeys_Children_and_youth_on_the_move_across_the_Mediterranean.pdf

Fatal journeys: Improving Data on Missing Migrants

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/fatal_journeys_volume_3_part_1.pdf

News

Migrants push Edinburgh past half a million

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-19/scotland/migrants-push-edinburgh-past-half-a-million-qwfl7v8hz>

Bank immigration checks 'nightmare' warning from expert

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41357048>

UK banks and building societies tasked with clamping down on illegal immigrants with account checks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/uk-banks-building-societies-illegal-immigrants-account-checks-customs-home-office-a7960526.html>

Home Office wrongly denying people bank accounts in 10% of cases

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/22/home-office-errors-already-leading-to-people-being-denied-bank-accounts>

UK banks to check 70m bank accounts in search for illegal immigrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/21/uk-banks-to-check-70m-bank-accounts-in-search-for-illegal-immigrants>

Illegal immigration? Banks don't even tackle slavery and trafficking

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/23/illegal-immigration-banks-slavery-trafficking-racial-profiling-privacy>

Banks to 'check immigration status of 70 million accounts' to identify failed asylum seekers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/22/banks-check-immigration-status-70-million-accounts-identify/>

Immigration checks on all bank accounts

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-22/news/immigration-checks-on-all-bank-accounts-0rnmbpcws>

Brexit: UK businesses finding it 'notably harder' to recruit skilled professional staff as net migration falls

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/brexit-latest-news-us-business-recruit-professional-staff-net-migration-harder-eu-workers-a7960746.html>

New Brexit rules 'could lead to unskilled workforce crisis'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/sep/23/new-brexit-rules-could-lead-to-unskilled-workforce-crisis>

Number of EU workers seeking UK employment has plummeted, says jobseeker website

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/21/number-eu-workers-seeking-uk-employment-has-plummeted-says-jobseeker/>

Nurses who failed English test aimed at curbing immigration set for a reprieve

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/sep/23/nurses-language-tests-immigration-nhs>

I once adored the UK and felt welcome here – but after reading what the Home Office sent to my father, I don't anymore

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/iran-father-visa-rejected-immigration-book-launch-deportation-visit-uk-not-ok-a7953231.html>

Samim Bigzad: Afghan asylum seeker at heart of case that 'could jail' Amber Rudd speaks out

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/samim-bigzad-deportation-afghanistan-asylum-seeker-amber-rudd-home-office-violate-court-order-kabul-a7959756.html>

I'm an immigration and human rights lawyer – and my chambers just won a case that could land Amber Rudd in prison

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/ambur-rudd-immigration-human-rights-home-secretary-office-criminal-prison-samim-bigzad-afghanistan-a7956841.html>

Asylum seeker thanks judges after return to UK from illegal deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/18/samim-bigzad-asylum-seeker-deported-illegally-to-afghanistan-is-returned-to-uk>

Dubs scheme refugee children left on hold for a year in Greece

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/20/dubs-scheme-refugee-children-left-on-hold-for-a-year-in-greece>

Women and young people are 'more negative' on immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/women-and-young-people-are-more-negative-on-immigration-gcz50rfx0>

Gentrification of food: why we need to stop calling immigrant cuisine 'ethnic'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/food-gentrification-ethnic-cuisine-immigrant-chefs-critics-stop-calling-anthony-bourdain-krishendu-a7957051.html>

'I want to get rid of my Polish accent'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/magazine-41361662/i-want-to-get-rid-of-my-polish-accent>

Vietnamese children trafficked to Edinburgh in record numbers

<http://www.scotsman.com/regions/edinburgh-fife-lothians/vietnamese-children-trafficked-to-edinburgh-in-record-numbers-1-4562803>

Asylum seekers fear children being taken in to care because they are poor

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15545130.Asylum_seekers_fear_children_being_taken_in_to_care_because_they_are_poor/

Asylum man's death in Wales sparks support call

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-41325120>

Head of G4S detention centre quits after abuse allegations

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/sep/22/head-of-g4s-detention-centre-quits-after-abuse-allegations>

Tory Ministers urged to lift MSP ban on visiting Dungavel detention centre following death

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15554331.Tory_Ministers_urged_to_lift_MSP_ban_on_visiting_Dungavel_detention_centre_following_death/

Chinese man dies at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-41326686>

Chinese national found dead at Dungavel immigration centre

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15544967.Chinese_national_found_dead_at_Dungavel_immigration_centre/

Campaigners demand inquiry over death at Dungavel detention centre

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-21/scotland/campaigners-demand-inquiry-over-death-at-dungavel-detention-centre-ttkrj5kdm>

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Community Relations

News

Indians have added spice to British life for centuries

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/susheila-nasta-mbe-indians-have-added-spice-to-british-life-for-centuries-1-4565265>

It's true that some British Muslims don't actually want to integrate – but this is about a lot more than religion

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/parsons-green-radicalisation-british-muslims-austerity-middle-east-a7957766.html>

Facing up to slavery in second city of empire

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/dani-garavelli-facing-up-to-slavery-in-second-city-of-empire-1-4568273>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Debate

Dignity, Equality and Human Rights

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11089&i=101194#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Baby boxes

S5W-10909 Monica Lennon (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what additional measures it has put in place to support the receipt of baby boxes by women who are vulnerable or hard to reach, including Gypsy/Traveller women, women in temporary accommodation, women on remand or serving short sentences, women who are homeless, refugees or asylum seekers, foster parents and women with learning difficulties.

Reply from Mark McDonald: Scotland's Baby Box is a universal provision, and as such all women who are under maternity care in Scotland are entitled to a Box. We recognise, however, some vulnerable or hard to reach groups require additional support to access ante-natal services. The Scottish Government have therefore worked closely with Heads of Midwifery and with midwives on the frontline to ensure that the registration process is consistent and supportive - regardless of the mother's circumstances. The process offers health professionals the opportunity to engage with parents at timely intervals throughout pregnancy. This is an important step in encouraging the small number of expectant mothers who do not currently register for ante-natal services to do so, and to receive appropriate support and health care for themselves and their baby.

This early engagement with ante-natal services allows vulnerable mothers to build a relationship with their primary midwife and provides continuity of care throughout their pregnancy journey.

Midwives also work closely with other statutory services, for example social work services, throughout the pregnancy journey, where a woman is classed as vulnerable.

We are also promoting the Baby Box through our Third Sector partners to ensure that as many of our vulnerable families are aware of the initiative, and provide support in gaining access to maternity services at a timely point in the pregnancy.

The delivery address to be altered at any time to accommodate the location of the mother prior to birth, this includes delivery to all types of temporary accommodation

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-10909>

Press Releases

MSPs question budget's support for equality

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/106094.aspx>

UK's reputation as human rights champion under threat

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/uks-reputation-human-rights-champion-under-threat>

Scottish Government urged to show leadership as spotlight falls on UK's human rights track record

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/scottish-government-urged-to-show-leadership-as-spotlight-falls-on-uk-s-human-rights-track-record/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Anti-Catholic prejudice

S5W-10960 Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-10389 by Kevin Stewart on 9 August 2017, what action it is taking to tackle anti-Catholic prejudice specifically.

Reply from Angela Constance: Our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities action plan contains a number of actions around tackling hate crime, including the establishment of a multi-agency delivery group and expert advisory panel to progress the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion; a national hate crime awareness raising campaign which will be launched in the autumn; and consideration of the findings of Lord Bracadale's independent review of hate crime legislation.

The role of education is recognised as critical in this regard, and we are committed to progressing the implementation of our new relationships and behaviour policy; publishing a refreshed approach to anti-bullying, including prejudice-based bullying; considering learning from evaluation of the education inspection indicator relating to inclusion, working with Education Scotland to ensure that best practice is disseminated; and exploring further the potential of youth work (as a model of peer-led intervention) to contribute to tackling hate crime and prejudice.

We will continue to work closely with representatives of the Catholic Church and other key stakeholders as we implement these actions.

For information, a full list of action commitments in this area can be found at

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/1336/5>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-10960>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-10389>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520818.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-07834 Mary Fee (Labour): Celebrating Scotland's Gypsy/Traveller Community – That the Parliament celebrates the rich social and cultural contribution that the Gypsy/Traveller community has made to Scottish society from the 12th century; acknowledges that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has estimated that the country's Gypsy/Traveller population is between 15,000 to 20,000; understands that the term, "Gypsy/Traveller", refers to distinct groups, including Romany Gypsies, Scottish and Irish travellers and others who regard travelling as being part of their ethnic identity;

believes that they experience a variety of issues related to provision of adequate housing and access to public health services with a much higher proportion rating their health as "bad" or "very bad" compared with the Scottish average, contributing to a low male life expectancy of 55 years, 12 years shorter than the Scottish average; understands that they are a disproportionately marginalised and discriminated group and are stigmatised by inaccurate myths and stereotyping about their culture; notes with distress that the most recent statistics from the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey highlight that 31% of people would be "unhappy or very unhappy" about a close relative marrying a Gypsy/Traveller and that 35% said that a Gypsy/Traveller would be "very/fairly unsuitable" as a primary school teacher, and notes the calls on the Scottish Government to increase its commitment to eliminating discrimination against the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community in West Scotland and throughout the country through strengthening existing equality legislation and providing greater support for inclusivity and equality training to ensure greater protection.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-07834>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Offences against Children: Sentencing

Philip Hollobone (Conservative) [9841] To ask the Attorney General, if he will ensure that the Crown Prosecution Service always considers that racial motivation may be an aggravating factor for seeking higher sentences for conviction for child abuse.

Reply from Robert Buckland: The Sentencing Council has issued a definitive guideline on the sentencing of sexual offences. Racial aggravation increases an offender's culpability under the guideline and therefore the starting point and sentence range for the court to consider.

Prosecutors should assist the Court as necessary during the sentencing process, including drawing the Court's attention to any relevant sentencing guidelines and the aggravating and mitigating features of the case.

Ultimately, sentencing is a matter for the court. Racial aggravation makes an offence more serious and the court has a duty to take this into account when it sentences a defendant.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-11/9841/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL1416] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued any guidance to the Crown Prosecution Service concerning the extent to which insults constitute hate crimes.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: In order for an offence to constitute a "hate crime", first a "basic" crime has to be committed. There are a number of such possible offences which can be committed by way of an insult, particularly offences under the Public Order Act 1986, the Malicious Communications Act 1988 and the Communications Act 2003.

Such offences could be designated as a "hate crime", if they meet the required criteria for the three strands of hate crime offences – (a) racially and religiously aggravated offences; (b) homophobic, transphobic and biphobic offences and (c) disability hate crime.

The Government does not issue legal guidance to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which is independent. The CPS hate crime guidance, which must be

followed by all prosecutors, was reviewed and published in June 2017
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-06/HL1416/>

Hate Crime

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL1484] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are planning to review hate crime laws so that hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability are treated equally to those based on race and faith, by making them aggravated offences.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to tackle hate crime. The hate crime action plan published in July 2016 includes new actions to ensure the legislation is used effectively to support victims and deal with perpetrators.

We keep our legislation under review. Since 2010 the Government has strengthened legislation to offer further protection for transgender and disabled people and on the grounds of sexual orientation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-08/HL1484/>

Press Releases

Muslims in the EU: High levels of trust despite pervasive discrimination

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2017/muslims-eu-high-levels-trust-despite-pervasive-discrimination>

Message by First Vice-President Frans Timmermans to the Muslim community on the occasion of European Action Day countering Hate Speech against Muslims and on Islamic New Year

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=604291

New Publications

Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey Muslims: Selected findings

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-eu-minorities-survey-muslims-selected-findings_en.pdf

Back to the Classroom – the Equality Act 2010 and Education Bodies

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/back-to-the-classroom-the-equality-act-2010-and-education-bodies.pdf>

News

Two in five European Muslims have felt discriminated against – survey

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/21/two-in-five-european-muslims-have-felt-discriminated-against-survey>

Scots student looks to take legal action after allegations of Islamophobia

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15553030.Scots_student_looks_to_take_legal_action_after_allegations_of_Islamophobia/?ref=mr&lp=5

EDL Chelmsford march attracts two supporters

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-41371829>

English Defence League march called off after just six people turn up
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-defence-league-edl-chelmsford-essex-march-called-off-two-six-people-turn-up-uaf-a7963456.html>

Britain First leaders charged with religious harassment
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/britain-first-paul-golding-jayda-fransen-charged-religious-harassment-muslim-gang-rape-trial-kent-a7957486.html>

Britain First leader and deputy charged with religiously aggravated harassment
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/20/britain-first-leaders-charged-religiously-aggravated-harassment/>

Leader of far-right group Britain First and his deputy are charged with causing religiously aggravated harassment
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4902900/Britain-leader-charged-harassment.html>

Facebook adds human reviewers after 'Jew haters' ad scandal
<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-41342642>

Facebook to tighten ad targeting after antisemitic 'fail', says Sheryl Sandberg
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/sep/20/facebook-jew-haters-ad-targeting-sheryl-sandberg>

Sheryl Sandberg apologizes for Facebook advertisements targeting 'Jew haters' and vows to put a stop to them with new policies
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4904514/Facebook-tightens-ad-policies-Jew-hater-fiasco.html>

Google advertisers allowed to target racist search terms
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/pas>

Labour is traditionally the party of the oppressed. So it's about time Corbyn sorted their issue with antisemitism
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-party-conference-2017-antisemitism-jeremy-corbyn-ken-livingstone-left-wing-a7963361.html>

History tapestry with stitches by Queen and Prince Charles condemned as 'racist'
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/09/20/history-tapestry-stitches-queen-prince-charles-condemned-racist/>

New World tapestry in racism row
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-09-21/news/new-world-tapestry-in-racism-row-tdm6fxh7d>

East Belfast community centre targeted in pig's head hate crime
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-41378205>

Australian school discriminated against turban-wearing boy
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-41317386>

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Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Terrorism (Parsons Green)

Claire Baker (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to the terrorist incident at Parsons Green in London. (S5T-00678)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson): My thoughts are with those who were caught up in Friday's cowardly terrorist attack in London, particularly those who were injured.

In response to the raised threat level, as a precautionary response Police Scotland increased operations to protect the people of Scotland, businesses and public places. That included increasing the number of armed officers on patrol across the country, who were deployed as part of the measures taken to allow the public to go about their daily lives as normal. Police Scotland reviewed all significant events over the past few days and has reviewed the security footprint as appropriate. Throughout that process, Police Scotland reinforced the key message to our communities that it and its partners have well-rehearsed plans to respond to any major incidents that might have an impact on Scotland. Police Scotland is now gradually scaling back the policing response, in keeping with the threat level.

The First Minister, the Deputy First Minister and I were briefed by officials and Police Scotland throughout to gain assurance that what was being proposed was appropriate and proportionate to the threat that we faced. We must not allow terrorism to triumph. People should not be afraid to go about their daily business as usual. However, I urge the public to remain alert and report any suspicious activity. As a Government, we are committed to ensuring that Scotland's law enforcement and other bodies have all the tools they need to tackle terrorism, building on the robust measures that are already in place. Indeed, they are well prepared for that, and the focus has been on ensuring that the required operational measures are in place to ensure the continued safety and security of the public and that they are appropriate and proportionate.

Claire Baker: I thank the cabinet secretary for his response and associate my party with his remarks. It is right that we praise the reaction of the emergency services, which again responded quickly without fear. It is also right that we thank, and appreciate the reaction of, the staff of London Underground, who in many instances were the first responders for Friday's attack.

Although I appreciate that a serious investigation is on-going, such attacks raise concerns about risks to community cohesion. What steps can the cabinet secretary take to ensure that the authorities are working with our communities to ensure their safety and that we are all working together to tackle extremism in all its forms?

Reply from Michael Matheson: I welcome the member's comments, particularly her praise for our emergency services and the way in which they respond when such incidents occur and when there is an increase in the threat level.

The member has made an important point because, although there is an operational response to these matters, what is more important is that we support cohesive and resilient communities to ensure that there is no space for those who wish to peddle the message of extremism or hatred. A range of work is done by a number of agencies, from Police Scotland through to the community-based organisations that we support, to maintain and support community resilience and cohesion. However, particularly during periods of increased threat levels and increasing levels of concern, proactive measures are taken by Police Scotland with organisations at a community level to ensure that any concerns or issues that have been highlighted in the communities are addressed as quickly and effectively as possible. That is a piece of work that is taken forward by the

police and other agencies on an on-going basis.

Angela Constance and her colleagues take forward a range of work in support of organisations that tackle extremism and the ways in which the message of hatred can often be peddled. However, key to achieving that is not giving that message any space in our communities in Scotland, which is why the work that we do to create cohesive and resilient communities is key to tackling the type of extremist behaviour that we have seen.

Claire Baker: The cabinet secretary will be aware of the comment made this week by the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union that Britain could continue to pay in order to remain a part of Europol, as part of the new security treaty with the European Union. Europol has a vital part to play in our ability to combat terrorism in Scotland and beyond. What discussions have the cabinet secretary and the Scottish Government had with the United Kingdom Government about our continued membership of Europol and ensuring that there is continued international co-operation on security matters in the future?

Reply from Michael Matheson: The member has referred to the paper that the UK Government published on security and criminal and other aspects of law. I am disappointed to tell the chamber that, prior to the publication of that report, despite the fact that it refers to a range of devolved responsibilities, there was no consultation with the Scottish Government on the matter. That is simply unacceptable and demonstrates a serious disregard for the responsibilities of this Parliament in those key areas.

I have raised previously in the chamber the importance of and the value that we get from being a member of Europol; the sharing of information with other European countries, which we benefit from here in Scotland; and the benefit that other countries across Europe gain from the information that we submit to Europol. There is no doubt that we in Scotland benefit disproportionately from the measures that Europol provides, largely because we make greater use of the Europol network.

I assure the member that, as a Government, we are determined to do everything that we can to continue to have access to these important security measures in support of our law enforcement agencies here in Scotland. I wish that the UK Government would show more respect for the responsibilities of this Parliament. Before it publishes any paper of this nature that clearly relates to areas of devolved responsibility, there should be a full engagement and consultation process with the Scottish Government to allow the paper to be informed by its views.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): The police and emergency services put their own safety and lives on the line daily to keep the people of Scotland safe. In the light of the recent terrible events and in general, what specific steps is the Scottish Government taking to ensure that officers and staff have maximum protection themselves while they are protecting us?

Reply from Michael Matheson: The member may be aware that I made a statement to Parliament last year setting out the decision to increase the firearms capability that we have in Police Scotland. That was a key part of the action that was taken to increase the protective security measures that are available to Police Scotland in response to any particular increase in the threat level here in Scotland. That work has almost been completed. The level of firearms capability that we now have in Scotland has almost reached the point that Police Scotland set itself this time last year.

We will continue to work with Police Scotland to ensure that it has the necessary preparations in place to deal with any incident that should ever occur in Scotland and, where it can, to assist and support other law enforcement agencies in the rest of the UK. I believe that that is a clear demonstration of this Government's commitment to ensuring that Police Scotland has the necessary protective

measures in place.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11089&i=101189#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

Defending devolution

<https://news.gov.scot/news/defending-devolution>

Clarity on Brexit Bill vital

<https://news.gov.scot/news/clarity-on-brex-it-bill-vital>

Jury research

<https://news.gov.scot/news/jury-research>

New Publication

Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Record - Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 2016 - 2020

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524977.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Sharia Law Independent Review

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL1249] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the independent inquiry into the application of Sharia Law in the United Kingdom to conclude; and when they expect the report to be published.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Professor Mona Siddiqui's independent review into the application of Sharia law in England and Wales is expected to report to the Home Secretary in the coming months. The Government will consider the publication of the review and its response, once the review report has been submitted.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1249/>

Sharia Law Independent Review

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL1250] To ask Her Majesty's Government what has caused the delay in publishing the report of the independent inquiry into the application of Sharia Law in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's independent review into the application of Sharia law in England and Wales is not delayed. The review chair, Professor Mona Siddiqui, is expected to submit her review report in the coming months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-09-05/HL1250/>

Press Release

Foreign Secretary's message for Rosh Hashanah

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-message-for-rosh-hashanah>

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Other News

Police stop bewildered Eurostar passengers and quiz them about FGM as they continue 'determined' bid to secure a conviction - but some experts say claims of the practice are grossly exaggerated

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4901230/Experts-say-FGM-claims-grossly-exaggerated.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Domestic Abuse Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 Report

[https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/J/2017/9/21/Stage-1-Report-on-the-Domestic-Abuse--Scotland--Bill/Stage%201%20Report%20on%20the%20Domestic%20Abuse%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill.pdf](https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/J/2017/9/21/Stage-1-Report-on-the-Domestic-Abuse--Scotland--Bill/Stage%201%20Report%20on%20the%20Domestic%20Abuse%20(Scotland)%20Bill.pdf)

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Working across the lines: Enabling joint work for racial justice, migrants' rights and faith-based activism (closing date 27 September 2017)

http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Working_Across_Lines/?mc_cid=859c92dd24&mc_eid=a74a1e475

**** closes this week!**

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill (closing date 29 September 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105772.aspx>

**** Draft Budget Scrutiny 2018-19** (closing date 20 October 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106064.aspx>

Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (closing date 25 October 2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en

Regulations under Section 10 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 (closing date 30 October 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524841.pdf>

EEA-workers in the UK labour market (closing date 27 October 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/call-for-evidence-and-briefing-note-eea-workers-in-the-uk-labour-market>

Independent Review of Hate Crime Legislation (Bracadale Review)

(closing date 23 November 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/independent-review-of-hate-crime-legislation>

There are three versions of the consultation paper:

- a full version, aimed mainly at a technical, legal audience
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524055.pdf>
- a non-technical version, aimed at the general reader with no specialist legal knowledge
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524070.pdf>
- an easy read version using simple language and pictures
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00524076.pdf>

Fundraising guidance consultation (closing date 1 December 2017)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/fundraising-guidance-consultation>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Cyber Resilience and Cyber Essentials Grants**

Closing date for applications 20 October 2017

Being “cyber resilient” is both the prevention of cyber breaches and also making sure that if a breach occurs that you are able to respond without losing business continuity. A cyber breach isn’t necessarily a ‘hack’, but it is any incident in which data is lost or stolen, including; accidental loss or theft of hardware, social engineering or phishing. The types of data could include financial data, security data or personal data – such as your customer’s contact details.

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are available to enable third sector leaders to assess and improve their cyber resilience, and to test the ability of third sector organisations to achieve [Cyber Essentials accreditation](#). For information and to apply see <https://digital.scvo.org.uk/evolution/cyber-resilience/>

**** Community Capacity and Resilience Fund**
Closing date for applications 26 October 2017

This fund gives local community based organisations the opportunity to test out new, creative approaches, develop their workforce and add capacity all with the aim of having a preventative impact on communities, help combat social inequalities, promote social inclusion and support partnership working. The fund is looking to award grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to eligible third sector organisations to deliver projects/activities for up to a 9 month period that support individuals and communities to mitigate the impact of welfare reform and poverty. In addition, some grants of up to £10,000 will be available for pilot projects that need a longer time demonstrate their effectiveness. For more information and to apply see

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/running-your-organisation/funding/capacity-resilience-fund/>

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/2018

No set closing date – applications will be accepted until the fund has been fully allocated

BEMIS Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Government is once again offering a small grants programme which invites multicultural communities across Scotland to join in with Scotland's Winter Festivals 2017/18 and host events for St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night.

Community groups, unincorporated associations, charities, and not for profit organisations working in, with, or for Scotland's diverse communities, can apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000 to put on events that engage, inspire, and mobilise communities across Scotland in the celebration of Scotland's national days.

For more information see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-guidelines.pdf>

For an application form see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/swf-2017-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Big Lottery funding surgery

27 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.00)

BEMIS funding surgeries in partnership with the Big Lottery, to develop potential projects and help secure funding. For information contact events@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** this week!**

Common Cause Workshop

27 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Workshop to discuss how academics talk to Black and minority-ethnic artists, how BME-led arts, cultural and heritage organisations can make more mutually productive collaborations with Universities. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8yff89n> or contact H.Payne@liverpool.ac.uk

**** this week!**

Equality Workshop

27 September 2017 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to improve understanding of the Equality Act 2010, and how it applies to you and your organisation. For information contact Elric Elric@centreforequalities.org.uk /01592 645 310.

**** this week!**

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

28 September 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

30 November 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

**** this week!**

National Minimum Wage & National Living Wage: Helping you help low paid workers

28 September 2017 – webinar (12.00-12.30)

HM Revenue & Customs webinar to promote entitlement to the minimum wage, and enable participants to advocate for minimum wage promotion. To register see <http://tinyurl.com/ya2wptcy>

Black History Month

October 2017

Black History Month provides an opportunity to learn, understand, and honour the role that black and minority ethnic men, women, and children have played in shaping Scotland's history. The full programme of events is available at <http://tinyurl.com/y8ua5xk6>

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

3 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

23 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

5 October 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

29 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

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. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scotland's Muslims: Society, Politics and Identity

17 October 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00pm)

Launch of a new collection of essays about Scotland's Muslim which includes chapters on issues as diverse as health, education, gender, sexuality, politics, integration, family, the media, political participation, multicultural nationalism, citizenship, and integration strategies. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y948eudy>

Festival of Politics

19-21 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/>

Festival of Politics: Black History Month 2017

19 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00-7.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss Scotland's role and the legacy of slavery and colonialism in the acknowledgement of an uncomfortable history. For information see

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/black-history-month-2017/>

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

20 October 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

17 November 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

15 December 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

12 January 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

Creative writing workshops organised by the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration Through Language and Art at Glasgow University. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/y77alnxb> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

**** Share My Table - I Hear the Image Moving.**

20-21 October 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Live performance and visual art created by a diverse group of people from the refugee community in Glasgow. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8phopcX> or contact info@tramway.org / 0845 330 3501.

**** Cup of Tea with a Refugee week**

Week beginning 23 October 2017

The Scottish Refugee Council is encouraging groups across Scotland to host their own Cup of Tea events, which are a great way to bring people together to get to know one another in a friendly, relaxed way. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yc38yqaj> or contact info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Workshop

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide practical help and advice on how to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity. Includes information about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides, as well as challenges, such as hate crime, facing the UK today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ydegrweb> or contact Rhys Prosser enquiries@hmd.org.uk

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

2 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

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. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations.

For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Rights to Housing

9 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and

refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Interfaith Week

12-19 November 2017

This year's theme is Creativity and the Arts; through art, poetry, music, and dance we can break down barriers and celebrate the creative and cultural diversity within our local communities. For information contact info@scottishinterfaithweek.org or see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/about-sifw>. For resources to help you plan your event see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/resources>, and to have your event listed in the Interfaith Week programme see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/submit-an-event>.

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

15 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuu> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

The New Scots – Immigrant Communities since c1950

30 November 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.00)

St Andrew's Day lecture presented by Professor Tom Devine as part of the BEMIS 'Scotland's Diverse History' Series. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yaadfhc2>

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Holocaust Memorial Day 2018**

24 January 2018 at Glasgow Caledonian University

Details will be available in due course. For information contact the Scottish Interfaith Council admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778.

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(closing date abstracts for posters, presentations and workshops: 6 October 2017)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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