

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Unaccompanied Child Refugees: Europe

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-02/debates/28C1012E-764F-441F-A9EE-EBA60801B7D4/UnaccompaniedChildRefugeesEurope>

Calais: Refugees

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-11-02/debates/12AC247A-E161-494A-9336-4BE334BF0D0D/CalaisRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [109443] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Government's annual migration figures include seasonal workers.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) based on data collected from the International Passenger Survey (IPS). We use the UN recommended definition for a long-term international migrant; a migrant is someone who changes his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least a year, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence. This definition includes people who migrate for work.

ONS also publishes estimates of Short-Term International Migration. A short-term international migrant (STIM) is someone who visits a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of between 1 and 12 months. Short-term international migration estimates are published separately on an annual basis. Seasonal workers are most likely to be included in these STIM estimates.

Tables detailing the main reason for migration are available for both long-term and short-term migrants on our website.¹

We set out an ambitious programme of work to develop migration statistics using the powers available under the Digital Economy Act (2017). We published a timetable to improve migration statistics which will ensure that in 2019 we have a richer set of statistics. These will provide insight not just on net migration flows but more detail on how long migrants have been here, which areas of the country they are in and whether they are students, working, or in the UK for other reasons, and what this means for our society. Along the way we will publish insights from these data to ensure that the public and policy-makers have the best information we can provide as major decisions are taken in this important policy area.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/search?q=reason+for+migration>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-24/109443/>

Psychiatry: Migrant Workers

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [110055] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 24 October 2017 to Question 107878, on the international skills charge, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health about the financial effect on mental health trusts of the introduction of the international skills charge for psychiatrists who do not have a PhD and who are on tier 2 visas.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Migration Advisory Committee in their review of Tier 2 in December 2015 strongly supported the introduction of the Immigration Skills Charge and was clear that it should apply to the public sector, including the NHS. The rate and scope of the charge, including exemptions from the charge, were agreed in discussion with other government departments, including the Department of Health.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-27/110055/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/107878/>

but that answer only refers to the reader to another answer which can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-18/5991/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [109649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to ensure that UK Visas and Immigration has an adequate number of staff to process Tier 2 visa applications when the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office currently processes several million immigration decisions each year and takes steps to ensure that the necessary

resources are provided to process applications. The Home Office has well-developed processes for modelling operational demand that will be used as appropriate to support internal capacity planning.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109649/>

Visas: China

The following two questions both received the same answer

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [109705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications her Department has received for standard visitor visas from China in each of the last 10 years; and how many such applications were successful.

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [109709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful applications her Department has received for two-year visit visas for Chinese nationals from China in each of the years that scheme has been operating.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Information on the total number of Visitor visa applications and decisions is published quarterly.

The most recent information can be found in the Home Office publication 'Immigration Statistics, April – June 2017'. A breakdown of total Visitor visa applications, grants and refusals is published in Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q and Visitor visa grants, by nationality, is published in Visas data tables volume 3, table vi_06_q_o, available from

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109705/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109709/>

Immigration: Appeals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [108868] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the backlog in the Upper Tribunal.

Reply from Dominic Raab: The Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) caseload has been substantially reduced. The number of outstanding statutory appeals has been reduced from 2,813 on 31 March 2016 to 1,687 on 31 March 2017, and the number of Immigration and Asylum Judicial Review cases is now at the lowest ever level.

The Upper Tribunal caseload figures are published quarterly in Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-20/108868/>

Refugees: Scotland

Tommy Sheppard (SNP) [109511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to bring forward secondary legislation to enable Scottish local authorities to accept unaccompanied minors from the National Transfer Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are committed to extending the transfer provisions in the Immigration Act 2016 to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We intend to bring forward draft regulations at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109511/>

Refugees: Children

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stephen Timms (Labour) [109802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make a statement on the effectiveness of multi-agency intelligence-sharing to identify the needs of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [109861] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to improve arrangements for the (a) registration and (b) transfer of refugee children to the UK.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [109862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to broaden the criteria for vulnerability under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There are currently seven routes through which asylum seeking and refugee children can legally enter the UK. To access the UK resettlement schemes, individuals register with UNHCR. Under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, over 8,500 individuals have been resettled to the UK, around half of whom are children. Our strategy is to resettle the most vulnerable children directly from conflict regions, with their family members, so they do not have to make perilous journeys alone.

Within the EU, the primary responsibility for unaccompanied children lies with the Member State in which they are present. We work closely with EU partners and organisations such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws. In 2016, over 900 children were transferred from the Europe to the UK.

In March, the Government published the basis upon which further referrals under section 67 will be made: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policy-statement-section-67-of-the-immigration-act-2016>. We have invited referrals of children who meet the eligibility criteria that they were present in Europe before 20 March 2016 and transfer is in their best interests. In deciding which children to refer, Member States have been asked to prioritise those likely to qualify for refugee status and/or the most vulnerable. Vulnerability can be defined by factors which include, but are not limited to, the UNHCR's *Children at Risk* factors. It is for Member States to decide which children to refer.

More broadly, we continue to work with our European partners to manage migration and ensure our collective security. Intelligence exchange between UK law enforcement and Europol is well-established and routine, including on human trafficking. The National Crime Agency also support Europol with seconded staff, including within the European Migrant Smuggling Centre. This cooperation has and continues to assist UK efforts to tackle trafficking in human beings, including children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109802/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109861/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109862/>

The UNHCR document referred to above can be read at

<http://idp-key-resources.org/documents/2007/d04244/000.pdf>

Refugees: Children

Scott Mann (Conservative) [110028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on granting asylum to unaccompanied child refugees in Europe under the Dubs scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Over 200 unaccompanied children have arrived in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and transfers are ongoing. The Government is fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67. We are working very closely with Member States, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGO partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/110028/>

Refugees: Families

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [109651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the refugee family reunion rules on the capacity of refugees to integrate fully in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We support the principle of family unity and recognise that reuniting refugees in the UK with their immediate family can help with the integration process by providing support to participate in the economic, social, cultural, civil and political life of this country.

Our family reunion policy has seen over 24,000 family reunion visas granted in the last five years.

Refugees and those who benefit from family reunion visas are entitled to broadly the same rights and benefits as British citizens, including access to the labour market and mainstream benefits to support their integration. Refugees are also able to apply for an integration loan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109651/>

Refugees: Families

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [109652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for family reunion visas under part 11 of the Immigration Rules were granted outside of those rules in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific information you have requested is not currently published. Published statistics on visa applications in the Family category can be found online at the following address:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638590/entry-visas1-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109652/>

Refugees: Families

Angus Brendan MacNeill (SNP) [109687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of refugee families reunited under the Mandate scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Since 2008, the Home Office have resettled over 380 refugees to the UK under the Mandate scheme.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees can refer any case meeting the scheme's criteria to the Home Office for consideration and there is no fixed annual quota.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109687/>

Refugees: Children

Stephen Timms (Labour) [110042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of establishing more

localised administration of the Dubs Scheme based in the regions and constituent parts of the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office works closely with local authorities across Great Britain through regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to ensure all unaccompanied children arriving here receive the care and support they need. We encourage local authorities to offer suitable placements, regardless of the child's route of arrival.

The National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied children is already based on a regional model and was established to promote a fairer distribution of caring responsibilities across the country in a way that protects the best interests of all children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-27/110042/>

Refugees: France

Stephen Timms (Labour) [109449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will ensure that all refugees in France refused transfer to the UK are informed that their application for transfer has been refused.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UK's international obligations do not extend to considering applications to transfer refugee status made abroad and there is no provision in the Immigration Rules for someone to be given permission to travel to the UK for that purpose.

Under the terms of the European Agreement on the Transfer of Responsibility for Refugees (EATRR), we consider applications for transfer of refugee status from those who have been lawfully resident in the UK for at least two years, providing the country which recognised the applicant as a refugee has ratified the EATRR.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-24/109449/>

Asylum: Legal Aid Scheme

Thelma Walker (Labour) [108874] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to enable refugees and asylum seekers to access legal aid.

Reply from Dominic Raab: Our legal aid system is a fundamental pillar of access to justice; that is why we have made sure that legal aid continues to be available for the most vulnerable in our society and for the most serious cases. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 provides for legal aid to be available, among other matters, for asylum cases, immigration detention, immigration applications and appeals in cases of human trafficking and modern slavery, subject to a test of the applicant's financial means and the merits of their case.

This government is absolutely committed to ensuring access to justice, and it will remain at the heart of our reforms.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-20/108874/>

Asylum

Heidi Allen (Conservative) [109757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with its French counterpart on plans in place to provide shelter and help to refugees who may have a legal right to claim asylum in the UK who are currently residing in the Grande Synthe refugee camp in Dunkirk.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The provision of accommodation for asylum-seekers in France is a matter for the French authorities. The UK has regular engagement at ministerial and senior official level with the French authorities regarding the situation in Northern France, including the provision of accommodation for

asylum-seekers. French officials are clear that everyone has the right to claim asylum in France.

In addition to the existing welcome centres across France, France has recently opened four new centres, away from the Grande Synthe area, where those wishing to claim asylum will be supported through the asylum process. There is regular transportation from Grande Synthe to these centres for those wishing to claim asylum.

Under the Dublin Regulation, France may make a request to the UK to take responsibility for an asylum claim where the relevant criteria are met. This requires an asylum claim to first be made in France and a take charge request made of the UK. We continue to work closely with the French authorities to ensure the quick and effective operation of the Dublin Regulation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109757/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Frank Field (Labour) [109820] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the additional resources required to accelerate the processing of applications to ensure that immigration detention times do not exceed 28 days.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has no plans to introduce a fixed time limit on immigration detention. The Home Office is continually reviewing internal processes to ensure that the time any individual spends in immigration detention is kept to a minimum. Each person's case is considered on the specific individual circumstances surrounding their immigration and/or offending history.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109820/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Migration

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL2205] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the change in the net migration figures for UK citizens in each of the last two quarters.

Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes provisional estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) on a quarterly basis with the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR)¹, while final estimates are published annually. The estimates published are for annual periods ending in March, June, September and December. The latest available data are for the years ending (YE) March 2017 and December 2016.

YE Dec 16 and YE Mar 17 are provisional estimates, with final YE Dec 16 estimates available on 30 November 2017. Estimates of net migration of British citizens and total net migration for comparison for the latest two annual periods are summarised in the following tables:

Table 1: Latest changes in net migration, years ending March 2016 and March 2017^{2,3,4,5,6}

	YE Mar 2016 (provisional)	95% CI	YE Mar 2017 (provisional)	95% CI	Difference
Total	+ 327	+/- 39	+ 246	+/- 42	- 81*
British	- 43	+/- 19	- 60	+/- 20	- 17

Source: Office for National Statistics, Long-Term International Migration

Table 2: Latest changes in net migration, years ending December 2015 and December 2016^{2,3,4,5,6}

	Thousands				
	YE Dec 2015 (provisional)	95% CI	YE Dec 2016 (provisional)	95% CI	Difference
Total	+ 332	+/- 38	+ 249	+/- 41	- 83*
British	- 40	+/- 18	- 60	+/- 19	- 20

Source: Office for National Statistics, Long-Term International Migration

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bullettins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/august2017>

² Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

³ Further information on confidence intervals can be found in the MSQR Information for Users

⁴ YE = Year Ending.

⁵ CI = Confidence Interval.

⁶ Statistically significant change at the 5% level is indicated by an asterisk

Estimates of LTIM to and from the UK are produced by ONS primarily based on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), with adjustments made for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) data on migration to and from Northern Ireland, based on GP registrations. LTIM estimates are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant, that is, someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of one year or more.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2205/>

Immigrants: English Language

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2079] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that UK nationals can meet the English language proficiency threshold that has been set for non-UK nationals seeking permanent residency.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department is supporting adults in England to ensure they have the English language skills for life and work.

Adults in England who do not have a Level 2 qualification in English are eligible for free courses up to, and including, Level 2 in English literacy. Adults in England are also eligible for fully or co-funded courses to help them learn English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), depending on their employment status. Funding is available for ESOL courses and qualifications up to Level 2. In 2016/17, the department supported 536,700 adults to improve their English skills through literacy courses and 114,400 through ESOL courses.

Since 2013, the Department for Communities and Local Government has invested £12 million to support 54,000 isolated adults to learn English in community settings at pre-entry level, focusing on women with no or very little English who are unlikely to access classes in more formal settings.

The English language proficiency level for non-UK nationals seeking permanent residency or applying to naturalise as British citizens is set at B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. This is equivalent to an ESOL Entry Level 3. Detailed Immigration Rules can be accessed here at the below web link or via the attached document.

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-16/HL2079/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2080] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to enact restrictions on free movement for EU nationals prior to Brexit; and if so, how.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to enact

restrictions on free movement for EU citizens prior to the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Government has repeatedly made clear that until we leave the EU, EU citizens will continue to enjoy the same rights and status, and remain subject to the same residence requirements under EU law, as is currently the case.

This is set out in our position paper published on 26th June 2017, available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-the-position-of-eu-citizens-in-the-uk-and-uk-nationals-in-the-eu
pdf copy of publication - safeguarding position

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-16/HL2080/>

Refugees: Social Security Benefits

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL2214] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 July 2016 (HL1295), when they expect to publish their evaluation of the pilot scheme, carried out by the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions, to expedite the first payment of any benefit for which newly recognised refugees qualify.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The new scheme was put in place to ensure that refugees who wish to apply for benefits are assisted with their application and receive a prompt first payment of any benefit for which they qualify. The scheme was tested successfully in the North East and Yorkshire and Humberside regions earlier this year and has now been rolled out to all areas of the country where asylum seekers are accommodated by the Home Office.

We are talking to the main voluntary sector groups representing refugees about the roll out process and providing information about how the scheme works.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2214/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-18/HL1295/>

Deportation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL2207] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many intended deportations have been overturned by a discretionary decision to naturalise non-UK citizens by nationality, annually since 2010.

Naturalisation

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL2208] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the number of naturalisations by discretion (1) by nationality, (2) by gender, (3) by age, and (4) by ethnicity, annually since 2010.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All grants of naturalisation as a British citizen are at the discretion of the Home Secretary. She may, if she sees fit, naturalise a person who meets the provisions set out at section 6 of the British Nationality Act 1981. These include a requirement to have been lawfully resident in the UK for a continuous period, be free of immigration time restrictions, be of good character and have sufficient knowledge of English and of life in the United Kingdom. The Home Secretary has some discretion over certain residence requirements, but there is no power in law to grant citizenship outside of the statutory requirements of the 1981 Act.

One of the statutory requirements for naturalisation is that a person should not have been in breach of the immigration laws in the residential qualifying period before applying. Another is that he or she is of good character. As such, a person who is subject to a deportation order would not normally qualify for naturalisation. Information of persons naturalised as a British citizen by previous nationality is

published annually and given in the table attached.

Statistics on grants of British citizenship by category and previous nationality is published in the Home Office 'Immigration Statistics' Citizenship table cz_07, available on the .GOV.UK website.

[HL 2208 table](#) (Excel SpreadSheet, 33.25 KB)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2207/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2208/>

Press Releases

New powers to tackle human trafficking

<https://news.gov.scot/news/new-powers-to-tackle-human-trafficking>

New safeguarding strategy boosts support for lone child migrants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-safeguarding-strategy-boosts-support-for-lone-child-migrants>

New Publications

Calais and unaccompanied child refugees in Europe

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0208/CDP-2017-0208.pdf>

Safeguarding Strategy: unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656425/UA_SC_Safeguarding_Strategy_2017.pdf

Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656429/UA_SC_Statutory_Guidance_2017.pdf

Government Response: Consultation on the revised statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656434/UA_SC_SG_Govt_response_2017.pdf

News

UK has conceded on cut-off date for EU nationals, say Brussels sources

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/nov/04/uk-has-conceded-over-cut-off-date-for-eu-nationals-brussels-brexit-rights>

SNP MSP Mairi Gougeon fears French husband will not be allowed to stay in the UK after Brexit

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15630241.39|39manMSPbutIdontknowifmyhusbandwillbeallowedtoremainintheUKwithme39/>

Illegal immigrants and foreign offenders have disappeared, says watchdog

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/illegal-immigrants-and-foreign-offenders-have-disappeared-says-watchdog-lmq0vm9bb>

The Home Office has 'lost' track of 56,000 foreigners who faced being thrown out of the UK including hundreds of convicted criminals, chief inspector of immigration finds
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5043829/The-Home-Office-lost-track-56-000-foreigners.html>

Charity loses Dubs amendment legal challenge over child refugees
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41845115>

Legal challenge to cap on Dubs child refugee scheme fails
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/02/child-refugee-legal-challenge-dubs-government-scheme-fails>

Child refugees campaigners plan appeal as High Court rejects numbers challenge
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-5042301/High-Court-dismisses-challenge-number-child-refugees-accepted-UK.html>

More than 140,000 told by UK immigration they face removal – watchdog
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/02/more-than-140000-told-by-uk-immigration-they-face-removal-says-watchdog>

EU nurses 'turning their backs on UK'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-41838426>

Foster carers housing lone child refugees to receive specialist training
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/01/foster-carers-housing-lone-child-refugees-to-receive-specialist-training>

Elderly husband's plea as Scot's wife of 30 years set to be kicked out of country due to Tory immigration crackdown
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/husbands-plea-scots-wife-30-11474002>

Scots father told to speak with his kids online after visa rejection
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scots-father-told-to-speak-with-his-kids-online-after-visa-rejection-1-4605330>

Vulnerable women 'still locked up in Yarls Wood immigration centre'
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/01/vulnerable-women-still-locked-up-in-yarls-wood-immigration-centre>

All of us are responsible for stopping the scourge of human trafficking
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-10-31/scotland/all-of-us-are-responsible-for-stopping-the-scourge-of-human-trafficking-shg6wlp63>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Scotland's Kurdish community

S5W-11300 Kezia Dugdale (Labour): To ask the Scottish what steps it is taking to ensure that Scotland's Kurdish community feels safe, supported and welcome.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is clear that there is absolutely no place for discrimination and prejudice in Scotland and that any form

of hate crime is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. As a nation, we have a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and faiths, and we are committed to supporting their integration into our communities.

On 13 June 2017, we published an ambitious programme of work to take forward the recommendations made by the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion. This includes a commitment to deliver a public campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of hate crime which will be launched next month.

We will publish a refreshed version of New Scots, our strategy for integrating asylum seekers and refugees into Scotland's communities, in January 2018. We have carried out a wide ranging programme of engagement in order to ensure the views and experiences of as many new Scots as possible are included.

We are determined to show leadership in advancing race equality in Scotland. The Race Equality Framework was developed to advance race equality and address the barriers that prevent people from minority ethnic communities from realising their potential.

We will publish an Action Plan in October 2017 setting out the key actions, including actions on Community Cohesion and Safety, we will take over this Parliamentary session to drive positive change for minority ethnic communities.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11300>

The work programme referred to above can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00520818.pdf>

The Action Plan referred to above has not yet been published.

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Community Relations: Islam

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [108479] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which faith and regeneration projects the Government works with to meet recommendation one of the Government Response to the Women and Equalities Committee Report on Employment Opportunities for Muslims in the UK, published in December 2016, Cm 9371, to rebuild trust with Muslim communities by improving the life chances of disadvantaged communities.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Department for Communities and Local Government supports a number of programmes that seek to bring communities together.

We are providing £1.65 million in 2017/18 to support the Near Neighbours programme, which has enabled Muslim women to develop a range of employment and life skills. We have funded Nisa-Nashim which brings together Jewish and Muslim women around the themes of business, culture, social action, sports and well-being. In 2015/16 we provided support through a Women's Empowerment fund to 14 separate projects working with women from isolated and BME communities.

The forthcoming integration strategy will further set out how we will support people in more isolated communities and assist women, in particular into the workplace, and teach more people to speak English.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-18/108479/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Race Equality Framework for Scotland

S5W-11708 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it tracks the progress of the Race Equality Framework for Scotland, and what progress has been made since the framework's launch.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government published its Implementation Approach of the Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016 - 2030 on 23 February 2017. The Race Equality Framework is being delivered by the Scottish Government and is coordinated by the Race Equality Team within the Equality Unit, with support and input from policy areas across Scottish Government who own the actions outlined in the Framework itself. As a model of mainstreaming, implementation against the actions includes linking and engaging external delivery partners and policy areas across Scottish Government. A Highlight Report outlining the progress to date will be published by the end of 2017 along with new actions to drive forward delivery of the Framework.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11708>

The Implementation Approach of the Race Equality Framework for Scotland referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514492.pdf>

Race Equality Framework for Scotland

S5W-11711 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the social concept "white privilege" is relevant to its work regarding the Race Equality Framework for Scotland.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Race Equality Framework for Scotland has been developed with an understanding of the urgent need to avoid and eradicate institutional racism wherever it is found. We recognise that much progress has been made, although much more remains to be done. However, in order to ensure public confidence that our policy and public institutions are working for the good of all our citizens, we need to deal with the systems and practices that, even if unwittingly, perpetuate and fuel inequality. That means understanding the norms, values and behaviours that influence culture and practice within organisations and wider society, and tackling the factors which sustain discriminatory or biased practice. Our work in developing and implementing the Framework has been underpinned by key principles which reflect that understanding.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11711>

The Race Equality Framework for Scotland referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497601.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Justice Sub-Committee on Policing

Evidence session: Police Scotland (Engagement with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11162&i=101772#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Police: Ethnic Groups

Alex Norrish (Labour Co-op) [109765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to increase BAME representation in the police since May 2016.

Reply from Nick Hurd: Police forces that reflect the communities they serve are crucial to cutting crime in a modern diverse society. The police have made real improvements in diversity - there are a greater proportion of women and black and minority ethnic (BME) officers than ever before. However, the Government has been clear that there is more for forces to do.

This Government's reforms will allow for faster progress on equality and diversity; Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and the College of Policing will play a key role in this.

Central to our reforms was the establishment of the College of Policing as the professional body for policing, which is charged to set standards for policing.

The College has delivered a major programme of work to address the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from BME and other under-represented groups in policing including sharing what works and publishing advice on the use of lawful positive action.

In addition in August 2016 the College published a review of police initial recruitment containing recommendations designed to address the disproportionality seen in some forces in the outcomes of candidates from BME backgrounds.

Through the use of data visualisations and force by force profiles on police.uk we are making it easier for the public to access the data they need to hold their force and PCC to account on how representative their force is compared to the local population. In July 2016 these diversity profiles were expanded to include the diversity of police staff, special constables and police community support officers, and also the ethnic and gender diversity of police officers by police rank.

Following the publication of the Government's Race Disparity Audit on 10 October the Home Secretary wrote to all Police and Crime Commissioners urging them to examine and address the findings, including those on police workforce diversity.

Innovative schemes such as Direct Entry, Fast Track and Police Now are making the police workforce more diverse than ever before; showing that we can attract the brightest and best into policing, whilst introducing new perspectives into policing some of the country's most challenging neighbourhoods.

Police Now is a flagship police graduate recruitment scheme which started in the Metropolitan Police. With the support of Home Office funding has become an independent organisation, expanding to 19 forces in 2017.

Decisions on when and how to recruit individuals are for the chief officer of a police force. It is important that they use equalities legislation, including positive action provisions, to make better progress in terms of recruitment of under-represented groups.

While the Government can set expectations around increasing police diversity we are clear that it is local police leaders working with the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs' Council who are best placed to make this a reality. This includes Police and Crime Commissioners holding police chiefs to account and taking an active role in ensuring their force is representation of the communities it serves.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-25/109765/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Equality

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Birt (Crossbench) [HL2246] To ask Her Majesty's Government which departments are responsible for considering the implications of the Race Disparity Audit; and which is the lead department for co-ordinating action on its findings.

Lord Boateng (Labour) [(HL2249] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take further to the publication of the Race Disparity Audit commissioned by the Prime Minister.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: Government departments remain responsible for considering the implications of the findings of the Race Disparity Audit on their policies and services. A specialist unit in the Cabinet Office will consider and co-ordinate the next steps.

The Government has launched a programme of work to tackle some of the ethnic disparities identified in the Audit. This covers the Department for Work and Pensions taking action in twenty targeted 'hotspots', the Ministry of Justice taking forward a number of recommendations made in the recent Lammy Review and the Department for Education taking forward an external review to improve practice in exclusions. Further announcements on future Government work will follow in the coming months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-19/HL2246/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-19/HL2249/>

The Race Disparity Audit referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650723/RDA_web.pdf

The Lammy Review referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Travellers: Equality

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL2244] To ask Her Majesty's Government why, in the Race Disparity Audit published on 10 October, they have not included information on housing, including permanent and transit sites, as well as unscheduled tenure, employment, social capital, income, and crime and policing, in respect of Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The ethnicity data published on the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website includes data from the Census, published official statistics, numerous Government surveys and Departments' own administrative records.

The website includes education, health and some housing data about Gypsies and Irish Travellers. It does not currently include information about permanent and transit sites, as well as unscheduled tenure, employment, social capital, income, and crime and policing for this group.

In relation to information on Gypsies and Irish Travellers, Government collects and reports data using a number of different ethnic group classifications.

The Department of Education collects information about Travellers of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma separately whereas many other departments use the 2011 ethnic group Census classification which is Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Traveller. The Government will continue to add more data and update existing data on the website.

In many cases where survey data has been collected using the 2011 ethnic group Census classification, the number of Gypsy, Traveller or Irish Travellers interviewed is very small (eg English Housing Survey and Crime Survey for England and Wales). These statistics have not been provided as they are not reliable and in some cases could potentially disclose personal information about individuals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2244/>

Press Release

Peace and Unity

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/4739-2/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Prisons: Racial Discrimination and Homophobia

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [109388] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what information his Department and its agencies hold on incidence of (a) anti-Semitism, (b) Islamophobia, (c) racism and (d) homophobia by prison guards and prisoners; and how such information is recorded.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: Information on such incidents is collected by each prison, and prisons are encouraged to review trends at a local level. We are looking at our prisoner complaint processes including those relating to equality or discrimination issues in light of the recommendations of the Lammy Review into Race in the Criminal Justice System.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-24/109388/>

The Lammy Review referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Religious Hatred

Afzal Khan (Labour) [110287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's advertisement for a Lead Commissioner for Counter Extremism, published on 17 September 2017, when disaggregated hate crime data by victim religion will be published.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office collects and publishes information on the number of hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. For religious hate crimes, the Home Office began collecting information on the perceived religion of the victim on a mandatory basis in April 2017. These data are due to be published in the next hate crime statistical bulletin in October 2018.

The most recent hate crime statistical bulletin is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-30/110287/>

Hate Crime and Defamation: Internet

Alex Chalk (Conservative) [110025] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to protect people from offensive and defamatory online broadcasting content.

Reply from Matt Hancock: Online TV channels licensed by Ofcom must comply with robust rules in the Ofcom Broadcasting Code on harmful or offensive content. Video-on-demand services within UK jurisdiction are subject to higher level rules which focus on harmful material, for example prohibiting incitement to hatred. More widely, as part of the work on the Digital Charter, the government is considering a range of options to counter internet harms. This includes an Internet Safety Strategy, published on 11 October, which considers the responsibilities of companies to their users, the use of technical solutions to prevent online harms and government's role in supporting users.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/110025/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Baroness Gale (Labour) [HL2330] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 18 October (HL Deb, col 615), what work they are doing with industry to tackle hate crime; what measures are being developed to tackle such abuse; and when such measures will be implemented.

Reply from Lord Lee of Trafford: The Hate Crime Action Plan was launched in July 2016. This plan sets out a range of non-legislative responses including counter-narrative activity and collaborative work with the Internet industry to identify ways to reduce the harm caused by hate crime online.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) are consulting on introducing a social media code of practice as part of the Internet Safety Strategy which was published on 11 October. As laid out in the Digital Economy Act 2017, the code will seek to ensure that providers offer adequate online safety policies, introduce minimum standards and metrics and ensure regular review and monitoring.

Government will continue to consult with stakeholders in the technology industry on the details of the code of practice before its introduction in 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-23/HL2330/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2017-10-18/debates/612010B4-2693-4698-9908-C5428B85F75B/DisabledChildrenOnlineAndVerbalAbuse#contribution-F381D6B9-08DC-4348-BEF6-BEE04376ED4A>

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

The DCMS consultation referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper>

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL2243] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on freedom of speech of the definitions used by the Crown Prosecution Service to identify racist or religious incidents and crimes and to monitor the decisions and outcomes, as detailed in their Racist and Religious Hate Crime Prosecution Guidance.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The CPS legal guidance on prosecuting racist and religious hate crime recognises the potential impact of prosecutions on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the right to freedom of expression). The guidance recognises that not only is speech which is well-received and popular protected, but also speech which is offensive, shocking or disturbing. It is essential in a free, democratic and tolerant society that people are able to exchange views, even when offence may be caused. However, when making prosecution decisions the CPS must balance the rights of an individual to freedom of speech and expression against the duty of the state to act proportionately in the interests of public safety, to prevent disorder and crime, and to protect the rights of others. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has agreed a shared definition of hate crime with the police in order to ensure that all relevant cases are captured as early possible. This definition is based upon the perception of the victim or any other person and is wider than the legal definition. However, in order for the CPS to bring a successful hate crime prosecution the CPS must present sufficient evidence to prove that the offence meets the definition of the crime set out in the relevant legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-18/HL2243/>

Press Releases

A Constructed Threat: Identity, Intolerance and the Impact of Anti-Muslim Hatred

<https://tellmamauk.org/constructed-threat-identity-intolerance-impact-anti-muslim-hatred-tell-mama-annual-report-2016/>

Counter-terrorism measures are exacerbating racism and xenophobia, UN rights expert warns

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22332&LangID=E>

New Publications

A Constructed Threat: Identity, Intolerance and the Impact of Anti-Muslim Hatred: Tell MAMA Annual Report 2016

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/A-Constructed-Threat-Identity-Intolerance-and-the-Impact-of-Anti-Muslim-Hatred.pdf>

Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/245/19/PDF/N1724519.pdf>

Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/72/291

News

Hate crime drastically under-reported - South Wales Police

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-41818799>

Women 'bearing brunt' of rising Islamophobic attacks in the UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-islamophobia-attacks-women-bearing-brunt-hate-crimes-a8036581.html>

If a Shakespeare play is racist or antisemitic, is it OK to change the ending?

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/nov/03/if-a-shakespeare-play-is-racist-or-antisemitic-is-it-ok-to-change-the-ending>

Muslims raising funds for Royal British Legion hit back at critics who say the poppy is a 'racist' symbol

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5050191/Muslim-poppy-sellers-slam-critics-call-symbol-racist.html>

This is my country, too

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-41763388>

Dimitris Legakis' fears for safety after racist attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-41821004>

400 years on from Guy Fawkes, Britain's Catholics still face prejudice

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/nov/02/400-years-guy-fawkes-britain-catholics-prejudice>

Polish migrant 'racially abused' by colleagues at Scots job centre after Brexit vote

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15641598.Polish_migrant_39_racially_abused_39_by_colleagues_at_Scots_job_centre_after_Brexit_vote/?ref=mr&lp=20

Muslim teaching assistant wins unfair dismissal case over 9/11 footage

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/31/muslim-teacher-wins-case-after-being-dismissed-over-911-footage>

'If I wasn't Muslim this would never have happened': Teaching assistant who was sacked for objecting to 11-year-olds watching YouTube video of 9/11 attacks wins unfair dismissal case

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5038301/Muslim-teaching-assistant-wins-unfair-dismissal-case.html>

Bake Off's Nadiya Hussain reveals racist abuse she has faced since winning the show

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/10/31/bake-offs-nadiya-hussain-reveals-racist-abuse-has-faced-since/>

Talking to my sister about racism: 'People your age seem so much more aware'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/nov/01/talking-to-my-sister-about-racism-people-your-age-seem-so-much-more-aware>

Lewes bonfire society agrees to stop blacking up in annual parade

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/03/lewes-bonfire-society-agrees-to-stop-blackening-up-in-annual-parade>

Lewes bonfire 'blacking up' not racist, says Zulu performer

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/30/lewes-bonfire-blackening-up-not-racist-says-zulu-performer>

Perspectives on decolonising and diversifying English teaching

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/oct/30/perspectives-on-decolonising-and-diversifying-english-teaching>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Resilience Week

<https://news.gov.scot/news/resilience-week>

Brexit analysis must be shared

<https://news.gov.scot/news/brexit-analysis-must-be-shared>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Scotland

Martyn Day (SNP): What assessment he has made of the economic effect on Scotland in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement. [901556]

Philippa Whitford (SNP): What assessment he has made of the economic effect on Scotland in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a withdrawal agreement. [901569]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Robin Walker): The Government are committed to the best possible deal for the whole United Kingdom, a deal that works for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all parts of England. We have been engaging with the Scottish Government and have been clear from the start that the devolved Administrations should be fully engaged in this process. The Government are undertaking a broader range of sectoral analysis covering the entirety of the UK economy, including Scotland.

Martyn Day: A London School of Economics report concluded that Scotland faces losing £30 billion in the event of a hard Brexit. Will the Minister advise how that compares with the Government's own Brexit impact assessment for Scotland, and when will it be published?

Reply from Robin Walker: As we have said, the Government are undertaking a wide-ranging analysis covering the entirety of the UK economy, including Scotland. This will ensure that we take into account the individual circumstances of each part of the UK to inform our negotiating strategy. With regard to the content of that analysis, we have to reflect on the implications of yesterday's motion and how best we meet the requirements set by the House for information to be passed on to the Select Committee, keeping in mind the fact that the documents they have requested do not exist in the form suggested in the motion.

Philippa Whitford: Scotland—indeed, the UK—has a significant pharmaceutical industry. The Government repeatedly talk about the option of leaving the EU without a deal, but is the Minister aware that the WTO drug list was last updated in 2010, so any drugs developed since then would face tariffs?

Reply from Robin Walker: The hon. Lady makes an important point. We have been engaging closely with the pharmaceuticals industry in Scotland and across the UK. Of course, she will have noted the joint letter from the Secretaries of State for Health and for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy setting out our intention to establish close co-operation with the European authorities, and there is huge mutual benefit in continuing to do so. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-02/debates/EF69815B-22F1-4CF9-868D-C5A4B0114400/Scotland>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation

Laura Smith (Labour) [108937] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent steps he has taken to ensure that data on cases of FGM are collected and made public.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Department's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme with NHS England introduced the first ever FGM data collection across the National Health Service, published quarterly by NHS Digital as an official statistic on the NHS Digital website.

The data is collected by healthcare providers in England including acute hospital providers, mental health providers and general practitioner practices. It mandates clinicians to record patient demographic data, specific FGM information, referral and treatment information.

The information is being collected to gain a clearer national picture of the prevalence of FGM and to deepen the health sector's understanding of the practice. It is also used to inform how NHS England and other sectors provide services for women and girls with FGM, and to indicate national trends.

To improve rates of compliance with the enhanced dataset, NHS Digital analyse the reports to follow up with trusts who are not submitting data, to improve the completeness of the collection. NHS Digital also issued a Data Provision Notice on 25 November under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to communicate more clearly the requirement to comply with the dataset and set out its benefits. In addition, we continue to work with the Royal Colleges of General Practitioners, the British Medical Association and others to further improve compliance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-23/108937/>

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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>

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

**** Access to elections** (closing date 14 November 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/access-to-elections-call-for-evidence>

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>

Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers [Welsh Government consultation]

(closing date 21 December 2017)

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/enabling-gypsies-roma-and-travellers>

International students: economic and social impacts (closing date 26 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

**** Charitable giving by Muslims** (no closing date given)

https://cardiffunipsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ZRSLmNhpyNY63j

Scotland's National Action Plan on Human Rights (no closing date given)

<https://allin.limequery.com/372759>

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

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!**

Age Assessment Awareness

8 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated

from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

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>.

Immigration Act 2016 – “The Hostile Environment” basics

14 November 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH briefing for people providing services to or working with immigrants to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

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/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

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/y77alnbx> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

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

**** UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee public meeting**

29 November 2017 in Inverness (9.00-11.00)

The UK Parliament Scottish Affairs Committee is holding a meeting to discuss ideas for topics the Committee should explore. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9twqn2e> or contact 020 7219 1650

Working with Interpreters

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/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

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.

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/yaadfnc2>

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

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore ways to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

Scotland's National Action Plan (SNAP) for Human Rights

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to mark International Human Rights Day 2017 and the end of SNAP's first four years, and providing an opportunity to reflect on SNAP's successes and challenges, guide what comes next, and inform the final evaluation and report on SNAP's first four years. For information see <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/national-participation-event/> or contact actionplan@scottishhumanrights.com

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

13 December 2017 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland, and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

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

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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