

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Migration Advisory Committee

Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Migration Advisory Committee. (S5O-01408)

Reply from The Minister for International Development and Europe (Dr Alasdair Allan): This week, we published our response to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the economic and social impacts on the United Kingdom labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union. While developing our response, Scottish Government officials met the chair and secretariat of the committee. Officials welcomed the committee's intention to look at regional systems of immigration and made clear the importance of stakeholder engagement in Scotland to ensure that Scotland's interests are represented in the committee's work. My officials will continue to engage with the committee as appropriate to set out the evidence for an immigration system that meets Scotland's specific immigration needs.

Linda Fabiani: I ask the minister to impress on Westminster colleagues — and to ask

Scottish officials to impress on them—that Scotland has very different needs when it comes to immigration, all the way through our country and our systems. That has been recognised not just by the Scottish Affairs Committee but by committees of the Scottish Parliament and, I understand, by the vast majority of MSPs. Can it be put to the Migration Advisory Committee in no uncertain terms that Scotland’s voice needs to be heard in this regard?

Reply from Alasdair Allan: I was in committee this morning making some of those very points. It is important to recognise that Scotland faces a different migration need from the rest of the UK. In the UK, 50 per cent or thereabouts of population growth in the next 25 years will come from people coming from other countries, but it is important to note that 100 per cent of Scotland’s population growth in the next 25 years will come about as a result of the fact that we are open to people from other European countries living here. We should recognise that, and the UK should recognise it in the policy that it allows Scotland to have on migration.

Richard Lochhead (SNP): The minister will be aware that there is a shortage of teachers in Moray, as I raised that with him in committee this morning. I am aware of two young teachers who were born overseas who wish to work in Moray schools but cannot get visas. Is that something that the Scottish Government could intervene on and move forward?

Reply from Alasdair Allan: Although the Scottish Government has no say over who gets a visa, we have raised many times—and I am happy to continue to raise—the UK’s unhelpful policy on this and many other aspects of migration. It seems to be driven by the very unhelpful net migration target that it has set itself with absolutely no regard for the skills and workforce shortages that exist in Scotland or its migration needs as a country.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11179&i=101900#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Immigration

Neil Findlay (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to questions S5W-09925 and S5W-09927 by Alasdair Allan on 17 July 2017, whether it will (a) provide an update on its engagement with (i) Home Office, (ii) Police Scotland, (iii) City of Edinburgh Council and (iv) the COSLA Migration, Population and Diversity Team and (b) publish its letter to the UK minister, and a copy of any response it has received. (S5W-11644)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: I wrote to the UK Immigration Minister in July expressing concern that the Scottish Government was not consulted in advance of these measures being adopted, and seeking assurance from the UK Government that EU Treaty rights, and the dignity of EEA nationals, are being respected. This letter has been placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and can be accessed using Bib number 59225. The UK Immigration Minister replied in September, and we are waiting for confirmation from the UK Government that they are content for us to publish their response.

Scottish Government officials have had no further engagement with Police Scotland. Rather than dealing directly with Edinburgh City Council on this issue, officials have been working with the CoSLA Migration, Population and Diversity Team since June to get more clarity from the Home Office on these operations in Scotland.

I have a longstanding request to meet the UK Immigration Minister and intend to raise this issue in person when we meet.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11644>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09925>

and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09927>

Asylum seekers: housing

S5W-12267 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the comments by the chief executive of the Refugee Council in *The Guardian* on 27 October 2017 that asylum seekers arriving in the UK faced living in “squalid, unsafe, slum housing conditions”; what discussions it has had or plans with the Refugee Council about the conditions faced by asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland; what action it is taking to ensure that they are provided with safe accommodation that meets their needs, and how it is measuring the effectiveness of its approach.

Reply from Angela Constance: Asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government. This includes the delivery and management of asylum accommodation.

The Scottish Government has not had discussions on this issue with the Refugee Council, which is based in London and focuses on support for refugees and asylum seekers in England. The Scottish Government has regular discussions with the Scottish Refugee Council on a range of issues, including asylum accommodation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-12267>

The newspaper report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/oct/27/uk-asylum-seekers-living-in-squalid-unsafe-slum-conditions>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality

Patrick Grady (SNP) [109952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures exist to determine whether a person is a British citizen if their citizenship is challenged or questioned.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: A person will usually be able to demonstrate they are a British citizen through presentation of a British passport or certificate of entitlement to the right of abode.

When any question arises as to whether a person is a British citizen or not, the person seeking to establish a claim, must obtain the necessary information or documents themselves.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109952/>

Immigration Rules: Missionaries

Judith Cummins (Labour) [109872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on access for those visiting the UK with missionary status to the NHS.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: All non EEA nationals visiting the UK, including those visiting as religious workers to preach or do pastoral work, are subject to the Immigration Rules, available at (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>)

If they do access NHS services, then they will usually be charged. The policy for charging visitors to the UK is the responsibility of the Department of Health.

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/uk-visitors/visiting-england/Pages/visitors-from-outside-the-eea.aspx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-26/109872/>

Migrant Workers: EEA Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Jacob Rees-Mogg (Conservative) [111179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of her Department's ability to instate a registration scheme for EU-EEA citizens wishing to come to work in the UK after March 2019.

Jacob Rees-Mogg (Conservative) [111180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the earliest date on which her Department would have the capacity to include EU-EEA nationals who wish to work in the UK within a visa and work permit system.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are considering the options for our future immigration very carefully and will outline our proposals in due course.

The Prime Minister was clear in her speech on 22 September of the need for an implementation period to ensure that people and businesses – both in the UK and in the EU – have time to adjust to the new arrangements in a smooth and orderly way. During the implementation period, people will continue to be able to come and live and work in the UK; but there will be a registration system – an essential preparation for the new regime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111179/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111180/>

Skilled Workers: Visas

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [110948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential costs and benefits for (a) her Department and (b) the tech sector of high tech visas.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Tech Nation Visa within the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route, re-launched by Tech City UK in October 2015, is an important part of our offer for attracting digital talent, and is working well. The route allows leading digital technology talent endorsed by Tech City UK to enter the UK without needing a job offer from a sponsoring employer.

The Tech Nation Visa forms only a part of our comprehensive offer for migrants and businesses in the tech sector. In the year ending June 2017, around 30,000 skilled non-EEA workers were sponsored under Tier 2, our main immigration work route, to work in the UK in the Information and Communication industry, more than twice the number in any other industry. A number of digital technology jobs are included on our Shortage Occupation List.

We also have dedicated routes for entrepreneurs and graduate entrepreneurs wishing to establish a tech sector business in the UK, and an excellent offer for international students wishing to take up a job in the tech sector after their studies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110948/>

Refugees: English Language

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [110565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will grant the same additional support for English language learning

recently made available for refugees resettled to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme to all refugees.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government is committed to ensuring that refugees in the UK are able to integrate and recognises that English language skills are key to this.

Specific provision for English Language tuition has been built into the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme in recognition of the vulnerability and particular needs of the refugees who arrive through these routes.

Not all those granted refugee status in the UK are new to the country or require English language support. However, all refugees are eligible for English language training and can attend ESOL classes and English language training made available under Education and Skills Funding Agency provision. Refugees are also able to access English language training following referral by JobCentre Plus.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-31/110565/>

Refugees: English Language

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [110812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to provide asylum seekers and refugees with low levels of English a minimum of six months free English for Speakers of Other Languages provision from the time when they apply for asylum.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Those granted refugee status by the Home Office and in receipt of certain work related benefits have access to fully funded English for Speakers of Other Languages courses. For those receiving other benefits and unemployed full funding for the course is available at the provider's discretion, and for those not receiving benefits the government may provide 50% of the costs.

Home Office policy is not to provide asylum seekers with publicly funded English for Speakers of Other Languages courses, although they may access courses on a fee paying basis, and providers may waive fees. Asylum claimants awaiting a decision for over six months may receive a 50% contribution to the costs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110812/>

Refugees: Children

Alex Sobel (Labour) [110671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that all 280 remaining places allocated for unaccompanied child refugees under section 67 of the 2016 Immigration Act will be filled.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and 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 ensure the correct processes are in place to identify and transfer children to the UK. All transfers must be in line with each individual Member State's national laws.

Children have been transferred from France under section 67 this year and we have received further referrals. More eligible children will be transferred from Europe under the scheme in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-31/110671/>

Asylum

Jim McMahon (Labour Co-op) [111076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seeker placements each local authority has had in each year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111076/>

Asylum: Glasgow South West

Chris Stephens (SNP) [110788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are resident in Glasgow South West constituency.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

Figures on the number of those accommodated under Section 95 by constituency could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110788/>

Asylum: Scotland

Chris Stephens (SNP) [110789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with (a) the Scottish Government and (b) Glasgow City Council to ensure that contractors of asylum seeker services comply with the provisions of housing legislation in Scotland.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office and our asylum accommodation provider in Scotland are in regular contact with representatives from the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council on accommodation standards through forums such as the Scottish Asylum Dispersal Strategy Group, Asylum Stakeholders Forum and the Scottish Asylum Procurement Group.

In Glasgow, all new property procurement proposals are individually considered by the Local Authority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110789/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Anneliese Dodds (Labour) [110860] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the longest period is during which an EU national has been held in immigration detention in the UK in the last 12 months.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Information on detention can be found at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638608/detention-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110860/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor (Labour) [111230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to ensure that survivors of sexual violence are not detained in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Home Office immigration policy operates with a presumption against detention. When people are detained, it is for the minimum time possible, and their dignity and welfare is of the utmost importance.

As part of its response to Stephen Shaw's review of the welfare of vulnerable persons in immigration detention, the Government introduced the adults at risk in immigration detention policy, which came into force on 12 September 2016. The policy introduced a case-by-case evidence-based assessment of the appropriateness of detention for any individual who is considered vulnerable, balanced against the immigration control considerations that apply in their case. Having been a victim of sexual or gender based violence (including female genital mutilation) is expressly included as an indicator of risk for the purposes of the policy.

This means that any such victim will be detained only when the immigration control considerations that apply in their case outweigh the risk factors. The policy is supported by the cross-cutting gatekeeper, which assesses vulnerability and provides challenge to decisions about who enters immigration detention, and scrutinises prospects and speed of removal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111230/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Carolyn Harris (Labour) [110512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the National Referral Mechanism in respect of child victims of trafficking; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing additional funding to local authorities to enable them to provide specialist support for child victims of trafficking.

Reply from Sarah Newton: That will significantly improve the NRM decision making process. We will create a single, expert unit in the Home Office to make decisions about whether somebody is a victim of modern slavery; we will introduce an independent panel of experts to review all negative NRM decisions; we will build a new digital system to support referral and case-working; and we will consult on strengthening the First Responder role. These changes will improve the decision making process for both children and adults. In addition we are exploring how to make the NRM decision-making process more 'child-friendly', including looking at how we communicate NRM decisions to children.

To continue improving the support that child victims receive, we have committed to rolling out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) nationally, and continue testing innovative ways of supporting trafficked children through the £2.2m funding we granted as part of the Child Trafficking Protection Fund.

We recognise that local authorities play a pivotal role in the safeguarding of all children in their care, regardless of their backgrounds or experiences. It is absolutely right that local authorities continue to make decisions about the placement and welfare of children, which includes assessing risks such as trafficking, and considering the need to refer to the NRM. To support this, in addition to the national rollout of ICTAs, we have revised statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied children and child victims of modern slavery, funded training for foster carers and support workers and developed training for Independent Advocates.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-31/110512/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Sarah Champion (Labour) [110804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to roll out the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate scheme nationally.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Minister for State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability announced on 26 October that this Government remains committed to rolling out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) nationally.

That is why we have implemented ICTAs in three Early Adopter Sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and nationally in Wales) in order to make sure we implement the right model which best supports the specific and diverse needs of these incredibly vulnerable children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110804/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Carolyn Harris (Labour) [110815] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of how the changes to the National Referral Mechanism announced on 17 October 2017 will affect children; and whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of implementing multi-agency decision-making in cases involving potential child victims of trafficking.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The recently announced package of reforms for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) incorporated a number of measures that will improve the NRM process for children. These measures were informed by an evaluation of an 18 month pilot testing changes to the NRM process, including multi-agency decision-making, for both adult and child cases.

The creation of a single, expert unit within the Home Office, to make decisions about whether somebody is a victim of modern slavery, will replace the current case management units in the National Crime Agency and UK Visas and Immigration, and will be separate from the immigration system. A priority for the new unit will be to ensure that it has the right balance of diverse expertise to be able to make effective decisions.

The creation of an independent multi-agency panel to review all negative NRM decisions will not only increase confidence in the decision making process but will also significantly add to the scrutiny each case currently receives.

In addition, we will roll out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) nationally, and continue testing innovative ways of supporting trafficked children through the £2.2m funding we granted as part of the Child Trafficking Protection Fund. We will also explore how to make the NRM decision-making process more 'child-friendly', including looking at how we communicate NRM decisions to children and considering how local authorities can contribute to the decision-making process in a more consistent and structured way.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-01/110815/>

The updated National Referral Mechanism referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2475] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been identified as being unlawfully resident in the UK as a result of status checks undertaken by banks and building societies under the terms of the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: These measures only apply to disqualified persons. These are known illegal migrants who are liable for removal or deportation from the UK. The Home Office does not comment on numbers on the disqualified persons list as it is subject to change based on immigration status. Under the 2014 Act, banks and building societies are not required to inform the Home Office or the FCA when they refuse to open a current account for a

disqualified person; a statutory reporting requirement would impose a disproportionate regulatory burden on industry.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-24/HL2475/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2476] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost to banks and building societies of undertaking status checks on individuals under the terms of the Immigration Act 2014; and what would be the cost to the Home Office of undertaking those same checks.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's Impact Assessment sets out estimated costs for both the Home Office and banks and building societies and is published on the gov.uk website. Costs for each bank and building society will vary depending on the business model of a particular institution; however, the primary cost of the measures was due to the process changes banks and building societies needed to make to ensure they could correctly undertake the requirements set out in the Act.

The Government has sought to ensure that the banking measures in both the 2014 and 2016 Immigration Acts avoid imposing undue burdens on industry, and will not impact on those individuals who want to legitimately open a current account.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-24/HL2476/>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2477] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals have been identified for deportation and removal from the UK as a result of status checks conducted by banks and building societies under the terms of the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: These measures only target disqualified persons. These are known illegal migrants who are liable for removal or deportation from the UK. The Home Office does not comment on numbers on the disqualified persons list as it is subject to change based on immigration status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-24/HL2477/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2544] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have to replace the provisions for asylum seekers under Dublin III after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been clear that it is in both the UK and the EU's best interests to continue to cooperate on asylum and illegal migration issues when we leave the EU. We are ready to discuss the exact nature of this cooperation with our European partners.

As a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, we will continue to honour our international obligations when we leave the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-25/HL2544/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2545] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many under-18 year old asylum seekers have been admitted into the UK in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the number of initial decisions for asylum applications from unaccompanied

asylum seeking children (under-18 year old applicants) each quarter by nationality in table as_09_q of the *Immigration Statistics* release.

The latest figures are available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638599/asylum3-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods or can be found in the table below:

Total initial decisions on asylum applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Quarter	Total initial decisions	Total grants	Grants of asylum	Grants of HP	Grants of DL	Grants of UASC leave	Grants of Family or Private Life LTR or LOTR
2016 Q3	308	256	76	21	3	156	0
2016 Q4	327	287	130	8	0	149	0
2017 Q1	274	242	135	4	0	102	1
2017 Q2	367	312	213	7	1	91	0

Please note the table excludes cases where the applicant was found to be over 18 and that we are due to publish our Q3 data on 30-Nov 2017.

[Table as_09q](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-25/HL2545/>

Press Releases

Benefits of migration

<https://news.gov.scot/news/benefits-of-migration>

More detail provided on new settled status for EU citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-detail-provided-on-new-settled-status-for-eu-citizens>

New Publications

The Contribution of EEA Citizens to Scotland: The Scottish Government's Response to the Migration Advisory Committee Call for Evidence on the Role of EEA Workers in the UK Labour Market

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527237.pdf>

The Contribution of EEA Citizens to Scotland: the Scottish Government's Response to the Migration Advisory Committee Call for Evidence on the Role of EEA Workers in the UK Labour Market - Evidence Annex

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527186.pdf>

Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know>

Adult ESOL in England

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7905/CBP-7905.pdf>

The financial (minimum income) requirement for partner visas

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06724/SN06724.pdf>

Refuge and Asylum in Scotland Social work support a human right not an administrative burden

<http://www.unison-scotland.org/library/refugee-and-asylum-seeker-good-practice-guide-webversion-final.pdf>

Towards Integration: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in the United Kingdom

<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/protection/basic/5a0029174/towards-integration-the-syrian-vulnerable-persons-resettlement-scheme-in.html>

News

8,000 Syrian refugees have found better, safer life in UK

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15650508.8_000_Syrian_refugees_have_found_better_safer_life_in_UK/

UK Syria refugee programme working 'by and large' as over 8,000 arrive: UN study

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/541880/uk-syria-refugee-programme-working-by-and-large-as-over-8000-arrive-un-study/>

8,000 Syrian refugees resettled across Britain in two years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/8-000-syrian-refugees-resettled-across-britain-in-two-years-zzdqz0dqw>

More than 8,000 Syrian refugees come to UK under plans to resettle 20,000 by 2020

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syrian-refugees-uk-immigrants-resettlement-scheme-2020-numbers-a8044696.html>

Trafficking laws 'target refugee aid workers in EU'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/11/aid-workers-targeted-eu-trafficking-laws-migrants-refugees>

NHS accused of breaching doctor-patient confidentiality for helping Home Office target foreigners

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/home-office-nhs-data-sharing-patients-human-rights-court-challenge-a8045011.html>

Immigration officials worse than useless, says Judge Nicholas Easterman

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/immigration-officials-worse-than-useless-says-judge-nicholas-easterman-swb3wfr6d>

EU migrants 'worth £34,400 each to the economy'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/eu-migrants-worth-34-400-each-to-the-economy-qzgmsw09n>

Britain is twice as dependent on foreign medics as other nations: Third of doctors and one in eight nurses were trained overseas

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5056343/Britain-twice-dependent-foreign-medics-others.html>

Asylum seekers denied social work services

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/asylum-seekers-denied-social-work-services>

Refugee crisis — this is what happened when we moved an asylum seeker into our spare room

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/magazine/the-sunday-times-magazine/refugee-crisis-this-is-what-happened-when-we-moved-an-asylum-seeker-into-our-spare-room-d98gf8hq5>

Immigration law may split pair married for 30 years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-07/scotland/immigration-law-may-split-pair-married-for-30-years-tz3kfccs6>

Glasgow mum is ordered out of UK by Home office

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15655722.Glasgow_mum_is_ordered_out_of_UK_by_Home_office/

Western Isles teenager denied passport now British citizen

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-41940490>

Sham marriage mastermind who recruited women to take part in fake weddings so immigrants could remain in the UK is jailed for seven years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5051697/Fake-marriage-mastermind-jailed-immigration-offences.html>

Police appeal after Albanian man absconds from Dungavel detention centre

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15646728.Police_appeal_after_Albanian_man_absconds_from_Dungavel_detention_centre/

Asylum seeker on the run after busting out of Dungavel detention centre clinging on to underside of van

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/asylum-seeker-run-after-busting-11483781>

Somali criminal with 30 convictions wins £80k damages for wrongful imprisonment

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/criminal-with-30-convictions-wins-80k-damages-for-wrongful-imprisonment-h80z2m02h>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-08799 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): World's First Catholic-Jewish School Campus – That the Parliament sends its hearty congratulations to the world's first joint faith campus in Eastwood's Newton Mearns; notes that the campus was officially opened by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Bishop John Keenan on 8 November 2017; further notes that St Clare's Primary School and Calderwood Lodge will respectively provide Catholic and Jewish denominational schooling alongside a non-denominational nursery class; understands that a significant proportion of the pupils at Scotland's only Jewish primary school are Muslim; welcomes the significant £17 million investment in providing a joint campus with its shared central amphitheatre, outdoor obstacle trails and two sports pitches, among other facilities; pays tribute to the "togetherness" of the Eastwood constituency, where people of all religions do not simply coexist but work together as one to ensure Eastwood's continued prosperity, and wishes the campus's first students every success as they set out on a lifetime of learning.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08799>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Crispin Blunt (507) Boosting religious and ethnic mixing in schools – That this House recognises the major contribution children and young people mixing with those from different backgrounds makes towards breaking down barriers and building trust in society; and urges that the 50 per cent of religious discrimination in admissions cap at faith free schools in England be continued in the interests of boosting integration and community cohesion.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/507>

Press Release

Interfaith Summit

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/interfaith-summit/>

News

Children from two faiths find happiness in one building

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/register/children-from-two-faiths-find-happiness-in-one-building-rpdh9ss5n>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL2311] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Equality and Human Rights committees regarding the findings of the Race Disparity Audit; and what are the implications for the funding of that body's work on race equality.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The Race Disparity Audit has been developed through extensive engagement with stakeholder partners, including local Government, public services providers, non-governmental organisations, academics, public bodies and members of the public from across the UK.

The Race Disparity Audit team have regularly engaged Equality and Human Rights Commission colleagues throughout the Audit, including as part of the design, development and testing of the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website. The First Secretary of State and Minister for the Cabinet Office has met with the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

It is for the EHRC to consider how they align their resources and budget to their priorities. As with any report coming from Government the EHRC will want to consider whether there are implications for their business planning as a result of the Audit and whether resources should be re-directed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-23/HL2311/>

The Race Disparity Audit referred to above can be read at

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

Financial Services: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL2422] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of (1) the Immigration Act 2014, and (2) the Immigration Act 2016, on the access of BAME communities to financial services.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Immigration Act 2014 prohibited banks and building societies from opening new current accounts for disqualified persons. The Immigration Act 2016 goes further and prevents existing accounts from being operated by disqualified persons.

There is no risk of discrimination. It is the individual's immigration status that will decide whether their details are included in the Home Office data shared with banks and building societies. Individuals will only be affected by these measures if they are disqualified persons. Legal migrants who are able to satisfy commercial requirements for opening and operating an account will continue to have access to financial services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-24/HL2422/>

Financial Services: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL2423] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) banking regulators, and (2) the Equality and Human Rights Commission, about the application of the provisions of (a) the Immigration Act 2014, and (b) the Immigration Act 2016, by financial service providers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government engages with industry regularly to understand how well the Immigration Act 2014 banking measures are working. The Financial Conduct Authority, as the independent financial services regulator, has concluded that banks and building societies are complying with the requirements of the 2014 Act.

The Government is continuing to engage with industry and the Financial Conduct Authority ahead of implementation of the Immigration Act 2016 banking measures to ensure operational preparedness.

These measures are a proportionate tool to deter immigration crime, tackle illegal migration and protect the integrity of the immigration system. They are compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-24/HL2423/>

Press Release

Council of Europe pledge to promote gender equality for Roma and Traveller women in politics

https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=090000168076419c

News

Government allows faith school to split in two to avoid gender segregation law

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/government-faith-school-split-hasmonean-high-al-hijrah-two-boys-girls-gender-segregation-law-jewish-a8042386.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-08812 Annie Wells (Conservative): Anti-bullying Week 2017 – That the Parliament acknowledges that Anti-Bullying Week, which is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, takes place from 13 to 17 November 2017 and is supported by SafeToNet; notes that Anti-Bullying Week shines a spotlight on bullying and encourages all children, teachers and parents to take action against bullying throughout the year, and further notes that the theme in 2017 is All Different, All Equal, with the aims of empowering children and young people to celebrate what makes them, and others, unique, helping children and young people understand how important it is that every child feels valued and included in school, and able to be themselves, without fear of bullying, encouraging parents and carers to work with their school and talk to their children about bullying, difference and equality, and enabling teachers and other children’s workforce professionals to celebrate what makes people all different, all equal and celebrate difference and equality, through which they can be encouraged to take individual and collective action to prevent bullying, creating safe environments where children can be themselves.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-08812>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [111085] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents have been recorded in each category of hate crime in each year for which data is available.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office collects information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police, by monitored strand. The latest statistics are published in the ‘Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017’ statistical bulletin, available here:

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

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has a strong legislative framework to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111085/>

Office for Students

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [110676] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the remit of the Office for Students will include anti-discrimination on campus.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The government has published a consultation on behalf of the new Office for Students (OfS) regarding the regulation of the higher education sector. It proposes that, in its regulatory approach, the OfS will look to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds can access, succeed in, and progress from higher education

Higher Education (HE) providers are autonomous organisations, independent from Government, and they already have responsibilities to ensure that they provide a safe, inclusive environment, including legal obligations under the

Equality Act 2010 (the Act) to ensure that students do not face discrimination. The OfS, like some HE providers, will also have obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty in part 11 of the Act. This includes a requirement that the OfS, when exercising its functions, has due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other unlawful conduct in the Act, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in relation to protected characteristics.

In addition, in September 2015 the government asked Universities UK (UUK) to set up a Harassment Taskforce, composed of university leaders, student representatives and academic experts, to consider what more can be done to address harassment and hate crime on campus. The taskforce published its report, 'Changing the Culture', in October 2016, which sets out that universities should embed a zero-tolerance approach to sexual harassment and hate crime. This includes hate crime or harassment on the basis of religion or belief, such as antisemitism and Islamophobia. The Higher Education Funding Council for England is currently working with UUK to test the sector's response to the Taskforce's recommendations and the results of this will be published early in 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-31/110676/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Carlile of Berriew (Non-affiliated) [HL2323] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to counter the recent increase in hate crimes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016/17 there were 80,393 police recorded hate crimes; a 29% increase on the 62,518 recorded in 2015/16. This increase in recorded hate crime is likely to reflect a combination of factors including a genuine rise in hate crime around the time of the EU Referendum and Westminster Bridge terrorist attack, improved identification and recording of hate crimes by the police, and greater willingness of victims to come forward.

The cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan was published in July 2016 and focuses on the following five key issues:

- preventing hate crime by challenging beliefs and attitudes;
- responding to hate crime within our communities;
- increasing the reporting of hate crime;
- improving support for victims of hate crime; and
- building our understanding of hate crime.

The Government will continue to deliver against the commitments under the action plan, including working alongside the police, Crown Prosecution Service and other stakeholders to tackle hate crime and provide support to victims.

Measures include funding to places of worship that have been targets for, or are vulnerable to hate crime, for protective security measures such as CCTV or fencing.

The Home Office will also be funding seven local community projects this year that will tackle hate crime. They will work with actual and potential victims and perpetrators, to raise awareness, increase reporting, and challenge perceptions, as well as helping front line staff to provide support to victims of hate crime.

The Home Secretary announced on the 8 October the creation of a new national online hate crime hub that will be run by officers for the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). The national hub's main aim is to improve the police response to hate crime online. The hub will streamline and simplify current processes, avoid duplication and reduce the burden of online hate crime investigation on local

forces. The hub is expected to be operational before the end of the year.

The hate crime action plan will be refreshed in 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-23/HL2323/>

Social Media: Bullying

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL2529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking, or are planning to take, to stop the rise in malicious communications via social media.

Reply from Lord Ashton of Hyde: We are currently 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 tech industry on the details of the code of practice before its introduction in 2018.

More broadly, the Government published the Hate Crime Action Plan in July 2016 to drive forward action to tackle hate crime. This action includes the recent announcement of the creation of a national online hate crime hub.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-25/HL2529/>

The Internet Safety Strategy and associated consultation referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper>

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

Press Releases

Persistent antisemitism data collection gaps limit progress

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/persistent-antisemitism-data-collection-gaps-limit-progress>

Court of Justice of the European Union – Opinion: Occupational requirements set by religious organisations are subject to judicial review with respect to alleged unlawful discrimination on the basis of belief

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-11/cp170117en.pdf>

To read the full Opinion see

<http://tinyurl.com/ycrel24n>

New Publication

Antisemitism: Overview of data available in the European Union 2006–2016

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-antisemitism-update-2006-2016_en.pdf

News

MSPs urged to wait for judge's report on hate crime legislation review

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/540032/msps-urged-to-wait-for-judges-report-on-hate-crime-legislation-review/>

Church of Scotland urges MSPs not to ditch anti-sectarianism football law

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/church-scotland-urges-msps-not-11476824>

Anti-Catholic graffiti spikes in Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15654839.Anti_Catholic_graffiti_spikes_in_Glasgow/

John Swinney joined Scottish schoolchildren at Auschwitz

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/john-swinney-joined-scottish-schoolchildren-at-auschwitz-1-4610528>

Swinney and school group confronted with 'enormity and awfulness' of Auschwitz

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/542897/swinney-and-school-group-confronted-with-enormity-and-awfulness-of-auschwitz/>

Swinney and school group confronted with 'enormity and awfulness' of Auschwitz

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-5070287/Swinney-school-group-confronted-enormity-awfulness-Auschwitz.html>

The London mosque caught between two types of hate

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/london-mosque-caught-between-two-types-of-hate-brexithate-crime-islamophobia-islamist-extremism-a8049791.html>

Landlord's 'curry smell' letting ban unlawful

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-41915889>

Landlord's ban on 'coloured' tenants is unlawful, court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2017/nov/08/landlord-ban-coloured-tenants-unlawful-court-rules-equality-watchdog>

Buy-to-let mogul's 'curry ban' is unlawful, court rules

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/08/buy-to-let-moguls-curry-ban-unlawful-court-rules/>

Heartbreaking footage shows young boys in disgusting racial abuse attack on little girl outside Scots school

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/heartbreaking-footage-shows-young-boys-11492428>

Unique document provides compelling insight into Kristallnacht

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2017/book_reveals_compelling_insight_into_the_night_of_broken_glass

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Edinburgh Kurdish Community Centre

S5W-11299 Kezia Dugdale (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the recent police raids on the Kurdish Community Centre in Edinburgh.

Reply from Angela Constance: This is an operational matter for Police Scotland. I understand that Police Scotland held a public meeting on 5 September to discuss community concerns in relation to police searches of the Kurdish Community Centre and homes in Edinburgh. The meeting was well attended and it was agreed that Police Scotland would hold regular engagement sessions at the community centre to continue to foster a positive and supportive relationship with the Kurdish community.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-11299>

Press Releases

Standards, Procedures, and Public Appointments Committee to launch inquiry into MSP Code of Conduct

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/106666.aspx>

New Minister for Childcare and Early Years

<https://news.gov.scot/news/new-minister-for-childcare-and-early-years>

Scottish Education Council

<https://news.gov.scot/news/scottish-education-council>

Brexit negotiations

<https://news.gov.scot/news/brexit-negotiations>

Brexit talks

<https://news.gov.scot/news/brexit-talks>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Administration of Justice

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107234] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans his Department has to record the religious identity of people subject to the courts system and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Reply from Philip Lee: Work is underway to improve the quality of data across the Criminal Justice System. Currently some data is collected by the CPS on an individual's religion in relation to specific crimes, such as hate crime. Data on religious identity is not collected by HM Courts and Tribunal Service.

At the launch of the Race Disparity Audit on 10th October 2017, the Ministry of Justice made a commitment to improve the quality and quantity of datasets made available to the public. Widening data collection by the Courts and the CPS in relation to religion was part of the first recommendation made by the Lammy

Review and is now being considered. The Government's full response to the Lammy Review will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-11/107234/>

The Race Disparity Audit referred to above can be read at

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

Counter-terrorism

Nicholas Soames (Conservative) [111151] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what definition of British Values is used for the purposes of the Prevent Programme.

Reply from Ben Wallace: The Prevent Strategy defines our fundamental values as including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. It is important to articulate British Values as being core and fundamental to life in Britain. They are not uniquely British, but they are the things we value in Britain.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-02/111151/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Laura Smith (Labour) [110525] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he has taken to ensure that health care professionals report cases of female genital mutilation.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: To support National Health Service staff to deliver their legal obligations under the female genital mutilation (FGM) mandatory reporting duty and to support them in their work, the Department's FGM Prevention Programme partnered with NHS England launched a package of health-specific materials for NHS organisations to support them in implementing the duty. The materials were developed with stakeholders and NHS England and contain guidance, posters, slideshows for training sessions, video interviews with professionals, a flow-chart, and an information leaflet for patients and their families.

These materials support healthcare professionals to carry out their duties by providing guidance on what healthcare professionals should do if they think a child has had or is at risk of FGM, guidance for confirming 'known' cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds, explanations of what the duty means for healthcare professionals, health training packages to introduce the duty as well as materials to explain the duty to patients and families affected by FGM.

Where professionals fail to comply with the duty, this should be dealt with in accordance with professional bodies' existing disciplinary procedures on a case by case basis.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-31/110525/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Marriage: Muslims

Lord Lester of Herne Hill (Liberal Democrat) [HL2598] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to ask the Law Commission to examine how to

improve the protection of British Muslim women in marriage law.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: Muslims are free to enter into a legally valid marriage in their place of worship under the same provisions that apply to most other religious groups. The Government recognises that there are complex reasons that some do not, including conscious choice. We are considering the issues, but we have not seen evidence that changing the law would necessarily address the concern.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-26/HL2598/>

Press Release

UK Government Ministers to Engage Further with Scottish Parliament Over EU (Withdrawal) Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-ministers-to-engage-further-with-scottish-parliament-over-eu-withdrawal-bill>

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Other News

New data protection advice service from the Information Commissioner's Office

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/new-data-protection-advice-service-from-ico>

LGBT Asians turning to marriages of convenience

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-41899363>

Reclaiming Remembrance: 'I thought it was a white event'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-41917784>

The forgotten Muslim heroes who fought for Britain in the trenches

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/12/forgotten-muslim-heroes-fought-for-britain-first-world-war>

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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 2 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11165&i=101807#ScotParlOR>

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill**

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

Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11180&i=101933#ScotParlOR>

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!*

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>

** Empowering Schools (closing date 7 January 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

Charitable giving by Muslims (no closing date given)

https://cardiffunipsych.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9ZRSLmNhpYNY63j

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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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

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. To read the full programme see

<http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2017> and for additional information contact info@scottishinterfaithweek.org

**** this week!**

Hate Speech & Religious Conflict: An Interfaith Perspective

13 November 2017 in St Andrews (7.00-8.30)

Council of Christians and Jews & St Andrews Coexistence Initiative panel discussion about the rise in hate speech directed at and coming from within religious groups. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/listings/hate-speech-religious-conflict-an-interfaith-perspective> or contact ecg3@st-andrews.ac.uk

**** this week!**

Young People Unite Against Hate Crime

13 November 2017 in Paisley (7.00-9.00)

Performance followed by interactive session to explore some of the issues surrounding race, culture, religion, and hate crime. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/yb9mmzd8>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Building Bridges Symposium 2017: Interfaith Dialogue and Art

16-17 November 2017 in Dundee

The Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education Symposium, which focuses on the topic of Interfaith Dialogue and Art, is aimed at embracing diversity and tolerance and encouraging positive dialogue between different faith groups. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/listings/building-bridges-symposium-2017-interfaith-dialogue-and-art>

**** this week!**

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

**** Scottish Human Rights Commission National Participation Event**

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Event to mark International Human Rights Day 2017 and the end of the first four years of Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP). For information contact actionplan@scottishhumanrights.com or see <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/national-participation-event/> of

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.

Age Assessment Awareness

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

Refugee Rights to Housing

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

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.

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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/>



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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