

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 Written Answer

Refugees

Christina McKelvie (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how many Syrian refugees to the UK have been settled in Scotland. (S5W-12652)

Reply from Angela Constance: Scotland has welcomed over 1,900 people under the UK Government's Syrian Resettlement Programme since October 2015. Official statistics for the Syrian Resettlement programme are published quarterly by the Home Office. The latest set of statistics was published on 24 August 2017 and covered the period to 30 June 2017. Those statistics show that 1,807 Syrian refugees arrived in Scotland under the Programme up to 30 June 2017.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-12652>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Leaving the EU: Immigration Rules

5. Alister Jack (Conservative): What discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the economic effect of changes to immigration rules after the UK leaves the EU. [901909]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): As we leave the European Union, we will be able to control our immigration more effectively. We will make sure we do that in a way that supports our economy; after 40 years of free movement of labour, we will need to do that. We will address the situation with the evidence we get from the Migration Advisory Committee, which will be reporting towards the middle end of next year.

Alister Jack: I refer the House to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. Will the Home Secretary confirm to dairy farmers and other businesses in Dumfries and Galloway that they will still be able to hire migrant labourers on long-term contracts after Brexit?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I am aware of the issue with dairy farmers, as well as the other needs of industry for migrant workers. Rest assured that, when we decide on the right immigration policy after we leave the European Union, we will make sure it continues to support our economy.

Kate Green (Labour): The all-party parliamentary group on migration, which I chair, recently conducted research asking a whole range of businesses about their labour needs and the effect of Brexit. Those businesses uniformly told us that it is not just a case of access to highly skilled labour but many jobs that are characterised as low skilled would also be difficult to fill if they could not access the EU labour market. Will the Home Secretary consider that report? What assurances can she give businesses across a whole range of sectors, from food processing to construction to care?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I share the hon. Lady's view. We talk enthusiastically and positively about wanting to be a country that attracts the brightest and best to support our economy, but we recognise that there will also be a need for migrant labour in different areas—potentially in construction and potentially in dairy farming, as my hon. Friend the Member for Dumfries and Galloway (Mr Jack) said. Dairy farming is exactly the sort of area on which I hope the Migration Advisory Committee will be able to report next year.

Rebecca Pow (Conservative): I wonder whether the Secretary of State could also take seasonal workers into account. In my constituency we will have people turkey plucking, with Christmas coming up. A lot of these people are migrant workers—people who work on farms, fruit farms, and in the tourism and catering industries—but many are only temporary, so will she indicate whether this might be looked on favourably in the future?

Reply from Amber Rudd: My hon. Friend raises a good and important point about Christmas. I reassure her that we will be looking carefully at the need for migrant labour in that sector, too, but, above all, we will want to rely on the evidence, which is why the report from the Migration Advisory Committee is going to be so important. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... Data analysis submitted to the MAC by the Scottish Government shows that in Scotland EU nationals who work in Scotland contribute an average of £34,400 each per annum to gross domestic product—that is more than £4.4 billion a year. Does the Home Secretary agree that that evidence shows that Brexit is putting a vital contribution to Scotland's economy at risk?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I point out to the hon. and learned Lady that we have not left the EU yet, so that labour will continue to be available until we do. I am delighted to hear that there has been an additional submission from Scotland, and I am sure the MAC will look carefully at the evidence provided.

Joanna Cherry: Scotland's demographic profile is very different from that of the rest of the UK, because over the next 10 years Scotland's population growth is projected to

come entirely—100%—from migration, whereas the comparator figure for the UK is 58%. Will the Home Secretary look carefully at supporting the devolution of immigration to Scotland, in response to this strong evidence of divergence and to address concerns such as those raised by the hon. Member for Dumfries and Galloway (Mr Jack)?

Reply from Amber Rudd: The hon. and learned Lady will be aware that immigration remains a reserved matter. We will, nevertheless, be considering the needs of the UK as a whole. I recognise that Scotland has some particular circumstances and need for skilled labour. There is a Scotland-specific shortage occupation list, which will cover some of the areas she has drawn attention to, but I am sure that she, like me, will look forward with eager anticipation to the MAC's report next year.

Diane Abbott (Labour): We on this side of the House would also like to congratulate Her Royal Highness on her 70th wedding anniversary.

Does the Secretary of State share the concerns of the National Farmers Union, which reports a fourfold increase in the number of vacancies because of the falling number of EU workers, of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, which says that the growth of the car industry depends on access to skilled labour in Europe, and of the Nursing & Midwifery Council, which reports a 96% drop in nurse registrations from the EU? Does she not recognise that industry wants answers on these issues sooner rather than later?

Reply from Amber Rudd: What I recognise is the incredible value that EU workers and professionals provide in the UK—we are fortunate to have so many of them working here. We will make sure that the immigration policy we design as we leave the EU continues to get the best out of that, but also adds some controls; we must acknowledge the fact that, having voted to leave the EU, the public expect us to put some controls on it. We will do that, but in a way that continues to welcome EU workers, who provide such important work in areas such as hospitals and schools.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/707FD086-E3C1-4E76-B3D6-C0395401DB06/LeavingTheEUImmigrationRules>

Net Migration Target: International Students

11. **Virendra Sharma (Labour):** Whether she plans to exclude international students from the Government's net migration target. [901915]

23. **Jo Stevens (Labour):** Whether she plans to exclude international students from the Government's net migration target. [901927]

25. **Jim Cunningham (Labour):** Whether she plans to exclude international students from the Government's net migration target. [901929]

Reply from the Minister of Immigration (Brandon Lewis): I can be very clear: there is absolutely no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK, and nor is there any plan to impose one. What we have seen this summer is that students are now compliant, and that means their effect on the net migration figures is marginal.

Virendra Sharma (Labour): We are now coming to the end of a very successful two-year pilot allowing Chinese nationals a two-year, multiple-entry visa for the price of a six-month single-entry visa. It looks as though that will be made permanent in the new year. Will the Secretary of State commit to introducing the same scheme for Indian nationals, our best allies in trade post-Brexit?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I was in India just a couple of weeks ago, and I had some conversations about the pilots we are running in China. The hon. Gentleman is a little premature, because the pilot with China is still running. It is based on a different situation from the situation with us and India, but we will look at that pilot, and I will feed back after it has ended and we have a chance to review it.

Jo Stevens (Labour): Recent polling by ComRes shows that much of the British public do not consider international students to be immigrants, and they want to see them work

for a period here to contribute to the economy. Will the Minister commit to increasing the UK's post-study work opportunities so that we can continue to attract the brightest and the best students to the UK after Brexit?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The hon. Lady makes a good point. These things are always kept under review, but students leaving university as graduates will, with a graduate job, normally be able to qualify under the tier 2 visa system anyway, and I would encourage them to do that.

Jim Cunningham (Labour): But should the Minister not take the student figures out of the immigration figures, because students do not come here as asylum seekers? They actually come here and contribute to local economies, so there is a contradiction in the Government's position.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: An awful lot of migrants who come here do not come as asylum seekers, and that is quite a wide issue. With regard to students, the net migration figures are assessed and published by the Office for National Statistics, which is entirely independent of Government, and those figures are based on the UN definition of a migrant, which is somebody who is in the country for 12 months or more.

15. **Stephen Kerr (Conservative):** Stirling University has a deserved global reputation for welcoming international students. When will Scotland's universities have the advantages of post-study work visas? [901919]

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As I said a few moments ago, students who leave university with a graduate-type job would be able to apply under the tier 2 visa system anyway. We are running a pilot at the moment, and I will be looking at the outcome very soon.

Michael Fabricant (Conservative): Does the Minister realise how pleased the directors of Jaguar Land Rover will be with the answer he has just given? They sponsor students at Birmingham University and other universities in Birmingham, so they will be very relieved to know that those students can get graduate visas.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend has just highlighted what many of us are very clear about, which is that students play a hugely important part in our national economy. They are huge contributors and have a great contribution to make when they leave university, when that is done in the appropriate format. We would encourage more people to come and study in this country at the excellent institutions we have right across the country. ...

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Minister will be aware that the *Financial Times* reported on 8 November that an ally of the Home Secretary is in favour of removing international students from the Government's migration targets. Some people suspect that the unnamed ally may, in fact, be the Home Secretary herself. Whether or not that is the case, the Minister has conceded that international students make an enormous contribution not just to academia but to the economies of our university towns. Will the Government listen to voices on both sides of the House and remove international students from the migration target?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Obviously, we are all allies, so it is quite easy for me to answer the hon. Lady's question. I direct her to have a look at the answer I gave a few moments ago. The key thing with students is that, thanks to the work that this Government have done since 2010 in shutting down about 920 bogus colleges, students are now complying, so the effect on migration is marginal, at best.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/F036EA9E-9A47-4FEC-A670-03B407613589/NetMigrationTargetInternationalStudents>

Indefinite Leave to Remain

4. **John Spellar (Labour):** How many applications for indefinite leave to remain are under consideration by her Department. [901908]

Reply from the Minister of Immigration (Brandon Lewis): At the end of June

2017, at the time of our last published data, some 31,368 applications for indefinite leave to remain were under consideration by the Department.

John Spellar: One wonders how long many of those cases are waiting. So often, we are told the cases are complex and, after maybe a year or two, the Department still cannot make a decision. Furthermore, even when people have won their appeal, they find it takes six or nine months to get a reply, and then their documents very often get lost, or they get their passport back without having their visa stamped. I recognise the Minister inherited this mess, but his reply seemed complacent on actually sorting it out.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am slightly surprised by the right hon. Gentleman's closing comments because I had not actually answered the question yet. I thank him for his question, which gives me a chance to highlight the excellent work done every day by the team at UK Visas and Immigration. I can confirm that UKVI processes 99.5% of all cases within the service level agreement of six months. The just under 0.5% of cases that take longer are those very complex cases, and we liaise with people on that. I simply do not recognise the picture he just painted.

Edward Leigh (Conservative): I encourage the Minister to redouble his efforts. Everybody knows the Government's difficulties with immigration from the European Union, but what we cannot understand is why, after seven years of a Conservative Government, we have still not got to grips with immigration from the rest of the world. We need more police officers, more border officers and quicker decisions, and these people who have no right to stay here must leave, otherwise it undermines the whole system.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI decides 99.5% of cases within the timetable set out in its service level agreement. All of us in this House should be very clear that, if people are here illegally, we want them to return to their homes. Under the compliance environment, the ability to work and to employ people should be restricted. We are very clear that people who are here illegally will be removed.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/5E5E72DE-2CB2-4718-97B4-87B6E1921F8E/IndefiniteLeaveToRemain>

Dubs Scheme

12. **Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat):** What progress she has made on implementing the Dubs scheme. [901916]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): We are fully committed to transferring 480 unaccompanied children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We are working closely with member states, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organisation for Migration and non-governmental organisation partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual member state's national laws.

Christine Jardine: I have an ongoing and heartbreaking case of a constituent—a British citizen whose one-year-old daughter is trapped in an Iraqi war zone. Attempts to get her a passport have stalled at the Home Office. After persistent attempts to meet the Minister, I was assured that my constituent would now be able to make a fresh application and the fee would be waived, but the Home Office has kept the papers and told him that he must get new ones from Baghdad. Given that this is a British citizen's child, will the Minister meet me to see if we can resolve the situation?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am very happy to meet the hon. Lady. I am aware of this case, which we have reviewed. It is a complex case—there is more to it than she has outlined—but I am very happy to meet her and have a conversation after this session.

Tom Pursglove (Conservative): I am very grateful to my right hon. Friend for agreeing to meet the leader of Northamptonshire County Council to discuss the financial support that the Government provide to the local authority to accommodate these refugee children. Will he undertake to keep the level and appropriateness of that funding under constant review?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend makes a good point. We always

keep these things under review. For example, there is the national transfer scheme, which was changed in 2016. I have met local authorities only in the past few weeks. I look forward to having further conversations with councillors such as his who do such excellent work to help people.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/FF4A1173-F77E-4371-A2BE-1F616B209BB6/DubsScheme>

Unaccompanied Child Refugees

2. **Mohammad Yasin (Labour):** What steps she is taking to reduce dangerous journeys for unaccompanied child refugees with family in the UK. [901906]

3. **George Howarth (Labour):** What steps she is taking to reduce dangerous journeys for unaccompanied child refugees with family in the UK. [901907]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): We have a comprehensive framework for refugees and their families to be safely reunited in this country without the need for dangerous journeys. Our family reunion policy allows children to join refugee parents, and there are immigration rules in place for extended family members lawfully resident here to sponsor children, where there are serious and compelling circumstances. Children recognised as refugees by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees can also join close family members through our mandate resettlement scheme.

Mohammad Yasin: Bedford is proud to have given homes to six refugee families through the vulnerable person relocation scheme, but there are hundreds of unaccompanied children stranded in Europe for whom family reunion is the only safe, legal route. Will the Minister look again at family reunion so that unaccompanied refugee children can join their close family and not just their parents?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Obviously, there are several gateway schemes, including the Dublin regulation and the Dubs scheme. As I have just outlined, our own immigration rules also contain a route that people can use, and I would encourage them to look at that.

George Howarth: I welcome the Minister's response, but the generosity and decency of the British people is such that they want the Government to do more. The £50 million raised by the BBC's Children in Need charity last week is testament to that generosity of spirit. Will the Minister match the welcome rhetoric with deeds that will break the logjam of children waiting to be reunited with their families in the UK?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The right hon. Gentleman is right that that is a good example of the great generosity across this country. We see it not only at events such as Friday night's, but in the community sponsorship programmes and in communities wanting to do what they can to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world. We should all be proud of what we do as a country and of what the Government are doing to bring over children who need support and help. We are doing that, and our rules do allow for family reunion as well.

Ki Malthouse (Conservative): One of the dangers that unaccompanied children face is human trafficking, meaning that they may end up being sold for sex in this country. Did the Minister see the appalling report in *The Times* last week about children as young as five being sold for sex on the streets of Glasgow? What engagement has the Home Office had with the National Crime Agency, Border Force, the Scottish Executive and Police Scotland to stamp that out?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend rightly draws attention to a horrific case that many of us will have seen, and the Home Secretary spoke to Michael Matheson just today to offer our full support and help. My hon. Friend also highlights why it is important that we do all we can to deter people from making perilous journeys while also cracking down on the rogue traders and the despicable behaviour of human traffickers. I am pleased by the work that has been done recently across the Home Office, the police, immigration enforcement and the NCA to break down some of those routes, but there is always more to do,

and we must stay focused.

Nigel Huddleston (Conservative): What wider steps are the Government taking to tackle the root cause of the crisis: the horrible situation in Syria?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend makes a good point. It is important that we focus on developing and improving the situation upstream. That is why I am pleased that the Prime Minister was able to put an extra £75 million into the Department for International Development to work with our partners around Europe to ensure that we do as much as we can to tackle the real problems upstream.

Yvette Cooper (Labour): I welcome the announcement this weekend of an agreement to transfer a Syrian teenager from Greece under the Dubs scheme. I wrote to the Home Secretary about that case on 7 August. The boy has been locked in a police cell in Greece because there was no other safe accommodation for him, even though a local council here had offered a place. I understand that he still has not been given a transfer date, so I hope that the Minister can look into that urgently. However, given that we still have 280 empty local council places, 90 of which were supposed to be filled by people from Greece, and given that there are around 3,000 lone child refugees in Greece, does he agree that it is not good enough for only four eligible children to have been identified in Greece? Does he agree that we cannot carry on with just a blame game between Britain and Greece and that urgent action must be taken to change the scheme so that more children can come?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I am sure that the right hon. Lady will appreciate from previous answers that she has received that it is not just a matter of having empty spaces, but it is good news that children are now coming through from both France and Greece. As I have pointed out before, these other countries are sovereign states, and it is absolutely right that we do things in a way that works for them. I have been to Greece and to Italy to talk to people about what more we can do to make the process work fluidly. Ultimately, however, these are sovereign states that are working with the children, and we have to do what is right and what is in the children's best interests.

Stuart McDonald (SNP): The 15-year-old Syrian boy referred to by the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) waited 14 months before the news of his transfer came through. What could be done to speed up transfers under the Dubs

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are always working with our partners in other countries, including Greece, on how we can make the system move as fluidly as possible. I am as keen as the hon. Gentleman to see people coming through that system as quickly as possible, but ultimately we have to do what is in the best interest of those children and we have to respect the law of sovereign states such as Greece.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/7F192347-3D0B-4CB2-A6D4-67024F5786BF/UnaccompaniedChildRefugees>

Immigration Detention Centres

7. **Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat):** Whether her Department has commissioned research into alternatives to the use of immigration detention centres. [901911]

17. **Dan Carden (Labour):** Whether her Department plans to review the effectiveness of its policy on indefinite detention. [901921]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): The alternative to detention is to encourage compliance, thereby leading to fewer illegal migrants in the first place and an increased use of voluntary returns. We will continue to work with partners to ensure we are always exploring the best practice and opportunities in this space.

Edward Davey: Given that more than half of migrants leaving detention centres are released into the community and not removed, that monitoring illegal immigrants in the

community costs more than 80% less than detention, and the sheer inhumanity of Britain's immigration detention regime, many believe that it is now time to look at alternatives that actually work better in other European countries. Will the Minister agree to a pre-Christmas meeting with me and Detention Action, which has recently published detailed research on alternatives to detention?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I respectfully say to the right hon. Gentleman that I do not recognise what he outlined at all. In addition to the fact that we do not have indefinite detention in this country, our policy is that there is always a presumption of liberty and that individuals are detained for no longer than is necessary. In fact, to be clear, some 93% left detention within four months, but we are always looking at best practice. ...

Dan Carden: It is completely wrong to say that we do not have indefinite detention. If someone is locked up and not given a timeframe for when they will be released, that is indefinite detention. Will the Minister not take on recommendations from Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons, the all-party parliamentary inquiry on detention, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Amnesty International and the Labour party for a statutory requirement of 28 days before release?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Detention is an important part of our process and of enabling returns, but we must be clear: to be lawful in this country, detention never lasts longer than is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose for which it was authorised, which is to return somebody. That is the policy that we run. ...

Christopher Chope (Conservative): Does the Minister agree that there are too many people in detention centres who should have already been deported? They should have been deported before the expiry of their prison sentences. Why is that not happening?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As always, my hon. Friend makes an important point. There are people in this country who are in prison and whom we would obviously like to return as foreign national offenders. I am pleased to say that we have returned a record number of people—almost 6,500—this year, but there is always more to do, and we will be very focused on doing just that.

Henry Smith (Conservative): My right hon. Friend is absolutely correct in saying that detention plays an important part in our immigration system, but, of course, while people are in detention, they should be free from abuse. There were some recent allegations of abuse at Brook House immigration detention centre in my constituency. What discussions has the Home Office had with the operator, G4S?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend makes a good point. Many of us—if not all of us—will have seen the unacceptable situation on the BBC "Panorama" programme. I met the operator of Brook House several times, including to look at the work that will be done to review what happened as well as to draw up an action plan. I will continue to keep my focus on that matter.

Afzal Khan (Labour): Last week, the chief inspector of prisons reported that that the survivors of torture, rape and trafficking are still being locked up in Yarl's Wood detention centre. That corroborates what was set out by Stephen Shaw and many others. Why is the Home Office failing to implement the policy for adults at risk in immigration detention and why are vulnerable people still being detained?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I can only repeat that we will detain people if we are looking to remove them and if we have a reasonable prospect of removing them. It is an important part of our process.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-20/debates/1C86C1FE-1295-4E66-97A3-A36B200F0603/ImmigrationDetentionCentres>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigrants: Data Protection

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [113006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what her policy is on data protection rights for immigrants; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The provisions in the Data Protection Bill will ensure that while people's rights relating to data are protected, day to day operations relating to immigration controls are not obstructed and individual rights are balanced against the wider interests of society.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-14/113006/>

Opportunity and Integration Review

Caroline Lucas (Green) [114513] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Answer of 16 October 2017 to Question 106973, what plans his Department has to include the recommendations of the Casey Review, in particular the promotion of English language skills for those from isolated communities, into the new integration strategy.

Reply from Marcus Jones: As stated in my answer to Question UIN 106973 on 16 October 2017, my Department has been reviewing the available evidence on the main causes of poor integration, including Dame Louise's Review. In the coming months we will bring forward plans for tackling these issues through a new integration strategy, including teaching more people to speak English.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-17/114513/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-10/106973/>

The Casey review, referred to above, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

Migrant Workers: EEA Nationals

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [114931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, following the announcement that the number of exceptionally talented migrant visas is to be doubled, what assessment she has made of the potential damage caused by the loss of free movement of EEA nationals on the digital technology, science and arts sectors.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The current Exceptional Talent demonstrates our commitment to continuing to attract top international talent in the digital technology, science and arts sectors.

We are building an immigration system that works in the national interest, and will continue to support these sectors and the wider economy. There are a range of options for the future immigration system and it is important that we understand the impacts on the different sectors of the economy and the labour market.

On 27 July, the Government commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to gather evidence on patterns of EU migration and the role of migration in the wider economy, ahead of our exit from the EU. The MAC will report in September 2018 and its findings will help shape the government's decisions on the future immigration system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114931/>

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

The following three questions all received the same answer

Sue Hayman (Labour) [113262] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will introduce a trial seasonal agricultural workers scheme in 2018.

Rural Areas: Migrant Workers

Sue Hayman (Labour) [113263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that rural businesses are able to recruit the workers they require from countries within the EU and elsewhere.

Seasonal Workers: Immigration Controls

Sue Hayman (Labour) [113364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether seasonal workers are included in the Government's target to reduce migration.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: For the time being, the United Kingdom remains a part of the European Union and the latest labour market statistics continue to show an increased number of EU citizens entering into the UK labour force. However, the Government has committed to keeping the position under review and we will continue to engage with the agricultural sector.

The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to assess the impact of leaving the EU and the subsequent needs of the UK economy, including the rural economy. We will outline our future immigration proposals in due course.

Net migration includes all persons coming to the UK for 12 months or longer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-15/113262/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-15/113263/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-15/113364/>

Visas: New Businesses

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [114939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa applications were refused in 2016-17 as a result of applicants being unable to provide evidence of investment funds in regulated financial institutions.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office retains records of visa decisions, including reasons for refusal, on internal casework systems. This information is not collated in central statistical databases, and is not recorded in a format suitable for publication.

It is an integral feature of the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route that all applicants provide the required evidence to show that they hold the required minimum funds to invest in their business.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114939/>

Immigration

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [114766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average wait time is for immigration applicants using the priority service.

Visas: Married People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [114765] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is for applicants waiting for decisions on spouse visa applications.

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

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

(then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114765/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114766/>

Visas: Married People

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [114764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress UK Visas & Immigration has made on clearing the backlog of applications for spouse visas as a result of the Supreme Court ruling in February 2017.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Significant progress has been made in taking decisions on applications affected by the MM Lebanon Supreme Court ruling and there remain very few applications awaiting assessment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114764/>

Refugees: Syria

Victoria Prentis (Conservative) [901928] What progress the Government has made on placing vulnerable Syrian refugee families in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is important that we focus our support on the most vulnerable refugees in the region fleeing the atrocities in Syria, whatever their nationality. Latest statistics published on 24 August confirm that a total of 8,535 people have been resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began, 4,369 of which arrived in 2016. We will continue to work closely with local authorities and devolved administrations to ensure we meet our commitment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-20/901928/>

Refugees: English Language

Matt Western (Labour) [111586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that refugees have access to English language classes after their arrive in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government is committed to ensuring that all refugees in the UK have access to English language courses. For refugees resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme the Government has provided additional funding which can be accessed by local authorities for these refugees only. Those who make their own way to the UK to claim asylum and are granted refugee status have access to English language courses without having to meet the normal qualifying requirement of three years ordinary residence. For refugees receiving work related benefits courses are free.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-06/111586/>

Refugees: Children

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [107370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have arrived in the UK under the Dubs amendment to date.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France. Over 200 of these children met the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 and 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.

We have secondees in Greece and Italy working on transfers of unaccompanied children to the UK under both the Dublin III Regulation and section 67. More eligible children are expected to be transferred from Europe in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-12/107370/>

Refugees: Children

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [113450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children have had their claims certified in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017 to date.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes data on the number of certified refusals for applications made by Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in tables as_09 and as_09_q of immigration statistics April to June 2017: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638599/asylum3-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-16/113450/>

Refugees: Children

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [113451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children who have had their claim certified have subsequently been removed from the UK in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017 to date.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes data on the number of certified refusals for applications made by Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in tables as_09 and as_09_q of immigration statistics April to June 2017: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638599/asylum3-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

However, the number of those who are refused and certified, who are then removed from the UK is not recorded in a reportable format. Statistics on general asylum and non-asylum removals are available in table 02 of Immigration Statistics April to June 2017:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638602/returns1-apr-jun-2017-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-16/113451/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [113165] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what processes her Department has in place to ensure that G4S accommodation for asylum seekers is fit for purpose.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contract requires Providers to visit and inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to inspect, investigate and quickly resolve when specific information is received and a contract management regime to monitor supplier performance and take measures where appropriate.

Asylum: Children

Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative) [113643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial assistance her Department provides to local authorities to support (a) unaccompanied asylum seeking children and (b) looked after children (LAC) in the care of the authority.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office provides funding to all local authorities who look after unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). The national rate is £41,610 per annum for under 16s and £33,215 per annum for 16 and 17 year olds. We also provide funding for former unaccompanied asylum seeking who turn 18 need leaving care support. This equates to £200 a week. These rates were increased significantly in July 2016 by 20%, 28% and 33% respectively.

The current rates are based on a detailed analysis of financial information send to the Home Office by local authorities about their costs of caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children.

In August 2017 a review of funding for UASC was launched and all local authorities who currently look after unaccompanied children have been invited to submit evidence.

Funding for children's services, including looked after children services, is non-ring-fenced and part of the wider local government finance settlement to give local authorities the flexibility to focus on locally determined priorities. It is for local authorities to determine how to spend their non-ring fenced income on the services they provide, including services for looked after children. They do so taking account local need, priorities, and of course their statutory responsibilities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-17/113643/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Jim Shannon (DUP) [10012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations her Department has received from representatives of churches and other faith groups on time limits for immigration detention; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Representations have been received from the Convenor (Church and Society) of the Church of Scotland which, amongst other things, called for the introduction of a time limit on immigration detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-11/10012/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Harriet Harman (Labour) [112742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of people who are detained for immigration purposes.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is clear that in tackling immigration abuse we will use alternatives to immigration detention wherever possible. This includes community engagement by our immigration enforcement teams, and the development of the compliant environment to prevent access by illegal migrants to work, services and benefits, designed to encourage compliance and maximise voluntary returns; and enforcing return through same-day removals.

Whilst detention will continue to be used to enforce returns where necessary, depriving someone of their liberty will always be subject to careful consideration and will take account of individual circumstances. Our aim is to focus on developing an immigration enforcement system founded upon compliance and

less reliant upon detention.

Consequently, we are reducing the size of the immigration detention estate, with the Home Office transferring The Verne immigration removal centre to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service from January 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-13/112742/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigrants: Data Protection

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL3142] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the provisions of the Data Protection Bill on migrants who wish to exercise their right to know (1) what information is held about them, (2) who is processing that information, and (3) why that information is being held or processed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The provisions in the Data Protection Bill will ensure that while people's rights relating to data are protected, day by day operations relating to immigration controls are not obstructed and individual rights are balanced against the wider interests of society.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3142/>

Public Sector: Immigrants

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour) [HL3151] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 10 October (HL Deb, col 105), what assessment they have made of the impact on the infrastructure and public services of the UK of migrants from outside the UK staying for (1) 12 months or more, and (2) less than 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Assessments of public service impacts of migration have been considered in previous Home Office publications – '*Social and Public Service Impacts of International Migration at the Local Level*' published in 2013; and Annex 6 of the Impact Assessment accompanying *The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016* provide examples of how these have previously been considered.

These publications can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-and-public-service-impacts-of-international-migration-at-the-local-level>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/177/impacts>

Social and Public Service Impacts

Impact Assessment

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3151/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL3249] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of those detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre are victims of rape, broken down into (1) women, and (2) men; and what is the average period those individuals have been detained.

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL3250] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to minimise the number of rape victims detained at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: No data is held centrally on whether individuals detained in immigration removal centres have been the victims of rape

or other forms of sexual violence.

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. By virtue of the policy, vulnerable individuals are detained only when the immigration control considerations that apply in their case outweigh the risk factors. Having been a victim of sexual or gender based violence is expressly included as an indicator of risk for the purposes of the policy. The policy is supported by the cross-cutting gatekeeper function, which assesses every decision to detain an individual in terms of their vulnerability and removability.

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-15/HL3249/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-15/HL3250/>

Press Release

Asylum: how EU agency EASO helps to process more than one million applications a year

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20171117STO88354/asylum-how-eu-agency-easo-helps-to-process-more-than-1-mln-applications-a-year>

News

Plan for Scottish visas drawn up for new immigration campaign

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-21/scotland/plan-for-scottish-visas-drawn-up-for-new-immigration-campaign-hmbmvfvqw>

'EU citizen application as easy as driving licence renewal'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42063898>

Immigration minister pledges 'swift' processing of EU citizens' status

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/nov/21/immigration-minister-pledges-swift-processing-of-eu-citizens-status>

Immigration minister Brandon Lewis 'wrong' on court's rule over EU citizens in UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-22/news/immigration-minister-brandon-lewis-wrong-on-court-s-rule-over-eu-citizens-in-uk-j06spjfwx>

Home Office minister ridiculed for denying immigrants face indefinite detention in Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-minister-brandon-lewis-immigrants-indefinite-detention-britain-comments-commons-a8065841.html>

Home Office systematically ignores medical advice to keep mentally ill immigrants in detention

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-mentally-ill-detention-centre-immigration-a8062446.html>

Non-EU migrant wins right to stay in the UK every 36 seconds: More than 865,000 people were allowed to live in Britain during 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5109497/Migrants-win-right-stay-UK-36-seconds.html>

Next decade of asylum housing hangs in the balance

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3268_next_decade_of_asylum_housing_hangs_in_the_balance

Value of asylum housing contracts doubles after criticism of conditions

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/23/value-of-asylum-housing-contracts-doubles-after-criticism-of-conditions>

G4S orders independent review into scandal-hit immigration centre

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/21/g4s-orders-independent-review-into-scandal-hit-immigration-centre>

Abuse of migrants at detention centre could be repeated across UK because of 'failing' system, MPs warn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-abuse-brook-house-g4s-immigration-removal-centre-detention-home-affairs-committee-cooper-a8068071.html>

'I like the rain': the only Syrian family in a Welsh village

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/25/i-like-the-rain-the-only-syrian-family-in-a-welsh-village>

Our safe haven: how we made ourselves at home in Britain

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/nov/26/our-safe-haven-immigrants-at-home-in-britain-cultural>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-09125 Richard Lyle (SNP): Lanarkshire Chinese Association – That the Parliament welcomes the £7,000 Awards for All Scotland grant that has been given to the Lanarkshire Chinese Association, which is a voluntary organisation that promotes the personal, educational, cultural and economic wellbeing of the Chinese community in the area; understands that the money will be used to establish a programme of community learning language classes for families, which will be run from the Whitehill Neighbourhood Centre; notes that it will also go toward celebration events, arts and crafts classes and tai chi lessons, which will aim to bring the wider community together; and believes that this model of communities working together and sharing culture is a perfect example of modern Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09125>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Police: Ethnic Groups

Alex Harris (Labour Co-op) [112691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of the Police Now cohort came from BAME backgrounds before it became an independent organisation.

Reply from Nick Hurd: The first cohort of Police Now was the only cohort to start the programme before Police Now became an independent organisation. Police Now has provided information on the proportion of that cohort who came from BAME backgrounds, which is 9%.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-13/112691/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Rickets: Ethnic Groups

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL2926] To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have undertaken of the steps necessary to protect members of the BAME community from the risk of rickets and its complications.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has no plans to designate a group of healthcare professionals focused on the prevention of rickets.

Rickets can generally be prevented by ensuring that children have a healthy, balanced diet, spend some time outside in the sun and take appropriate supplements containing ten micrograms of vitamin D. There is already a range of resources available to increase awareness of the need for vitamin D supplements, including advice on the NHS Choices website on the importance of vitamin D for bone health, and supplements are readily available over the counter and through the Healthy Start vitamins scheme.

In August the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) updated its public health guidance on increasing vitamin D supplement use among population groups at risk of vitamin D deficiency, in the light of the 2016 Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition report on Vitamin D and health. A copy of *Vitamin D: supplement use in specific population groups* is attached. This guideline includes recommendations on how to: increase access to and availability of vitamin D supplements, including for at-risk groups such as the BAME community, ensure health professionals recommend vitamin D supplements, raise awareness of the importance of these supplements amongst the population, and monitor provision and uptake of vitamin D supplements. Local commissioners will wish to consider how best to take forward these recommendations in respect of local BAME populations.

The Government has made no formal assessment of the research referred to. Given the widespread availability of vitamin D supplements and clear guidance to health professionals and the public the Government does not believe there is a need for further strategies to prevent rickets.

[Vitamin D supplement use](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-06/HL2926/>

New Publication

Unemployment by ethnic background

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06385/SN06385.pdf>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Caste as a Protected Characteristic

9. **Bob Blackman (Conservative):** When she plans to respond to the Government's consultation on caste as a protected characteristic in equality legislation. [902533]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Nick Gibb): The public consultation on how best to ensure that there is appropriate and proportionate legal protection against caste discrimination closed on 18 September. We received more than 13,000 responses, which are currently being analysed, and we will respond in due course.

Bob Blackman: Given the thousands of responses from British Hindus saying that having caste as a protected characteristic in equality law is unnecessary and divisive, will my right hon. Friend take action to remove that provision—which was introduced by the Labour party—from the legislative book?

Reply from Nick Gibb: We appreciate that caste is an extremely sensitive and emotive subject which is important to many people, but there is clearly no unanimous view among consultation respondents about how best to provide the necessary legal protection against caste discrimination. We are therefore considering the responses very carefully, and will be taking account of all the relevant points raised when deciding how to proceed.

Kate Green (Labour): Does the Minister recognise that leaving people to rely only on case law would not be sufficient, because they would be uncertain whether their cases would necessarily accord with decisions in previous cases, and does he agree that legislation is necessary for that reason?

Reply from Nick Gibb: The hon. Lady has expressed an opinion, and so has my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East (Bob Blackman). As I have said, we are looking at 13,000 opinions. We completely oppose any form of discrimination related to a person's caste, but the way in which we ensure that that does not happen must be proportionate. We will respond to the consultation in due course.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-23/debates/3E6C9DF6-6AD3-4B5E-8316-88FC0054EF2A/CasteAsAProtectedCharacteristic>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

World War II: Genocide

The following three questions all received the same answer

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [6939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with FIFA and UEFA on Holocaust education in football clubs.

Racial Discrimination: Football

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [6940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with FIFA and UEFA on programmes to tackle racism and discrimination in football.

Andrew Percy (Conservative) [6941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on racism and discrimination in the Champions League or the Europa League.

Reply from Nick Hurd: We have had no such discussions. We abhor racism and discrimination, which has no place in football and will not be tolerated. The Home Office works closely with partners at Council of Europe and European Union fora to support a safe environment for spectators and players at matches in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6939/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6940/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-09-04/6941/>

Employment: Discrimination

Naz Shah (Labour) [112556] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many claims of (a) age, (b) disability, (c) race, (d) religion or belief, (e) sex and (f) sexual orientation discrimination were (i) successful and (ii) unsuccessful at hearing in each year from 2012-13 to 2016-17.

Reply from Dominic Raab: The tables below show the number of Employment Tribunal claims disposed of at hearing, by outcome, for each financial year from April 2012 to March 2017, where the main jurisdiction was a discrimination complaint¹.

Financial Year April 2012 - March 2013		
Main Jurisdiction Complaint	Successful at hearing	Unsuccessful at hearing ²
Age discrimination	16	112
Disability discrimination	100	374
Race discrimination	54	426
Religion or belief discrimination	10	31
Sex discrimination	104	284
Sexual orientation discrimination	9	25
Financial Year April 2013 - March 2014		
Main Jurisdiction Complaint	Successful at hearing	Unsuccessful at hearing ²
Age discrimination	11	75
Disability discrimination	100	401
Race discrimination	74	381
Religion or belief discrimination	3	21
Sex discrimination	95	248
Sexual orientation discrimination	5	25
Financial Year April 2014 - March 2015		
Main Jurisdiction Complaint	Successful at hearing	Unsuccessful at hearing ²
Age discrimination	4	57
Disability discrimination	87	226
Race discrimination	43	230

Religion or belief discrimination	0	22
Sex discrimination	58	103
Sexual orientation discrimination	4	6
Financial Year April 2015 - March 2016		
Main Jurisdiction Complaint	Successful at hearing	Unsuccessful at hearing ²
Age discrimination	6	40
Disability discrimination	67	177
Race discrimination	29	163
Religion or belief discrimination	3	6
Sex discrimination	28	75
Sexual orientation discrimination	3	6
Financial Year April 2016 - March 2017		
Main Jurisdiction Complaint	Successful at hearing	Unsuccessful at hearing ²
Age discrimination	9	44
Disability discrimination	69	179
Race discrimination	23	133
Religion or belief discrimination	7	5
Sex discrimination	32	55
Sexual orientation discrimination	2	7

¹ A claim can be brought under one or more different jurisdictions, for example under Age discrimination and Equal pay. The table shows the number of claims disposed at hearing where the main jurisdiction is a discrimination jurisdiction.

² Includes "Unsuccessful at hearing" formerly "Dismissed at hearing - Otherwise" and "Dismissed at a preliminary hearing" formerly "Dismissed at hearing - Out of scope".

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system and are the best data that are available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-13/112556/>

Anti-semitism: Young People

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [112855] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to combat access to anti-Semitic propaganda among young people.

Reply from Marcus Jones: We are working with internet service providers to ensure that antisemitic propaganda which is deemed illegal is removed within 24 hours. In addition, internet service providers are making a concerted effort to ensure that antisemitic propaganda does not appear at the top of search results. We are also supporting the Anne Frank Trust's *Switch off Prejudice* programme, which empowers young people with the knowledge, skills and confidence, to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination and increase their digital resilience. The project is currently in its second year and has already achieved a significant impact on its participants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-14/112855/>

Information about the “Switch off Prejudice” programme referred to above can be read at <https://annefrank.org.uk/switch-off-prejudice/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Internet: Children and Young People

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL3004] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that children and young people who view disturbing or hate-filled material online, or otherwise digitally, are encouraged to report such material to parents, teachers or other responsible adults.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government is committed to ensuring that children and young people stay safe online. On 11 October, the government published its Internet Safety Strategy green paper, attached, setting out plans for keeping all users safe. The Internet Safety Strategy outlines the crucial role that education will play in improving children's safety online and the importance of digital literacy.

When carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, schools and colleges must have regard to the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance. The guidance, attached, was updated in September 2016 to include, for the first time, a section covering online safety, including the requirement for schools and colleges to ensure appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place. It also changed the emphasis from schools and colleges “considering” teaching about safeguarding (including online) to “ensuring” children are taught about safeguarding (including online).

As part of the computing curriculum pupils in primary and secondary schools are taught to identify inappropriate and unacceptable content and contact, and a range of ways to report concerns about this.

Education institutions are under a specific duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty). To support schools in this duty, the government published comprehensive advice and resource materials on the Educate Against Hate website, available at: <https://educateagainsthate.com/>. The website signposts to support provided by leading partners, such as the NSPCC and the UK Safer Internet Centre to help keep children and young people safe from the risk of online radicalisation. It includes advice on how to report online material promoting terrorism or extremism.

Higher and further education providers covered by the Prevent duty are required to understand and manage the potential risk posed by online material. This may include IT filtering or monitoring, or putting in place alternative measures. To support this activity and further protect young people online, the Department for Education has also funded a range of training material across Higher and Further education to raise awareness of the risk posed by online radicalisers and extremist content, and the support available to students and providers in responding to this.

[Keeping Children Safe in Education
Internet Safety Strategy - green paper](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-07/HL3004/>

New Publication

Anti-bullying week

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0237/CDP-2017-0237.pdf>

News

Police officer demoted for 'sectarian comment on cake'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-20/scotland/police-officer-demoted-for-sectarian-comment-on-cake-65n6v6bbx>

STUC 2017 St Andrew's Day Anti-Racism March and Rally

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/1332/stuc-2017-st-andrew-s-day>

Centre sees hundreds seek 'justice for all citizens of Scotland'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15683975.In_pictures_Hundreds_of_protesters_march_against_racism_through_Glasgow_City_Centre/

'Entire Muslim religion is antichrist': Veterans' group leader accused of 'disturbing' comment ahead of Edinburgh march

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/entire-muslim-religion-antichrist-veterans-11576962>

Anti-Semitic Tottenham taunts from Arsenal fans show that Russia is not the only racist nation... English football is in denial over problems in our game

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-5117531/Russia-not-racist-nation-England-denial.html>

School 'apologises after asking pupils whether they'd like to live beside a black person'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/school-bristol-black-free-school-naomi-davis-a8075906.html>

Islamophobia award 'puts target on back' of former equalities chief Trevor Phillips

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/islamophobia-award-puts-target-on-back-of-former-equalities-chief-5j3swc7dq>

Ahmadi mosques on guard over death threats from Muslims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/mosques-on-guard-over-death-threats-from-muslims-5t7hq9l0t>

Anti-Muslim online surges driven by fake accounts

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2017/nov/26/anti-muslim-online-bots-fake-accounts>

Man who intended to stab Muslims with ten-inch knife jailed

<https://tellmamauk.org/man-who-intended-to-stab-muslims-with-ten-inch-knife-jailed/>

Urban Dictionary: where antisemitism is "too popular" to ban!

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2017/11/22/urban-dictionary-where-antisemitism-is-too-popular-to-ban>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

A Fairer Scotland

<https://news.gov.scot/news/a-fairer-scotland-1>

Tackling violence against women and girls

<https://news.gov.scot/news/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-1>

Budget falls short for Scotland

<https://news.gov.scot/news/budget-falls-short-for-scotland>

Holyrood Committee sets out inquiry remit on MSPs Code of Conduct and sexual harassment complaints

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/106808.aspx>

New Publications

Fairer Scotland Action Plan - First Annual Progress Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527488.pdf>

Equally Safe - A Delivery Plan for Scotland's Strategy to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528064.pdf>

UK Autumn Budget 2017 - impact on Scotland

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2017/11/23/UK-Autumn-Budget-2017---impact-on-Scotland/SB%2017-81.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

UK Government Budget delivers for Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-budget-delivers-for-scotland>

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Other News

The Sun cleared over 'Muslim Problem' Trevor Kavanagh article

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42102361>

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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 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11218&i=102234#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=11199&i=102094#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>

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-21/debates/4BD8BD60-F424-4132-871D-D26E6E326DE9/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-21/debates/4BD8BD60-F424-4132-871D-D26E6E326DE9/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0005/amend/euwithdrawal_rm_cwh_1124.1-7.html

Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee: evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11205&i=102129#ScotParlOR>

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!**

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/>

**** Modernising the EU's common visa policy** (closing date 2 February 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy_en

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!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Lunchtime Equality Workshop

29 November 2017 in Kirkcaldy (12.00-1.30)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop about the Equality Act 2010, in particular "Accessibility and Reasonable Adjustments). For information contact 01592 645 310 / elric@centreforequalities.org.uk

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

The New Scots – Immigrant Communities since c1950

30 November 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.00)

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

Community Empowerment Act and Participation Requests

5 December 2017 in Glasgow (5.00-7.00)

13 December 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.30)

BEMIS workshops providing an opportunity to learn more about how the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 can impact your community. The Act empowers community bodies to get involved in local issues and participate in the decision-making process for public services. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8rc8mn3>

**** Scotland and Caribbean Slavery: Rethinking Glasgow's Sugar Aristocracy, 1775-1838**

7 December 2017 in Glasgow (6.00-8.00)

Lecture by Dr. Stephen Mullen as part of the BEMIS "Scotland's Diverse History Lecture Series". For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc5hbb5a>

**** Safer Internet Day**

8 December 2017 in Edinburgh (11.00-1.00)

Scottish Government event to find out about the Safer Internet Day 2018 campaign.

Safer Internet Day, in February each year is intended to empower children and young people to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yborugut>

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

**** The Scots in Poland - A Forgotten Diaspora**

12 December 2017 in Glasgow (6.00-8.00)

Lecture by Billy Kay as part of the BEMIS "Scotland's Diverse History Lecture Series". For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybr6awyg>

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

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 contact Aimee Ottroh

ottroh@icloud.com or see <http://tinyurl.com/y77alnbx>

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.

Discrimination Law in 2018: The authoritative review of the most dynamic area of employment law

29 January 2018 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an update on discrimination in relation to employment law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y6vxwcb> or contact Ross Mathers 0141 228 5919 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

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

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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

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.

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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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