

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract

Patrick Harvie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what level of input it had to the design of the asylum accommodation and support services contract, which was issued for tender by the United Kingdom Government on 21 November 2017. (S5O-01515)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): I wrote to the Minister of State for Immigration on 2 March 2017 to set out the Scottish Government's detailed priorities for the next asylum accommodation contract. I also raised the issue during my meeting with the immigration minister on 12 July.

Since autumn 2016, Scottish Government officials have taken part in a number of engagement events with members of the Home Office's asylum accommodation and support transformation project team.

I have to say that I have not been satisfied with the operation of the current contract. I made it clear that I wanted to be involved in the development of the next contract, to ensure that it meets the needs of asylum seekers in Scotland. It

is, therefore, extremely disappointing that the Home Office has gone ahead and published a contract notice without discussion and without a clear commitment to integration support. I have written to the immigration minister this week to express my deep concern about the process.

Patrick Harvie: No one should be satisfied with the current level of provision of asylum accommodation and support services. Among many others, the UK's Home Affairs Committee has condemned the level of provision that is offered by multinational corporations on a for-profit basis under the current contract.

The new contract will set the terms under which services are provided for the next 10 years. It is one of the biggest contracts that the UK Government lets—some £4 billion, £0.5 billion of which will be spent in Scotland over the decade. It is important that we get this right and do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Has the Scottish Government indicated to the UK Government a desire to put together a public sector-led bid to take on lot 5, which covers Scotland? If not, will it do so?

Reply from Angela Constance: I am grateful to Mr Harvie for his question. I have written to the UK Government on at least three occasions to express our concerns about the current contract, and in my meetings with two immigration ministers I have raised the desirability of having a public sector-led contract. Despite receiving a verbal assurance that the Home Office was open to a range of ideas, I am disappointed, as Mr Harvie is, that the Home Office and the immigration minister, in particular, have not responded to the detailed points made by the Home Affairs Committee—indeed, they have ignored many of those points—not least about the need to recognise the devolved Administrations as partners.

As far as the work that the Scottish Government will lead is concerned, we will continue to work with our stakeholders in the third sector. We continue to have discussions with the devolved Administration in Wales, and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and Glasgow City Council are important partners. The crucial issue here is that any third sector or public sector organisation must satisfy itself that it can provide a quality service to vulnerable people within the budget that the Home Office has set. That is the critical point.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Scottish Government has always made it clear that the provision of asylum accommodation and support should be led by the third sector or the public sector and not by those who have profit as a motive.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11235&i=102353#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-09230 Bob Doris (SNP): Maryhill Integration Network Backed to Tackle Social Isolation of Male Refugees – That the Parliament congratulates the Maryhill Integration Network on securing £71,663 from the Big Lottery Fund Scotland; welcomes that the funding will be used to assist young adult male asylum seekers and refugees experiencing high levels of isolation within Glasgow; commends Maryhill Integration Network for fostering the development of a social network for refugees, as well as providing opportunities for skills development within the Maryhill area; recognises how this project offers weekly group sessions, volunteer training schedules, Scottish English integration courses, and other group bonding activities; believes that such activities provide supportive opportunities for people newly arriving to the country, who have often travelled to Scotland's shores following traumatic and difficult circumstances overseas, to best integrate into society, and thanks Maryhill Integration Network for its continued support of all the area's diverse communities over many years.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09230>

S5M-09222 Linda Fabiani (SNP) Making Welcome the Stranger, Justice and Peace Scotland Delegation to Calais – That the Parliament thanks Justice and Peace Scotland, the Catholic Church’s national office for social justice and peacebuilding, for its ongoing work in support of refugees and asylum seekers; notes that Bishop William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway and President, is leading a delegation to Calais on 28-29 November 2017 as guests of Maria Skobtsova Catholic Worker House to learn more about its work supporting homeless people, including refugees in Calais; further notes the recent publication, *Like Living in Hell: Police Abuses Against Child and Adult Migrants in Calais*, by Human Rights Watch, which, it understands, followed the destruction of the so-called Jungle migrant camp in October 2016; understands that the destruction of the camp consequently led to many predominantly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children returning to the area, reportedly facing increasing hostility and restrictions from the local authorities, including the banning of food distribution and provision of showers, confiscation of sleeping bags and tents and reports of migrants being pepper sprayed; commends the endeavours of the many staff and volunteers in Calais, many from Scotland, who have supported and continue to support those fleeing persecution and exploitation, and hopes that as the Advent season begins, people of all faiths and none will recognise the nativity crib image of a displaced family seeking sanctuary as representative of the importance of supporting and making welcome the stranger, particularly those fleeing terror, persecution or exploitation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09222>

UK Parliament Debate

Migration Policy and the Economy

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-29/debates/9BC26045-DD8E-4C70-96AF-58E86FFD5538/MigrationPolicyAndTheEconomy>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality

Anna McMorris (Labour) [115367] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessments her Department has made of what changes may be required to the process of obtaining British citizenship for those with permanent residency status in the UK once the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU nationals and their family members are already required to meet the same statutory requirements as non-EU nationals when seeking to naturalise as British citizens. This includes a requirement, amongst others, to demonstrate that they are free from any immigration restriction on the period for which they might remain in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-23/115367/>

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

John Spellar (Labour) [114770] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for leave to remain status in each category were submitted in 2016; and how many were resolved within six months.

John Spellar (Labour) [114771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases for leave to remain status submitted in 2016 were designated as being as outside the service level agreement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on the number of applications

for leave to remain in all categories, as well as data on UK Visa and Immigration performance against service standards for applications made in the UK and from overseas, and the proportion of those cases classified as non-straightforward, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>.

Where an application is defined as non-straightforward due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114770/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114771/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Email

Chris Stephens (SNP) [114883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 November 2017 to Question 111996 on Visas: Married People, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that sponsors of (a) spousal visa applicants and (b) EEA family permit applicants who reside in the UK are not subjected to charges of up to £5.48 for enquiries to UK Visa and Immigration by email; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Where an application is made overseas UK Visas and Immigration have a chargeable email rates of £5.48 per email enquiry, this charge is levied to fund the contact centre commercial contract as the UK government believes it is right that those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs of the immigration system. Information is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk>

Where an application is made in the UK the customers will contact our in-country contact centre. The contact centres provide information about the Immigration Rules and the Points Based System requirements via a number of published customer enquiry line numbers. In 2014, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, UKVI changed all 0845 and 0870 prefix helpline numbers to lower call tariff rate 0300 prefix numbers. UKVI do not generate any income from these non-geographic numbers enquiry lines.

UKVI have in place self selection pages on the Gov.uk website (see link below), as well as effective use of informative telephony message on our help lines to further ensure and assist customers wanting to contact UKVI. This initial triaging activity on our website ensures customers are provided with the correct point of contact within our business regarding their in country or overseas application enquiry.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114883/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services

Chris Stephens (SNP) [114884] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 November 2017 to Question 111996 on Visas: Married People, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the advice his Department provides to sponsors of (a) spousal visa applicants or (b) EEA family permits residing in the UK to ensure that such people do not pay premium charges for using helplines; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Those who use the services overseas are predominantly prospective customers and in many case no application will be made and no application fee collected. Those that use the services from within the

UK will very often already have an immigration status with UKVI, have already paid an immigration fee and will also pay for any additional applications.

For UK Visas and Immigration in-country customers the contact centres provide information about the Immigration Rules and the Points Based System requirements via a number of published customer enquiry line numbers. In 2014, in line with Cabinet Office guidance, UKVI changed all 0845 and 0870 prefix helpline numbers to lower call tariff rate 0300 prefix numbers. UKVI do not generate any income from these non-geographic numbers enquiry lines.

UKVI have in place self selection pages on the Gov.uk website (see link below), as well as effective use of informative telephony message on our help lines to further ensure and assist customers wanting to contact UKVI. This initial triaging activity on our website ensures customers are provided with the correct point of contact within our business regarding their in country or overseas application enquiry.

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114884/>

Visas

The following two questions both received the same answer

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [115717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking improve its accountability to visa applicants who have experienced administrative errors relating to their applications.

Home Office: Standards

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [115718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of administrative errors it makes.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UK Visas and Immigration continually reviews its visa operation to improve performance and accountability. Customer feedback, including complaints, are taken into account to ensure we offer value for money; which includes improving the services we offer, the quality of the decisions we make, and the provision of an excellent customer service.

More widely, we have assurance regimes which aim to increase consistent quality and identify good and weak practice within the department. We utilise three regimes; operational oversight, independent business reviews and third party reviews, in conjunction with wider Home Office, in order to develop and ensure best practice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115717/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115718/>

Immigration

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [115918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applicants refused further leave to remain in the UK who had been granted recourse to public funds can continue to receive such public funds until their appeal rights against such a refusal have been exhausted.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Applicants who have recourse to public funds, can continue to receive such funds until their appeal is finally determined if they had valid leave when they made their application, and that leave and conditions were extended when their leave expired.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115918/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Michael Fallon (Conservative) [115608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an EU citizen who is the spouse of a UK citizen will require a visa or sponsor after the UK leaves the EU when that spouse has been absent from the UK for two years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In future, an EU citizen spouse applying to join a UK citizen will be subject to either the same rules that apply to non-EU citizens joining UK citizens, or alternatively, to any post-exit immigration arrangements for EU citizens.

However, in her Florence speech, the Prime Minister proposed an implementation period of around two years after the UK leaves the EU. The framework for this period, which can be agreed under Article 50, would be the existing structure of EU rules and regulations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-24/115608/>

Immigration: Offenders

The following three questions all received the same answer

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [114750] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people considered to have participated in acts classified as international crimes have been granted (a) discretionary and (b) indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each of the last seven years and what information her Department holds on those people.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [114751] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer 16 November 2017 to Question 112540 on Immigration, if she will publish the criteria used by her Department to determine whether an applicant for discretionary or indefinite leave to remain has committed an international crime.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [114752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 November 2017 to Question 112540 on Immigration, what categories of crime other than crimes against humanity are used by her Department to assess an applicant's participation in an international crime.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Where there are serious reasons for considering that an individual has committed a war crime, crime against humanity or genocide bringing them within the scope of Article 1F or Article 33(2) of the Refugee Convention, they are not eligible for discretionary leave or indefinite leave. If they cannot be removed from the UK due to a human rights barrier, they may be granted a limited period of leave to remain under the Restricted Leave policy. The Restricted Leave policy is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575522/Restricted-leave-v2.pdf.

We are unable to publish details specific to international crimes as the numbers are so small that this could lead to individuals being identified publicly, in breach of our Data Protection Act obligations.

For the purposes of the Refugee Convention, detailed definitions of war crimes and crimes against humanity are contained in Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the International Criminal Court (Rome) Statute which has been incorporated into UK law by the International Criminal Court (ICC) Act 2001. This is available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2001/17/contents>.

Guidance on applying this in asylum cases is set out for decision makers in the Home Office policy instruction on Exclusion (Article 1F) and Article 33(2) of the Refugee Convention available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-instruction-exclusion-article-1f-of-the-refugee-convention>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114750/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114751/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-21/114752/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-13/112540/>

Immigrants; English Language

Keith Vaz (Labour) [115193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons independent experts have not been appointed to review Tests of English for International Communication cases.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Evidence given to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into English Language Testing provides details of the methods through which the validity of TOEIC were determined and the subsequent reports into those methods. A link to the evidence given to the inquiry is provided here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry3/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-22/115193/>

Immigrants: English Language

Keith Vaz (Labour) [115194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tests of English for International Communication cases have not yet been received.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Evidence given to the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into English Language Testing provides information on the number of tests affected

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry3/>

Additionally, UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions in response to the abuse of secure English language testing. A link to the most recent available data is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

The table in SELT_02 is the closest match to the information requested.

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-22/115194/>

Immigrants: English Language

Keith Vaz (Labour) [115195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Test of English for International Communication cases resulted in people being deported.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions in response to the abuse of secure English language testing. A link to the most recent available data is provided here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

The table in SELT_02 is the closest match to the information requested.

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-22/115195/>

Private Rented Housing: Undocumented Migrants

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Lammy (Labour) [116110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of landlords' right to immigration checks on the ability of immigrant families to secure accommodation.

David Lammy (Labour) [116111] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the effect of landlords' rights to immigration checks on discrimination and anti-immigrant sentiment.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Landlords should check that prospective tenants have a right to rent in the UK by carrying out simple document checks under the Immigration Act 2014. Prior to implementing these arrangements across England, the Home Office undertook an evaluation of phase one of the Right to Rent scheme in the West Midlands. A mystery shopping element, carried out by independent researchers, found no evidence that the scheme caused discrimination in access to accommodation. This evaluation was informed and overseen by a Landlord Consultative Panel of housing experts and others, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission. This panel, which is co-chaired by the Minister for Immigration and Lord Best OBE, an acknowledged expert in housing and planning matters, has continued to monitor the results of the scheme.

The published evaluation report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-right-to-rent-scheme>

The Government has published a Code of Practice that advises landlords on how unlawful discrimination should be avoided. The Equality and Human Rights Commission and Equality Commission for Northern Ireland assisted in the drafting of this Code.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-28/116110/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-28/116111/>

Asylum: Sudan

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [115260] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, will she list how many Darfur asylum seekers have been (a) granted and (b) refused leave to remain for each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published data relating to the outcomes of asylum claims from each country (including Sudan) can be found in tab as_01 at volume 1 of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-23/115260/>

Asylum: Children

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [115493] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2017 to Question 113318, whether her Department collected data on the number of people aged 18 to 25 who applied for asylum as unaccompanied children and were then served with removal directions in previous years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Service of Removal Directions to adult failed asylum

seekers does not take into consideration whether the individuals were former unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Published Stats on Returns (vol 2) includes returns by age, gender and nationality and can be found in the following table.

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-23/115493/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel (Conservative) [116139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigrants have been held in immigration removal centres in each of the last 20 quarters; and of those how many have been (a) released and (b) removed from the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Reasons for leaving detention by quarter may be found in table dt_06_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, April to June 2017', available from the Home Office website at:

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/2017-11-28/116139/>

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sarah Champion (Labour) [115094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of provision of discretionary leave to remain for survivors of modern slavery identified in the UK.

Slavery

Sarah Champion (Labour) [115095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government has plans to protect the right to work for victims of modern slavery identified in the UK?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There is no right to work in the UK based on a person being confirmed as a victim of modern slavery. A person's immigration status will determine whether a person has the right to work in the UK.

Confirmed victims of modern slavery who do not qualify for leave to remain in another immigration route can be considered for a grant of Discretionary Leave to remain in the UK based on the particular circumstances of the individual case. This can include needing to stay in the UK in order to pursue a claim for compensation against their traffickers, the need to assist with police enquiries or due to personal circumstances. Those granted Discretionary Leave have recourse to public funds and permission to work.

Not all victims of modern slavery will wish to remain in the UK and so the Government is also committed to supporting those who wish to return home. The Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service can assist victims of modern slavery to return home.

The Home Office has recently produced a leaflet to raise awareness about immigration options for victims of modern slavery which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/help-for-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-22/115094/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-22/115095/>

Human Trafficking: Victims

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many confirmed victims of human trafficking have been granted discretionary leave to remain in each of the last three years?

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115568] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average period is for which discretionary leave to remain has been granted to survivors of human trafficking in each of the last three years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific information you have requested is not currently published.

Statistics on the total number of people granted discretionary leave for all reasons can be found online at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-23/115564/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-23/115568/>

Human Trafficking

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115909] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether safehouses for the victims of human trafficking have a statutory duty to inform social workers which county the victims have been placed in; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: When a victim of modern slavery is referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) they are offered access to a safe house or outreach support to facilitate their recovery. Details of the location of safe houses are not shared widely to ensure the safety of residents. Victims of modern slavery who are resident in safe houses are assisted by their support worker to access the support they need from statutory services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115909/>

Slavery: Victim Support Schemes

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost of providing weekly drop-in support services for victims of modern slavery.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for the introduction of weekly drop-in support services for victims of modern slavery.

Human Trafficking

Stephen Timms (Labour) [115911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish guidance on victim identification and support for those who have been subject to human trafficking.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The recent announcements on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) reform indicate the Government's commitment to markedly improve the identification of, and support provided to, victims of modern slavery. This includes the provision of 'drop in' services for all confirmed victims for up to 6 months after leaving support to aid the transition, provided by The Salvation Army. The Government also announced its intention to invoke Section 50 of the Modern Slavery Act, setting out in regulation the support that victims are entitled to and to launch a consultation in the preparation of statutory guidance, under Section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act, on identification and support for victims of slavery;

Detailed implementation plans for the reform programme are currently being developed which will identify likely timescales for each of the reform measures and the relevant cost implications will be factored into our routine financial planning process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115906/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115908/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115911/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Health Services: Immigrants

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour) [HL3113] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the cost impact of migration on each NHS authority in England, in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department does not hold this information.

However, an independent analysis report commissioned by the Department to better understand the use and cost of treating overseas visitors and migrants was published on 22 October 2013. This report shows that the cost of treating all visitors and migrants is estimated to be around £2 billion per year. This includes some groups who were entitled to free National Health Service treatment either by being ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, or exempt from charges under Regulations. However, of the £2 billion it is estimated that around £500 million is recoverable under the current charging regulations and the current application of the regulations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3113/>

Immigrants: Data Protection

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL3405] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they carried out an equalities assessment on the data sharing agreement on migrants' information that was signed in January between the Home Office, Department of Health and NHS England; if so, when it was carried out; and what are the equality implications.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The potential impact of the arrangements described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the data sharing agreement signed between the Home Office, Department of Health and NHS Digital, was considered before it was agreed, in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act and the Secretary of State for Health's duty on health inequalities. The MOU is subject to ongoing litigation and it would not be appropriate to comment further.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-20/HL3405/>

Undocumented Migrants

The following three questions all received the same answer

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour) [HL3148] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 October (HL Deb, cols 769–70), how many individuals are recorded by the Home Office as being in the United Kingdom illegally.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour) [HL3149] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many individuals they estimate to be in the United Kingdom illegally.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour) [HL3150] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure, in determining how many people are in the United Kingdom illegally, that exit checks and the International Passenger Survey cover dual nationals.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Any estimate of the exact size of the illegal population is extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around it.

Exit checks were introduced in April 2015 and are, over time, providing more detailed insights into the behaviour of migrants and how they comply with the restrictions placed upon their length of stay in the UK, but the data obtained does not provide the total number of illegal migrants in the UK. Instead of producing inaccurate numbers, the Government is focused on making it harder for people to live in the UK illegally.

The International Passenger Survey is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics and does not provide estimates of the size of the illegal population.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3148/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3149/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3150/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-10-23/debates/731367CA-CB85-4545-8260-B2D8DE2B9BD9/BanksImmigrationAct2016#contribution-B5412F09-6697-44AF-86D1-ED3F47B9CBE5>

Undocumented Migrants: Bank Services

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour) [HL3147] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 23 October (HL Deb, cols 769–70), how many individuals have been identified as being in the United Kingdom unlawfully only through checks carried out by banks and building societies under the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Any estimate of the exact size of the illegal population is extremely difficult and there would be considerable uncertainty around it.

The banking measures only apply to disqualified persons - these are illegal migrants who are known to the Home Office and are liable for removal or deportation from the UK. The Home Office shares details of disqualified persons with banks and building societies via a specified anti-fraud organisation, for them to check against their records.

The 2016 Act banking measures came into force on 30 October; however, banks and building societies are required to conduct their first immigration check on all personal current accounts within the first quarter (January – March) of 2018. Banks and building societies must report any matches to the Home Office and only take action on accounts when instructed by the Home Office.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3147/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-10-23/debates/731367CA-CB85-4545-8260-B2D8DE2B9BD9/BanksImmigrationAct2016#contribution-B5412F09-6697-44AF-86D1-ED3F47B9CBE5>

Refugees: Scotland

Lord Bruce of Bennachie (Liberal Democrat) [HL3426] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have been re-settled in Scotland, per council since May 2016, and from which country each of those refugees originated.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

The statistics are available in Volume 4 of the Asylum Data Tables in the most recent Immigration Statistics quarterly publication (April-June 2017) at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Table 'as_19_q' attached shows resettlement by nationality for those resettled under each resettlement scheme. Table 'as_20_q' shows refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme broken down by receiving local authority. (see table below) We do not routinely publish resettlement data for other schemes by receiving local authority.

Table as_20_q: Refugees (and others) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, including dependants, by local authority			
Quarter	Region	Local Authority	Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme
2015 Q4	*Total	*Total	1,085
2016 Q1	*Total	*Total	517
2016 Q2	*Total	*Total	1,044
2016 Q3	*Total	*Total	1,516
2016 Q4	*Total	*Total	1,292
2017 Q1	*Total	*Total	1,601
2017 Q2	*Total	*Total	1,228

[Tables as_19q and as_20_q](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-21/HL3426/>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL3451] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 24 October (HL1909), when they expect to publish the outcome of the review of asylum support; and whether they are consulting external stakeholders as part of that review.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We review the level of the cash allowances provided to destitute asylum seekers each year. Organisations with an interest in the issue are aware that we are currently undertaking another review and were invited to make representations in the normal way.

We published the outcome of the last review earlier in the year and subject to the views of Ministers expect to do the same. The report can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers>

We expect to complete the current review in the coming weeks.

[Report on review of cash allowance paid to asylum](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-21/HL3451/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-10-11/HL1909/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL3448] To ask Her Majesty's Government

what steps they are taking to ensure that Freedom of Information requests on the use of immigration detention for pregnant women are responded to within the deadlines specified by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office takes every step to ensure Freedom of Information requests are answered within the 20 day statutory deadline. The recent increase in the 90% performance target implemented by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has led to the Home Office reviewing its processes and implementing a series of measures to streamline drafting and clearance. With cases where the requestor has asked for information which is sensitive or difficult to obtain can lead to some responses missing their deadline. We closely monitor performance and stress at the most senior levels in the department the need to improve and maintain performance within acceptable levels.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-21/HL3448/>

Immigrants: Detainees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL3449] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish regular statistical information on the use of immigration detention for pregnant women, to ensure effective scrutiny of the 72-hour time limit on their detention.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL3450] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many women recorded as pregnant have been held in immigration detention since the Immigration Act 2016 came into force; and of those, how many left detention to be removed from the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office keeps under review the statistics that are published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, balancing user needs against burdens on data suppliers. We do not propose to publish statistical information routinely on the detention of pregnant women.

Through section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, which came into force on 12 July 2016, we have placed a 72 hour limit on the detention of pregnant women for the purposes of removal, extendable to up to a week in total with Ministerial authorisation.

It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose confidential medical information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed. Subject to these limitations, Home Office management information indicates that 47 pregnant women were detained in the immigration detention estate between 12 July 2016 and 30 June 2017. For the same period this resulted in 8 pregnant women being removed from the UK. This is provisional management information that has not been assured to the standard of official statistics.

The section 60 limitations, along with a new policy on adults at risk in detention, and other improvements to case working processes, represent a comprehensive package of safeguards for pregnant women in the immigration system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-21/HL3449/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-21/HL3450/>

Press Release

Media coverage frames public thinking on migrants and migration – UN report

https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58204#.WiQ_HLT1WnY

New Publications

Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662359/usa-guide-policy-changes.ods

Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Summary of latest statistics: How many people come to the UK each year?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year>

Why do people come to the UK? (1) To visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-1-to-visit>

Why do people come to the UK? (2) To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-2-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? (3) To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-3-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? (4) For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-4-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

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

How many people continue their stay in the UK?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Migration in the UK: Nov 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/migrationintheuknov2017>

Asylum transparency data: November 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663577/UK_VI_Asylum_Transparency_data_Q3_2017.ods

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663468/asylum-claims-basis-sexual-orientation.pdf

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation: data tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663421/asylum-claims-basis-sexual-orientation-tables.ods

Transfers of children to the UK from the Calais Operation: November 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663664/Transfers_of_children_to_the_UK_from_Calais_operation.ods

Population, UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02650/SN02650.pdf>

Immigration, UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02652/SN02652.pdf>

Asylum decisions, UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02654/SN02654.pdf>

Asylum seekers, UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02653/SN02653.pdf>

International migration, UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02652/SN02652.pdf>

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of asylum intake and casework April – August 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662769/An_Inspection_of_Asylum_intake_and_casework.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An Inspection of the Home Office's Asylum Intake & Casework April – August 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662748/Home_Office_response_ICIBI_report_on_Home_Offices_Asylum_Intake_Casework.pdf

World Migration Report 2018

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2018_en.pdf

News

Net migration falls by more than 100,000 after Brexit vote

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42178038>

Net migration to UK shows largest annual fall since records began

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/30/net-migration-to-uk-shows-largest-annual-fall-since-records-began>

Brexit vote sees largest fall in net migration to Britain ever recorded

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/30/brexit-vote-sees-largest-fall-net-migration-britain-ever-recorded/>

Net migration falls by a third after Brexit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/net-migration-falls-by-a-third-after-brexit-cqpkj3hzw>

Net migration registers biggest fall ever in the wake of the historic Brexit vote to hit lowest level since 2014 - but is still running at 230,000 a year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5131849/Net-migration-UK-dips-230-000-year.html>

Asylum seekers face appeals 'lottery'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42153862>

UK immigration latest: Net migration falls by more than 106,000 after Brexit vote as EU citizens flee

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-latest-brexit-eu-citizens-leave-vote-right-stay-talks-brussels-home-office-a8084086.html>

Home office struggling to cope with asylum applications

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-28/news/home-office-struggling-to-cope-with-asylum-applications-p29qkdq9g>

Half asylum claims 'non-straightforward' and as a result face long delays

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/28/half-of-asylum-claims-classed-as-non-straightforward-face-long-delays>

Number of asylum seekers waiting longer than target time rises 27% despite drop in applications

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-numbers-application-waiting-times-target-immigration-customs-a8084841.html>

More support for young migrants 'would help them avoid committing crimes'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-5131443/More-support-young-migrants-help-avoid-committing-crimes.html>

Sexuality cited in 3,500 asylum claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-12-01/news/sexuality-cited-in-3-500-asylum-claims-b2jgnq2fr>

Illegal immigrants 'have very little chance of being caught' due to Government cuts, union boss claims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/illegal-immigrants-government-cuts-resources-lucy-moreton-immigration-service-union-brexit-a8081511.html>

French police arrest gang over migrants sent to UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/french-police-arrest-gang-over-migrants-sent-to-uk-67jx307rr>

Four babies born as Syrian families thrive in Isle of Bute

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/four-babies-born-as-syrian-families-thrive-in-isle-of-bute-1-4624827>

Bute-iful babies: island life is just right for refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-28/scotland/bute-iful-babies-island-life-is-just-right-for-refugees-p08vzbdqh>

'Marcin was crying, begging for help': crisis of EU migrants detained in the UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/03/marcin-gwozdziński-immigration-centre-detention-death>

Syrian refugee language classes 'shortage' in Wales
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-42155782>

Family of woman facing deportation after 50 years in UK demand apology
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/29/family-of-woman-facing-deportation-after-50-years-in-uk-demand-apology>

'I can't eat or sleep': the woman threatened with deportation after 50 years in Britain
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/nov/28/i-cant-eat-or-sleep-the-grandmother-threatened-with-deportation-after-50-years-in-britain>

'They don't tell you why': threatened with removal after 52 years in the UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/01/man-detained-threatened-with-removal-after-52-years-in-the-uk>

Jamaican who's lived in Britain since he was eight is threatened with deportation despite having been here for over half a century
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5139403/Man-whos-lived-UK-52-years-threatened-deportation.html>

Refugee Futures Campaign
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3269_refugee_futures_campaign

Enjoying a Cup of Tea with a Refugee
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3272_enjoying_a_cup_of_tea_with_a_refugee

TOP

Community Relations

News

Muslim foster parents: 'We'd never had a Christmas tree - it made them so happy'
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/dec/03/muslim-foster-parents-it-has-been-such-a-blessing>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Mental Health Services: Black and Minority Ethnic Communities
<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-11-28/debates/B4D24C68-A7DD-4A6B-A556-A3730A7F0417/MentalHealthServicesBlackAndMinorityEthnicCommunities>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Children: Ethnic Groups

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [115785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of BAME children that have been arrested in England in each of the last five years

Reply from Nick Hurd: The Home Office collects and publishes data on the number of arrests broken down by ethnicity and age group, on an annual basis. These data are published in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin and accompanying tables, the latest of which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2017>

The Open Data Tables accompanying this release show the number of arrests broken down by police force, reason for arrest, ethnicity, age group and gender with a full time series back to 2006/07, which can be accessed here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654470/arrests-open-data-tables-ppp.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115785/>

Christianity

Jim Shannon (DUP) [115715] To ask the Honourable Member for Meridan, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church of England is taking to support Christians in the UK who face difficulties in following their faith in the (a) workplace and the (b) public forum.

Reply from Caroline Spelman: At its July 2012 session the General Synod of the Church of England passed the following motion:

“That this Synod express its conviction that it is the calling of Christians to order and govern our lives in accordance with the teaching of Holy Scripture, and to manifest our faith in public life as well as in private, giving expression to our beliefs in the written and spoken word, and in practical acts of service to the local community and to the nation.”

Bishops of the Church of England frequently speak about the need to ensure freedom of expression for Christians and for those of other faiths and none in the public square. In their joint letter before the last General Election, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote:

“Contemporary politics needs to re-evaluate the importance of religious belief. The assumptions of secularism are not a reliable guide to the way the world works, nor will they enable us to understand the place of faith in other people’s lives. Parishes and Chaplaincies of the Church of England serve people of all faiths and none. Their contribution and that of other denominations and faiths to the well-being of the nation is immense – schools, food banks, social support, childcare among many others – and is freely offered. But the role of faith in society is not just measured in terms of service delivery...The new Parliament, if it is to take religious freedom seriously, must treat as an essential task the improvement of religious literacy.”

The full text can be read here: <https://churchinparliament.org/2017/05/09/general-election-2017-archbishops-issue-election-letter/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-27/115715/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Rickets: Ethnic Groups

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL3099] To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have undertaken of the steps necessary specifically to protect members of the BAME community from the risk of rickets and its complications.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Government has no such plans. 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 10 micrograms of vitamin D, which is a widely available supplement. 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 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 the guidance, *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.

[Vitamin D: supplement use in specific groups](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3099/>

New Publications

Creating a Fairer Future: Young people's ideas for race equality in Scotland

https://www.youngscot.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/YS_Fairer_Future_Report_Final.pdf

Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663375/rac-e-criminal-justice-system-2016.pdf

Infographic: Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System 2016 England and Wales

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663376/rac-e-cjs-2016-infographic.pdf

Trends in associations between ethnic background and being sentenced to custody for young offenders in England and Wales between 2009 and 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663386/rac-e-cjs-supplementary-paper.pdf

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Online Hate Speech

col 469 **Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op):** To ask the Home Secretary if she will make a statement on the activities of Britain First, online hate speech and the sharing of inflammatory content online by the President of the United States, Donald Trump.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): Britain First is an extremist organisation that seeks to divide communities through its use of hateful narratives that spread lies and stoke tensions. The deputy leader of Britain First is subject to a pending criminal trial, accused of religiously aggravated harassment over the alleged distribution of leaflets and the posting of online material.

British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right, which is the antithesis of the values that this country represents: decency, tolerance and respect. We will stand with them in doing so. That is why we launched our counter-extremism strategy in 2015 and our hate crime action plan just last year. This House should be clear that this Government will not tolerate any groups that spread hate by demonising those of other faiths or ethnicities and that deliberately raise community fears and tensions.

We have been clear: President Donald Trump was wrong to retweet videos hosted by the far right group, Britain First. When we look at the wider picture, the relationship between the UK and America, I know how valuable the friendship is between our two nations. As Home Secretary, I can tell the House that the importance of the relationship between our countries—the unparalleled sharing of intelligence between our countries—is vital. It has undoubtedly saved British lives. That is the bigger picture here and I urge people to remember that.

Stephen Doughty: ... Anybody who purveys hatred or violence online or in person, whether that be the fascist far right, those who falsely claim to be acting in the name of Islam, or anti-Semites, should rightly be exposed and dealt with.

Let us also be clear: this is the President of the United States sharing with millions inflammatory and divisive content deliberately posted to sow hatred and division by, as the Home Secretary says, a convicted criminal who is facing further charges and who represents a vile fascist organisation seeking to spread hatred and violence in person and online. By sharing it, he is racist, incompetent or unthinking—or all three.

Will the Home Secretary please explain what the Government are doing to crack down on the activities, including those online, of Britain First and other far right organisations, and explain why Britain First has not yet been proscribed in the way that National Action has been? ...

col 471 **Reply from Amber Rudd:** ... We have taken [online social media extremism] extremely seriously, which is why I proscribed National Action, the first far-right group to be so proscribed as a terrorist organisation. ... We are very careful in identifying what merits proscription. ... we abide by the letter of the law in being very clear where members or activists embark on actions that are or are not legal. ...

Peter Bottomley (Conservative): The retweet has been condemned. We can concentrate on the wrong done by the original tweet. Can we ask the Home Secretary if we can do right by identifying, isolating, putting down and putting out the intended community, religious and ethnic strains?

Reply from Amber Rudd: It is essential that we have a fair approach to all types of extremism, and with a view to that we always make sure that far-right extremism is treated just as harshly, as it should be, as any sort of radical Islamic terrorism. It is interesting to observe that 25% of referrals to the Channel programme—the bespoke programme that follows Prevent referrals—are in fact

on the far-right side.

col 472 **Stuart McDonald (SNP):** ... the sharing of tweets by an extremist, offensive and racist organisation is not fitting of someone holding such high office and must be condemned unequivocally. ...

Stephen Hammond (Conservative): Local authorities have a key role in combating extremism. Can the Home Secretary say exactly what the Government plan to do further to support local authorities to ensure that they can undertake this role?

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... We actively engage with them through the Prevent programme, which allows us to support community organisations that are embedded in the local area. Those organisations can go out and engage with local groups, providing the support to safeguard people, particularly young men and women who may be becoming radicalised. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... Britain First gets its succour from spreading its poison and its extremism online—that is how it works—and the President of the United States has just given it a rocket boost in promoting hatred in our communities. ...

col 474 **Dennis Skinner (Labour):** ... Action is needed. Three times the Home Secretary has been asked by Opposition Members to cancel the state visit. Action is needed now, not a slap on the wrist. Cancel the state visit.

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... the invitation has been extended and accepted, and we have yet to make the arrangements. ...

Khalid Mahmood (Labour): How would the Home Secretary respond if similar tweets to those made by President Trump were made by a Muslim leader promoting hatred? Would they be allowed into the UK?

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... I have been clear that we take an even-handed approach to individuals and to extremism of any sort, which is why I took the time to point out that right-wing extremism of the sort we have seen retweeted and the sort we have seen from National Action, which meant that we proscribed it, is just as hateful and just as dangerous as any sort of radical Islamic extremism. ...

col 475 **Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op):** Hate breeds hate, and an attack on the Muslim community is an attack on us all. Not content with attacking minorities in the United States, Donald Trump, by giving a platform to Britain First, a rabidly racist and neo-fascist organisation, is now actively sowing seeds of hatred in our country. At a time when the number of hate crimes in our country is increasing, what action will the Home Secretary take today to mitigate the horrific actions that the President took yesterday?

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... we take all forms of hate crime very seriously. We always encourage communities to report it when it takes place. I have active engagement with the police and crime commissioners and the chiefs of police to ensure that reporting does take place. Critically, we have a role to make sure that online companies do more to take material down, ensure that reports of fake news are not posted and help us identify who has been promoting hateful information. ...

Rachel Maclean (Conservative): ... Does my right hon. Friend agree that the danger with organisations like Britain First is that they conceal their hateful activities behind a cloak of fluffiness? They sometimes talk about Remembrance Day in a very insidious way, to trick people ...

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... She is absolutely right that sometimes extremist far right groups try to hijack our national symbols and our national days of memorial and remembrance. We need to make sure that we always call that out. ...

col 478 **Lisa Cameron (SNP):** We must take a firm stance against hate speak and ensure that future generations do so as well. Will the Home Secretary and her colleagues consider supporting Holocaust education in schools so that younger generations understand the importance of standing up against discrimination and the very grave consequences of inaction?

Reply from Amber Rudd: ... The Holocaust Educational Trust does incredibly good and important work. I know that because some of the children in my schools

in Hastings and Rye have been on such trips, and I have been on one myself. It is a very powerful way of remembering the terrible things that happened, and of learning how by remembering them we can make sure that they do not happen again. I absolutely support her point.

col 479 Kate Green (Labour): ... Will [the Home Secretary] ... ask the Prime Minister to tell him that every time this kind of hate speech is perpetrated my black, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and other minority constituents feel more fear and fear alienation and suspicion from others in the community, and that the President will not be welcome in this country because he is perpetrating and extending that hate speech?

Reply from Amber Rudd: We are clear that the sort of hatred that she describes and the sort of division that is sown by Britain First, for instance, is unwelcome here in the UK. ...

col 481 Rupa Huq (Labour): Back in 2010, the now Prime Minister, as Home Secretary, banned radical Indian televangelist preacher Zakir Naik from entering the UK for his repeated pattern of unacceptable behaviour—in particular his line that “every Muslim is a terrorist”. Her exact words at the time were: “I am not willing to allow those...not...conducive to the public good to enter the UK.”

Surely the same applies to President Trump and his frequent repugnant outbursts? We are in Islamophobia awareness month, which was launched here the other day. The Government’s own Casey report was quoted. It says that trigger events feed Islamophobia, which means that women have their hijabs ripped off them; that grandads are murdered on the way back from prayers; and that pigs’ heads are left on mosque doorsteps. As a Muslim, I ask the Home Secretary to do the same as her predecessor, our Prime Minister, did in those previous examples. A rapper was also excluded for his misogynist lyrics. Can the Home Secretary not just continue on that track and ban this visit altogether?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I thank the hon. Lady, particularly for her point about Islamophobia, which we take incredibly seriously. That is why it featured so strongly in the hate crime action plan that I launched last year and why we have provided extra money to make sure that mosques can be protected. We have also given additional financial support for Tell MAMA, which does such great work in combating Islamophobia. ...

To read the full transcript see

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-11-30/debates/9ED5779E-DAA6-4DF6-A558-8C7E533A469E/OnlineHateSpeech>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Hatred: Islam

Martyn Day (SNP) [114722] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will make an assessment of the potential implications for his policies of the Tell MAMA Annual Report for 2016 on Anti-Muslim Hatred; and what steps his Department plans to take to address the increase in the proportion of directly abusive and violent anti-Muslim incidents.

Reply from Marcus Jones: We take hate crime in all its forms very seriously that is why the United Kingdom has some of the strongest hate crime legislation in the world. The increase in hate crime reported to Tell Mama in part reflects a greater encouragement and confidence around reporting as well as an increasing number of data sharing agreements with police forces.

Nevertheless, it is deplorable that any Muslim citizens should be subjected to abuse on account of their belief or appearance.

My Department works with Muslim communities through our anti-Muslim-hatred working group to address the problem of hate crime and to encourage greater reporting.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-11-20/114722/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Online Hate Speech

Repetition of above House of Commons Oral Answer by Amber Rudd followed by Q&A:

col 751 Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): ... does the Minister agree that the United Kingdom always has and always will fight terrorism wherever it comes from, with our police, security services and military keeping us safe 24 hours a day, and that people of faith—whatever that faith may be—and people of no faith coming together in communities, respecting each other, celebrating our differences and learning from each other, is equally important in fighting terrorism and the spreaders of hate? Will she and her colleagues in government look again at what they can do to remove these vile sites, such as that of Britain First, from the web?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I completely agree with the noble Lord. We will always fight terrorism, and we will fight it together in whatever form it takes. We should remember that our different communities and different faiths played a part in both the wars that we have fought together. As a society, we will not tolerate any divisions that seek to penetrate our communities. On the noble Lord's point about going further to tackle activities on Twitter and other social media sites, Twitter now takes down 95% of illegal activity, but on the point about us working together as two nations, it is because of the US that we were able to talk to the CSPs about taking down such content from Twitter and other platforms, and we will continue to do that. We now have the online hate crime hub, Tell MAMA, which allows people to report Islamophobia, and the Community Security Trust as a repository for people to report anti-Semitism and related activity. We are absolutely determined to drive out all forms of hatred within our country, and this country should be rightly proud of the tolerance and respect that it has for other faiths and other communities.

col 752 Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): ... Does the Minister agree that there is a difference between Islam, a religion, and Islamism, a violent political ideology that seeks to overthrow democratically elected Governments and liberal values, and that the expression "Islamic terrorism" is both a contradiction in terms and deeply unhelpful? We must clearly differentiate between violent criminals and the followers of a religion.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right to make that distinction between Islam and Islamist extremism. I make the point that the overwhelming majority of Muslims in this country are law-abiding, peaceful people who abhor Islamist extremism. ...

The Lord Bishop of Worcester: Further to the last point made by the noble Lord, does the Minister agree that in addition to abhorring violence, the vast majority of Muslims in this country make an immeasurable contribution to the life of this country, for which we should be profoundly grateful and which needs to be expressed by this House?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am delighted to express on behalf of this House, as I am sure noble Lords agree, that not only do Muslims abhor violence—it is part of the teaching of the Koran—but they helped us in wars that we have fought. I have first-hand experience of how they helped in the aftermath of some awful events in this country, not only the terrorist attack in Manchester, when Muslim taxi drivers were on hand giving their service for free, but after the floods in Manchester when the Muslim community helped to provide food and shelter to people who were in need. It brought communities together, and we

should remember that. ...

col 753 Lord Hain (Labour): My Lords, can we assume that President Trump tweets only messages he has thought carefully about and agrees with? If so, he has endorsed a Nazi group with a vicious record of attacks, racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Surely there can be no question of a state visit until he has expressed at least some remorse about this.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP): My Lords, do the Government agree with what the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury said in Paris last September to the effect that it is wrong to pretend that Daesh has nothing to do with Islam and that we will not defeat Islamism until we understand Islam? What are the Government doing to further that understanding?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is absolutely correct that Daesh has nothing to do with Islam. Daesh seeks to promote its ideology as a form of Islam, but actually it is nothing to do with Islam, which is a peaceful religion.

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench): My Lords, has not the time now come when we should welcome an imam to our House?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It would be a great moment if we did.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister said that the state visit has been offered and accepted. The noble Lord, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, the government Minister for Faith, less than 50 minutes ago said that he would be unable to welcome the President of the United States because of the tweets. With the Home Office being responsible for community cohesion, would she and other Ministers in the Home Office also be unable to welcome the President of the United States?

col 754 Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the point has been made both in the other place and here today that we must think about the relationship between the US and the UK as incredibly important. ... I reiterate the point that the invitation was extended and accepted.

To read the full transcript see

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-11-30/debates/10C0FC75-0026-402E-8429-F288605D8937/OnlineHateSpeech>

Press Release

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination holds thematic discussion on racial discrimination in today's world

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22471&LangID=E>

News

Trump retweets Britain First anti-Muslim videos

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-11-29/news/trump-retweets-britain-first-anti-muslim-videos-z5n0690fm>

Britain First boasts of Trump's approval on Twitter

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/far-right-boasts-of-trump-s-approval-britain-first-jayda-fransen-h3m96fwj>

Britain First: the group behind crucifix stunts against Muslims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/britain-first-group-behind-crucifix-stunts-against-muslims-r5w3dnds>

Jayda Fransen: Britain First leader appeals to Trump for legal help after he retweets her
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jayda-fransen-trump-britain-first-appeal-twitter-retweets-muslim-attacks-a8083331.html>

Brexit strongly linked to xenophobia, scientists conclude
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/brexit-prejudice-scientists-link-foreigners-immigrants-racism-xenophobia-leave-eu-a8078586.html>

'Antisemite' Laura Stuart suspended from Labour Party
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/antisemite-laura-stuart-who-runs-gaza-boat-convoy-twitter-account-suspended-from-labour-party-pq2b5vkpl>

Woman beaten up in racist attack in Batley, Yorkshire
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/woman-racist-attack-batley-yorkshire-asian-men-nikki-hurst-school-uniforms-a8084896.html>

Muslim student says she was ordered to remove headscarf at McDonald's
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/01/muslim-student-ordered-remove-headscarf-mcdonalds>

McDonald's 'refuses to serve woman because she's wearing a hijab'
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mcdonalds-hijab-refuses-london-holloway-road-service-muslim-woman-burqa-islamophobia-a8088386.html>

McDonald's orders 19-year-old Muslim student to remove her headscarf or leave because it's a 'security threat'
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5136877/McDonalds-orders-Muslim-student-remove-headscarf.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Policing

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11234&i=102340#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon - St Andrew's Day Message

<https://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/first-minister-nicola-sturgeon-st-andrews-day-message>

New Publication

Responding to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) In Scotland - Multi Agency Guidance

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528145.pdf>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Devolution: Scotland

Lord Steel of Aikwood (Liberal Democrat) [HL3152] To ask Her Majesty's Government, what assessment they have of the case for devolving more powers to the Scottish Parliament after Brexit.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The Government expects that the return of powers from the EU will lead to a significant increase in the decision making powers for the devolved administrations, including the Scottish Parliament. It will bring power closer to people than ever before.

The Government is continuing to discuss this with the devolved administrations, working through the relevant areas of EU law to determine where common approaches will and will not be required, and the different forms that common approaches could take. The common framework principles agreed at the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) are guiding these discussions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-11-13/HL3152/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Gerard Killen (595) Scottish Labour Leadership – That this House congratulates the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Central Scotland, Richard Leonard MSP, on his election as Leader of the Scottish Labour Party; welcomes his commitment to reaching out to all people across Scotland irrespective of background or politics; recognises the message of togetherness and solidarity that was at the heart of Mr Leonard's campaign with a plan focused on delivering for the many not the few; confirms support for Mr Leonard's plan to move Scotland forward; and reconfirms the focus on the continuation of good, strong and effective relations between Westminster and Holyrood in order to build a stronger, better UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/595>

Press Release

Prime Minister's St Andrew's Day message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-st-andrews-day-message-30-november-2017>

New Publications

Ethnicity and religion UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02655/SN02655.pdf>

Devolution and Exiting the EU and Clause 11 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: Issues for Consideration

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpubadm/484/484.pdf>

TOP

Other News

Muslim population in some EU countries could triple, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/29/muslim-population-in-europe-could-more-than-double>

UK's Muslim population could treble by 2050, research finds

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/uks-muslim-population-could-treble-by-2050-research-finds-8x5c278w3>

Muslim population of the UK could triple to 13m following 'record' influx

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/11/29/muslim-population-uk-could-triple-13m-following-record-influx/>

TOP

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

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

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

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

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

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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 <https://tinyurl.com/y88v76nk>

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>

**** Refugee Community Sponsorship**

14 December 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

Working with Interpreters

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

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.

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.

[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/>

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

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