

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Refugees: families

**Paul Masterton (Conservative) [T8]** Prior to Christmas, I had the pleasure of meeting some of the Syrian refugees who now call East Renfrewshire their home. One of them, Nader Bani Almarja, is looking to be reunited with his family, who remain in Lebanon. I appreciate that the Home Office can only consider applications that come directly from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, but will the Home Secretary explain how her Department works with UNHCR to facilitate the resettlement scheme so that families, once identified for resettlement, do not get stuck in an administrative logjam? [903168]

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** ... We rely on UNHCR to identify and process the most vulnerable refugees as it is uniquely placed to determine refugee status, and to assess vulnerabilities, needs and suitability for resettlement. If UNHCR decides that resettlement is the most appropriate solution, it will then consider which resettlement scheme best suits people's needs, which may be a UK scheme.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-08/debates/18CBD89E-019F-49D4-843C-298BFB627511/TopicalQuestions#contribution-62A4C8FB-3FC7-4426-8CA6-D3AFF9DE6ADF>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### British Nationality: Applications

**Ian Lavery (Labour)** [120211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's current target is for the length of time for it to complete an application for citizenship; and what the current average waiting time is for an application for citizenship.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** The target is to decide straightforward cases within six months. Performance against that target is recorded in published data here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-november-2017-on-the-tab InC\\_02](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-november-2017-on-the-tab-InC_02)

The latest data published shows that 100% of straightforward cases were decided within target. There is no published data on actual processing times.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-19/120211/>

### Immigration

**John Spellar (Labour)** [903121] How many applications for leave to remain are under consideration by [the Minister's] Department.

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** At the end of September 2017, at the time of our last published data, 86,219 applications for limited leave to remain were under consideration by the Department.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/903121/>

### Skilled Workers: Visas

**Jo Stevens (Labour)** [120776] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the suitability of the UK Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List for the current UK labour market.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) reviews the Shortage Occupation List when commissioned to do so by the Government.

The MAC has carried out two full reviews and four partial reviews of the Shortage Occupation List since May 2010. The MAC recently reviewed the teaching sector and published its report in January 2017, alongside an updated methodology on assessing labour market shortages, and published a review of nursing in March 2016.

Further information about the MAC's methodology and the reviews it has carried out are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120776/>

### Immigrants: Employment

**Gill Furniss (Labour)** [120539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the employer checking service for people seeking employment.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Employers have various statutory duties to conduct checks on people seeking employment. These include the need to comply with Home Office regulations under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 on the prevention of illegal working, which involve checking specified documents which evidence a person's right to work in the UK.

The Home Office continues to operate a checking service for employers to confirm a migrant's right to work where the individual has an outstanding immigration application, administrative review or appeal. The Home Office remains committed

to strengthening and simplifying checks to better prevent illegal working, and continues to work closely with UK employers towards this objective.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120539/>

### **Undocumented Workers**

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [121332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many penalties by type have been issued for employing illegal workers in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Information on the number of civil penalties issued to employers for employing illegal workers in the financial years 2012/13 to 2016/17, and for the current financial year to the end of December, is in the attached table. The figures are for all civil penalties issued to employers in the periods shown, as different types of civil penalties do not exist.

Financial years	Number of initial penalties issued
2012/13	1,270
2013/14	2,149
2014/15	1,974
2015/16	2,594
2016/17	2,933
2017/18 (up to 30/12/17)	1,656

Please note the figures are for penalties levied at the initial decision stage which may be reduced, cancelled, increased or reissued at the objection or appeal stage.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121332/>

### **Department for Exiting the European Union: Families**

**Fiona Bruce (Conservative)** [119212] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, to which legislation his Department has applied the Family Test, published in August 2014.

**Reply from Steve Baker:** The Government is committed to supporting families. To achieve this, in 2014 the Department for Work and Pensions introduced the Family Test, which aims to ensure that impacts on family relationships and functioning are recognised early on during the process of policy development and help inform the policy decisions made by ministers. The Family Test was not designed to be a 'tick-box' exercise, and as such there is no requirement for departments to publish the results of assessments made under the Family Test.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-13/119212/>

### **Refugees**

**Michael Tomlinson (Conservative)** [903119] What steps [is the Minister] taking to support refugees living in different regions of the UK.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** We are committed to supporting refugees to integrate and rebuild their lives in the UK. This is why they are given the same access to the labour market and benefits as UK residents, as well as access to English language training. The most vulnerable refugees who arrive under one of our resettlement programmes also receive a comprehensive package of support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/903119/>

## Refugees

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Thangam Debonnaire (Labour)** [121557] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will reintroduce a programme of support to newly-recognised refugees similar to that provided by the Refugee Integration and Employment Service until 2010.

**Thangam Debonnaire (Labour)** [121583] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will produce a National Refugee Integration Strategy.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government has been reviewing the available evidence on the main causes of poor integration and in the coming months will bring forward plans for tackling these issues through a new integration strategy.

This will set out how we will support people in more isolated communities, and assist women, into the workplace in particular, and teach more people to speak English. The strategy will be widely applicable and will include refugees. Refugees are currently given the same access to the labour market and benefits as UK residents, as well as access to English language training. There are no plans to reintroduce a programme of support similar to that previously provided by the Refugee Integration and Employment Service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121557/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121583/>

## Health Services: Refugees

**Thangam Debonnaire (Labour)** [121561] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will publish guidance for healthcare professionals on the entitlements refugees have to NHS treatment.

**Reply from Stephen Barclay:** The Department has published extensive guidance on implementing the overseas visitor charging regulations. This guidance is for use by all frontline staff providing National Health Service funded services, as well as the providers and commissioners of those services. It is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-overseas-visitors-hospital-charging-regulations>

This guidance, most recently refreshed in December 2017, is clear that refugees (those granted asylum, humanitarian protection or temporary protection under the immigration rules), and their dependents, are exempt from charges for NHS-funded services. They are therefore eligible for free NHS care in the same way as someone who is ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom. This guidance also sets out that any individual who has made a formal application with the Home Office to be granted asylum, temporary protection or humanitarian protection which has not yet been determined is also exempt from charges, as are their dependants, as part of the application.

Advice and guidance for healthcare practitioners on the health needs of migrant patients, including refugees, was also published by Public Health England on 8 January 2018 and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121561/>

## Asylum

**Heidi Allen (Conservative)** [121008] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many parents have been (a) granted and (b) refused a visa to join their child with either refugee leave or humanitarian protection in the UK in (i) 2015, (ii) 2016 and (iii) 2017.

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** The specific information you have requested is not currently published.

Published statistics on visa applications in the Family category can be found online at the following address:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/662518/entry-visas1-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662518/entry-visas1-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/121008/>

### Asylum

**Heidi Allen (Conservative) [121009]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people seeking family reunion with extended family members in the UK have (a) applied for and (b) been granted asylum in exceptional circumstances in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** The Home Office does not record information in such a way to be able to report on the number of people seeking family reunion with extended family members in the UK and an individual cannot apply to be considered for family reunion under the exceptional circumstance arrangements. Instead, they would apply for Family Reunion under the Immigration Rules but, if they are refused under the Rules, the Home Office would then go on to consider whether there are exceptional circumstances.

As such, the figures for applications and visas issued under the Rules and under the exceptional circumstances arrangements are as follows:

	Total number of Family Reunion applications – age at the date of application - under 18	Total number of Family Reunion applications – age at date of application - over 18	Total number of Family Reunion visas issued ('Family Other' category)	Total number of Family Reunion visas issued under exceptional circumstances arrangements
2015	4,980	3,220	4,887	21
2016	4,811	3,701	6,098	49
2017 (up to 30 September 2017)	2,625	2,821	3,801	49

All those issued a family reunion visa are granted leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, not asylum. The family reunion application process does not require an assessment of the applicant's international protection needs. It is the family member in the UK that is required to have been granted refugee status or Humanitarian Protection.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/121009/>

### Asylum

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [121349]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outgoing Dublin III regulation transfers were made by the UK in 2017.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [121350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration was for the Dublin III regulation procedure from the issue of outgoing request to the UK to the transfer to the Member State responsible.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [121351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration was of the Dublin III regulation procedure from a Member State accepting responsibility to the transfer from the UK to the Member State responsible.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we

do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_quarterly\\_report](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report).

The Commission has data up to, and including 2016. This shows the UK processed over 6,000 Dublin requests in 2016: over 4,200 outgoing requests to other Member States and almost 1,800 incoming requests. 2017 data is not yet available.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, member states have two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim.

Once a Dublin request has been accepted, the Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer. The Home Office works closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six month timeframe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121349/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121350/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121351/>

## Asylum

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Stuart McDonald (SNP)** [121356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incoming Dublin III regulation requests were received by the UK in 2017.

**Stuart McDonald (SNP)** [121357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which three countries made the most Dublin III regulation requests to the UK in 2017; and how many such requests were made by each of those countries.

**Stuart McDonald (SNP)** [121358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incoming Dublin III regulation requests based on Article 16 Regulation 604/2013 relating to the dependent persons clause were received by the UK in 2017.

**Stuart McDonald (SNP)** [121359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incoming Dublin III regulation requests based on the discretionary clause pursuant to Article 17(2) Regulation 604/2013 ("humanitarian clause") were received by the UK in 2017.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_quarterly\\_report](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121356/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121357/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121358/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121359/>

### **Asylum**

**Stuart McDonald (SNP)** [121419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incoming Dublin III regulation requests were received by the UK in 2017 broken down by responsibility criterion under Chapter III Regulation 604/2013.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_quarterly\\_report](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report).

The Commission has data up to, and including 2016. This shows the UK processed over 6,000 Dublin requests in 2016: over 4,200 outgoing requests to other Member States and almost 1,800 incoming requests. 2017 data is not yet available.

Under the Dublin III Regulation, Member States have two months from receiving a request from another participating Member State to accept or reject responsibility for processing the asylum claim.

Once a Dublin request has been accepted (or legal matters have been resolved), the Regulation provides that the sending Member State has six months to enact the transfer. The Home Office works closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six month timeframe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121419/>

### **Asylum**

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour)** [121556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will increase the period in which refugees continue to receive asylum support after receiving a positive decision on their asylum application to 50 days.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** There are no plans to increase the period to 50 days. We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that newly recognised refugees are provided with assistance to apply for any benefit to which they are entitled before their Home Office support comes to an end.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121556/>

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op)** [120538] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that accommodation for asylum seekers under contract with Compass is safe and quality checked.

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

The contract requires Providers to visit and inspect each property every month and UKVI inspects a significant proportion of properties each year to ensure standards are being met. Where asylum accommodation is found to be falling

short of the required standards UKVI has procedures in place to inspect, investigate and quickly resolve when specific information is received and a contract management regime to monitor supplier performance and take measures where appropriate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120538/>

#### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op)** [121611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were detained by the UK in 2017, broken down by grounds for detention.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The number of asylum applicants who were detained in the first three quarters of 2017 is available in table dt\_01\_q of the detention tables in the latest release of the 'Immigration Statistics, July to September 2017', available from the Home Office website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017-data-tables>

Detention is used as an appropriate measure of immigration control and the reasons for which asylum claimants are detained is not recorded or held in a reportable format.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121611/>

#### **Asylum: Detainees**

**Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op)** [121613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied minors seeking asylum were detained by the UK in 2017.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Information on the number of minors entering detention in the UK is available in tables dt\_01\_q and dt\_02\_q of the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, July to September 2017', available from the Home Office website at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/662536/detention-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662536/detention-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods).

Table dt\_01\_q includes a breakdown of asylum and non-asylum detainees, but cannot identify those minors which were unaccompanied. Minors as part of a family unit are only detained in Tinsley House (Family Unit) IRC and Gatwick PDA.

Figures for Q4 2017 will be released on 22 February 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121613/>

#### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Carolyn Harris (Labour)** [120729] To ask The Secretary of State for The Home Department, if she will take steps to roll out Independent Child Trafficking Advocates nationally before 2019.

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

To date we have implemented ICTAs in three early adopter sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and nationally in Wales) which have been running since January 2017. It is essential that we learn the lessons from these sites and implement the right model which best supports the specific and diverse needs of these incredibly vulnerable children. This is why we are evaluating the service provided in the early adopter sites, with the help of an



Independent expert advisory panel, ahead of national rollout. The early adopter sites will continue to operate until January 2019.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-20/120729/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Brexit: Child Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what new arrangements they propose to introduce to support child refugees following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):** My Lords, the UK has a proud history of providing international protection for those who need it, including child refugees. The UK resettles more refugees than any other EU member state. Our commitment to supporting refugees will not change when we leave the EU. In addition to our comprehensive national asylum framework, we expect co-operation with our European partners to continue. The exact nature of our co-operation will be a matter for negotiation.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** I thank the Minister for those comments. She will remember the day when this Government opposed the admission of 3,000 refugee children into the United Kingdom and the whole situation then. I have received letters from 254 refugee organisations saying how sad they were about that. Are the Government intent on pursuing—if it happens—our distancing from the European Union, which will of course mean the end of the Dublin III agreement? What do they have in mind to replace that agreement, which has given hope to so many vulnerable people?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, as I outlined in my first Answer, our commitment to supporting refugees will not change when we leave the EU. The noble Lord has referred to 3,000 children. I do not know if he said he was happy or sad about that, but of course we are committed to resettling 3,000 vulnerable children under the vulnerable children's resettlement scheme, and, in addition, some 20,000 UNHCR-recognised refugees by 2020, 9,000 of whom have already arrived.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** My Lords, will the Minister confirm that several hundred unaccompanied child refugees are in the Calais area at the moment, along with perhaps a couple of thousand on the islands in Greece, many of them sleeping rough without any accommodation? Will she also confirm that we still have an obligation under the Dublin treaty and under Section 67 of the Immigration Act to take action? Surely what is holding things up is a lack of political will on the part of the Government.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I cannot confirm how many hundreds of unaccompanied children are in Calais, but what I can absolutely confirm is that this country, upon request, will take children referred to us, and we continue to work to do that. It is not lack of will on the part of the Government. As I have said, since 2010 around 42,000 children have been given some sort of leave to come to this country.

**Lord Laming (Crossbench):** My Lords, can the Minister tell the House what steps the Government have taken to prevent some of these very vulnerable children going missing once they are in this country?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I think that the noble Lord was pleased when we set out our safeguarding strategy for such children in this country because we have an absolute obligation not just to get them across here, but of course then to look after them when they are here. I am very pleased that the safeguarding strategy is up and running and is being implemented.

**The Lord Bishop of Gloucester:** Can the Minister confirm that any new provision will be at least as generous as under the Dublin III regulations and that there will be even wider

scope for child refugees to join not only parents in the UK but also other relatives such as uncles, aunts, grandparents and adult siblings? Will they also be given the support they need to live safely and in decent conditions?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I said in my first Answer that we will not change our commitment to supporting refugees when we leave the EU, so I fully expect that the UK will remain the generous country it has been for decades. On children joining wider family here, there are already provisions within the Immigration Rules to allow for that, and we expect those to continue. ...

**Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat):** Will the Government introduce a system of reconsideration before formally rejecting applications? Currently, rejections can be made on the basis of something as simple as a spelling mistake, which would involve the child starting all over again from scratch. A system of reconsideration would involve a great shortening of delays, as well as avoiding stress and distress for vulnerable children.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I understand the point the noble Baroness makes, and I will certainly look into it. We have tried to make the process less bureaucratic. I agree that something as simple as a spelling mistake should not debar someone from coming to this country.

**Baroness Massey of Darwen:** My Lords, to follow up the question from my noble friend Lord Dubs, would the Minister agree that children in refugee camps and hot spots are suffering the most degrading conditions? They are living without separate toilets. They are living in dirt, without education or legal advice. Would she also agree that this problem is partly to do with lack of co-ordination between the nations of Europe to help these children to a better life? What are the British Government doing to help that co-ordination?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I certainly agree that the situation of children in camps is most undesirable. Children should be placed in a safe location where their welfare is met. We work with the French Government and other Governments to ensure that we meet any obligations that we have. During the Calais clearance we worked very closely with the authorities there to ensure children's requests were processed.

**Baroness Afshar (Crossbench):** My Lords, are the Government aware that it is not only the brightest and best who manage to survive the experience of migration? Also, for many of us the moral economy of kin demands that we not only look after our immediate family, but have a moral duty to look after our extended family. Therefore, many of these children rely on aunts, cousins and people who are not their immediate family. Perhaps the Government should consider and celebrate differences and allow them to join their extended family.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, there are provisions within the Immigration Rules for people to join their extended family. I totally agree with the noble Baroness that we have an obligation not just to our immediate children, but to other countries' as well. This country has a very long and proud history of that.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-01-08/debates/6184CD59-7C1E-4525-B30B-F05124607B15/BrexitChildRefugees>

## Press Releases

**Refugee integration strategy published**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/refugee-integration-strategy-published>

**Banks and building societies start immigration status checks on personal current account holders**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/banks-and-building-societies-start-immigration-status-checks-on-personal-current-account-holders>

## New Publication

**New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 – 2022**

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530097.pdf>

**Summary**

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530086.pdf>

## News

**New strategy for helping refugees in Scotland**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-42612226>

**New plan to support refugees in Scotland**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/3279\\_new\\_plan\\_to\\_support\\_refugees\\_in\\_scotland](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3279_new_plan_to_support_refugees_in_scotland)

**The Kirk has welcomed a new strategy to support people seeking safety in Scotland**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2017/church\\_welcomes\\_new\\_refugee\\_integration\\_strategy](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2017/church_welcomes_new_refugee_integration_strategy)

**700 refugees help set up action plan for Scotland's asylum seekers**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/577196/700-refugees-help-set-up-action-plan-for-scotlands-asylum-seekers/>

**Refugees coming to Scotland want more help to learn English**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/refugees-coming-to-scotland-want-more-help-to-learn-english-1-4657934>

**Most Scots want to curb EU immigration after Brexit**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15817215.Most\\_Scots\\_want\\_to\\_curb\\_EU\\_immigration\\_after\\_Brexit/?ref=mr&lp=4](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15817215.Most_Scots_want_to_curb_EU_immigration_after_Brexit/?ref=mr&lp=4)

**Majority of Scots want to end freedom of movement post-Brexit**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/majority-of-scots-want-to-end-freedom-of-movement-post-brexit-1-4657471>

**Scots reject SNP call for immigration powers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-10/scotland/scots-reject-the-snp-call-for-immigration-powers-x2lnhrm6m>

**Theresa May insists immigration is an issue for "whole of UK" and needs "same policy approach"**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political\\_news/15820131.Immigration\\_is\\_issue\\_for\\_whole\\_of\\_UK\\_quot\\_and\\_needs\\_quot\\_same\\_policy\\_approach\\_quot\\_says\\_May/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/15820131.Immigration_is_issue_for_whole_of_UK_quot_and_needs_quot_same_policy_approach_quot_says_May/)

**Home Office gets banks to check immigration status of account holders**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/12/home-office-banks-check-immigration-status-of-current-account-holders>

**Banks handed secret list of illegal immigrants and ordered to close their accounts in Government crackdown**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/12/banks-handed-secret-list-illegal-immigrants-ordered-close-accounts/>

**Banks begin checks for illegal immigrants**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-12/news/banks-begin-checks-for-illegal-immigrants-277wcjw5w>

**Rats, mould and broken furniture: the scandal of the UK's refugee housing**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jan/10/rats-mould-and-broken-furniture-the-scandal-of-the-uks-refugee-housing>

**'No homes' available in Conwy county for asylum seekers**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-42573646>

**This government is making it harder than ever for illegal immigrants to live and work in Britain**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/01/11/government-making-harder-ever-illegal-immigrants-live-work-britain/>

**Interpreters who risked lives face college snub**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/interpreters-who-risked-lives-face-college-snub-r6jdg2pcj>

**SNP MP hits out at 'Dad's Army' plan for Border volunteers**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15815164.SNP\\_MP\\_hits\\_out\\_at\\_Dad\\_s\\_Army\\_plan\\_for\\_Border\\_volunteers/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15815164.SNP_MP_hits_out_at_Dad_s_Army_plan_for_Border_volunteers/)

**Bishop of Galloway: UK Government must do more on refugees**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15814911.Bishop\\_of\\_Galloway\\_UK\\_Government\\_must\\_do\\_more\\_on\\_refugees/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15814911.Bishop_of_Galloway_UK_Government_must_do_more_on_refugees/)

**Immigration centres accused of slavery over £1-an-hour pay**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-08/news/immigration-centres-accused-of-slavery-over-1-an-hour-pay-n8qf2lc7t>

**Woman nearly deported after 50 years in UK wins leave to remain**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/11/paulette-wilson-threatened-with-deportation-after-50-years-in-uk-leave-to-remain>

**'I cry most days': former NHS nurse, 83, denied visa to visit family in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/10/nhs-nurse-denied-visa-entry-uk>

**Syrian refugee dentist first in Wales to get training loan**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-42662045>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Written Answer

#### Race equality

**S5W-13357 Pauline McNeill (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring that race equality is being taken forward as part of the Year of Young People 2018, and how diverse young ethnic minority people are being included in the theme year.

**Reply from Maree Todd:** Equality groups representing young people have been engaged from the outset of planning the 2018 Year of Young People (YoYP) and continue to be involved across each of the six themes.

Equality and Discrimination is one of the six themes for the Year and organisations from protected characteristic groups, including race equality, are represented and engaged in both policy deliverables and also through planning their own events and activities that will align to the aims and objectives for the Year.

Young Scot has recruited over 500 young people to be YoYP Ambassadors and a smaller group of co-design champions (Communic18) through the co-production strand for the year. This process has ensured that there is a fair representation of all protected characteristics set out in the 2010 Equalities Act.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-13357>

### News

#### Grieving Jews and Muslims rail at 'callous' coroner Mary Hassell

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-12/news/grieving-jews-and-muslims-rail-at-callous-coroner-mary-hassell-rqf8zmpvtv>

Jewish society calls for removal of London coroner over burial delay

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/14/jewish-service-calls-for-removal-of-london-coroner-over-burial-delay>

#### Army targets Muslims and women in new recruitment ads

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/army-targets-muslims-and-women-in-new-recruitment-ads-q0qh995dv>

**Prayer time on patrol: British Army defies critics of politically correct campaign as it releases new recruitment video showing Muslim soldier praying in front of his colleagues**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5267601/Army-advert-shows-Muslim-soldier-praying.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11297&i=102814#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Hate Crime

**Lisa Cameron (SNP)** [120840] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) reported and (b) unreported hate crimes against (i) disabled people and (ii) homeless people in each of the last five years for which data is available.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Home Office collects information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales, by monitored strand, including disability. Information for the last five years can be found in the Home Office Open Data Tables for hate crime, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables>

The number of hate crimes recorded by the police has increased over the last five years. The increase over this time period is largely due to general improvements in crime recording by the police, better identification by the police of what constitutes hate crime and more victims coming forward to report these crimes to the police.

The Home Office does not hold information on whether the victim of a crime was homeless or not. The Crime Survey for England and Wales for the combined years 2012/13 to 2014/15 estimates that 48% of overall hate crime was reported to the police.

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-21/120840/>

## Press Release

**Nazi supporter of National Action convicted for stirring up anti-Semitic hate**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/news/nazi-supporter-national-action-convicted-stirring-anti-semitic-hate>

## New Publication

**The Sussex Hate Crime Project**

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=sussex-hate-crime-project-report.pdf&site=430>

## News

**How hate crime affects a whole community**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42622767>

**UKIP suspends leader's girlfriend after Meghan Markle texts**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42679187>

**Ukip leader's girlfriend suspended after 'racist' Meghan Markle remarks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jan/14/ukip-leader-henry-bolton-girlfriend-jo-marney-suspended-meghan-merkle>

**Ukip leader Henry Bolton's girlfriend suspended from party over claims she made racist remarks about Meghan Markle**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukip-leader-girlfriend-suspended-racist-meghan-markle-texts-henry-bolton-jo-marney-a8158276.html>

**'Meghan's seed will taint our Royal Family': UKIP chief's glamour model lover, 25, is suspended from the party over racist texts about Prince Harry's wife-to-be**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5266657/Ukip-leaders-girlfriends-racist-Meghan-Markle-messages.html>

**Girlfriend of Ukip leader suspended after 'racist' Meghan Markle remarks**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/14/girlfriend-ukip-leader-suspended-racist-meghan-markle-remarks/>

**Ukip leader's girlfriend, Jo Marney, suspended over 'racist' Meghan Markle comments**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/ukip-leaders-girlfriend-jo-marney-suspended-over-racist-meghan-markle-comments-55pcwrfm9>

**H&M apologises over 'racist' image of black boy in hoodie**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/42603960/hm-apologises-over-racist-image-of-black-boy-in-hoodie>

**H&M apologise over 'racist' image of black child on website**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/h-m-apologise-over-racist-image-of-black-child-on-website-1-4656243>

**H&M apologises over image of black child in 'monkey' hoodie**

<https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2018/jan/08/h-and-m-apologises-over-image-of-black-child-in-monkey-hoodie>

**Who's going to explain the H&M hoodie furore to this little boy?**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15826828.Hardeep\\_Singh\\_Kohli\\_Who\\_39\\_s\\_going\\_to\\_explain\\_the\\_H\\_M\\_hoodie\\_furore\\_to\\_this\\_little\\_boy/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15826828.Hardeep_Singh_Kohli_Who_39_s_going_to_explain_the_H_M_hoodie_furore_to_this_little_boy/)

**Ex-SNP Dundee councillor 'sent lover string of racist texts'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/ex-snp-dundee-councillor-sent-lover-string-of-racist-texts-1-4658317>

**Blogger Alison Chabloz sings along to antisemitic song (((Survivors))) in court**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-10/news/blogger-alison-chabloz-sings-along-to-antisemitic-song-survivors-in-court-x5l0k7m7d>

**Why was I forced to spray paint over a Nazi slogan on a London bus stop?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/10/spray-painted-london-bus-stop-antisemitic-graffiti>

**Britain First supporter who gave Nazi salute and drove van at curry house owner jailed for 33 weeks**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/britain-first-supporter-car-attack-jail-sentence-nazi-salute-muslim-a8156821.html>

**'I'm going to kill a Muslim' Britain First supporter walks free after giving Nazi salute and driving van at curry house owner**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/im-going-kill-muslim-britain-11842435>

**Salesman called 'pikey salad-dodger' loses race bias claim**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-10/news/salesman-called-pikey-salad-dodger-loses-race-bias-claim-bj8btshjc>

**Man called 'fat ginger pikey' by boss loses race discrimination claim**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/man-fat-ginger-pikey-salad-dodger-boss-race-discrimination-claim-lose-traveller-san-francisco-london-a8154001.html>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Forced Marriage

**Mark Hendrick (Labour)** [121288] To ask the Attorney General, how much money has been spent from the public purse on training members of the CPS and its agents on the criminalisation of forced marriage and the breach of forced marriage protection orders since the coming into force of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; what events took place relating to that training; and how many people attended those events.

**Reply from Robert Buckland:** The specific offence of forced marriage and breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order came into force in June 2014 under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Since then, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated its legal guidance, developed e-learning and delivered training to its Area lead forced marriage prosecutors.

Training workshops were delivered jointly with the police on Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation across all CPS Areas between July and December 2014. The workshops included input from stakeholders at a cost of £5,000.

On 13 December 2017, a further masterclass was delivered to all CPS Areas to address the unique difficulties in prosecuting these crimes. This masterclass included input from stakeholders at a cost of £1,633.50. This training will be cascaded by the local Area forced marriage leads.

The CPS's Prosecution College, provides award-winning courses to CPS employees, and hosts the e-learning course, "Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence". To date 231 of its employees who were in post on 8 January 2018 had completed all elements of the e-learning course. The course was developed in-house which enables targeted and consistent training delivered to employees in an efficient and cost-effective way.

The CPS will continue to train its staff in this critical area of work.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-05/121288/>

#### Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [121587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken by the female genital mutilation unit and Forced Marriage Units to conduct outreach work among communities to highlight issues of female genital mutilation and forced marriages since 2016.



## Female Genital Mutilation

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [121588] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward proposals to hold collaborative discussions with victims and families affected by female genital mutilation in order to (a) gain insight into their perspectives on current female genital mutilation policies and efforts and (b) include victims' narratives in existing and future female genital mutilation policies and efforts.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** So called 'honour-based' violence, including female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, is a terrible form of abuse, and this Government is clear that we will not allow political or cultural sensitivities to get in the way of tackling it. No-one should suffer because of who they are or what community they are born into.

Work to tackle these crimes is an integral part of our cross-Government Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, published in 2016, and we are clear that we will not end FGM and forced marriage until we change attitudes. Our dedicated FGM and Forced Marriage Units are delivering ongoing programmes of nationwide outreach, comprising more than 100 events every year, with communities and professionals to raise awareness of the warning signs and significant harms caused by these practices and how to access support.

The Home Office FGM Unit regularly engages with community based organisations and survivors, including through local forums, to ensure the views and insights of affected communities are considered in current and future policy development. This is done through a quarterly FGM stakeholders meeting, ongoing outreach events and engagement with community based organisations funded through the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme. It is important that any engagement with victims and families is done in a constructive and secure environment so that individuals are provided with the support they need.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121587/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-08/121588/>

## Press Release

**Prime Minister Theresa May's Thai Pongal message**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-theresa-mays-thai-pong-al-message>

## News

**Theresa May's cabinet: Who's who and how diverse are they?**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42615109>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

**Domestic Abuse Bill**

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

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

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

## **UK Parliament**

### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

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

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

### **EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill**

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

### **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

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

### **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

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

### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

### **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill**

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

### **Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

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

### **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

### **Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill**

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

### **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**International students: economic and social impacts** (closing date 26 January 2018)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

**Modernising the EU's common visa policy** (closing date 2 February 2018)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy_en)

**\*\* EU funds in the area of migration** (closing date 8 March 2018)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/eu-funds-area-migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/eu-funds-area-migration_en)

**Electoral Reform** (closing date 12 March 2018)  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

**Police Scotland: Your view counts** (open all year)  
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Back to Work - Women's Returner Workshops**

January 18-20 2018 in Edinburgh

Adopt an intern workshops in partnership with Radiant & Brighter offering support to minority ethnic women looking to refresh their careers. Including guidance on what employers are looking for in the current job market, applying skills and qualifications in the workplace, improving communication skills and becoming more effective in a work context. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycoj7fxg>

### **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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **\*\* Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and we will explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / [home@positiveactionh.org](mailto:home@positiveactionh.org)

### **\*\* Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the 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 0141 353 2220 / [home@positiveactionh.org](mailto:home@positiveactionh.org)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Hate Crime and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting. For information see [https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18\\_wsrec.pdf](https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf) or contact Rabeea [rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Rape Crisis Scotland training information evening**

7 February 2018 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for self-identified women to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Rape Crisis Scotland information evening for people who would like to benefit from a supportive atmosphere, excellent training, and personal and professional development. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9vbgotf> or contact Mridul Wadhwa 0141 3314188 / [volunteer@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@rapecrisisscotland.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](mailto: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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Supporting Those Affected by Forced Marriage**

21 February 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to demystify forced marriage and help those attending to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact 0131 226 6606 / [info@womensaid.scot](mailto:info@womensaid.scot) or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/supporting-affected-forced-marriage/>

### **\*\* Immigration Act 2016: "The Hostile Environment" basics**

13 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training for people providing services to or working with immigrants need up to date information to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / [home@positiveactionh.org](mailto:home@positiveactionh.org)

### **\*\* Equality and Diversity in the Workplace**

20 March 2018 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

20 March 2018 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / [home@positiveactionh.org](mailto:home@positiveactionh.org)

### **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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Engaging Hard to Reach Groups**

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](mailto: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](mailto:merh@in-conference.org.uk) / 0131 336 4203.

### **Refugee Community Sponsorship**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ACAS** [www.acas.org.uk](http://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](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

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

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

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



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



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

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