

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-10846 Christina McKelvie (SNP): Yarl's Wood Hunger Strikers** – That the Parliament notes what it sees as the appalling treatment of the women who are detained at the Yarl's Wood immigration centre in Bedfordshire; believes that this has been highlighted by a hunger strike, which started on 20 February 2018, in which up to 120 detainees are reportedly believed to be taking part; understands that they are protesting at what it sees as the inhumane conditions at the facility; is shocked at reports of a letter from the Home Office which, it understands, threatens the women with accelerated deportation due to this protest; believes that the protesters are seeking to highlight their opposition to the detention of people who came to the UK as minors, asylum seekers and survivors of torture; understands that they are also protesting about women being detained without time limit; believes that indefinite detention is cruel and inhumane; calls on the UK Government to end this practice, and sends its support to the hunger strikers.

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Naturalisation

**Jeffrey Donaldson (DUP)** [132799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been received from (a) Irish citizens and (b) citizens of other EU countries for British citizenship under the naturalisation rules in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The available published information on the total number of applications made for British citizenship by the applicant's country of nationality, including both naturalisation and registration, is in the Home Office's *Immigration Statistics, October to December 2017*, Citizenship table cz\_01\_q\_a available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017/list-of-tables#citizenship>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132799/>

### Immigration

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the proportion of (a) leave to remain, (b) indefinite leave to remain and (c) naturalisation applications processed within her Department's service standards.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The published statistics on leave to remain applications that have been processed within service standard can be found in the migration transparency data release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2018>

at: InC\_02: Percentage of In-Country visa applications, for each Route, processed within Service Standards.

InC\_07: Premium Service Applications (same day)

We continually monitor and review our performance against service standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132385/>

### Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru)** [131792] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans he has to maintain provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in relation to the prevention and combating of trafficking in human beings after the UK has left the EU.

**Reply from Steve Baker:** The UK has a longstanding tradition of ensuring our rights and liberties are protected domestically and of fulfilling our international human rights obligations. The decision to leave the European Union does not change this.

The Government's intention has always been that in itself not incorporating the Charter into UK law should not affect the substantive rights that individuals already benefit from in the UK, as the Charter was never the source of those rights. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill sets out how the sources of these substantive rights, so far as they exist elsewhere in EU law, are being converted into UK law at the point we exit the EU.

In order to provide guidance on the protection afforded to every right in the Charter the Government has published a non-exhaustive analysis which sets out

how substantive rights found in the Charter - including those mentioned in this grouped question - will be reflected in the domestic law of the UK after exit. The analysis is available on gov.uk at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664891/05122017\\_Charter\\_Analysis\\_FINAL\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664891/05122017_Charter_Analysis_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)

Charter Analysis

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-09/131792/>

#### **ACAS: Undocumented Workers**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [132142] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many cases of migrants working undocumented were (a) found and closed and (b) passed from Acas to Immigration Enforcement in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Andrew Griffiths:** The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy does not collect data on how many migrants are working undocumented in the UK.

Acas does not make referrals from their individual conciliation service to Immigration Enforcement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-12/132142/>

#### **ACAS: Undocumented Workers**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [132144] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether Acas is permitted to mediate for undocumented workers in the UK.

**Reply from Andrew Griffiths:** Acas has a statutory duty to seek to resolve individual workplace disputes. In seeking to resolve such disputes between employees and employers, Acas' role is an impartial one.

Acas does not collect data to identify if claimants are undocumented workers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-12/132144/>

#### **Health and Safety Executive: Undocumented Workers**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [132152] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases of migrants working undocumented were passed from the Health and Safety Executive to Immigration Enforcement in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not check the immigration status of workers or collect specific data on undocumented workers, as Great Britain's health and safety law provides protection for all workers irrespective of their immigration status. If HSE inspectors observe signs of potential labour abuse in a workplace, HSE will share this intelligence with other enforcement agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-12/132152/>

#### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [131945] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what information his Department holds on the number of UK residents who have been not been given access to healthcare due to disputed immigration status in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Stephen Barclay:** The Department does not hold data on the number of United Kingdom residents who have been not been given access to healthcare due to disputed immigration status in each of the last five years.

The UK is a residence based health care system and is predominantly based on

being ordinarily resident in the UK.

A person who is ordinarily resident in the UK is entitled to receive free National Health Service healthcare services as long as they can prove they are in the UK lawfully, adopted voluntarily and for settled purposes as part of the regular order of his or her life for the time being, whether of short or long duration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-12/131945/>

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132765] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, on how many occasions people resident in the UK for (a) 10 years, (b) 20 years, (c) 30 years and (d) 40 years have been refused access to healthcare as a result of disputed immigration status.

**Reply from Stephen Barclay:** The information requested is not held

The United Kingdom is a residence based health care system and entitlement to free National Health Service healthcare is predominantly based on being ordinarily resident in the UK.

A person who is ordinarily resident in the UK is entitled to receive free NHS healthcare services as long as they can prove they are in the UK lawfully, adopted voluntarily and for settled purposes as part of the regular order of his or her life for the time being, whether of short or long duration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132765/>

### **Refugees**

**Catherine McKinnell (Labour)** [132810] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of refugees residing in the UK who have been separated from their family due to not being eligible for family reunification.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The UK Immigration Rules have a comprehensive framework for refugees and their families to be safely reunited in the UK. Our family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection here to reunite with them. The Immigration Rules also provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children in serious and compelling circumstances. The Mandate resettlement scheme also allows those recognised by the UNCHR as refugees to join close family members here in the UK.

In addition, there is provision in the policy to grant visas outside the Rules in exceptional circumstances, which caters for extended family members who otherwise do not qualify under the Rules.

We do not believe there are unnecessary barriers to family reunion for refugees. Over the last five years there have been 24,700 family reunion visas issued –and this is in addition to the numbers granted asylum here or resettled here under our resettlement schemes.

We are listening carefully to concerns raised on this issue by Non-Governmental Organisations and others, we are currently reviewing our approach to family reunion as part of the Government's wider asylum and resettlement policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132810/>

### **Habitual Residence Test**

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op)** [132655] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of whether refugees should be required to pass a habitual residence test for benefits after being granted refugee status.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** A right to reside in the UK is one of the eligibility conditions for those claiming income-related benefits. Those that are required to

provide evidence of their right to reside are subject to the Habitual Residence Test (HRT). The HRT contains two elements: an assessment of the legal right of residence and an assessment of factual habitual residence. Refugees who provide documentation which confirms their legal right to reside in the UK will satisfy the HRT. Refugees are exempt from the assessment of factual habitual residence if the Home Office have granted them leave to remain in the UK with recourse to public funds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132655/>

### **National Insurance: Refugees**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [132267] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how his Department determines which refugees automatically get a National Insurance number as soon as they receive their refugee status; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** For those refugees granted leave to remain as a result of a successful asylum claim, a joint fast track National Insurance Number (NINo) application process operates between DWP and the Home Office. This process has been in place since 2005 but only included the main asylum applicant. This was extended to cover all adult dependants (aged 16 or over) in the refugee's family from 15 January 2018. Additionally from this date the NINo is now printed on the reverse of the refugees Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132267/>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Hugh Gaffney (Labour)** [133458] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to amend the rules on refugee family reunion to include the extended definition of family in the Dublin III Regulation.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The UK Immigration Rules have a comprehensive framework for refugees and their families to be safely reunited in the UK. Our family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection here to reunite with them. The Immigration Rules also provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children in serious and compelling circumstances. The Mandate resettlement scheme also allows those recognised by the UNCHR as refugees to join close family members here in the UK.

In addition, there is provision in the policy to grant visas outside the Rules in exceptional circumstances, which caters for extended family members who otherwise do not qualify under the Rules.

We do not believe there are unnecessary barriers to family reunion for refugees. Over the last five years there have been 24,700 family reunion visas issued –and this is in addition to the numbers granted asylum here or resettled here under our resettlement schemes.

We are listening carefully to concerns raised on this issue by Non-Governmental Organisations and others. We are currently reviewing our approach to family reunion as part of the Government's wider asylum and resettlement policy strategy. We will be following the passage of the Family Reunion Family Member's Bill closely and will continue our productive discussions in this area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-20/133458/>

### **Refugees: Children**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [132263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the number of eligible child refugees who are able to enter the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The UK operates several resettlement schemes: Gateway, Mandate, the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide a safe and legal route to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees. Moreover, our Family Reunion policy allow children to join their refugee parents, and there are also specific provisions that allow extended family members lawfully resident in the UK to sponsor unaccompanied children where there are serious and compelling circumstances. The UK is also committed to close cooperation and collaboration with EU partners, to ensure the efficient and timely operation of the Dublin Regulation and national relocation schemes, namely to relocate and support unaccompanied children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. The UK provided protection to almost 6,000 children in 2017 and more than 28,000 since the start of 2010.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132263/>

### Asylum

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [132549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to the Answer of 13 March 2018 to Question 131300, how many requests for transfer into the UK under the Dublin Regulation in 2017 were refused; and for what reasons those requests were refused.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing EU mechanism to determine Member States' responsibilities for examining asylum claims.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes data on transfers under the Dublin Regulation which includes data on formal request refusals. The 2017 data publication is expected to be published shortly. The latest publication can be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin\\_statistics\\_on\\_countries\\_responsible\\_for\\_asylum\\_application](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application)

The Dublin III Regulation clearly sets out the acceptance criteria for requests and where these are not met the request will be refused.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132549/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-06/131300/>

### Asylum

**Keith Vaz (Labour)** [133135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum are awaiting a decision.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum decisions pending a decision at the end of each quarter in table as\_01\_q (asylum, volume 1) of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release.

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

The latest figures refer to the end of December 2017.

Figures on the number of asylum applications pending a decision, as published in "Immigration Statistics, October to December", have been revised following a discrepancy with the figure published in the Home Office transparency data.

Further details can be found in the published tables.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-19/133135/>

## Asylum

**Keith Vaz (Labour)** [133136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of applications for asylum that are awaiting decision.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office has plans to reduce the number of outstanding undecided asylum claims. These include a staff retention strategy to ensure it retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers, further expansion of digital processes to increase caseworking flexibility and the creation of a new team in Bootle which has been specifically established to tackle the older cases in the asylum system. This team has been designed to establish and roll out best practise in the management of older cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-19/133136/>

## Asylum

**Hugh Gaffney (Labour)** [133453] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on the implementation of the asylum and resettlement strategy; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We continue to engage with key stakeholders, including NGOs, International Organisations and local authorities on the UK's approach to asylum and resettlement, including the approach to family reunion for refugees.

The Government has committed to rebalancing the system to focus more resource on the most vulnerable refugees through our aid programmes and resettlement whilst ensuring the in country system provides protection for those in need but also ensures those with no lawful basis to stay in the UK are returned. Our policies and approach must reflect the capacity and resources of Government and local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-20/133453/>

## Asylum: National Insurance

**Luke Pollard (Labour (Co-op))** [132644] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will issue national insurance numbers to all asylum seekers when they are granted refugee status.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** For those refugees granted leave to remain as a result of a successful asylum claim, a joint fast track National Insurance Number (NINo) application process operates between DWP and the Home Office. This process has been in place since 2005 but only included the main asylum applicant. This was extended to cover all adult dependants (aged 16 or over) in the refugee's family from 15 January 2018.

Additionally from this date the NINo is now printed on the reverse of the refugees Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132644/>

## Asylum: National Insurance

**James Frith (Labour)** [132805] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many asylum seekers who have indefinite leave to remain are awaiting the allocation of a national insurance number.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** The department does not hold the information, however for those granted leave to remain as a result of a successful asylum claim, a joint fast track NINo application process operates between DWP and the Home Office. From 15 January 2018 the process is applicable to the principal family member and any adult dependants aged 16 or over in the refugees family,

with the NINo being allocated within 48 hours of receipt of the application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132805/>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [132192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the loss of specialist teams for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors on their (a) physical health, (b) mental health and (c) learning and development.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

All Decision Makers who process asylum claims from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children must complete all three Tiers of Keeping Children Safe training before interviewing or deciding claims from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

We are committed to delivering an asylum process that is efficient but also sensitive to the needs of all claimants so that sufficient information can be obtained to facilitate fair and sustainable decisions on their respective asylum claims. Where decision makers have concerns about the welfare of individual claimants then we have clear processes to raise these with the relevant bodies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132192/>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [132984] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 March 2018 to Question 131300, how many of the 148 arrivals into the UK from Greece under the Dublin Regulation in Q4 of 2017 were children.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims.

The Home Office published comprehensive data on the number of transfers into the UK from other Dublin states as part of the most recent quarterly Immigration Statistics release on 22/02/2018. The relevant statistics can be found at as\_22\_q, asylum volume 5 at the following link:

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

The published statistics are broken down by each article of the Regulation and it is Article 8 which outlines the criteria for the Member State responsible for examining the asylum claims for unaccompanied minors.

It is important to note that the full data set includes children transferred as dependent family members under other articles of the Regulation, however a breakdown of these families by age is not published.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-16/132984/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-06/131300/>

### **Human Trafficking: Asylum**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [132190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum submitted by victims of trafficking are awaiting a decision to date.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The number of asylum claims submitted by potential



victims and victims of trafficking, is not held in a format which is reportable and would require a manual check of each record.

Data on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is published regularly by the National Crime Agency and in the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery. These reports are available via the following links:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132190/>

### **Asylum: Accommodation Centres**

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 March to Question 129628, what the strict time limits are on resolving defects where inspected asylum accommodation do not meet the required standards.

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 March to Question 129628, what the strict time limits are on resolving defects where inspected asylum accommodation does not meet the required standards.

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2018 to Question 129628, how many financial reductions have been applied and at what total cost to providers as a result of inspected asylum accommodation not meeting the required standards in each of the last five years.

**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.

In line with government transparency commitments details of the time limits on resolving defects are already in the public domain. The particular document that details the standards is titled 'COMPASS Project Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements' and is available on the Contracts Finder Archive on the Data.Gov.UK Website at:

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/487962/>

There is a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. Where there is any instance of non-conformance the performance indicators are applied which may lead to a financial deduction from monthly invoices. The Home Office does not publish data on the value of service credit that have been accrued on the asylum accommodation contracts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132379/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132380/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132384/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-26/129628/>

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [132983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer 13 March 2018 to Question 131298 on Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre; of the 98 reports made by a medical practitioner under Rule 35 in Yarl's Wood during Q3 of 2017, how many caseworker reviews of the appropriateness of continued detention led to a detainee's release from detention.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 sets out the process by which doctors in immigration removal centres must report to the Home Office cases in which they have concerns that:

- a detainee's health is likely to be injuriously affected by detention (35(1));
- a detainee is suspected of having suicidal intentions (35(2)); or
- a detainee may have been the victim of torture (35(3)).

On receipt of a Rule 35 report, the Home Office caseworker must review the appropriateness of the detainee's continued detention in conjunction with consideration of the adults at risk in immigration detention policy.

The total number of releases from all Immigration Removal Centres (IRC) because of Rule 35 during Q3 2017 is 102 and is published as part of the Transparency publication under the category 'Reports made by a medical practitioner under Rule 35 by place of detention'. This can be found at the following link:

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

Management information indicates that of the 102 total releases in Q3 2017, 26 of these were from Yarl's Wood IRC. This information has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics and as internal management information is subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-16/132983/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-06/131298/>

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Mobile Phones**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [133271] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the quality of mobile phone coverage at Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Flooding at the site of a mobile telephone mast close to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre earlier this month has resulted in intermittent mobile telephone signals affecting three mobile phone network providers. Repairs are underway and normal mobile phone coverage is expected to resume shortly.

In the meantime, arrangements are in place at the centre to ensure that any detainee whose mobile phone service is affected can continue to make landline telephone calls and access other means of communication.

Detention Services Order 08/2012 sets out the Home Office's policy on detainees' possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres. Detainees are able to retain their own mobile phones throughout their detention, provided their handset has no recording facility and/or access to the internet. Where a detainee's handset does not comply with these restrictions they are provided with a suitable handset by the immigration removal centre supplier so that they may maintain contact with friends, family and other means of support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-19/133271/>

### **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre: Mobile Phones**

**Tony Lloyd (Labour)** [133042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what plans she has to restore normal mobile connectivity in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Flooding at the site of a mobile telephone mast close to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre has resulted in intermittent mobile telephone signals affecting three mobile phone network providers. Repairs are underway and normal service is expected to resume shortly.

In the meantime, arrangements are in place at the centre to ensure that any detainee whose mobile phone service is affected can continue to make landline telephone calls and access other means of communication.

Detention Services Order 08/2012 sets out the Home Office's policy on detainees' possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres. Detainees are able to retain their own mobile telephones throughout their detention, provided their handset has no recording facility and/or access to the internet. Where a detainee's handset does not comply with these restrictions they are provided with a suitable handset by the immigration removal centre supplier so that they may maintain contact with friends, family and other means of support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-16/133042/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what access detainees in immigration detention centres have to mobile phones, the internet and social media.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Detention Services Order 08/2012 sets out the Home Office's policy on detainees' possession of mobile phones in immigration removal centres.

Detainees are able to retain their own mobile telephones throughout their detention, provided their handset has no recording facility and/or access to the internet. Where a detainee's handset does not comply with these restrictions they are provided with a suitable handset by the immigration removal centre supplier so that they may maintain contact with friends, family and other means of support.

The provision of internet access in immigration removal centres helps detainees to remain in contact with family, friends and legal representatives and to prepare for removal.

Detention Services Order 04/2016 provides guidance on access to the internet. It is a contractual requirement that all immigration removal centres provide detainees with reasonable and regulated access to the internet and IT facilities.

There are no plans to enable detainees to access social media.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132302/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Yvette Cooper (Labour)** [132553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to the Answer of 12 March 2018 to Question 131303, of the 55 pregnant women detained in the immigration detention estate in 2017, how many were subsequently (a) released back into the community and (b) granted refugee or humanitarian protection status.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As my earlier answer of 12 March 2018 to the honourable member stated, 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 53 pregnant women were detained in the immigration detention estate in 2017, of which 43 were granted temporary admission and released into the community. Of those pregnant women released, 3 sought refugee or humanitarian protection

status following release and 2 applications were then granted. These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132553/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-06/131300/>

### **Asylum: Detainees**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2018 to Question 131413, what assessment she has made of the legality of threats of expedited deportation and the compatibility of such threats with human rights and immigration law.

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 March 2018 to Question 131413, whether her Department requested legal advice on the legality of threatening accelerated deportation to detainees on hunger strike in immigration detention centres.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We do not consider that the letter issued to individuals in immigration detention who have refused foods or fluids contravenes human rights obligations or immigration law. The letter in question is part of guidance which was cleared by Home Office lawyers and published in October 2017.

The approach taken in the letter accurately reflects the fact that, in the interests of health and wellbeing, the most appropriate way in which to respond to some cases of refusal to take food or fluids is to prioritise the consideration of the individual's case including, if appropriate, their removal from detention and the UK, whilst ensuring that the case is processed fairly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132767/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132769/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-07/131413/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Keith Vaz (Labour)** [133140] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were detained at immigration centres at the end of each financial quarter in 2017.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Information on the people in detention, as at the end of each quarter in 2017 is available in table dt\_11\_q of the detention tables. The latest data, published in 'Immigration Statistics, October to December 2017', are available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/681703/detention-oct-dec-2017-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681703/detention-oct-dec-2017-tables.ods)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-19/133140/>

### **Immigration: Children**

**Sarah Jones (Labour)** [133094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether the Government supports objective 13(g) of the UN's draft Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to end the practice of child detention in the context of international migration.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government broadly supports the principle of ending child detention for immigration purposes. The routine detention of children for immigration purposes in the UK ended in 2010. Under current policy, children may only be detained in a limited number of exceptional circumstances, and for the shortest period necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-16/133094/>

### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Paul Girvan (DUP) [132944]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that minors trafficked to the UK are able to receive (a) welfare and (b) protection for as long as they require.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government views the slavery, including trafficking, of children as a very serious offence. Where children are found to be victims of modern slavery their safety and welfare needs must be addressed as the priority.

Local authorities have a duty to safeguard all children in their care, regardless of their backgrounds or experiences including children within the National Referral Mechanism. It is the responsibility of the local authorities to make decisions about the placement and welfare of children in their care, this includes assessing the risks to that child, such as trafficking, and how best to safeguard them.

In addition to the care and support local authorities provide children in their with, the Government announced in October 2017 that it would commence section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and committed to the full national roll out of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) across England and Wales. Acting in the child's best interests, ICTAs will provide independent advice and guidance to the child and will be independent of those authorities responsible for making decisions about the child. We introduced ICTAs in three early-adopter sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and nationally in Wales) on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132944/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers**

### **Trafficked Children: Asylum**

**Baroness Kennedy of Cradley (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government, over the last 10 years, how many children trafficked into the United Kingdom who have subsequently applied for asylum have had their applications approved.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):** My Lords, the Home Office does not publish data on the number of child victims of modern slavery who subsequently successfully claim asylum. To maintain the highest standards of accuracy, the Home Office prefers to refer to published data, as these have been subject to vigorous quality assurance prior to publication. The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum claims from unaccompanied children. The latest published statistics can be found in the quarterly immigration statistics published on GOV.UK. These show that, in 2017, 1,212 children were granted leave; in 2016, this figure was 1,396.

**Baroness Kennedy of Cradley:** I thank the Minister for that reply. Since the Court of Appeal's decision in PK (Ghana) was handed down, the Government have had to issue interim guidance on discretionary leave to remain for victims of modern slavery, but this

is a policy of no policy. It just puts decisions on hold, leaving vulnerable adults and children in limbo and in fear of losing their NRM support, as the waiting time for decisions now extends beyond the time for support afforded to them. What is the Government's timetable for consideration of this judgment? Can they guarantee that all victims waiting for a decision on discretionary leave to remain will remain in receipt of NRM support until they receive a decision?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are considering the implications of the judgment. While we consider the next steps, interim guidance has been issued to caseworkers to put on hold any refusals of discretionary leave to remain for confirmed victims of modern slavery. Grants of discretionary leave are continuing. Clearly, we will come to a view as quickly as possible.

**Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative):** What percentage of victims of modern slavery who apply for discretionary leave to remain following a positive NRM conclusive- grounds decision actually receive a decision about the discretionary leave within 45 days?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I can tell my noble friend that in 2016 1,278 children were referred to the NRM for consideration of whether they had been a victim of modern slavery, a 30% increase on 2015. We will be publishing figures for 2017 in March and, if available for disclosure, they will be provided.

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that the longer the delay in reaching a decision in respect of a trafficked child, the greater the risk of that child going missing and being re-trafficked?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** It is certainly the Government's intention to make decisions as quickly as possible. I totally concur with the noble Baroness that if we have a vulnerable child in our care, we should make decisions about them as quickly as possible.

**Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench):** My Lords, I wonder whether the Minister can get the Government, particularly the Home Office, to reconsider the removal of children who are victims of trafficking at the age of 18.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the noble and learned Baroness will know, victims of trafficking are not necessarily coming into this country for an asylum route. Indeed, many of the children who are trafficked are from the UK, so it is correct that when a child reaches the age of 18, should they be from another country, their immigration status is reconsidered.

**Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op):** My Lords, I refer to my relevant interests in the register. Does the noble Baroness think that the national referral mechanism takes proper account of children's needs? Can she tell the House what the Government are doing to prevent children, as referred to by the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, who arrive in this country and go missing after a few days becoming repeat victims of trafficking?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am clear that the national referral mechanism meets the needs of children. As the noble Lord may know, the Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability announced the Government's proposals to reform the NRM. For children, this ensures that support for child victims is improved by continuing with the rollout of the independent child trafficking advocates. We are trying new and innovative ways to give money to NGOs as part of the child trafficking protection fund.

**The Lord Bishop of Derby:** My Lords, I declare an interest as chairman of the advisory panel of the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner. I ask the Minister about the role of the modern slavery unit in the Home Office, in this area to do with children and more generally. How does the modern slavery unit help those of us working in this area of children and care for victims? How do we know what its priorities and practices are so that we can best co-operate?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The role of the commissioner should be to assess how the system is working. As I said in answer to the previous

question, children should receive the specialist support and assistance that they need according to their circumstances. The role of the NRM is to ensure that a trafficked child is given the appropriate support they need from all the agencies involved to be able to move on from that traumatic experience.

**Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative):** Does my noble friend agree that it is very important, while exercising discretion on the basis of humanity for right to remain, that we do not move away from the basic principles of the 1951 United Nations convention, which are undoubtedly tough but nevertheless important, when we choose to grant asylum to this country?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My noble friend is absolutely correct. We have an incredibly good record of granting asylum not just to adults but to children. Together with the various agencies we provide the maximum level of care that we possibly can to children who have been trafficked or who need our protection.

**Baroness Afshar (Crossbench):** My Lords, how many of the “shoulds” and the “woulds” are actually in place? The Minister has kindly explained that there are many provisions: which ones are actually being pursued so that those kids do not immediately disappear? ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Modern Slavery Act is now in place and therefore its provisions are being implemented.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-19/debates/092DE9E1-7AC2-463A-8D2C-2BEBDD411E01/TraffickedChildrenAsylum>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motions

**Kirsty Blackman (SNP) (1113) Post-study work visas** – That this House recognises the value of the post-study work visa; and requests that the Government urgently reinstates that visa in order to increase the opportunities across higher education institutions and to ensure the UK retains the talents of the brightest and best who study in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1113>

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) (1103) Barista visas** – That this House expresses concern about the implementation of barista visas; sees the introduction of such visas as a way of replacing EU free movement to the UK after the UK has left the UK; deems those visas to be a mechanism to preserve the flow of migrant labour and exploit workers through poor pay whilst maximising company profits; and urges the Government to listen to the voices of Unite and others across the trade union movement and scrap that scheme before it goes any further.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1103>

**Stephen Gethins (SNP) (1102) Reverend Jan and Linda Steyn UK Citizenship Refusal** – That this House is concerned about the decision by the Home Office to refuse UK citizenship to Reverend Jan Steyn and his wife Linda Steyn of Cupar, Fife; notes that after five years of dutiful service to Cupar St John’s and Dairsie United Parish Church of Scotland as minister for the congregation, Jan and his wife received permanent residence in November 2016; further notes that when applying a year later for citizenship, during which time he had accepted a temporary position as minister for the Scots Kirk, Church of Scotland, in Paris, his application was denied by the Home Office; recognises that he was maintaining a permanent home in Cupar while residing in Paris and always intended to return and re-establish close ties to the community once his time in France was over; further recognises the tremendous impact that Reverend Steyn has had on his church congregation and overall community; and urges the Government to overturn its decision and accept Jan and Linda Steyn's appeal for UK citizenship.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1102>

## Press Releases

**Asylum in the EU Member States - 650 000 first-time asylum seekers registered in 2017 - Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans continued to be the top citizenships**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STAT-18-2183\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-18-2183_en.htm)

**New report underlines the key role of education in the inclusion of immigrant students**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-2021\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-2021_en.htm)

**Migration in Europe: EU must act together and do more to support local authorities**

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/Migration-in-Europe-.aspx>

**Migration: If we fail to come up with EU strategy, we will play into the hands of populists**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20180316STO99924/migration-if-we-fail-to-produce-eu-strategy-we-play-into-hands-of-populists>

## New Publications

**Immigration statistics, October to December 2017 second edition**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>

**Grenfell Tower – Relatives (guidance on handling extensions of leave from relatives of those directly affected by the Grenfell fire)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693858/grenfell-relatives-guidance-v2.0EXT.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693858/grenfell-relatives-guidance-v2.0EXT.pdf)

**Community-based English language programme: a randomised controlled trial**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-based-english-language-programme-a-randomised-controlled-trial--2>

**The Resilience of Students with an Immigrant Background**

[http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/the-resilience-of-students-with-an-immigrant-background\\_9789264292093-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/the-resilience-of-students-with-an-immigrant-background_9789264292093-en)

## News

**Theresa May refuses to intervene over man's £54,000 NHS cancer bill**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/22/theresa-may-refuses-to-intervene-over-mans-54000-nhs-cancer-bill-albert-thompson>

**Brexit talks: Ministers must not cave in on immigration, campaign group says**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095941.Brexit\\_talks\\_Ministers\\_must\\_not\\_cave\\_in\\_on\\_immigration\\_campaign\\_group\\_says/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095941.Brexit_talks_Ministers_must_not_cave_in_on_immigration_campaign_group_says/)

**Immigrants 'not a strain on NHS' as study reveals worse mortality for white Scots**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16097766.Immigrants\\_and\\_minorities\\_not\\_a\\_strain\\_on\\_NHS\\_as\\_study\\_reveals\\_death\\_rates\\_worse\\_among\\_white\\_Scots/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16097766.Immigrants_and_minorities_not_a_strain_on_NHS_as_study_reveals_death_rates_worse_among_white_Scots/)

**'People worry about the burden on the health system from immigrants. It's just not that simple'**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16097776.Analysis\\_People\\_worry\\_about\\_the\\_burden\\_on\\_the\\_health\\_system\\_from\\_immigrants\\_It\\_s\\_just\\_not\\_that\\_simple/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16097776.Analysis_People_worry_about_the_burden_on_the_health_system_from_immigrants_It_s_just_not_that_simple/)



**Home Office subcontractors force asylum seekers to share bedrooms in breach of council policy**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-seekers-share-bedrooms-policy-breach-a8269131.html>

**Home Office overturns refusal of visa for NHS doctor's daughter**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/21/home-office-overturns-refusal-of-visa-for-nhs-doctors-daughter>

**Home Office U-turn on Durham University academics' deportation**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/19/home-office-u-turn-on-durham-university-academics-deportation>

**Denisa Gannon: 'Roma people are not getting justice'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/mar/20/denisa-gannon-roma-people-not-getting-justice-solicitor>

**The refugee who found her smile when she said 'cheese'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-refugee-who-found-her-smile-when-she-said-cheese-06wtc5s6r>

**UK has little to fear from a Scottish visa**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/ian-robinson-uk-has-little-to-fear-from-a-scottish-visa-1-4712380>

**Seven years on and refugees are still living in limbo**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/seven-years-on-and-refugees-are-still-living-in-limbo-1-4712374>

**Migrant staff shortfall blamed on Brexit worries**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-43529549>

**Shortage of seasonal migrant workers revealed**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16114698.Shortage\\_of\\_seasonal\\_migrant\\_workers\\_revealed/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16114698.Shortage_of_seasonal_migrant_workers_revealed/)

**Human trafficking contrary to the will of God**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2018/new\\_resource\\_to\\_help\\_congregations\\_tackle\\_human\\_trafficking](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2018/new_resource_to_help_congregations_tackle_human_trafficking)

TOP

## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-10991 Bill Kidd (SNP): Politics of Language** – That the Parliament condemns Dame Louise Casey for her reported suggestion that the UK Government set a target date for everyone in the UK to speak English; considers that Dame Casey's proposal for "everyone to speak one language" in the UK is inherently offensive to Scotland as a multi-cultural and multilingual society; further considers that this suggestion is an implicit threat to the Gaelic and Scots languages, as well as the other minority languages of the UK including Irish, Welsh, and Cornish, and also those communities where such languages as Urdu and Polish may be spoken; considers this proposal to be

problematic as it implies that the other nations in the UK do not have equal status; condemns Mark Harper MP for welcoming what it believes is this chauvinistic suggestion, and reaffirms the Parliament's commitment to protect and celebrate diversity.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10991>

**S5M-11193 Lewis Macdonald (Labour): Celebrating 25 Years of Polish Association Aberdeen** – That the Parliament recognises that Polish Association Aberdeen (PAA) is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018; understands that PAA was formed by descendants of Polish combatants who served during the Second World War and decided to remain in Scotland when the conflict finished; notes that this year's celebration started with the Polish-Scottish Mini Festival with music concerts and a Polish-Scottish ceilidh; understands that more cultural and community events are to follow, such as a concert with the Polish artists, Hanka Wojciak and Susanna Jara, on 20 April 2017 in The Blue Lamp in Aberdeen, and looks forward to many more years of events that improve social cohesion and bring the community together in Aberdeen and north east Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11193>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) (1050) Language diversity in the UK** – That this House deeply regrets the comments made by Dame Louise Casey calling on the Government to set a target date for everyone in the UK to speak English; notes that English is not the only official language of the UK; recognises the place of Welsh, Gaelic, Scots, Irish Scots, Ulster Scots and Cornish as official native languages of the UK according to the British Council; dismisses the view of Dame Casey that everyone in the UK should speak one language; believes that everyone should feel respected within their communities, and not condemned for their diversity, particularly in terms of language; and urges the Government to dismiss these comments and commit to strengthening the status given to official languages.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1050>

## Press Release

**New government action to create stronger, more integrated Britain**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-action-to-create-stronger-more-integrated-britain>

## News

**Muslims place greater importance on national identity, finds UK study**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/21/muslims-british-national-identity-uk-report>

TOP

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-10967 Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): Nari Kallyan Shango (NKS) 30th Anniversary** – That the Parliament commends Nari Kallyan Shango (NKS) on its 30th anniversary as an organisation dedicated to alleviating deprivation and isolation experienced by women from ethnic minority backgrounds in Edinburgh; acknowledges the range of projects that NKS has developed to support some of the most vulnerable women in communities to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing and become connected members of society; notes that NKS began by providing needs-based services to support women experiencing deprivation and isolation due to the complexity of their needs, and that the organisation, along with South Asian communities, has come a long way since then, where strength-based strategies have become the basis of service provision; acknowledges that, from being a small group of between 10 and 12 women meeting over a cup of tea to developing and connecting with a mailing list of 1,200 individuals, this demonstrates the growth of NKS; notes that 30 years of community work has earned NKS a strong trusting relationship with the local communities that strengthened its foundations, and that it has worked passionately and tirelessly to facilitate inclusion and community cohesion by aligning its goals to the priorities set by the local authorities and needs expressed by communities in Edinburgh, and wishes the organisation well with its continued endeavours.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10967>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Prime Minister's Questions

**Kwasi Kwarteng (Conservative):** I am sure that we all recognise and welcome the employment figures announced today but, given the latest report that there are still unacceptably high levels of youth unemployment among ethnic communities in Britain, will my right hon. Friend explain to the House what the new £90 million fund will do to help young people into work? [904502]

**Reply from the Prime Minister:** My hon. Friend raises an important point. We know these figures because of the race disparity audit that I commissioned when I became Prime Minister. The audit shows that there has been progress, but we need to do more because 16 to 24-year-olds in other ethnic groups are twice as likely as their white peers to be unemployed. The £90 million that I announced will help to tackle those inequalities in youth employment. The initiative will be run by the Big Lottery Fund, and it will identify the barriers to employment for those young people and help them to overcome those barriers. That is incredibly important. I was very pleased to visit Street League in Birmingham, which is already doing excellent work in this area.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-03-21/debates/083F3176-A5E7-4E9C-A9DE-3F0F432E49FB/Engagements#contribution-2DE5A7F5-B7BD-45B5-A404-983CF1467A52>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Civil Servants: Equality

**Afzal Khan (Labour) [127353]** To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Civil Service Workforce Plan 2016-2020 how many meetings the diversity champion held with race equality groups in on the setting of key targets for inclusivity on grounds of race.

**Reply from Oliver Dowden:** Since publication of the Civil Service Workforce Plan 2016-2020 the Civil Service Permanent Secretary Race Champion, Richard Heaton, has met regularly with internal race equality groups including staff networks and departmental race champions. He has also met or spoken with external race equality experts, including the Civil Service Diversity Advisor Karen Blackett and external search consultants to discuss the priority areas for the Civil Service. The Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy was published in October 2017 which sets out our plans to continue to increase the representation of ethnic minority staff at all levels across the Civil Service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-07/127353/>

*The workforce plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/536961/civil\\_service\\_workforce\\_strategy\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/536961/civil_service_workforce_strategy_final.pdf)

*The Diversity and Inclusion Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/658488/Strategy\\_v10\\_FINAL\\_WEB6\\_TEST\\_021117.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/658488/Strategy_v10_FINAL_WEB6_TEST_021117.pdf)

### **Charter of Fundamental Rights (EU)**

**Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru)** [131794] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what plans he has to ensure the maintenance of protections from discrimination in employment on grounds of religion or belief in the Charter of Fundamental Rights after the UK has left the EU.

**Reply from Steve Baker:** The UK has a longstanding tradition of ensuring our rights and liberties are protected domestically and of fulfilling our international human rights obligations. The decision to leave the European Union does not change this.

The Government's intention has always been that in itself not incorporating the Charter into UK law should not affect the substantive rights that individuals already benefit from in the UK, as the Charter was never the source of those rights. The EU (Withdrawal) Bill sets out how the sources of these substantive rights, so far as they exist elsewhere in EU law, are being converted into UK law at the point we exit the EU.

In order to provide guidance on the protection afforded to every right in the Charter the Government has published a non-exhaustive analysis which sets out how substantive rights found in the Charter - including those mentioned in this grouped question - will be reflected in the domestic law of the UK after exit. The analysis is available on gov.uk at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664891/05122017\\_Charter\\_Analysis\\_FINAL\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664891/05122017_Charter_Analysis_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)

Charter Analysis

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-09/131794/>

### **Gypsies and Travellers: Health Services**

**Tulip Siddiq (Labour)** [131613] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the report of the Ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers, published in April 2012, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on progress in promoting improved health outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Travelling communities through the planning system; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Dominic Raab:** The Government's Inclusion Health programme published a number of resources from 2013 to 2016 on key issues affecting Gypsies, Travellers and Roma people. The reports were largely developed with

the participation of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma stakeholders and health professionals. These included guidance on planning and commissioning inclusive services and a report on the impact of insecure accommodation and the living environment on Gypsies' and Travellers' health.

On 5 March 2018, the Government launched a consultation on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework. The consultation asks whether any changes should be made to the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites as a result of the proposed changes to the Framework, and if so, what these changes should be. We welcome views on the consultation, which closes on 10 May 2018 and can be accessed here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-revised-national-planning-policy-framework>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-08/131613/>

### **Police: Biometrics**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [132554] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people from each ethnic group have a custody image on the Police National Database.

**Reply from Nick Hurd:** Information is not available on the ethnicity of those with custody images on the Police National Database (PND).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-14/132554/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Diplomatic Service: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Ouseley (Crossbench)** [HL6051] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the Diplomatic Service of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in employing black and minority ethnic (BAME) persons, since the adoption in 1998 of the diversity and equality strategy, Bridges into the Future; how many BAME officers are employed in the Diplomatic Service in each grade from DS6 to SC3; and what is the total staff from all backgrounds in each of those grades.

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has made good progress on the representation of staff from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (BAME) and is on track to achieve our target of 13% BAME staff FCO-wide in 2020. The FCO's recruitment initiatives are designed to attract the widest possible range of talented staff from diverse backgrounds, including people from BAME.

The figures below include all FCO civil servants based in the UK and overseas but they do not include staff from FCO Services or locally engaged staff employed overseas. UK-Based staff are asked to provide information about their ethnicity, but supplying this data is voluntary. Although the FCO encourages staff to supply it, this is not mandatory and reporting rates vary by grade.

|        | Total | BAME                        |
|--------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Band A | 455   | 121 (87% reporting rate)    |
| Band B | 610   | 117% (80.3% reporting rate) |
| Band C | 1778  | 189% (82.1% reporting rate) |
| Band D | 1302  | 73 (85.3% reporting rate)   |
| SMS    | 417   | 22 (93.8% reporting rate)   |

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-05/HL6051/>

## News

**'I hope this won't be news in 10 years'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43514695>

**White Scots have higher death rates than minorities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-20/scotland/white-scots-have-higher-death-rates-than-minorities-8rm8hr0fj>

**Cash from dormant bank accounts will be used to tackle racial inequality**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095942.Cash\\_from\\_dormant\\_bank\\_accounts\\_will\\_be\\_used\\_to\\_tackle\\_racial\\_inequality/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095942.Cash_from_dormant_bank_accounts_will_be_used_to_tackle_racial_inequality/)

**£90m to tackle high jobless rate among ethnic minorities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-19/news/90m-to-tackle-high-jobless-rate-among-ethnic-minorities-vlgwm399r>

**Surge in Muslims being jailed for drug offences despite drop in overall prison population**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslims-jailed-drug-offences-surge-england-wales-prison-population-drop-a8259466.html>

**Barriers young BME workers face in the labour market**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/barriers-young-bme-workers-face-labour-market>

**Walter Tull: calls for first black British army officer to be honoured**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/23/walter-tull-calls-first-black-british-army-officer-honour-medal>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Debate

**United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11434&i=103868#ScotParlOR>

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

**United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

**8. Fulton MacGregor (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to mark the UN international day for the elimination of racial discrimination. (S5O-01914)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance):** I congratulate Mr MacGregor on the motion that he lodged to mark this significant day, which was debated earlier, and on securing cross-party support for it.

To mark the day, I published a blog on our fairer Scotland website, in which I highlighted that this year is the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which I noted is as relevant today as it was on the day on which it was signed. I also referred to the independent race equality adviser's report and her 70 recommendations, which formed the starting point for our race equality action plan. I was pleased to announce that we will provide funding of around £70,000 to one of our key race equality partners, BEMIS, to deliver a programme

of local and national events that is aimed at involving minority ethnic young people in the year of young people.

I am very much looking forward to attending an event tomorrow to celebrate young people's creativity in tackling racism, which will be hosted by Show Racism the Red Card.

**Fulton MacGregor:** I welcome the actions that the Government is taking to tackle racism. Given that it is actions that matter, does the cabinet secretary agree that all workplaces and establishments, including political parties, should adopt a zero-tolerance approach to racism and discrimination against minorities?

**Reply from Angela Constance:** I do. The member is right to highlight that a zero-tolerance approach to racism and racial discrimination is needed. That response is needed now, and it must be consistent.

I agree that strong and effective action must be taken against anyone who commits a racist hate crime. All those who occupy leadership positions in public life must make clear their rejection of racist and Islamophobic abuse and must take action against anyone who makes statements of that nature.

It was good to see Anas Sarwar and Humza Yousaf showing a united front at the weekend in response to the racist and Islamophobic abuse that they routinely experience, which I am sure we are all absolutely appalled by, but it is important to stress that it is not just for Anas Sarwar and Humza Yousaf to stand united on the issue—we must all stand united in tackling racism in all its forms.

**Pauline McNeill (Labour):** Will the Scottish Government support the call from BEMIS for Scotland's national identity to be as inclusive as it can be and for it to include the integration of refugees and asylum seekers into Scottish society? Does the cabinet secretary agree that anti-refugee sentiment has no place in Scotland or in our society?

**Reply from Angela Constance:** I agree. It is, indeed, a case of one Scotland, many cultures. I hope that the member has seen that reflected in the good cross-party civic Scotland work that we have done on our immigration strategy for new Scots.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11434&i=103878#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-10899 James Kelly (Labour): Tackling Sectarian Attitudes Through Art in Glasgow** – That the Parliament commends the work of the anti-sectarianism charity, Nil By Mouth, in commissioning the creation and installation of public artwork in Glasgow, focused on tackling sectarian attitudes; notes that the first piece of this art, which will be displayed in St Mungo's Museum for the next 12 months, is Torn by Kelly Coyle; understands that Nil By Mouth has contacted Glasgow City Council to discuss obtaining permission, and sourcing appropriate locations, to enable local artists and schools to use publicly-owned buildings, and welcomes the positive efforts of organisations such as Nil By Mouth to tackle sectarianism, create a space for these thought provoking murals and highlight the positive relationships between people from different religions and cultural backgrounds in the city.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10899>

**S5M-11266 John Mason (SNP): Anti-racism March** – That the Parliament welcomes that a march against racism organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) took place in Glasgow on 17 March 2018; notes that members from throughout Scotland of the Confederation of Friends of Israel Scotland (COFIS) sought to participate in the march in order to oppose antisemitism; regrets, however, that COFIS members were reportedly blocked from taking part in the main march by demonstrators who appeared to be against any participants sympathetic towards Israel; considers that criticism of Israeli

policies and antisemitism can be easily confused and difficult to distinguish from each other; regretfully believes that this and other events suggest that antisemitism is alive in Scotland in 2018, and calls on everyone to reflect on their attitudes towards Israel and the Jewish community in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11266>

## Scottish Parliament Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

### Cross-party group on tackling Islamophobia

**Anas Sarwar (Labour):** ... Anyone who has seen the stories in the media, particularly over the past few weeks, regarding Islamophobia and challenges towards Muslims, not just here in Scotland and across the United Kingdom but across the world, will recognise that there is a growing challenge with Islamophobia and how it impacts on communities, and especially its direct impact on women ...

First, we are trying to get some recognition that Islamophobia exists. Secondly, we are bringing together all the people who are working in individual silos across Scotland round a table in one place, namely the Parliament. That also provides an opportunity to educate parliamentarians about what more we can do to challenge Islamophobia head on. ...

What role does Police Scotland have to play around reporting and recording, the barriers to reporting and the way in which cases are dealt with? What role does the Crown Office play subsequently regarding successful prosecutions and the sentences that are handed down for people who perpetrate Islamophobic hate crimes?

It is worth emphasising the key point that the vast majority of Islamophobia and racism is not criminal in nature. It is not something that someone can report to the police or that can lead to a successful prosecution. However, it still impacts on life chances, life opportunities and life outcomes. It is that aspect in particular that the CPG wants to explore, including the issues of employability, the education system and access to public services. We will be examining all those issues in more detail. ...

Fulton MacGregor chairs the cross-party group on racial equality, and I am a deputy convener of that group. Fulton was at the first meeting of the CPG on Islamophobia when we set it up, and there are areas that we will consider together, particularly around the legal framework. There is a common interest around race and religion and faith, and around reporting and how the police co-operate. Fulton and I have already agreed that we will try to arrange certain meetings together.

I have also had conversations with people who serve on the cross-party group on freedom of religion or belief. There are some issues around religious freedom on which it would be worth having more conversations. Then, there is the cross-party group that deals with anti-Semitism, of which I think Adam Tomkins is the convener. There have already been conversations around some of the successful work that the Jewish community did in getting access to decision makers, particularly in the criminal justice system, and around how we could replicate some of that with the cross-party group on tackling Islamophobia. ...

Thinking about what the biggest challenge has been, I would comment that we sometimes have a Scottish exceptionalism: an idea that bad things happen elsewhere but not here. One objective is to have a recognition that Islamophobia exists in Scotland, in just the same way as sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism and racism exist. ...

Secondly, the objective is to try to define what Islamophobia is. People have a loose definition in their heads, but there is probably not a set definition in law. ...

Thirdly, it is to try to educate communities and bring people together. ...

It is also the intention to create a research document. One of the biggest challenges can be expressed through a question that I am asked a lot: "How bad is the problem?" I honestly do not know the answer to that. Research needs to be done so that we can find



out, first, what the extent of the issue is; secondly, what the Muslim community's perception is; and, thirdly and equally importantly, what the general population's perception is. ...

It is important that we get all faiths involved, because only if things are done across those of all faiths and of none will we get action. We can also learn from best practice in other communities that have experienced similar circumstances.

People have asked me whether we should create a cross-party group on prejudice and hate in general rather than making it specific to Islamophobia. However, if we were to have a cross-party group on prejudice and hate, it would be natural that, based on population sizes, an order of merit, importance or seniority would emerge. On that basis, Islamophobia would be quite low in the chain, to be frank, among the different forms of prejudice and hate. That is why having a cross-party group on tackling Islamophobia in its own right is important. ...

*Group approved*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11427&i=103815&c=2075426#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Hate Crime

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [132314] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Hate crime action plan 2016.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Hate Crime action plan, "Action Against Hate", published in July 2016 is a four year plan, with actions running up until 2020. We are approaching the half way point of the plan, and good progress has been made on many of the actions. This includes Home Office funding of £3.4 million for protective security measures for places of worship and other vulnerable faith institutions, and £900,000 for projects to tackle hate crime in local communities.

The Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will refresh the action plan this year, which will provide an opportunity to fully report on progress.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132314/>

*The Hate Crime action plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543679/Action\\_Against\\_Hate\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

### Discrimination: Finance

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [132311] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how much funding his Department has allocated to tackle (a) Islamophobia, (b) sexual orientation discrimination and (c) antisemitism in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Heather Wheeler:** We treat all hate crime with equal seriousness; there is no place for treating victims differently regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity. Our funding of projects reflects this approach and that is why we fund a number of initiatives that combat hate crime across all five strands and do not allocate specific funding to target specific areas. Our work to combat religiously motivated hatred tackles anti-Muslim hatred and anti-Semitism, alongside hatred directed at any person or group based on their religion.

Since 2010 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has provided £3.7 million to local projects to challenge hate crime. We expect to

spend a further £1.5 million by March 2018. This includes support for programmes such as the Anne Frank Trust's Switch Off Prejudice programme which encourages young people to consider the consequences of prejudice, persecution and discrimination, support for community organisations such as Tell MAMA and the Community Security Trust, and establishing the Hate Crime Support Group which networks organisations tackling hatred across all five protected categories to share best practice and offer the best support for victims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132311/>

### **Islam: Religious Hatred**

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [132316] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to prevent the growth of extreme anti-Muslim views in (a) print, (b) broadcast and (c) social media.

**Reply from Heather Wheeler:** The Government recognises the harm caused by anti-Muslim views across all forms of media including print, broadcast and social media and our Hate Crime Action Plan makes clear our commitment to reducing this harm. We are working with The Society of Editors and the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) to improve journalists' understanding of minority groups and to devise training to help journalists gain a better understanding of Islam. We have also been instrumental in ensuring that four of the main internet service providers, Facebook, Google, Twitter and Microsoft, remove illegal hate speech including Islamophobic content from their platforms within 24 hours.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-13/132316/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Castes: Discrimination**

**Lord Cashman (Labour)** [HL6091] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many responses to their consultation on caste in Great Britain and equality law were accepted after the closing date for submissions; and whether statistics on any responses accepted after the closing date will be declared separately.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Following the closure of the Government's consultation on 'Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law' on 18 September 2017, we received 42 late responses in five separate postal mailings. This constituted 0.26% of the total number of responses received, and included responses from both those in favour of and those opposed to explicit legal protection against caste discrimination being included in the Equality Act 2010. Almost all late responses were campaign responses identical to others which had arrived on time.

Respondents had already had almost six months to reply to the consultation, and late responses were not taken into account in the Government's analysis of the consultation's results. The Government will be publishing this analysis and its response to the consultation in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-06/HL6091/>

## **Press Releases**

### **Tackling sectarianism**

<https://news.gov.scot/news/tackling-sectarianism-4>

**BME people still facing racism and discrimination at work, says TUC**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/bme-people-still-facing-racism-and-discrimination-work-says-tuc>

**Shining a spotlight on structural racism in Britain today**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/shining-spotlight-structural-racism-britain-today>

**As millions remain exposed to racism, equality bodies must be strengthened, say heads of European human rights institutions on International Anti-Racism Day**

[https://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/265\\_2018\\_03\\_21\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_en.pdf](https://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/265_2018_03_21_Joint_Statement_en.pdf)

**Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/03/21/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination/>

**Promote tolerance, respect diversity, UN chief urges ahead of International Day against racial discrimination**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/03/1005462>

**Stronger, more independent equality bodies needed to combat intolerance and discrimination in Europe, says Council of Europe anti-racism commission**

<http://hudoc.ecri.coe.int/eng?i=REC-02rev-PR-2018-266-ENG>

**“Unashamed bigotry”: Rise in racism and xenophobia is alarming, say UN rights experts**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22862&LangID=E>

## **New Publications**

**Briefing: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2018-0031/LLN-2018-0031.pdf>

**ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 2: Equality Bodies to Combat Racism And Intolerance at National Level**

<http://hudoc.ecri.coe.int/eng?i=REC-02rev-2018-006-ENG>

**Handbook on European non-discrimination law – 2018 edition**

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2018-handbook-non-discrimination-law-2018\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-handbook-non-discrimination-law-2018_en.pdf)

**Racism and Discrimination in Employment in Europe 2013 – 2017**

[http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20107\\_shadowreport\\_2016x2017\\_long\\_v8\\_hr.pdf](http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20107_shadowreport_2016x2017_long_v8_hr.pdf)

## **News: Scottish Labour Party**

**Scottish Labour leadership must grasp the nettle and take action firm action on racism**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-labour-leadership-must-grasp-12243627>

**Richard Leonard says any Labour racism problem 'reflective of Scottish society'**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/richard-leonard-says-any-labour-12235272>

**Council leader under fire for 'casting doubt' on racism claims against colleague**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16113125.Council\\_leader\\_under\\_fire\\_for\\_casting\\_doubt\\_on\\_racism\\_claims\\_against\\_colleague/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16113125.Council_leader_under_fire_for_casting_doubt_on_racism_claims_against_colleague/)

**Alleged racial abuse by Labour councillor 'haunted' man**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-43491894>

**Labour racism row councillor accused of chasing girl with air freshener and telling her she 'smelled like curry'**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/labour-racism-row-councillor-accused-12228722>

**Humza Yousaf labels councillor's mosque visit a 'token photo-op'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/humza-yousaf-labels-councillor-s-mosque-visit-a-token-photo-op-1-4709334>

**Humza Yousaf blasts Labour councillor's 'tokenistic' mosque photo-op after burka slur**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/humza-yousaf-blasts-labour-councillors-12220287>

**Minister calls slur councillor's mosque trip a token photo op**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-21/scotland/minister-calls-slur-councillors-mosque-trip-a-token-photo-op-zc6ldv2z3>

**Anas Sarwar urges Scottish Labour to act over shamed councillor Dempster**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095918.Sarwar\\_urges\\_Scottish\\_Labour\\_to\\_act\\_over\\_shamed\\_councillor\\_Dempster/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095918.Sarwar_urges_Scottish_Labour_to_act_over_shamed_councillor_Dempster/)

**Councillor's Islamophobic comment row rekindled**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-43477173>

**Suspended councillor 'deeply sorry' for burka comments**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/16099610.Suspended\\_councillor\\_39\\_deeply\\_sorry\\_39\\_for\\_burka\\_comments/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/16099610.Suspended_councillor_39_deeply_sorry_39_for_burka_comments/)

## **News: UK Labour Party**

**Jeremy Corbyn regrets comments about 'anti-Semitic' mural**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43523445>

**Jeremy Corbyn expresses regret over intervention in anti-Semitic mural row**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/16113816.Jeremy\\_Corbyn\\_expresses\\_regret\\_over\\_intervention\\_in\\_anti\\_Semitic\\_mural\\_row/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/16113816.Jeremy_Corbyn_expresses_regret_over_intervention_in_anti_Semitic_mural_row/)

**Corbyn in antisemitism row after backing artist behind 'offensive' mural**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/23/corbyn-criticised-after-backing-artist-behind-antisemitic-mural>

**Jeremy Corbyn is reported to Labour Party chiefs over anti-semitic mural**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/jeremy-corbyn-is-reported-to-labour-party-chiefs-over-anti-semitic-mural-6mqb8m0pv>

**Labour MPs brand Jeremy Corbyn's response to antisemitic mural 'wholly inadequate'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/23/labour-mps-demand-answers-jeremy-corbyn-support-antisemitic/>

**Jeremy Corbyn forced to backtrack over apparent support for antisemitic mural**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-anti-semitic-mural-mear-one-luciana-berger-east-end-a8271111.html>

## News: 'Nazi dog'

**'Nazi dog' prankster Mark Meechan hits back at sheriff**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16103727.Video\\_Nazi\\_dog\\_Scot\\_considers\\_hate\\_crime\\_appeal\\_accusing\\_sheriff\\_of\\_huge\\_attack\\_on\\_my\\_character/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16103727.Video_Nazi_dog_Scot_considers_hate_crime_appeal_accusing_sheriff_of_huge_attack_on_my_character/)

**Man guilty of hate crime for filming pug's 'Nazi salutes'**  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-43478925>

**Free speech row as Scots 'Nazi dog' film maker found guilty of being grossly offensive online**  
<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16099568.scots-nazi-dog-film-maker-found-guilty-of-hate-crime/?ref=mr&lp=1>

**Comedy stars back Scots 'Nazi dog' film maker found guilty of hate crime**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16100379.Video\\_Comedy\\_stars\\_back\\_Scots\\_Nazi\\_dog\\_film\\_maker\\_found\\_guilty\\_of\\_hate\\_crime/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16100379.Video_Comedy_stars_back_Scots_Nazi_dog_film_maker_found_guilty_of_hate_crime/)

**Scots 'Nazi dog' row: "What is funny about talking about killing an entire race"**  
[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16100386.Scots\\_Nazi\\_dog\\_row\\_What\\_is\\_funny\\_about\\_talking\\_about\\_killing\\_an\\_entire\\_race/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16100386.Scots_Nazi_dog_row_What_is_funny_about_talking_about_killing_an_entire_race/)

**Scots man who filmed pet dog giving Nazi salutes is convicted**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scots-man-who-filmed-pet-dog-giving-nazi-salutes-is-convicted-1-4709270>

**Nazi dog 'joker' convicted of hate crime after teaching girlfriend's pug to do Sieg Heil salute**  
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/crime/nazi-dog-joker-convicted-hate-12220027>

**Man who taught dog Nazi salutes convicted of hate crime**  
<http://metro.co.uk/2018/03/20/man-taught-dog-nazi-salutes-convicted-hate-crime-2-7402575/>

**Man who taught pet pug to give Nazi salutes and posted footage on Youtube found guilty of a hate crime**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/pug-nazi-salute-youtube-video-owner-guilty-hate-crime-mark-meechan-lanarkshire-a8265301.html>

**YouTube user convicted of hate crime over pet dog's 'Nazi salutes'**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/20/youtube-user-convicted-hate-crime-pet-dogs-nazi-salutes/>

**Training dog to give Nazi salute was not a joke, rules sheriff**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-21/news/man-faces-jail-after-teaching-pug-to-perform-nazi-salute-sx02rf5ml>

## News: Higher Education

**A third of UK Muslims report abuse or crime while studying**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/19/a-third-of-uk-muslims-report-abuse-or-while-studying>

**Universities 'want to pretend racism is not happening'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/universities-want-to-pretend-racism-is-not-happening-q3bd77www>

**University of Exeter investigates claims of racist WhatsApp group**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/20/university-of-exeter-claims-of-racist-whatsapp-group-law-society>

**Students at prestigious law society accused of racism after group's WhatsApp messages are leaked online**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2018/03/20/students-prestigious-law-society-accused-racism-groups-whatsapp/>

**Exeter University investigates law students' "racist" messages**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-43462767>

**Exeter students suspended for 'racist texting'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-21/news/exeter-students-suspended-for-racist-texting-qvpfp6r0j>

## **News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination**

**Annabelle Ewing announces new anti-sectarian drive**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16114595.minister-announces-new-anti-sectarian-drive/?ref=mr&lp=11>

**Racism and Islamophobic 'getting worse in Scotland'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-43448155>

**Rise in hate crimes on children under 18 and many suffer in silence**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/rise-hate-crimes-children-under-12215642>

**Diversity training doesn't cure racism**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/martyn-mclaughlin-diversity-training-doesn-t-cure-racism-1-4709556>

**Diversity training not proper punishment for footballer, says Anas Sarwar**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/diversity-training-not-proper-punishment-for-footballer-says-anas-sarwar-3qqt7hzw3>

**Demand for extra £1m to tackle sectarianism as cash set to run out**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095919.Demand\\_for\\_extra\\_1m\\_to\\_tackle\\_sectarianism\\_as\\_cash\\_set\\_to\\_run\\_out/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095919.Demand_for_extra_1m_to_tackle_sectarianism_as_cash_set_to_run_out/)

**Hate speech leads to violence. Why would liberals defend it?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/mar/22/hate-speech-violence-liberals-rightwing-extremists>

**Scottish Rugby bosses probe footage of sectarian chanting**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-43475427>

**Clyde FC's handling of race row footballer condemned in Scottish Parliament**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political\\_news/16102837.Clyde\\_FC\\_s\\_handling\\_of\\_race\\_row\\_footballer\\_condemned\\_in\\_Scottish\\_Parliament/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/16102837.Clyde_FC_s_handling_of_race_row_footballer_condemned_in_Scottish_Parliament/)

### **Sarwar says Clyde footballer should have been expelled for abuse**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/sarwar-says-clyde-footballer-should-have-been-expelled-for-abuse-1-4710095>

### **Anas Sarwar blasts Clyde FC bosses over racist footballer's diversity training 'punishment'**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/anas-sarwar-blasts-clyde-fc-12226949>

### **YouTube's neo-Nazi music problem**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-43416117>

### **Chelsea racism claims could be just the tip of the iceberg**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/mar/24/chelsea-racism-claims-tip-of-iceberg>

### **Row over pro-Israeli groups blocked from Glasgow anti-racism procession**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16095657.row-over-pro-israeli-groups-blocked-from-glasgow-anti-racism-procession/?ref=mr&lp=2>

### **Booksellers remove racist and Holocaust denial titles from their websites**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/20/waterstones-foyles-wh-smith-amazon-racist-books-on-websites>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**S5M-10836 Richard Lyle (SNP): Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society** – That the Parliament congratulates the Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society on being awarded a £10,000 Awards for All Scotland grant; understands that the group, which is located at a site near New Stevenson in the Uddingston and Bellshill constituency, raised enough money over eight years to help open the Lanarkshire Mosque in 2005 and that, since then, the mosque and the society have grown from strength-to-strength with ambitious plans for community spaces and engagement; welcomes the awarding of the funding to such an important group in the community, particularly as it will be used to provide a range of social activities for its members and the wider community, and wishes the society continued success as it continues to make a difference in the community.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10836>

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## **Other UK Parliament and Government**

### **Press Releases**

#### **Prime Minister's Nowruz message**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-nowruz-message-21-march-2018>

#### **Foreign Secretary's Nowruz message**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-nowruz-message-2018>

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## Other News

### **London father cleared over FGM offences**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-43503416>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

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

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Justice Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11386&i=103492#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19AS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19AS052018.pdf)

Stage 3: Notice of amendments

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19AMLS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19AMLS052018.pdf)

Revised explanatory notes

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19AENS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19AENS052018.pdf)

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11421&i=103785#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11421&i=103786&c=2073933#ScotParlOR>

Vote: Bill passed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11421&i=103788&c=2074008#ScotParlOR>

#### **UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/107725.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28S052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28S052018.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28ENS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28ENS052018.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28PMS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28PMS052018.pdf)

Financial Memorandum

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28FMS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28FMS052018.pdf)



Delegated Powers Memorandum

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28DPMS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28DPMS052018.pdf)

Statements on legislative competence

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28LCS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28LCS052018.pdf)

Statement by the Lord Advocate followed by Q&A

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11387&i=103514#ScotParlOR>

Debate on treating the Bill as an Emergency Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11388&i=103540#ScotParlOR>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11401&i=103628#ScotParlOR>

Financial resolution

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11401&i=103629#ScotParlOR>

Pre Stage 2 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11415&i=103724#ScotParlOR>

Evidence session: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11414&i=103717#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3: Notice of amendments

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28AMLS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28AMLS052018.pdf)

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11434&i=103885#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11434&i=103887#ScotParlOR>

<sup>6</sup>  
Vote: Bill passed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11434&i=103890#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20\(Legal%20Continuity\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill28BS052018.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/UK%20Withdrawal%20from%20the%20European%20Union%20(Legal%20Continuity)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill28BS052018.pdf)

## 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>

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11385&i=103483#ScotParlor>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-19/debates/F578FC44-1C41-4D89-9A17-8A3CBD13EF54/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-19/debates/F578FC44-1C41-4D89-9A17-8A3CBD13EF54/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-19/debates/47210FF1-A5B4-4CC6-895D-8F4C1838316D/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-19/debates/47210FF1-A5B4-4CC6-895D-8F4C1838316D/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/98893A73-E5B0-45B9-AAB8-19589FA18E5B/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/98893A73-E5B0-45B9-AAB8-19589FA18E5B/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/BF5D8A3E-05C4-4EB4-ACC2-0029BB0C8A21/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/BF5D8A3E-05C4-4EB4-ACC2-0029BB0C8A21/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/3086F22D-22D0-472C-BB22-2462A6FE1F4B/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-21/debates/3086F22D-22D0-472C-BB22-2462A6FE1F4B/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Proposed amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-IX.pdf>

## **\*\* Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0182/18182.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0182/en/18182en.pdf>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-03-13/debates/CBE9618C-3363-4465-8081-F06124F9BAFF/Holocaust\(ReturnOfCulturalObjects\)\(Amendment\)#contribution-051F3511-9C5E-4359-B9EE-7163AE0DA286](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-03-13/debates/CBE9618C-3363-4465-8081-F06124F9BAFF/Holocaust(ReturnOfCulturalObjects)(Amendment)#contribution-051F3511-9C5E-4359-B9EE-7163AE0DA286)

Scottish Parliament Legislative Consent Motion

<http://www.parliament.scot/SPLCM-S05-15.pdf>

## **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>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-03-16/debates/98BC79C8-B9C9-469F-B4B5-C5D9702540DF/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)\(No2\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-03-16/debates/98BC79C8-B9C9-469F-B4B5-C5D9702540DF/Refugees(FamilyReunion)(No2)Bill)

## 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

**A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger communities** (closing date 27 April 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530204.pdf>

\*\* **Integrated Communities Strategy green paper** (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

\*\* **Welsh Government: Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and asylum seeker plan**

(closing date 25 June 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/nation-sanctuary-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-plan>

**Police Scotland: Your view counts** (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

\*\* **closes this week!**

**Workplace Equality Fund**

**Closing date for applications: 29 March 2018**

Scottish Government funding to support private businesses in reducing employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers in the workplace. Grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 are available. In exceptional circumstances, applications of up to £100,000 will

be considered. To be eligible applicants should be a private business or a third sector organisation whose project proposes to work with private business.

The funding will support employers in reducing employment inequalities, discrimination and barriers particularly across the arts, culture, leisure, tourism, finance, manufacturing, construction, agriculture and fishing, transport and communication and STEM sectors.

For information and to apply see <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/workplace-equality-fund/>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **Equalities & Human Rights Focus Groups**

26 March 2018 in Edinburgh (12.30-2.30)

20 April 2018 in Inverness (12.30-2.30)

11 May 2018 in Clydebank (12.30-2.30)

14 May 2018 in Galashiels (12.30-2.30)

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee focus groups to explore what more the Scottish Parliament can do to promote and protect human rights. For information contact 0131 348 6040 / [Equalities.HumanRights@parliament.scot](mailto:Equalities.HumanRights@parliament.scot)

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting**

27 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

12 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

8 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

21 June 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

17 July 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland training to equip those working in a youth setting with appropriate tools for tackling hate speech, explore issues relating to cultural and religious diversity, learn how to recognise hate speech, and how to manage the situation when it occurs. For information see contact Jamie Spurway [Jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:Jamie@interfaithscotland.org) / 07921 439 952

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **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)

#### **New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement**

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)

### **\*\* BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence**

27 April 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid training to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the

varied issues for black and minority ethnic (BME) women experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information contact 0131 226 6606 or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence/>

### **Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

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)

### **\*\* Culture - Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training**

15-16 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

12-13 September 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

Two day training to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion and belief and increase skills in order to help create a more inclusive diverse environment For information contact Farkhanda Chaudhry 0141 577 8454 / 07950 008 859 / [Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

### **New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process**

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)

### **First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health**

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

('earlybird' deadline (for reduced fee) is 3 February 2018)

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/> (full programme now available on the conference website) or contact [merh@in-conference.org.uk](mailto:merh@in-conference.org.uk) / 0131 336 4203.

### **Working with Interpreters**

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

### **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/>

[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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