

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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**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 16 April 2018.
The UK Parliament is in recess until 17 April 2018.**

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Sponsorship

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [134211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many employers have (a) applied for and (b) been refused UK Visa and Immigration sponsorship status in the last four years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

The number of new sponsor licence applications, and the number of sponsors registered on points based system (PBS) routes, is published on the Home Office website:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-26/134211/>

Visas

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [134210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for visitor visas from each country were accepted in the most recent 12-month period for which data is available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applications for visit visas are considered against Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and on a case by case basis. Detailed information on how UK Visas and Immigration makes decisions on visitor cases is published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance> Information on total entry clearance visas (the majority of which are visitor visas) broken down by nationality and outcome (grants, refusals, withdrawals, lapsed) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-26/134210/>

Immigration: Appeals

The Minister has corrected her previous replies to the following two questions

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [129416] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average time taken was for processing immigration appeals in 2016-2017.

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [129417] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average time taken was for processing immigration appeals during 2015-2016.

Reply from Lucy Frazer (as corrected): The average time taken to clear an immigration appeal in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in 2016-2017 was 51 weeks. The average time taken to clear a case in 2015-2016 was 35 weeks.

The average clearance time, which is measured from receipt of an appeal to its conclusion, went up between 2015-16 and 2016-17 because of the Tribunal significantly reducing its outstanding caseload and clearing older cases during that period. Outstanding caseload has now reduced from 64,800 in June 2016 to 35,100 at the end of December 2017.

Immigration includes Managed Migration, Entry Clearance Officer, Human Rights, EEA Free Movement Family Visit Visa, Deportation and Deprivation of Citizenship Appeals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-23/129416/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-23/129417/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Helen Jones (Labour) [134277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme met all of the following criteria, (a) women and girls at risk, (b) survivors of violence or torture and (c) refugees with medical needs or disabilities.

Refugees: Iraq

Helen Jones (Labour) [134278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women and girls have been resettled from Iraq under (a) the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and (b) the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The statistics are available at:

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

A quarterly breakdown of resettlements by scheme and nationality is published in

table as19q of the Asylum data tables volume 4. We do not publish the numbers of those resettled by host country, eligibility criteria, age or gender.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-26/134277/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-26/134278/>

Refugees: Legal Aid Scheme

Hugh Gaffney (Labour) [133455] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the Government plans to reinstate legal aid in refugee family reunion cases.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Legal aid is not generally available for matters concerning family reunion. Where a case is outside the scope of legal aid, exceptional funding may be available where required under ECHR or EU law.

The Lord Chancellor has confirmed that we shall conduct an evidence-based review of Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO), assessing the changes against their objectives. This review will include changes made to provision of legal aid for family reunion.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-20/133455/>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [133797] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy on room sharing with reference to accommodation for dispersed asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Accommodation providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including those regarding room sharing. The accommodation contracts set out who may share a room, which includes allowing room sharing for couples, unrelated adults of the same sex and related children depending on their genders and ages. Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate and an assessment is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-21/133797/>

Asylum: Voluntary Work

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [134059] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allocate funding for volunteering opportunities for people seeking asylum in (a) Yorkshire and the Humber and (b) the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our policy is clear that we encourage asylum seekers to seek out volunteering activities, which can provide a valuable contribution to their local community and may help them to integrate into society if they qualify for protection. However, we have no plans to allocate funding for this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-23/134059/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: International Students

Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will now consider removing international students from the net migration statistics.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, migration statistics are produced by the independent Office

for National Statistics, which follows international best practice. The Government do not intend to seek to influence this. There is no plan to limit the number of genuine international students who can come to the UK and, in 2017, the number of university-sponsored visas issued rose by 6%.

Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative): My Lords, international students contribute well over £20 billion to the economy—an economic boon for Britain. Currently, more than 50 Heads of State or Prime Ministers were educated in UK higher education. Show me a more successful piece of soft power. In light of this, will my noble friend consider the pilot for named UK universities for visas and going back to the department and reconsidering removing international students from the net migration figures?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend is nothing if not consistent. I am very pleased to tell him, as he mentioned the pilot study, that a further 23 institutions have been selected on the basis of having a consistently low visa refusal rate for their region. The pilot means that universities are responsible for eligibility checks, so students applying for their visa can submit fewer documents alongside their visa applications. The pilot also helps to support students who wish to switch to a work route and take up a graduate role by extending the leave period following the end of their study by up to six months.

Lord Faulkener of Worcester (Labour): My Lords, in congratulating the noble Lord, Lord Holmes of Richmond, on his Question and supplementary, with which I agree totally, does the Minister agree with Dame Julia Goodfellow, president of Universities UK, who says that, “it is important to remember that international students also enrich our campuses and the experience of UK students, both academically and culturally. Many return home having built strong professional and personal links here that provide long-term, ‘soft power’ benefits for the UK”. ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am very happy to agree with both the noble Lord and, of course, my noble friend. We absolutely acknowledge that international students enrich the economy and, indeed, this country. We have no plans at all to cap the numbers—in fact, we encourage them, hence we are expanding the pilot. ...

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): I am grateful to the noble Earl, and I hope that I may also be nothing if not consistent. Is the noble Baroness aware that the number of foreign nationals in the UK who arrive to study is, according to the Labour Force Survey, 1 million? In that case, is it not surely essential that they should be included in the migration statistics, as the ONS intends and as the Royal Statistical Society has recommended? It is a question not of who is allowed in but of counting them as they come and go.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right. Earlier this year, the Royal Statistical Society agreed with that approach and said that, “we believe it is imperative for due attention to be paid to the international definitions of migration, which lead to the inclusion of students in the figures”.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour): My Lords, is it not a fact that the combination of Home Office measures has had a dampening impact on overseas recruitment and we are losing market share? Coming back to the issue of statistics, the Minister’s own department’s official statistics in August last year showed that 95% of international students coming from outside the EU were fully accounted for, either by leaving to go back home or by receiving an extension of their leave to be here because they are extending their studies. What is the problem with the Home Office in coming to a sensible resolution of this?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right that 95% of students—I thought it was slightly more—are compliant. However, I dispute his point about discouraging students. As I said in reply to the original Question, student numbers were up 6% this year. However, if people come here and require services such as housing or other sorts of public services, those figures have to be considered in all sorts of ways when planning for the population

that is resident here.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, will the Minister consider that what may be gained in the numbers is lost by the message as it is heard: foreigners are not welcome, and the British do not understand the international nature of learning?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the message that is going out appears to be from your Lordships' House and is not being heard internationally. Much has been made of applications from India. Last year, the numbers granted increased by 28%. I dispute that students are not feeling welcome in this country. They are applying in their droves.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend will acknowledge that this House has repeatedly discussed this issue in great detail and with near unanimity. What is the real obstacle to separating the students from those who are coming indefinitely? Doing so would be sensible; it would encourage our universities; and it would give a message that the doors really are open for students throughout the world.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I think I have explained that, given the increases in visa applications and grants that have happened in the last 12 months—in fact, since 2010—students are not deterred from coming to this country to gain a world-class education. I think I have explained, too, that if students were not counted, we may not be able to plan accordingly for some of the vital services that people who live here use.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-26/debates/EF69C478-5BE2-4288-A11E-E66767C99A79/ImmigrationInternationalStudents>

Immigration: Asylum Claims

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration in the report, *An investigation into the Home Office's Handling of Asylum Claims Made on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation, March to June 2014*.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the UK is a world leader in handling asylum claims based on sexual orientation. In its response, the Government accepted all eight recommendations from the independent chief inspector's report, either entirely—seven—or partially—one. They have since implemented them all accordingly as part of their drive to continually improve.

Lord Scriven: I thank the Minister for that Answer. I want to move on to the issue of detention of those seeking asylum on the grounds of sexual orientation. The UK is the only country in the EU that detains indefinitely those seeking asylum on sexual orientation grounds. Therefore, will the Government commit to implementing the Yogyakarta principle plus 10, on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, with particular reference to ending the detention of LGBTI asylum seekers?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I can make it absolutely clear here today that we do not detain asylum seekers indefinitely. The noble Lord will know, because I have said it here before, that detention is a last resort, and the vast majority of LGB asylum claims are processed in the non-detained system, with claimants living in the community. Only a small minority of claimants are detained while their claim is considered, and almost all of them have claimed asylum after being detained for removal. Detention under immigration powers is used only very sparingly, as I have said, and alternatives are considered before any decision to detain is made.

Lord Lexden (Conservative): Are the Government taking steps to improve the quality of decision-making in LGBT asylum claims, in view of the large number of refusals that are overturned on appeal?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the quality of the system

was vastly improved after the 2014 report, which I talked about in my first Answer. In addition, the training of people dealing with LGBT asylum claims in detention or seeking their removal has been done in conjunction with both Stonewall and UKLGIG to absolutely ensure humane treatment of LGBT people in asylum.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): Can I ask the noble Baroness about the Home Office guidance issued in 2017? I have seen reports suggesting that gay asylum seekers could be returned to Afghanistan if they pretended they were straight. Surely this cannot be the case. We must work to a much higher standard, and the question of personal safety should be paramount in decisions given by the authorities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: What the noble Lord says seems to be a contradiction in terms, because an LGBT person would presumably be seeking asylum because they feared persecution on return to a country that persecuted LGBT people. I would largely dispute the point, but I will double check because the noble Lord asked the question.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, I thank Her Majesty's Government for the initial constructive response to the serious concerns—outlined in the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief, which I co-chair—about people claiming asylum on grounds of persecution for their faith or belief. In particular, there were concerns about religious-based “Trivial Pursuit”-type questions and poor interpretation of religious concepts. Will my noble friend confirm that, as in LGBTQI claims, all Home Office caseworkers, as part of their training, will now have compulsory training in asylum claims on the grounds of persecution for faith or belief?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All people in the detention estate have training in dealing with LGBT claims and claims on the grounds of faith. As with LGBT claims, faith claims are dealt with sensitively. Nobody who fears persecution because of their faith or because they are LGBT would be expected to return to a country in which that characteristic was persecuted.

Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, does the Minister understand that some of us are greatly concerned when her department has to ask charities and voluntary organisations to tell it how many LGBT people it has in detention? Could her department commit to producing better statistics on these people, who, after all, are often detained with the very people from whom they are fleeing persecution?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank the noble Baroness for bringing that up. She will know that we produced statistics at the end of last year. Figures from charities and any information that could be brought to bear in this early stage of making those statistics robust are always helpful, but clearly, we would like to get to a stage where the statistics we produce are robust. I thank the noble Baroness for her part in this.

Lord Christopher (Labour): My Lords, some of the cases we have read about in the press are almost unbelievable. The noble Baroness may not have the answer to this question in her briefing papers, but how many of the staff dealing with these matters have more than 12 months' experience of them? How many have more than two years' experience? At its peak, what was the size of the cut in the Home Office staff overall?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is right: I do not have the precise figures on me. However, I can tell him that all people in the detention estate are trained in dealing with some of these very sensitive issues.

Baroness Afshar (Crossbench): My Lords, how aware are these officials of the very differing interpretations of and varieties within religions, as defining someone as Muslim does not particularly help in understanding what kind of Muslim they are and what kind of understanding they have? The variety within Islam is so large that it takes me a whole term to teach my students about it. Would the Government be willing to have me teach for a term to tell them about the differences just within Islam?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness is right to point out that religion, particularly Islam, can be interpreted in different ways in different countries. Therefore, it is very important for those in the detention estate to have

religious literacy training so that they are sensitive to those differences. I will take back the noble Baroness's point.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-28/debates/CF235B9E-6516-42C1-8F0C-424899ADAA23/ImmigrationAsylumClaims>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/547330/Investigation-into-the-Handling-of-Asylum-Claims_Oct_2014.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Controls: Republic of Ireland

Lord Bowness (Conservative) [HL6288] To ask Her Majesty's Government where non-UK citizens travelling to the UK from the Republic of Ireland will have their travel documents checked after the UK leaves the EU; whether citizens of the Republic of Ireland will be subject to the same checks; and what effect such checks will have on (1) the Common Travel Area, and (2) control of the UK's border.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Common Travel Area (CTA) is an existing special travel area which facilitates the long-standing principle of free movement for British and Irish nationals and the enjoyment of reciprocal rights enjoyed in the UK and Ireland.

The CTA arrangements mean there are no routine immigration controls on journeys from Ireland to the UK, including over the land border. The Government is committed to maintaining these arrangements with Ireland after the UK leaves the EU, protecting the ability to move freely between Ireland and the UK. The December Joint Report includes recognition from the EU that the CTA with Ireland is protected after the UK has left the EU. As will all the commitments made in the December Joint Report we are determined to ensure that this is turned into legally binding text in the Withdrawal Agreement. Maintaining these arrangements also means the protection of Irish citizens' rights to enter and remain in the UK.

Immigration control is not, and never has been, solely about the ability to prevent and control entry at the UK's physical border. There is a high level of collaboration between the UK and Ireland on border security, with a joint programme of work focused on strengthening the external border of the CTA.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-13/HL6288/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated) [HL6528] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have issued any policy guidance to help immigration caseworkers assess the character and conduct of highly-skilled migrants applying for visas to work in the UK.

Immigration: Fraud

Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated) [HL6529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to put in place processes enabling action to be taken against those whose immigration applications have been refused on the grounds of deception.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Guidance on character and conduct issued to caseworkers and visa officers considering applications from highly skilled migrants wishing to work in the UK is published on Gov.uk.

For those in the UK whose applications have been refused on the grounds of deception, processes are already in place to enable removal action to be taken against them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-21/HL6528/>

and

Undocumented Migrants: Commonwealth

The following six questions all received the same answer

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6257] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received, including those from Commonwealth Caribbean countries, about children who arrived and settled in the UK before 1971 as British subjects on their parents' passports but are now being deported as undocumented illegal Commonwealth Caribbean migrants; and what were their responses.

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6258] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of people born in a Commonwealth country who have settled in the UK, having arrived before 1971, and are now vulnerable to deportation as they have never regularised their status as UK citizens.

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6259] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many undocumented Commonwealth immigrants who were settled in the UK before 1971 have been deported in the past 24 months; and to which countries.

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6262] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist undocumented Commonwealth Caribbean migrants who settled in Britain before 1971, having arrived as British subjects on their parents' passports, to regularise their status as British citizens.

Deportation

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6260] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of deportation on the lives of those deported residents who settled in the UK before 1971 but now find themselves effectively stateless.

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL6261] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the differences in processes to consider (1) undocumented Commonwealth Caribbean migrants settled in the UK before 1971 for removal, and (2) EU citizens seeking permanent residence in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Different legislation applies to those who were settled in the UK prior to 1st January 1973 – when the Immigration Act 1971 came in to force - and EU citizens seeking confirmation of permanent residence. Under the EU Free Movement Directive, EU citizens and their family members automatically attain permanent residence having exercised free movement rights for a continuous period of five years in the UK. If they wish to document this they can apply for a permanent residence document.

A non-EU national with settled status, including those settled here on 1 January 1973, is able to apply for this to be confirmed in a biometric residence permit. To do so they must be able to show they have acquired settled status and that they have continued to reside in the UK so as not to lose that status.

No estimate has been made of how many of those who arrived prior to the 1971 Act's commencement are unable to evidence their status in the UK. However, the majority of people making such applications are able to provide the documentation required to demonstrate their legal status in the UK. Where someone struggles to provide documents, efforts are made to assist them to demonstrate their continued residence, such as working with other government departments to establish this. We have not received any official representations from Commonwealth countries about their citizens who claim to be settled under the 1971 Act but have been subject to removal action.

We expect those with no legal right to remain here to leave and we provide a number of assistance programmes to support them to return. We will seek to enforce the return of anyone with no right to remain who refuses to leave voluntarily. However, we do operate a stateless leave policy for those who are unable to return to their country of former habitual residence because they are

stateless and have no right to reside in any other country.

The Home Office publishes data on returns by destination as part of the quarterly Immigration statistics release. The data does not break these down by the date an individual claims to have arrived the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6257/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6258/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6259/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6262/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6260/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6261/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6268] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of qualified staff required to ensure that asylum seekers' claims are properly assessed; and how many qualified staff are currently employed to make such assessments.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office currently has a published service standard to make an asylum decision on 98% of straightforward claims within 6 months of the date of the claim being lodged.

The Home Office has rolling recruitment campaigns to maintain the number of Decision Makers at levels which allow cases to be progressed in line with service standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6268/>

Asylum: Interviews

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6265] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they provide to asylum seekers to ensure that those individuals can travel to their immigration interviews.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who are supported by the Home Office under Section 95 or Section 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 may apply for travel tickets when they need to travel to certain appointments. For those required to attend a substantive asylum interview travel tickets are normally sent to the asylum seeker with details of the interview.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6265/>

Asylum: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6263] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of asylum appeals were successful in each of the years 2005 to 2015.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on the number of Asylum appeal applications and determinations, in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

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

Table as_14 in the Asylum tables (volume 4) contains annual breakdowns of the number of appeals; figures for the years 2007 to 2017 are available.

Data prior to 2007 can be found in the national archives:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218143229/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html>

Year	% allowed appeals
2005	17%
2006	22%
2007	22%
2008	23%
2009	29%
2010	27%
2011	26%
2012	27%
2013	25%
2014	28%
2015	35%
2016	40%
2017	35%

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6263/>

Asylum: Calais

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6267] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to establish an asylum processing centre in Calais.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a strong track record of cooperating with France to manage illegal migration and to protect our shared border. However, the primary responsibility for asylum seekers lies with the authorities of the Member State in which they are present; the UK Government does not have the authority to operate on the territory of another sovereign state without permission. We are also under no obligation to consider asylum claims lodged outside UK territory.

As part of the Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France on 18 January 2018, both parties agreed to further enhance cooperation in a number of areas, including illegal migration and asylum. This includes a number of measures in respect of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and children, and a commitment to support France in its provision of accommodation facilities located outside the Calais and Dunkirk areas. Further information on the treaty can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-01-19/HCWS415/>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-12/HL6267/>

Asylum: Pregnancy

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6321] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider extending the period during which pregnant asylum seekers cannot be moved before their due date from six to 12 weeks.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who are destitute and have an immediate need for accommodation can apply to be admitted to an

initial accommodation centre. In normal circumstances, they remain in the centre for only such time as it takes to arrange longer term “dispersal” accommodation. If, however, the asylum seeker is heavily pregnant the move to the dispersal accommodation is usually deferred until around 6 weeks after the birth of the child or until the clinician has signed off the postnatal checks.

There are no plans to change these arrangements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-13/HL6321/>

New Publications

Guidance: Help available from the Department for Work and Pensions for people who have been granted leave to remain in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/refugees-guidance-about-benefits-and-pensions/help-available-from-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-for-people-who-have-been-granted-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk>

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration’s report: An Inspection of how the Home Office considers the ‘Best interests’ of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695105/Formal_Response_UASC_002_.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration’s report: A re-inspection of Border Force’s identification and treatment of Potential Victims of Modern Slavery

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695116/Formal_Response_Modern_Slavery_002_.pdf

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspectors of Borders and Immigration’s report: An Inspection of the Right to Rent scheme

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695205/Formal_Response_Right_to_Rent.pdf

Guide to language interpreter and translation services in courts and tribunals

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695396/language-interpreter-translation-services-statistics-guide.pdf

EEA workers in the UK labour market: interim update

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694494/eea-workers-uk-labour-market-interim-update.pdf

News

No role for Holyrood on Westminster’s migration committee, MPs told

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/no-role-for-holyrood-on-westminster-s-migration-committee-mps-told-1-4713858>

Waiting times for UK immigration appeals soar by 45% in a year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-appeals-home-office-waiting-times-soar-delays-a8276436.html>

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children going missing in UK due to Home Office delays, finds report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-home-office-delays-national-transfer-scheme-report-immigration-a8280446.html>

EU nationals 'higher quality and more eager' workers than UK citizens, government report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/european-nationals-workers-brex-it-high-quality-eager-uk-citizens-report-migration-advisory-committee-a8275681.html>

UK workers 'lazier and more expensive' than migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/03/27/british-firms-not-ready-loss-eu-migrant-labour-report-finds/>

EU migrants are better workers, say employers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/european-workers-are-more-motivated-than-britons-businesses-say-60vc0qpzw>

'The stress is making me ill': woman's immigration battle after 51 years in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/26/the-stress-is-making-me-ill-womans-immigration-battle-after-51-years-in-uk>

Man who moved from Antigua 59 years ago told he is in UK illegally

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/30/antiguan-who-has-lived-59-years-in-britain-told-he-is-in-uk-illegally>

Girl with autism at risk of deportation over accountancy errors

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/mar/29/girl-with-autism-at-risk-of-deportation-over-accountancy-errors>

Memorial tree planted for asylum seeker's orphan son

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2018/memorial_tree_planted_for_asylum_seeker

Syrian refugee schoolboy Mohammed is off to sunny Spain thanks to MP Joanna Cherry's intervention

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16126995.Mohammed_is_off_to_sunny_Spain_thanks_to_Cherry_s_intervention/

Syrian refugee pupil may miss school trip

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-43569027>

Home Office blocks Syrian boy going on Edinburgh school's ultimate trip

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/home-office-blocks-syrian-boy-going-on-edinburgh-school-s-ultimate-trip-1-4714439>

Spring time in the refugee florist

<http://www.bbc.com/news/av/stories-43584733/spring-time-in-the-refugee-florist>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-11428 Sandra White (SNP): Ahmadiyya Charity Walk for Peace Supporting Local Organisations – That the Parliament congratulates the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Association Scotland on its 2018 Scotland Charity Walk For Peace Cheque Presentation Dinner; understands that the event was attended by members of the community and charity volunteers, and provided an opportunity to celebrate community diversity with an exhibition by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Glasgow displaying the Holy Quran translated into more than 50 languages from across the world and other literature on the beauty of Islam, and welcomes the donation of £16,255 given to nine beneficiary charities and Ibrox Primary School.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11428>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [132961] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what proportion of successful Civil Service Fast Stream applicants were black Asian or minority ethnic in each financial year since 2013.

Reply from Oliver Dowden: The proportion of BAME candidates recommended for appointment to the Civil Service Fast Stream is available online at;

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678425/FSET_Annual_Review_2016.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132961/>

Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [132962] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what proportion of Civil Service Fast Stream applicants were black Asian or minority ethnic in each financial year since 2013.

Reply from Oliver Dowden: The proportion of BAME applicants to the Civil Service Fast Stream from 2013-2016 is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678425/FSET_Annual_Review_2016.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-15/132962/>

New Publications

Fairer Scotland Duty - Interim Guidance for Public Bodies

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533417.pdf>

Engaging with LGBT and migrant equalities: A Youth and Community Toolkit

<https://intimatemigrationsdotnet.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/community-and-youth-practitioner-resource.pdf>

Prime Minister "disappointed " over failure of Nicola Sturgeon to back race inequality audit

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16130758.Prime_Minister_quot_disappointed_quot_over_failure_of_Nicola_Sturgeon_to_back_race_inequality_audit/

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Response to “Punish a Muslim” Campaign

Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the First Minister what steps the Scottish Government is taking to reassure and protect communities in response to the “Punish a Muslim” campaign. (S5F-02197)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I utterly condemn this disgusting, so-called campaign. I do so in the strongest possible terms and I am sure that that sentiment is shared by members across this chamber. We must all stand together against such hate and we must be clear that, in Scotland, we will always challenge prejudice and discrimination.

We are engaging with the United Kingdom Government, Police Scotland and the Muslim Council for Scotland to ensure the safety of our valued Muslim communities. On Tuesday, Police Scotland and Scottish Government officials attended the second meeting of the cross-party group on tackling Islamophobia at which the issue was discussed. We are also taking active steps to tackle prejudice and hate, as outlined in my recent correspondence with Anas Sarwar.

Anas Sarwar: I ask members to imagine that they are a Muslim woman or child—I emphasise “woman” because there is a clear gendered nature to racism and Islamophobia—and that they are reading the following:

“Punish a Muslim ... There will be rewards based on actions taken ...

10 points: Verbally abuse a Muslim

25 points: Pull the head scarf off a Muslim ‘woman’

50 points: Throw acid in face of a Muslim

100 points: Beat up a Muslim

250 points: Torture a Muslim using electrocution, skinning, use of a rack

500 points: Butcher a Muslim using gun, knife, vehicle or otherwise

1000 points: Burn a ... mosque”

That is shocking, shameful and sickening. Will the First Minister and, indeed, the Parliament send a message to all our diverse communities that Scotland is as much their country as anyone else’s, that this is their home and that we stand with them, and that we ask them to go about their daily lives more vigilantly, look out for each other and, if they see or suspect anything, report it to the police? Will the First Minister and the Parliament send a message to the haters that an attack on one Scot, regardless of faith or race, is an attack on all Scots and we will never let them win? *[Applause.]*

Reply from the First Minister: In some ways, I do not need to add to Anas Sarwar’s comments, because he has captured everything that needs to be said, but, to be clear that the message comes from me as strongly as it does from anybody else, I will add some comments.

I find it difficult to find words that are adequate to describe or condemn what Anas Sarwar just read out. It is sickening, appalling, disgusting and deeply disturbing. It is all of that and more, but none of that does it justice and it certainly does not do justice to what I feel and what I know we all feel about it. As many of us do, I have

many friends and constituents in the Muslim community, so I know and see first hand the impact that such prejudice, hate and discrimination has on them, and I feel deeply for every one of them.

It is very important for us to recognise that the attacks are directed at the Muslim community and not all of us can pretend to know exactly how that feels, but all of us should be absolutely clear when we say that we treat such attacks on the Muslim community or any individual Muslim as attacks on all of us. For all our political divisions and debates, this is one Scotland and, for anybody who chooses to live here—no matter their faith and no matter the country that they come from—this is their country and their home. We value them and we want them here. That is the message that should ring out from this Parliament. Whatever else divides us, let us be absolutely united in saying that the people who perpetrate hate crime—that is what it is—of that nature will never be allowed to win, because Scotland will stand united against them, and that unity will always prevail. *[Applause.]*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11452&i=104062#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Caste (Equality Act)

7. **Bob Blackman (Conservative):** When the Government plan to respond to the consultation on caste as a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010. [904684]

Reply from the Minister for Women (Victoria Atkins): The Government's consultation on how best to ensure that there is appropriate and proportionate legal protection against caste discrimination received more than 16,000 responses. This demonstrates how important the matter is to some groups and communities. We are analysing the responses and will respond in due course.

Bob Blackman: I thank my hon. Friend for her answer, but she failed to report that the consultation ended last September, meaning that the Government have had nearly six months to consider the huge weight of responses. I urge her to get on with the work, given the level of response, and to deal with this through the statute book once and for all, as is demanded by thousands of Hindu citizens across the country.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: I thank my hon. Friend for his question. He has been an ardent campaigner on this point, not least, I suspect, because so many of his constituents are Hindus. We are rightly proud of our domestic anti-discrimination legislation, which provides one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world, and I have very much taken his comments about timing on board.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-03-29/debates/AB068B6D-5C75-43B8-B8CC-C10FD14CE6CD/Caste\(EqualityAct\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-03-29/debates/AB068B6D-5C75-43B8-B8CC-C10FD14CE6CD/Caste(EqualityAct))

The consultation referred to above can be read at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609641/170419 - Caste condoc - Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/609641/170419_-_Caste_condoc_-_Final.pdf)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Travellers

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [133118] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps he has taken to improve the recording of hate crimes against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (a) in Yorkshire and the Humber and (b) throughout England; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: We have one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry. Our Hate Crime Action Plan focuses on reducing hate crime, increasing

reporting and improving support for victims.

As part of our work to improve reporting of hate crime, my Department has worked with the police and created a dedicated reporting page tailored for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities on their hate crime reporting portal True Vision and also funded a dedicated third party reporting website run by Herts GATE. As well as this, my Department also funds projects that encourage these communities to report hate crime, including The Traveller Movement's #OperationReportHate. Data for racially motivated hatred towards Gypsies, Roma and Travellers is not disaggregated, and so we cannot provide more specific details on any specific areas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-19/133118/>

Hate Crime: Travellers

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [133417] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps he has taken to improve the recording of hate crimes against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities (a) in West Midlands and (b) throughout England.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: We have one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to protect communities from hostility, violence and bigotry. Our Hate Crime Action Plan focuses on reducing hate crime, increasing reporting and improving support for victims.

As part of our work to improve reporting of hate crime, my Department has worked with the police and created a dedicated reporting page tailored for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities on their hate crime reporting portal True Vision and also funded a dedicated third party reporting website run by Herts GATE. As well as this, my Department also funds projects that encourage these communities to report hate crime, including The Traveller Movement's #OperationReportHate. Data for racially motivated hatred towards Gypsies, Roma and Travellers is not disaggregated, and so we cannot provide more specific details on any specific areas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-20/133417/>

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Islam

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL6564] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take following reports of a letter campaign encouraging recipients to take part in a "Punish a Muslim Day" which allegedly awarded points for differently graded acts of violence against Muslims.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government condemns the content of the letters as clearly abhorrent, with no place in decent society. The letters are part of an ongoing investigation, and as such the Government is not in a position to comment further on them.

We continue to liaise with the police and community stakeholders to ensure that Muslims, alongside anyone of any race or faith, feel safe to go about their lives without fear of persecution or discrimination. We support Tell MAMA to encourage reporting of anti-Muslim hatred and to produce materials to support those affected by the letters, and we have worked with the Cross-Government Working Group on Anti-Muslim Hatred to reinforce this.

Hate Crime

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL6443] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the strategy of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in combating rising levels of antisemitism and hate crime.

Reply from Lourd Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government deplores all forms of hate crime and is committed to tackling it. We treat all hate crime with equal seriousness; there is no place for treating victims differently regardless of their race, religion, age, gender identity, sexuality or disability.

Our response to anti-Semitism has been built on the solid work of the Cross-Government working group on tackling anti-Semitism which includes Jewish communal stakeholders, ensuring that we are alive to any issues and concerns of the Jewish community and can respond quickly. The Government supports the Community Security Trust (CST) to provide security for Jewish communal buildings, as well as a range of projects to tackle anti-Semitism on campus such as the Union of Jewish Student's Bridges Not Boycotts programme, and the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons From Auschwitz.

In 2016, the Government published the Hate Crime Action Plan. The Plan includes a range of actions, including funding for security for places of worship, and the disaggregation of religion-based hate crime data. We have taken further action in education, equipping teachers to have difficult conversations and funding programmes through the Anne Frank Trust and Streetwise. The Plan also brings together the work of a wider range of departments and agencies, including Fire and Rescue Services for the first time. We are now refreshing the plan to ensure that we remain able to respond to all forms of hatred effectively and appropriately. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is an independent public body. I have therefore asked the Commission's Chief Executive Officer to write to the Hon Member with the information requested. I will place a copy of the letter in the libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-19/HL6443/>

New Publication

Updated: Handbook on European non-discrimination law

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-handbook-non-discrimination-law-2018_en.pdf

News: 'Punish a Muslim' campaign

Nicola Sturgeon condemns 'sickening' anti-Muslim campaign

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16126455.Nicola_Sturgeon_condemns_sickening_anti_Muslim_campaign/

United front shows Scotland will not stand for racism or Islamophobia

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/united-front-shows-scotland-not-12275542>

Police patrols increased because of anti-Muslim hate campaign

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16120806.Police_patrols_increased_because_of_a_anti_Muslim_hate_campaign/

MSPs to discuss concerns over 'vile' Islamophobic letters

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-43544155>

MSPs to address Islamophobic 'punish a Muslim' campaign

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16117952.MSPs_to_address_Islamophobic_punish_a_Muslim_campaign/

Police Scotland on alert over racist online craze dubbed 'Punish a Muslim'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16118033.Police_on_alert_over_racist_online_craze_dubbed_Punish_a_Muslim/

Vile 'Punish a Muslim' hate campaign spreads online as bigots carry out string of Islamophobic attacks

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/vile-punish-muslim-campaign-spreads-12256433>

News: UK Labour Party

Jeremy Corbyn's Passover message mired in anti-semitism row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-s-passover-message-mired-in-anti-semitism-row-1-4715686>

Jeremy Corbyn must eradicate anti-Semitism from Labour or pay the price

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-must-eradicate-anti-12285255>

Exposed: Jeremy Corbyn's hate factory

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/exposed-jeremy-corbyns-hate-factory-kkh55kpgx>

Corbyn is failing to tackle antisemitism, say his MPs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-30/news/corbyn-is-failing-to-tackle-antisemitism-say-his-mps-fpvgf0sgf>

Labour quietly reinstated six councillors who posted anti-Semitic messages

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/03/29/labour-quietly-reinstated-six-councillors-posted-anti-semitic/>

MPs urge Corbyn to suspend Shawcroft amid anti-Semitism row

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43592838>

Labour probes member's 'anti-Semitic tweets'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-43586882>

'Deeply sorry' Christine Shawcroft quits as Labour disputes chief

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43578225>

Labour hit by new anti-Semitism row

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16124321.Labour_hit_by_new_anti_Semitism_row/

Jeremy Corbyn told to act on 'stain' of anti-Semitism in party

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43549831>

Jewish groups attack Jeremy Corbyn over anti-Semitism

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43536830>

Full text: Jewish leaders' letter

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43540795>

How the Labour anti-Semitism saga unfolded

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43539774>

Jeremy Corbyn apologises for poor Labour response to anti-Semitism

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16117551.Corbyn_apologises_for_poor_Labour_response_to_anti_Semitism/

Jewish community blast Jeremy Corbyn for siding with anti-Semites in Labour Party

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/enough-enough-jewish-community-blast-12257061>

Jewish leaders tell Jeremy Corbyn 'enough is enough' in anti-semitism row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jewish-leaders-tell-jeremy-corbyn-enough-is-enough-in-anti-semitism-row-1-4712723>

Jeremy Corbyn's anti-semitism problem

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/leader-comment-jeremy-corbyn-s-anti-semitism-problem-1-4713279>

Anti-semitism row puts Labour unity out of reach

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/paris-gourtsoyannis-anti-semitism-row-puts-labour-unity-out-of-reach-1-4713277>

Corbyn sorry for 'pain' over Labour anti-Semitism

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43535710>

Tom Watson apologises over 'anti-Semitic' mural row

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43531575>

Jeremy Corbyn accused of being 'hostile' to Jews as his MPs demand action

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16115194.senior-labour-mp-apologises-over-handling-of-anti-semitism-row/?ref=mr&lp=13>

Tom Watson backs Jeremy Corbyn in 'anti-Semitic' mural row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tom-watson-backs-jeremy-corbyn-in-anti-semitic-mural-row-1-4712639>

Jeremy Corbyn under fire over mural as Labour Party caught up in anti-Semitism row

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-under-fire-over-12251155>

Jeremy Corbyn concedes Labour has failed to address antisemitism problem

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/26/jeremy-corbyn-accused-of-being-figurehead-for-antisemitism>

Labour leaders pledge to tackle antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/27/jewish-leaders-to-tell-corbyn-what-has-to-happen-to-drain-political-sewer>

Labour ignored formal complaint over antisemitic mural, emails suggest

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/27/labour-ignored-formal-complaint-over-antisemitic-mural-emails-suggest>

Labour has taken too long to stamp out antisemitism, says Corbyn ally

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/27/labour-has-taken-too-long-to-stamp-out-antisemitism-says-corbyn-ally>

Jewish leaders accuse Jeremy Corbyn of 'siding with antisemites'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/mar/25/senior-labour-figures-defend-corbyn-row-antisemitic-mural>

Jeremy Corbyn accused of failing to address backlog of anti-Semitism cases

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/03/28/jeremy-corbyn-accused-failing-address-backlog-anti-semitism/>

Jeremy Corbyn in new anti-Semitism row over links to group 'supported by Holocaust deniers'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/27/jeremy-corbyn-caught-new-anti-semitism-row/>

Sajid Javid: It's a sad day when British Jews feel they have to come to Westminster to make a stand

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/03/26/sad-day-british-jews-feel-have-come-westminster-make-stand/>

Corbyn told to speed up dozens of antisemitism investigations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/corbyn-told-to-speed-up-dozens-of-antisemitism-investigations-qbx9kvz0z>

Labour anger as Corbyn sidesteps antisemitism row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-27/news/labour-anger-as-corbyn-sidesteps-antisemitism-row-szck2q8bs>

No more talk, Jewish leaders tell Corbyn

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-27/news/no-more-talk-jewish-leaders-warn-corbyn-rbmrh8ldq>

Senior Labour MPs join Jews and turn on Corbyn

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-26/news/jewish-leaders-to-hold-parliament-protest-at-corbyn-antisemitism-3zf5nrq8s>

Artist Mear One admits he was warned over antisemitic mural

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/artist-mear-one-kalen-ockerman-admits-he-was-warned-over-antisemitic-mural-vh7262sx9>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Prize of €1m offered in international competition to find ways of combating rising tide of racism, antisemitism and xenophobia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/racism-antisemitism-xenophobia-europe-political-extremism-1m-prize-ectr-far-right-far-left-a8281921.html>

Scottish Labour's 'diversity training' not enough to combat racial hatred

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scottish-labours-diversity-training-not-12250442>

'Well they are Pakis, what do you expect' Top cop claims they witnessed race row councillor use racial slur

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/well-pakis-what-you-expect-12256739>

Police Scotland alerted to "shocking and vile" 'Smash a Fenian Day'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16120181.police-alerted-to-smash-a-fenian-day-branded-shocking-and-vile-by-scots-transport-minister/?ref=mr&lp=1>

Police alerted to 'vile' sectarian 'Smash a Fenian Day' flier

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/police-alerted-to-vile-sectarian-smash-a-fenian-day-flier-1-4713977>

Sick 'smash a Fenian day' event offering '1000 points if you shoot one' probed by cops after vile email sent to MSP

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/sick-smash-fenian-day-event-12265232>

Antisemitism: How the origins of history's oldest hatred still hold sway

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/antisemitism-jew-jewish-racism-hatred-religion-origins-history-europe-a8246311.html

Anti-Catholic bias in Scotland may be 'default setting' says spokesman

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16129454.anti-catholic-bias-in-scotland-may-be-default-setting-says-spokesman/?ref=mr&lp=4>

Why Sectarianism in Scotland is on its death bed

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/16130742.Why_Sectarianism_in_Scotland_is_on_its_death_bed/

Sectarianism is in decline in Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16130746.Historian_Tom_Devine_Sectarianism_is_in_decline_in_Scotland/

Are Christians shown enough respect as abuse against Catholics grows?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/are-christians-shown-enough-respect-as-abuse-against-catholics-grows-zl3gjm3c>

Some Catholics say even abuse has less to do with religion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/some-catholics-say-even-abuse-has-less-to-do-with-religion-d7xmwjf5r>

Tory MP accused of Islamophobia after posting anti-Muslim article on Facebook

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-mp-bob-blackman-islamophobia-facebook-conservative-harrow-east-racism-muslims-a8276101.html>

'Racist slur' by Muslim group against tolerance tsar Sara Khan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-26/news/racist-slur-by-muslim-group-against-tolerance-tsar-sara-khan-0hf35kxpk>

'Absolutely disgusting' Leave.EU tweet linking antisemitism to Muslim voters reported to police

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/leave-eu-ukip-antisemitism-muslim-islam-tweet-brexiteer-jewish-message-police-a8280506.html>

Edinburgh Airbnb landlord removed from website after posting 'don't book if you're Asian'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/edinburgh-airbnb-landlord-asian-racism-booking-stephen-sheppard-scotland-rent-holiday-tourists-a8279616.html>

Are adverts deliberately being racist?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-43554424>

Chance the Rapper attacks Heineken for 'racist' advert

<http://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-43542465>

Heineken removes ad after Chance the Rapper calls it 'terribly racist'

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/mar/27/heineken-racist-advert-chance-the-rapper-tweet>

Heineken pulls 'lighter is better' beer advert amid racism storm

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/27/heineken-pulls-lighter-better-advert-amid-racism-storm/>

Scots Airbnb host posted vile racist 'don't book if you're Asian' message on accommodation ad

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-airbnb-host-posted-racist-12259272>

Life sentence for hit-and-run driver Paul Moore, who targeted Muslims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/life-sentence-for-hit-and-run-driver-paul-moore-who-targeted-muslims-lgvr3l75r>

Man who tried to kill Muslim woman and 12-year-old girl in 'revenge' for terror attacks jailed for life

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/leicester-muslim-attempt-murder-revenge-terror-attack-jailed-paul-moore-sentence-prison-a8275976.html>

Ofsted stance on hijab risks heightening threat of physical attacks on Muslims in schools, teaching union says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/hijab-ofsted-muslims-amanda-spielman-primary-school-kevin-courtney-national-education-union-neu-nut-a8281646.html>

Facebook 'puts profits before clampdown on anti-semitism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/facebook-puts-profits-before-clampdown-on-anti-semitism-lvxbk9qph>

Ham pizza 'force-fed' to Jewish pupil at Bristol school

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-43580691>

Jewish schoolboy 'forced to eat ham pizza'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-03-29/news/pupil-at-clifton-college-forced-jewish-friend-to-eat-ham-pizza-j3vw6npwd>

Staff at Dumfries Chinese restaurant stunned to discover vile racist message left on napkin

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/shocked-staff-dumfries-chinese-restaurant-12280652>

Superdrug racism row: Retailer sorry over claims it placed twice as many CCTV signs by black hair products

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/26/superdrug-racism-row-retailer-sorry-claims-placed-twice-many/>

National Geographic's righting of its racist wrongs is well meant but slow in coming

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/01/national-geographic-righting-racist-wrongs-slow-in-coming>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Protecting What Matters

<https://news.gov.scot/news/protecting-what-matters>

Public feeling safer after fall in crime

<https://news.gov.scot/news/public-feeling-safer-after-crime-falls>

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2016/17

<https://news.gov.scot/news/scottish-crime-and-justice-survey-2016-17>

New Publication

Scottish Crime & Justice Survey 2016/17: Main Findings

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533412.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Meat: Labelling

Edward Leigh (Conservative) [133452] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department plans to introduce the mandatory labelling of non-halal meat.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government is aware that there is public concern about meat from animals slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs being sold to consumers who do not require their meat to be prepared in this way. There are no domestic or European Regulations that require the labelling of halal or kosher meat but where any information of this nature is provided, it must be accurate and must not be misleading to the consumer.

The Government believes that consumers should have the necessary information available to them to make an informed choice about their food and this is an issue the Government is considering in the context of our departure from the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-20/133452/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's Easter message 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-easter-message-2018>

Foreign Secretary's Easter message 2018

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

Prime Minister's Passover message 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-passover-message-2018>

Foreign Secretary's 2018 Passover Message

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

New Publication

Brexit: Devolution and legislative consent

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8274/CBP-8274.pdf>

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Other News

Ofsted school hijab ban stance challenged by teachers' union

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-43544509>

Teaching union criticises Ofsted chief over hijab ban for young girls

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/mar/30/teaching-union-criticises-ofsted-chief-amanda-spielman-over-hijab-ban-for-young-girls>

Teachers condemn Ofsted chief over hijab comments

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/teachers-condemn-ofsted-chief-over-hijab-comments-bdbzdfjt>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

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

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

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

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

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-26/debates/897E48C6-D56A-4042-A6F4-D41AE39D133E/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-26/debates/897E48C6-D56A-4042-A6F4-D41AE39D133E/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-26/debates/567F5B3B-E9EE-4779-8005-3909AB103C09/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-26/debates/567F5B3B-E9EE-4779-8005-3909AB103C09/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-28/debates/28BF3C81-82B7-4E1B-B389-E004A2F61E2B/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-03-28/debates/28BF3C81-82B7-4E1B-B389-E004A2F61E2B/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Notice of amendments

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

and

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

and

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R\(a\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R(a).pdf)

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting

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 contact Jamie Spurway Jamie@interfaithscotland.org / 07921 439 952

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

Equalities & Human Rights Focus Groups

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

**** Interfaith Youth Conference: “Radicalisation and Reconciliation”**

21 April 2018 in St Andrews (10.45-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland conference in partnership with the Coexistence Initiative University of St Andrews to bring young people of different backgrounds together for dialogue. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9yslyqy>

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 <https://tinyurl.com/ycyfupwg>

**** ‘Engaging with LGBT and Migrant Equalities’ toolkits: Dissemination and discussion**

30 April 2018 in Glasgow (12.30-4.15)

Glasgow University event to share ideas and experiences of how to use the resource, and to discuss good practice in engaging with equality and diversity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8vgzzxs>

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/y7mz5uuu> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / 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

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

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 / 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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / 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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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

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

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



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



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

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