

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Windrush Generation

S5W-16012 John Finnie (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many people in Scotland who are part of the so-called Windrush Generation have been informed that they are (a) at risk of and (b) facing deportation, and what discussions it has had with UK Government regarding this.

Reply from Alasdair Allan: The Scottish Government has made and is continuing to make inquiries through stakeholders and partner organisations about who may be at risk. At the moment, this has not identified anyone in Scotland who has been affected by this scandal.

The available data are not precise enough to provide estimates of who may be at risk. In the 2011 census, 1,092 individuals in Scotland both reported their ethnic group as 'Caribbean or Black' and had arrived in the UK more than 10 years ago. In addition, 3,810 people in Scotland who arrived in the UK more than 10 years

ago reported their ethnic group as 'African', which some Windrush descendants may self-identify as.

The Scottish Government will continue to monitor the situation, push the UK government to immediately guarantee the status of all those affected and call for an end to the hostile environment that dominates UK policy on migration.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16012>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): From the late 1940s to the early 1970s, many people came to this country from around the Commonwealth to make their lives here and to help rebuild Britain after the war. All Members will have seen the recent heartbreaking stories of individuals who have been in the country for decades struggling to navigate an immigration system in a way that they should never, ever have had to.

These people worked here for decades. In many cases, they helped to establish the national health service. They paid their taxes and enriched our culture. They are British in all but legal status, and this should never have been allowed to happen. Both the Prime Minister and I have apologised to those affected and I am personally committed to resolving this situation with urgency and purpose.

Of course, an apology is just the first step we need to take to put right the wrong these people have suffered, but before I get on to the steps we will be taking I want to explain how this situation has arisen. The Immigration Act 1971 provided that those here before it came into force should be treated as having been given indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK, as well as retaining a right of abode for certain Commonwealth citizens. Although the Empire Windrush docked in the port of Tilbury in 1948, it is therefore everyone that arrived in the UK before 1973 who was given settlement rights and not required to get any specific documentation to prove those rights. Since 1973, many of the Windrush generation would have obtained documentation confirming their status or would have applied for citizenship and then a British passport.

From the 1980s, successive Governments have introduced measures to combat illegal immigration. The first NHS treatment charges for overseas visitors and illegal migrants were introduced in 1982. Checks by employers on someone's right to work here were first introduced in 1997, measures on access to benefits in 1999 and civil penalties for employing illegal migrants in 2008, and the most recent measures in the Immigration Acts of 2014 and 2016 introduced checks by landlords before property is rented and checks by banks on account holders.

The public expect us to enforce the immigration rules approved by Parliament as a matter of fairness to those who abide by the rules, and I am personally committed to tackling illegal migration because I have seen in this job the terrible impact it has on some of the most vulnerable in our society. But steps intended to combat illegal migration have had an unintended, and sometimes devastating, impact on people from the Windrush generation, who are here legally, but who have struggled to get the documentation to prove their status. This is a failure by successive Governments to ensure these individuals have the documentation they need ...

This is why we must urgently put it right, because it is abundantly clear that everyone considers people who came in the Windrush generation to be British, but under the current rules this is not the case. Some people will still just have indefinite leave to remain, which means they cannot leave the UK for more than two years and are not eligible for a British passport. That is the main reason we have seen the distressing stories of people leaving the UK more than a decade ago and not being able to re-enter. I want to enable the Windrush generation to acquire the status they deserve — British

citizenship—quickly, at no cost and with proactive assistance through the process. First, I will waive the citizenship fee for anyone in the Windrush generation who wishes to apply for citizenship. This applies to those who have no current documentation, and also to those who have it. Secondly, I will waive the requirement to carry out a knowledge of language and life in the UK test ...

Thirdly, the children of the Windrush generation who are in the UK are in most cases British citizens. However, where that is not the case and they need to apply for naturalisation, I shall waive the fee. Fourthly, I will ensure that those who made their lives here but have now retired to their country of origin can come back to the UK. Again, I will waive the cost of any fees associated with the process and will work with our embassies and high commissions to make sure people can easily access this offer. In effect, that means that anyone from the Windrush generation who now wants to become a British citizen will be able to do so, and that builds on the steps that I have already taken.

On 16 April, I established a taskforce in my Department to make immediate arrangements to help those who needed it. This included setting up a helpline to get in touch with the Home Office. Let me be quite clear that this helpline and the information shared will not be used to remove people from the country. Its purpose is to help and support.

We have successfully resolved nine cases so far and made 84 appointments to issue documents. My officials are helping those concerned to prove their residence and they are taking a proactive and generous approach so that they can easily establish their rights. We do not need to see definitive documentary proof of date of entry or of continuous residence. That is why the debate about registration slips and landing cards is misleading. Instead, the caseworker will make a judgment based on all the circumstances of the case and on the balance of probabilities.

Previously, the burden of proof on some of the Windrush generation to evidence their legal rights was too much on the individual. Now we are working with this group in a much more proactive and personal way in order to help them. We were too slow to realise that there was a group of people that needed to be treated differently, and the system was too bureaucratic when these people were in touch.

The Home Office is a great Department of State ...

It works tirelessly to protect us. It takes millions of decisions each year that profoundly affect peoples' lives, and for the most part it gets these right. But recent events have shown that we need to give a human face to how we work and exercise greater judgment, where and when it is justified. That is why I will be establishing a new customer contact centre, so that anyone who is struggling to navigate the many different immigration routes can speak to a person and get appropriate advice. This will be staffed by experienced caseworkers who will offer expert advice and identify a systemic problem much more quickly in the future. I will also be putting in place 50 senior caseworkers across the country to ensure that, where more junior members of staff are unsure about a decision, they can speak to someone with experience to ensure that discretion is properly exercised.

There has also been much concern about whether the Home Office has wrongly deported anyone from the Windrush generation. The Immigration Act 1971 provides protection for members of this group if they have lived here for more than five years and if they arrived in the country before 1973. I am now checking all Home Office records going back to 2002 to verify that no one has been deported in breach of this policy. This is a complex piece of work that involves manually checking thousands of records. So far, 4,200 records have been reviewed out of nearly 8,000 that date back to 2002, and no cases have been identified that breach the protection granted under the 1971 Act. This is an ongoing piece of work and I want to be absolutely certain of the facts before I draw any conclusions. I will ensure that the House is informed of any updates, and I intend to have this data independently audited once my Department has completed its work, to ensure transparency.

It was never the intention that the Windrush generation should be disadvantaged by

measures put in place to tackle illegal migration. I am putting additional safeguards in place to ensure that this will no longer happen, regardless of whether they have documentation or not. As well as ensuring that the Home Office does not target action against someone who is part of the Windrush generation, I will also put in place greater protection for landlords, employers and others conducting checks in order to ensure that we are not denying work, housing, benefits and services to this group. These measures will be kept carefully under review, and I do not rule out further changes if they are needed.

Now I will turn to the issue of compensation. As I said earlier, an apology is just the first step we need to take to put right these wrongs. The next and most important task is to get those affected the documents that they need. But we also do need to address the issue of compensation. Each individual case is painful to hear, but it is so much more painful, and often harrowing, for the people involved. These are not numbers, but people with families, responsibilities and homes—I appreciate that. The state has let these people down, with travel documents denied, exclusions from returning to the UK, benefits cut and even threats of removal—this, to a group of people who came to help build this country; people who should be thanked.

This has happened for some time. I will put this right and where people have suffered loss, they will be compensated. The Home Office will be setting up a new scheme to deliver this which will be run by an independent person. I will set out further details around its scope and how people will be able to access it in the coming weeks.

I am also aware that some of the individual cases that have come to light recently relate not to the Windrush generation but to people who came to the UK after 1 January 1973. These people should have documentation to confirm their right to be here, but I recognise that some will face similar issues in documenting their rights after spending so many years in this country. Given that people who have been here for more than 20 years will usually go on a 10-year route to settlement, I am ensuring that people who arrived after 1973, but before 1988, can also access the Windrush taskforce, so they can get the support and assistance needed to establish their claim to be here legally. I will consider further, in the light of the cases that come forward, whether any policy changes are needed to deal fairly with these cases.

I have set out urgent measures to help the Windrush generation document their rights, how this Government intend to offer them greater rights than they currently enjoy, how we will compensate people for the hardship they have endured and the steps I will take to ensure this never happens again. None of that can undo the pain already endured, but I hope that it demonstrates the Government's commitment to put these wrongs right going forward.

To read the very lengthy Q&A session that followed the statement see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-23/debates/AFC7E55B-9796-4FDA-8BB6-9EBDC7CCDAE2/Windrush>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Jeremy Corbyn (Labour): ... We recognise that the Home Secretary has rightly apologised to the Windrush generation and made a commitment to compensate people for the hardship they have endured. The Government are committed to compensation in theory, but as yet nothing in practice. There is an understandable lack of trust on the part of the Windrush generation, so can the Prime Minister today be clear and confirm that those British citizens, who have worked, paid taxes here for decades and been wrongly denied pensions and benefits, will be fully compensated?

Reply from the Prime Minister: It is absolutely right that across this House we should all be absolutely clear in our determination to ensure that we stamp out racism in every form. Let me set out to the House the action that has been taken.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made very clear the offering in her statement to the House that those who came here before 1 January 1973 from Commonwealth countries—this is from Commonwealth countries as a whole—will be offered citizenship status without paying the fee and without taking the knowledge of language and “Life in the UK” test. The children of the Windrush generation who are in the UK will in most cases be British citizens already, but where that is not the case, they will be able to apply to naturalise at no further cost.

We are also taking action in relation to those who made their life here but retired to their country of origin and have found it difficult or impossible to return to the UK. We will work with high commissions to make sure that they can easily access the offer of formal British citizenship, because the Windrush generation are British; they are part of us. There will be a compensation scheme, the details of which my right hon. Friend will set out in due course, but I think everybody will see that the action the Government have taken is because we know the Windrush generation—*[Interruption.]* The Labour Front Benchers shake their heads and go, “Oh no!” The Windrush generation are British, they are part of us, and we will ensure that.

Jeremy Corbyn: It is not an act of generosity to waive citizenship fees when they are British citizens already. They should be granted full status immediately. Four years ago, an internal Home Office memo stated that the right hon. Lady’s “hostile environment” policy could make it harder for people like the Windrush generation to find homes and that it could “provoke discrimination”. Why did the Home Secretary ignore that memo?

Reply from the Prime Minister: The right hon. Gentleman talks about a “hostile environment”.

“What we are proposing here will, I think, flush illegal migrants out. We are trying to create a much more hostile environment in this country if you are here illegally.”

Those are not my words; they are the words of the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Liam Byrne) when he was Labour’s Immigration Minister. The Labour leader ought to know about this because the right hon. Gentleman sits on his Front Bench.

Jeremy Corbyn: What I am talking about is the Windrush generation of people who came here completely legally. The Prime Minister herself was warned directly about these policies in 2014 by my right hon. Friend the Member for Hackney North and Stoke Newington (Ms Abbott), who is now the shadow Home Secretary. And when the Immigration Act 2014 was going through Parliament, the then Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, wrote to her warning: “The costs and risks considerably outweigh the benefits”. Why did the Prime Minister ignore his advice as well as the request from my right hon. Friend?

Reply from the Prime Minister: In relation to the Windrush generation, we have made it absolutely clear that those people who came here from the Commonwealth before 1 January 1973 have a right to be here: they are British, they are part of us. The problem at the time was that they were not documented with that right, and that is what we are now putting right. He talks about action that the Government have taken in relation to those who are here illegally. The Windrush generation are here legally. Action against those who are here illegally has been taken by successive Governments. Checks on someone’s right to work here came in in 1997, measures on access to benefits in 1999 and civil penalties for employing illegal migrants in 2008—both under a Labour Government. Why have these actions been taken? Because people up and down this country want to ensure that the Government are taking action on those people who are here illegally. It is not fair to those people who work hard, who have a right to be here and who have contributed to this country if they see people who are here illegally being given the same access to rights and services.

Jeremy Corbyn: The Prime Minister seems to want to get away from the injustice done

to the Windrush generation. The Equalities and Human and Rights Commission warned her about the 2016 Immigration Act, saying that the Bill “is likely to lead to destitution and may cause inhuman and degrading treatment, in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights”.

The Government have quite rightly apologised for the scandalous way in which British citizens have been treated, but it was due to the 2014 and 2016 Immigration Acts, so will the Prime Minister now commit to reviewing that legislation to make sure this never happens again?

Reply from the Prime Minister: As I set out for the House last week, this is a generation who came here prior to 1973—*[Interruption.]* Labour Front Benchers say “We know this”, but the questions that the right hon. Gentleman is asking suggest that they are ignoring some of the facts in relation to this. This is a generation who came here prior to 1973. We are not ignoring the problems that some members of this generation are facing. That is why my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has set up a special team in the Home Office, not just to deal with their inquiries but to actively help them find the documentation to clarify their status. That is why we have made the offer that my right hon. Friend made of ensuring that we can give them formal British citizenship which recognises that they are British but does so in a formal, documented way. The problem was that, prior to 1973 when the Windrush generation came here, they were not given documents that set out their status. We are now putting that right, and we will leave no stone unturned to put that right.

Jeremy Corbyn: In 2013, the then Home Secretary said that introducing the legislation was about creating “a really hostile environment”. Had the Windrush generation not mounted a campaign and had Opposition Members not raised the matter persistently, there would have been no compensation, no review and no apology. Any review of legislation needs to go wider than just immigration law. The dismantling of legal aid provision in 2012 made the impact of the Immigration Act 2014 harder to challenge. The policies swept up British citizens and legal migrants, causing them immense suffering, as the Prime Minister was warned. Will the Prime Minister send a clear message today and tell us that the hostile environment is over and that her bogus immigration targets, which have driven the hostile culture, will be scrapped? The Windrush generation have served this country and deserve better than this.

Reply from the Prime Minister: The Windrush generation are British. They have contributed to this country. They have made their life here. This is about dealing with those people who are in this country illegally—not the Windrush generation, who are here legally. I say to the right hon. Gentleman again that I have quoted the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Liam Byrne) from when he was Labour’s Immigration Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition referred to 2013. In 2013, the then shadow Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) said that “we need much stronger action from Government to bring illegal immigration down.”

That is—*[Interruption.]* Labour Front Benchers are saying that the Windrush generation are not illegal. They are not illegal; they are here legally. That is why we are providing support to enable them to get the documents for their status. What the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition is talking about is whether we should deal with illegal immigration, and up and down the country the British public will tell him that we should deal with illegal immigration.

Jeremy Corbyn: We are talking about the environment created by the Prime Minister when she was Home Secretary for six years, when she knew full well of the problems that the Windrush generation were facing, and at last she has been forced to act upon that.

Last week, the current Home Secretary admitted that the Home Office “sometimes loses sight of the individual.”—[\[Official Report, 16 April 2018; Vol. 639, c. 28.\]](#)

Yet we now know that when she took over from her predecessor, her intent was to

harden this cruel and misdirected policy, pledging to do so “ruthlessly”. A report last month by immigration officials stated that “hostile environment” measures were not even having the desired effect. The current Home Secretary inherited a failing policy and made it worse. Is it not time she took responsibility and resigned? ...

Reply from the Prime Minister: Up and down this country, people want to ensure that the Government are taking action against those people who are here in this country illegally, because it is not fair that people who work hard day in and day out, who contribute to this country and who put into the life of this country are seeing people who are here illegally accessing services in the same way.

We are acting to ensure that those people who are here legally are given the support they need. We welcomed the Windrush generation those many years ago. They are British; they are part of us; and we are ensuring that they remain here and are able to continue to live their lives here. But it is also right that this Government take action against those people who are accessing services despite being here illegally, not putting in and not contributing to this country. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-25/debates/0B64A943-B80B-4AAF-8B88-10F22D0CCFD3/Engagements#contribution-9FD2F1ED-A7D2-4DB7-9D91-B5DA8CCADC20>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Peter Grant (SNP) [137604] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on applicants of the April 2018 increase in fees for applications from non-EEA nationals for Leave to Remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: An updated Impact Assessment for 2018/19 was produced and laid with the Fees Regulations in March –

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/330/impacts>

All fee changes are agreed with key Government departments, and a Policy Equality Statement (PES) is produced in order to evaluate our fee structure in line with our obligations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137604/>

Immigrants: Commonwealth

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [135902] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people in the UK were born in Commonwealth countries and arrived in the UK before 1971.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply ...

... The Office for National Statistics has estimated from the Annual Population Survey that 543,000 people (+/- 35,000) were born in Commonwealth countries, who last arrived in the UK before 1971 and were still resident in the year to mid-2017. Of these, 88% (477,000 +/- 33,000) were British citizens (from birth or acquired by mid 2017) and 66,000 (+/- 12,000) were non-British citizens. All estimates and confidence intervals are rounded to the nearest thousand.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/135902/>

Immigrants: Caribbean

The following three questions all received the same answer

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [136980] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people of the Windrush generation have been denied out-of-work social security support in each year since 2010.

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [136981] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and

Pensions, how many people of the Windrush generation have been denied disability social security support in each year since 2010.

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [136982] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people of the Windrush generation have been denied state pension support in each year since 2010.

Reply from Alok Sharma: DWP officials are working with the Home Office and other Government bodies to help individuals to confirm quickly their residency in the UK and ensure that they receive the support to which they are entitled. The department does not collect statistical information by citizenship status and so does not hold the specific information requested.

DWP has set up a dedicated team to confirm residence in the UK for those people who have engaged with the Home Office in order to apply for leave and have never received the necessary documentation to confirm they qualify. DWP has also arranged a fast-track service into the Home Office Task Force to swiftly confirm the status of Windrush cases who are unable to provide documentation in support of their benefit claim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/136980/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/136981/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/136982/>

Immigrants: Commonwealth

The following two questions both received the same answer

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [137031] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment the Government made prior to the introduction of the hostile environment immigration policy of its potential effect on the (a) entitlement to social security support and (b) general wellbeing of Commonwealth migrants who have been long-term residents of the UK.

Debbie Abrahams (Labour) [137032] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discussions her Department has had with the Home Office on the effect of the hostile environment immigration policy on the entitlement of Commonwealth migrants who have been long-term residents of the UK to social security support.

Reply from Alok Sharma: The Department has regular discussions with the Home Office in the context of ensuring that the benefit system is fair to British citizens, those who settle here and those who migrate to the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/137031/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-23/137032/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Thelma Walker (Labour) [136660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on the registration of EU nationals for indefinite leave after the UK leaves the EU, and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In December 2017 we delivered on our commitment to protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK before we leave the EU in March 2019. This was further established in March, when a reciprocal deal was agreed extending citizens' rights until the end of the implementation period – December 2020.

The Home Office is making good progress in developing the system to issue

immigration status to all resident EU citizens, and their family members, and intend to launch the settlement scheme at the end of this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136660/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [137394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that it is prepared for the volume of EU citizens living in the UK who apply for (a) an immigration status and (b) residence in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [137397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the process for registering EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU will be streamlined.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Protecting the status of EU citizens living in the UK and their families, and UK nationals living in the EU, was always our top priority in negotiations. The Home Office is making good progress in developing the EU Settlement Scheme, which will open by the end of the year. We have been discussing the design of the Scheme with stakeholders, including through our monthly user groups, and user testing has already begun. Work is underway to develop the settled status scheme for EU citizens, and a registration scheme to operate alongside for those arriving during the implementation period.

The Home Office constantly reviews its capabilities in order to deliver the Government's agenda and we continue to assess how our priorities will impact on the workforce and capabilities required.

We recognise the scale of the challenge, but we already deal effectively with millions of visa, citizenship, passport and immigration status applications each year. Recruitment of additional operating staff is underway to bring existing staffing levels in UK Visas & Immigration to 1,500, ahead of the launch of the Settlement Scheme late this year. With regards to funding, the Chancellor announced in the Spring statement on 13 March that the Home Office will receive a further £395 million funding to prepare for EU exit.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137394/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137397/>

Immigration

Harriet Harman (Labour) [136101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were granted entry to reside in the UK on the basis of ties to a family member in the UK in each of the last seven years; how many of those people were under the age of 25; and how many applications were made on that basis in that same period.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Statistical information on people coming to the UK for family reasons is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, in the section "Why do people come to the UK? (4) For family reasons" at

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

The available information relates to entry clearance visa applications and grants by category and applicant type, published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas data tables Volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at

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

Neither an age breakdown nor the underlying reasons for an application are

available in the published entry clearance visa data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136101/>

Visas: New Businesses

The following two questions both received the same answer

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [136777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average processing time for Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa renewal applications has been over the last three months for which data is available.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [136778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa renewal applications are decided within (a) eight weeks, (b) nine months and (c) 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes” The Home Office published data on Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) decisions can be found at

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

Information on the average processing time for Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa extension application is not routinely monitored and can only be provided at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136777/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136778/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Nicholas Soames (Conservative) [137384] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to review the number of Tier 2 visas issued; and what representations she has received on increasing the number of Tier 2 visas issued.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to monitor the operation of Tier 2, our main immigration route for non-EEA workers, to ensure that it strikes the right balance between supporting businesses access the talent from overseas with our commitment to reducing net migration and protecting the domestic labour market. The Home Office receives a high volume of representations on a variety of subjects relating to immigration on a daily basis. It is not possible to provide a running count of the number of representations on a particular topic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137384/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [137657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to provide the Migration Advisory Committee with the (a) number of Tier 2 (General) Certificate of Sponsorship applications since November 2017 and (b) (i) number of and (ii) information on subsequent refusals of those applications due to the cap being reached in each month since November 2017.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [137658] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which Departments have been provided with (a) the number and (b) details of Tier 2 (General) Certificate of Sponsorship refusals as a result of the annual cap being reached since November 2017 to inform those Departments' policy work.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where the Home Office receive requests for data from Government Departments or non-departmental public bodies such the Migration Advisory Committee, it endeavours to meet their requests if such data is available.

We continue to monitor the operation of the Tier 2 visa route to ensure that Tier 2

balances enabling the brightest and best migrants to work in the UK with our commitment to reducing net migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137657/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137658/>

Immigration

Neil Coyle (Labour) [136779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long the average leave to remain application takes from application to decision; and whether there is a backlog.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on processing of cases against service standards, and on work in progress levels, by case type, is published in the Home Office's in-country Migration Transparency data, at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136779/>

Immigration

Jo Stevens (Labour) [136498] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of Indefinite Leave to Remain applications took longer than 24 weeks to process in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published service standards for all Indefinite Leave to Remain applications are to complete 100% of straightforward applications within six months.

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

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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136498/>

Asylum: English Language

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [136503] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding the Government provides for English language classes for asylum seekers whose claims have not been approved.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office recognises the importance of English language for refugee integration. Refugees are able to access English language classes through the Department for Education's Adult Education Budget. An additional £10m was provided to supply more English language classes for refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Not all those who make their own way to the UK to seek asylum will be found to be refugees and nearly all will have travelled through other safe countries to get to the UK. This is why support towards integration is offered only when asylum seekers are granted refugee status.

The Home Office does not fund English classes for asylum seekers. Asylum seekers aged 19 or over become eligible for a 50% contribution to the costs of English language classes through the Adult Education Budget, when they have been legally in the UK for longer than six months and are awaiting a decision on

their asylum claim or have failed in their claim but have been granted support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-18/136503/>

Asylum: Housing

Rachel Reeves (Labour) [106326] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints have been made against G4S in the last year on its service to asylum seekers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office and our accommodation providers take complaints extremely seriously and have robust procedures in place to inspect, investigate and resolve when specific information is received. In the first instance, issues with Asylum Accommodation should be reported to the relevant Provider, for them to resolve. Where a Provider does not resolve a complaint satisfactorily, or the response is considered inadequate, then the complaint can be brought directly to UKVI, including via Migrant Help or another representative. Our records show that between October 2016 and October 2017 UKVI have received 68 complaints concerning G4S service to asylum seekers. These figures are based on local management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/106326/>

Asylum: Pakistan

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [136724] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for asylum from Pakistani Christians were (a) made and (b) granted in each year since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The way information is stored on asylum claims means it is often not possible to report on the reasons for a claim without conducting a manual search of both paper and electronic records. Therefore, we cannot identify how many asylum claims have been made or granted leave, for claimants from a particular religion in a particular country.

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

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136724/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Steve McCabe (Labour) [136754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to end (a) indefinite detention and (b) the employment of detainees to work for £1 per hour at immigration detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is not possible to detain people indefinitely under Immigration Act powers. To be lawful, detention must last no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised, must not be unduly prolonged and, in relation to removal, there must be a realistic prospect of the individual's removal within a reasonable period of time.

As recommended by Stephen Shaw in his independent review of detainee welfare published in January 2016, the pay rates for detainees have been reconsidered, and have been maintained at current levels.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136754/>

The Shaw Review referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

Immigrants: Detainees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [136809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 February to Question 127774, whether her Department plans to maintain a central record of people in immigration detention centres who are (a) survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and (b) otherwise recognised as vulnerable under the adults at risk policy.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no plans to centrally record all specific indicators of vulnerability as set out under the existing Adults at Risk policy. However, we keep our data recording arrangements under regular review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136809/>

The answer referred to above can be read at
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-08/127774/>

Detention Centres

Afzal Khan (Labour) [136828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that immigration detention centres are more effectively monitored.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Independent monitoring of our Immigration Removal Centres is vital to ensuring that each centre provides a secure and humane environment for detainees. Recommendations are made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in their regular reviews, and public reports, of immigration removal centres. Accepted recommendations are incorporated into a publicly available service improvement plan.

Each centre has its own Independent Monitoring Board, tasked with ensuring proper standards of care and decency for detainees. The Boards issue annual reports, and also make recommendations for improvements.

Stephen Shaw's independent review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons was published in 2016. The Government broadly accepted recommendations made in this review. Mr Shaw's second review, which will assess implementation of the recommendations made in his first, will be laid before the House in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136828/>

The Shaw Review referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

Deportation

Steve McCabe (Labour) [136771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the safeguards and standards are for Government organisations or sub-contracted companies involved in forced deportation processes.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office expects the highest standards from staff and contractors working with detainees.

Enforced removals from the UK are carried out on behalf of the Home Office by a private sector provider. Since 2014 the Home Office has required all staff involved in such removals to have successfully completed training in the techniques set out in the Home Office Manual of Escorting Safely (HOMES). HOMES is a bespoke restraint system developed by the National Offender Management Service (now

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, HMPPS) in consultation with the Independent Advisory Panel for Non Compliance Management and encourages compliance in those being removed to prevent the need for physical restraint techniques.

All uses of restraints or force during an enforced removal from the UK are reviewed by the Home Office Use of Force Monitor with support from HMPPS and specialist medical professionals as required.

Enforced removals processes are also subject to independent monitoring by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and Independent Monitoring Boards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136771/>

The Manual referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/567631/HOMES_Redacted_Manual.pdf

Deportation: EU Nationals

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [137396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that deportation safeguards are in place for EU citizens (a) before and (b) after June 2021.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 19 March 2018, we reached agreement with the EU on citizens' rights as set out in the draft Withdrawal Agreement. The current EEA deportation test of 'public policy, and public security and public health' will continue to apply to any criminal activity committed prior to the end of the implementation period. Any criminal activity committed by an EU citizen or their family member after the end of the implementation period will be considered against UK domestic law for non-EEA nationals. During the implementation period, EU citizens will retain all of the procedural safeguards and protections set out in the Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC including a statutory right of appeal against any restriction of their free movement rights. The draft Withdrawal Agreement extends those same protections and safeguards to those resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, who will be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement thereafter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-24/137396/>

Human Trafficking

Peter Bone (Conservative) [136667] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, if she will introduce the use of the Dun and Bradstreet human trafficking risk index when allocating funding.

Reply from Alistair Burt: Tackling modern slavery is a priority for DFID, and we are expanding our work in developing countries through £40 million of new programming that will reach at least 500,000 people at risk of slavery.

Businesses have a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, and though we are not currently using the Dun & Bradstreet Index, we are supportive of approaches like these which help business assess risk in their supply chains.

Through our Responsible, Accountable, and Transparent Enterprises Programme, we are working with organisations including the Ethical Trading Initiative, the World Benchmarking Alliance, and Humanity United to develop responsible business approaches.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136667/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

The Minister repeated the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons (See “UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A” section above)

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): ... As the noble Baroness said, from the late 1940s to the early 1970s, many people came to this country from around the Commonwealth to make lives here and help rebuild Britain after the war. Before that, many of them fought in the British Armed Forces to defeat both Nazi Germany and Japan—people such as my friend Sam King, who served in the RAF during the Second World War. Sam came back to Britain in 1948 on the “Empire Windrush”, served his local community as a postman, was the first black mayor of the London Borough of Southwark and was awarded the MBE for his services to the community. Sam loved this country very much. He sadly passed away at the age of 90 in 2016. It is people such as Sam King who have been treated in such a shameful way.

Despite the apology from the Government and their admission that a terrible wrong has been done to the Windrush generation, no Minister is taking any responsibility whatever for these gross abuses of the Windrush generation’s rights—their rights denied, their rights taken away and people who are in the UK legally being treated appallingly by the country they call home. So my first question to the Minister is: when is a Minister of the Crown going to accept responsibility for this scandal and resign? The noble Lord, Lord Bates, offered his resignation because he turned up late for Questions earlier this year—quite rightly, it was not accepted by the Prime Minister. This is a monumental scandal and what is offered here does not go far enough. A Minister or Ministers have to accept responsibility.

The Government’s hostile environment for illegal immigrants was badly designed and put together, with no thought given to how to ensure that people who are here legally would be protected and not caught up in that environment. People here legally should not be at risk of losing their jobs, driving licences or homes or be threatened with deportation. Does the Minister accept that some of the people who are here legally will actually be scared to come forward to the Home Office, having heard the terrible reports of abuses and denial of rights? What is she going to do to gain the confidence of these individuals, who need help and support but will be worried about coming forward?

At the bottom of my copy of page 2 of the Statement, the last sentence reads:

“Instead, the caseworker will make a judgment based on all the circumstances of the case and on the balance of probabilities.”

Can the Minister be crystal clear about exactly what she means here? That statement does not appear to be an unequivocal guarantee that people who came here as part of the Windrush generation will not have their rights taken away or be denied justice. They are still at risk of deportation from the country that has been their home for decades. Who is bearing the civil standard of proof? Is it the person or is it the Home Office? At the top of my copy of page 3 of the Statement, it says that, for some of the Windrush generation, the burden of proof, “to evidence their legal rights was too much on the individual”.

Other than saying that, “we are working with this group in a much more proactive and personal way”—[*Official Report, Commons, 23/4/18; col. 620.*—]—which I hope we would expect to be the norm, what has actually changed here? How are other people being treated when they enter the system? This is not shining a very good light on how Ministers run the Home Office.

In paragraph 6 on page 3, it says that a new customer contact centre will be “staffed by experienced caseworkers”. In paragraph 7 on the same page we are told that 50 senior caseworkers will be put in place to help junior members of staff who are unsure about a decision. Surely we should ensure that these matters are dealt with by experienced staff in the first place. Will the Minister comment on that and tell the House how the experienced staff at the contact centre relate to the junior members of staff mentioned in paragraph 7, who are making the decisions, and how the 50 senior caseworkers fit above

that? That part of the Statement seems very confused.

I agree that it was never the intention that the Windrush generation should be disadvantaged by measures put in place to tackle illegal immigration; but they were, because of poor implementation and development of policy at the Home Office by Ministers. Because of that, people who deserved better have been treated badly by the state. They have been treated appallingly, and someone in the Government should take responsibility for that.

Compensation is referred to on the last page of the Statement. Other than saying that people will be compensated and a scheme will be set up, run by an independent person, there is absolutely nothing about compensation. Will the Minister give the House some more detail on what this will look like? We do not want to read in the media about people who, having been denied their rights, are being made to jump through hoops to get the compensation they deserve for the abuse they have suffered.

This is a shameful episode and it is about time someone in the Government took responsibility for it.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I too thank the Minister for repeating the Statement. My noble friend Lord Paddick very much wanted to be here but is precluded by circumstances beyond his control. Not only he and I, and these Benches, but many others feel frankly ashamed to have discovered what has been going on. The Minister, whom I believe to be a compassionate, caring person, must be very uncomfortable too. She will understand that this is not a matter of what people “deserve”—the term used in the Statement—but of their rights.

We are told that the Home Secretary is committed to resolving the situation with “urgency and purpose”. They are, indeed, needed, and more widely than on this issue. The position of the Windrush people—citizens who seem retrospectively to have become migrants—is a symptom, not a cause, of the problem. The cause, as we see it, is the culture within the Home Office, an attitude that one cannot avoid saying must come from the top: hostility or compliance—which seems to be the substitute term now—and certainly carelessness, by which I mean “care-less”, as in lacking in care.

That seems to be why every immigration lawyer to whom I have spoken says that the first thing they do is ask the Home Office what information it has on their client, because so often they find that it is wrong. That is why the Home Office has such a poor record before the tribunal. The Minister will not be surprised by this: it is why I sought to remove the Home Office exemption from the Data Protection Bill, which can be applied in the interests of effective immigration control—a matter others are now pursuing. The Home Office might say that it can choose not to apply that exemption or that it will be applied only when it is relevant, but it is the Home Office that has to assess these aspects.

My first question to the Minister is therefore a question and a plea. Before the UK finds itself in an even more embarrassing position—which I assure her I do not want—will the Government reconsider whether the exemption is just, wise or even common sense?

My second question is about staffing, to which the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy, has referred. Are the officials concerned being redeployed within the Home Office, or is the establishment being increased? If so, may we have details of this? It has appeared for some time that Home Office officials are really overloaded. As regards the customer contact centre, or indeed any part of the work, is this being outsourced to the private sector? Again, may we have details?

Thirdly, what information will the Home Office publish so that we can see the whole picture systematically, rather than as a series of individual stories, and not just about deportations?

This affects many, many people. Another cohort, of course, is the 3 million EU citizens in the UK. They raise it in their current 128 questions on settled status. It must affect UK citizens abroad as well. Manifestations of the Home Office policy are very wide, but I will mention just two. One is the right to rent, on which the chief inspector has recently reported less than fully positively. One of his recommendations mentioned quality assurance checks. Another manifestation is immigration detention, to which people

unable to prove their status have been consigned.

Immigrants might be legal, they might be illegal or perhaps they cannot prove their status, so the Home Office makes an assumption, if not a presumption, that they have no rights. This issue is more extensive than—I do not want to say “just”—the Windrush generation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is so keen to get up that I was going to give him the opportunity, but he will get the opportunity. I thank both noble Lords for their comments, and echo the words of the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy, on the endeavours of the Windrush generation, who rebuilt this country after the war. Some of them actually fought in the war, and I pay tribute to the noble Lord’s friend Sam King: what a truly rich and fulfilling life he clearly led in his time in this country.

The noble Lord makes the point about no Minister taking responsibility. I have to say that when my right honourable friend the Home Secretary stood up yesterday, apologised and made very clear that she was going to put right this wrong, she took responsibility. It takes a big person to stand up and say, “Sorry, we’ll make this right”. So she firmly took responsibility yesterday, as well as in the weeks preceding.

On compensation, my right honourable friend the Home Secretary said yesterday that she will set out further details on its scope, but she made it clear that it would be run independently of government. Details will be set out in due course. The noble Lord also made the point about a hostile environment, which was made yesterday as well in the Question I answered. This country should be a hostile environment to illegal immigrants but it should not be a hostile environment to people who are here as of right, which is the whole point of what the Home Secretary is putting right here. These people are welcome in this country and we are not hostile to them. If anybody feels scared about coming forward—I hope none of the scaremongering is being generated within these walls—they should come forward. The Home Secretary made very clear yesterday that there will be a sympathetic and human approach to the help these people will get.

The noble Lord also commented on the balance of probabilities. I hope he appreciates that the Home Secretary yesterday made it clear that people can produce a wide range of evidence, including school and parish records. The evidence people will need to produce will be treated in a sensitive and light-touch manner. As regards the contact centre, experienced staff will deal with these cases. The point about the junior staff is that in every set-up there will be junior and senior staff, and where there is any difficulty in determining a case it will be passed to a senior member of staff. All the staff in the contact centre, as well as in the task force, will be trained, and nobody need feel any fear about approaching members of the task force or the contact centre, nor need fear the hearing they will get.

The noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, said that this was not about what these people deserved but about their rights, which were established when they came here as part of the Windrush generation and of course more recently. My right honourable friend the Home Secretary made it clear that perhaps the Home Office is sometimes too focused on cases as opposed to humans; she made it very clear that this is a human consideration.

As regards the immigration exemption, I hope we will not conflate immigration rights with the cases of the Windrush generation, who, as the noble Baroness says, are here as of right, and we just need to regularise that status. Therefore I will not go into the immigration exemption in the Data Protection Bill. However, I will go on to discuss the EU citizens, because that clearly points out how it is absolutely right to be proactive about having a system to establish settled status and to plan it well, which the Home Office has done. Those rights will be established early on rather than waiting 47 years beyond the point when people’s

rights were naturally given but not documented in all cases. The noble Baroness asked about Home Office staff in the contact centre. There will be Home Office staff, and they are trained to a sufficient degree to deal with the cases that come forward. ...

These cases are being dealt with very sympathetically, and I hope that anyone who should come forward or knows of anyone who should come forward will be encouraged to do so. ...

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-24/debates/162CA2DE-01C1-4374-91BC-5B99C192DDBD/WindrushGeneration>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Windrush Generation

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make reparations for the harm and distress caused to the Windrush generation. ...

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Prime Minister has been clear that we will do whatever it takes, including, where appropriate, payment of compensation, to resolve the anxiety and problems which some of the Windrush generation have suffered. The Home Secretary will make a further announcement in the other place later today.

Baroness Benjamin: My Lords, the British public are furious at the Government-created Windrush fiasco. It is a matter of national shame, and trust and confidence need to be re-established. So can the Minister reassure the House that the new task force is made up of experienced, compassionate immigration officers, whose objective is to ensure unconditional British citizenship for these vulnerable Windrush generation victims, and that it is not in the hands of a box-ticking outside agency? Can she also confirm that the records of cases dealt with by the task force will be open and transparent? Will the Government reimplement the legislation in the Immigration Bill that would have protected these British citizens?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: First, if I could go back to the 2014 legislation, which I assume the noble Baroness refers to, the Immigration Act 1971 already protected these people. The noble Baroness goes absolutely to the right point, which is that the public are furious with the Government. In fact, successive Governments have failed to deal with this, so this should not be an occasion—and she does not make it one—for political infighting. We need to deal with it, and we need to deal with it now. The noble Baroness is absolutely right to point out that we need experienced people in this task force, and there are. They are not dealing with this as a box-ticking exercise but in a compassionate and sensitive way, and are ensuring that people who come forward, not to apply for citizenship but to have it confirmed that they have always been citizens of this country, will have that dealt with very sensitively.

Lord Faulkener of Worcester (Labour): My Lords, is the Minister aware that on 18 January, on a Motion from the noble Baroness, Lady Berridge, the Grand Committee of your Lordships' House debated the centenary of the arrival of the merchant vessel "Empire Windrush"? In that debate, I raised the cases of Paulette Wilson and Anthony Bryan and asked the noble Lord, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, if he could reply to me about the way in which they had been treated. Not surprisingly, he passed the letter to the Home Office, and on 11 April—almost three months afterwards—I got a letter from the Immigration Minister in which she said that the Home Office had acted appropriately based on the evidence. Would the Minister like to revise that view and possibly offer the apology to these two people, and the others, which I asked for in the debate?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, herein lies the issue the

noble Lord has highlighted. I think the two cases he refers to were dealt with appropriately. However, what was deemed as, perhaps, a blip in the system is actually a far more systemic problem that needs to be dealt with. I had not been aware that the debate had taken place, but certainly this is a generation of people whose status now needs to be regularised and regularised quickly.

Earl Atlee (Conservative): My Lords, does the Minister agree that Members of another place regularly escalate immigration cases for ministerial attention irrespective of merit? There is no sift. Therefore, why is anyone surprised that we get a debacle like the Windrush episode when ministerial time is wasted on cases which have no merit?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have seen the Immigration Minister's case pile—not case file—and it is true that many cases come in through the Immigration Minister's box. It is really important, particularly in a situation like this, that those with genuine cases are dealt with quickly. I hope that there are not people out there seeking to capitalise on this situation.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, will the Minister comment on the staff survey results published in the *Independent* today which show higher levels of discrimination and harassment among staff in the Home Office than in any other government department? Does this not prove that the Government have created a hostile environment inside the Home Office as well as in the country as a whole?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, as an immigrant working in the Home Office I cannot comment on the staff survey because I have not seen it. This Government want to create a hostile environment not for people who have every right to be here but for people who seek to pervert the system of legal immigration. Yes, we want to create a hostile environment for illegal migrants, but we want to make every effort to ensure that people who are here lawfully are supported, particularly the Windrush cohort in confirming their settled status in this country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-23/debates/6EC38407-9475-4D6D-925E-F91CA4871597/WindrushGeneration>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7021] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reassess their "hostile environment" policy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Compliant Environment is not a new concept. It is a renewed effort to develop an immigration system which supports compliance with our laws and Immigration Rules. Successive Governments have brought forward policies to protect the UK taxpayer from the misuse of public services and benefits and those policies are regularly reviewed. In developing the Compliant Environment, we have ensured that those with lawful immigration status can demonstrate it easily. We take the quality of our decision making very seriously; we offer the right to redress and have also built in appropriate safeguards, taking careful account of the need to protect vulnerable persons and to mitigate the risk of taking decisions incorrectly. We will continue to keep those safeguards under review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-17/HL7021/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL7049] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken in response to the recommendations of the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, Refugees Welcome.

Refugees: Community Relations

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL7050] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the recommendation for a national refugee integration strategy in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees report, Refugees Welcome, is included in the Integrated Communities Strategy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper on 14th March. This includes proposals on the future of integration support for refugees.

The Green Paper sets out that the Government will work with civil society to increase integration support for refugees recognised after arrival in the UK. This recognises the importance that we place on integration for all refugees.

The Green Paper also sets out plans to develop, with the Department for Education and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government, a new national English language Strategy for England; and plans to share best practice and build on learning about what works in relation to support for refugees on employment, English language, mental health and cultural orientation.

The Government will further develop these proposals with input from a range of stakeholders. Consultation on the Green Paper is open until 5th June.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-18/HL7049/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-18/HL7050/>

The Report referred to above can be read at

https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0004/0316/APPG_on_Refugees_-_Refugees_Welcome_report.pdf

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

The Consultation referred to above can be read at

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

Refugees: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7070] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the military action in Syria, they have given any consideration to taking more than the 20,000 refugees to which they have already committed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has committed to resettling 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees affected by the Syria conflict by the year 2020 through our Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and we have no plans to increase this at the present time. This commitment is in addition to those we resettle through our Vulnerable Children's, Gateway and Mandate schemes, and the thousands who receive protection in the UK under normal asylum procedures.

Resettlement is only one part of the solution to the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Our priorities are humanitarian aid and actively seeking an end to the conflict in Syria. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries.

We have begun work with key stakeholders and international organisations on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy, which includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-18/HL7070/>

Asylum: Torture

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6981] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to change their definition of torture in relation to the treatment of asylum claims and related legal proceedings; and, if so, whether they intend to table debates in both Houses of Parliament on those plans before they are implemented.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government laid draft revised statutory guidance before Parliament on 21 March 2018, and the corresponding statutory instruments on 27 March, to implement a new definition of torture for the purposes of immigration detention. The statutory instruments and guidance give effect to a recent High Court judgment and are subject to the negative resolution procedure.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-17/HL6981/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7014] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 April (HL6835), whether they will consider implementing a maximum length of time for which vulnerable people, including LGBT asylum seekers, can be detained for immigration purposes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government currently has no plans to introduce a maximum time limit on immigration detention, either generally or for particular groups, such as those who identify as LGBT.

A time limit would only encourage individuals, including foreign national offenders who present a risk to the public, to frustrate immigration and asylum procedures until they reach a point at which they would have to be released. This would impact significantly on the Government's ability to enforce immigration controls and maintain public safety.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-17/HL7014/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-29/HL6835/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Windrush Children Inquiry: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/windrush-children/oral/82003.html>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) (1193) 20th anniversary of Refugee Week – That this House celebrates the 20th anniversary of Refugee Week which lasts from 18 to 24 June 2018; notes that the refugee crisis has uprooted almost 50 million children from their homes who are now vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and trafficking; further celebrates this year's message for Refugee Week, Different Pasts, Shared Futures, which is of great importance in remembering that we have far more in common than that which divides us; encourages hon. Members to work with the many organisations supporting Refugee Week, including Amnesty International, the British Red Cross, the Refugee Council and SOS Children's Villages UK and to celebrate Refugee Week in their constituencies; and calls on the Government to ensure that refugee children continue to be welcomed in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1193>

Press Releases

Home Office had migrant removal targets, report shows

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43902599>

Home Office ditches targets for removing immigrants from UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-ditches-targets-for-removing-immigrants-from-uk-1-4731108>

Free citizenship for the Windrush generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-citizenship-for-the-windrush-generation>

Security Ministers commit to tackling modern slavery worldwide

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/security-ministers-commit-to-tackling-modern-slavery-worldwide>

MEPs support reforms to speed up assessment of asylum requests in the EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20180423IPR02320/meps-support-reforms-to-speed-up-assessment-of-asylum-requests-in-the-eu>

New Publications

Modern Slavery Research: the UK Picture

<http://iascresearch.nottingham.ac.uk/ResearchingModernSlaveryintheUK.pdf>

Age assessment and fingerprinting of children in asylum procedures – Minimum age requirements concerning children’s rights in the EU

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-minimum-age-asylum-procedures_en.pdf

News: Windrush Generation

Windrush assurances should be written into law, say MPs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43938351>

Windrush crisis: 200 MPs tell Theresa May to enshrine promises in law

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/29/windrush-crisis-mps-theresa-may-enshrine-promises-law>

Windrush: UK citizenship fees and language tests waived

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43868921>

Home Secretary regrets failing to see scope of Windrush scandal sooner

http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/16185353.Home_Secretary_regrets_failing_to_see_scope_of_Windrush_scandal_sooner/

Amber Rudd vows to scrap targets for removing immigrants from UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/apr/26/amber-rudd-scrap-targets-for-removing-immigrants-from-uk>

Amber Rudd scraps targets for removing immigrants from UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-scandal-uk-immigration-amber-rudd-deportation-a8324461.html>

Windrush generation will get UK citizenship, says Amber Rudd

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/23/windrush-generation-will-get-uk-citizenship-says-amber-rudd>

Government knew for years that Windrush generation hurt by 'hostile environment'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/22/government-aware-for-years-that-hostile-environment-hurt-windrush-generation>

Amber Rudd says she will end deportation targets amid calls to resign

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-26/news/new-calls-for-rudd-to-resign-in-row-over-deportation-targets-78qwdhqz3>

Amber Rudd promises Windrush migrants free citizenship

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-23/news/rudd-promises-windrush-migrants-free-british-citizenship-m96zknxqf>

Amber Rudd vows to waive citizenship fees and language tests for Windrush generation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/23/amber-rudd-vows-waive-citizenship-fees-language-tests-windrush/>

Home Office did set migrant removal targets, report reveals, as pressure mounts on Amber Rudd to quit

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/26/home-office-did-set-migrant-removal-targets-report-reveals-pressure/>

Windrush scandal sparks fears over right to remain process among Scots-based EU nationals

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/16191835.Windrush_scandal_sparks_fears_over_right_to_remain_process_among_Scots_based_EU_nationals/

Sajid Javid's Windrush fury 'It could have been me, my mum or my dad'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/28/sajid-javids-windrush-fury-could-have-mum-dad/>

Windrush scandal: Tory MP Sajid Javid says 'it could have been me'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-latest-sajid-javid-personal-amber-rudd-deportation-local-elections-2018-a8327921.html>

David Lammy MP reveals racist abuse after speaking out on Windrush scandal: 'Be grateful we have taken you in as a black man'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-lammy-windrush-mp-racist-abuse-deport-immigration-caribbean-a8318311.html>

Windrush generation fear hotline will be used for data gathering

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/24/fears-raised-windrush-hotline-will-be-used-for-data-gathering>

News: Other Immigration and asylum

Amber Rudd: applying to stay after Brexit will be easy as getting online account with LK Bennett

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-24/news/amber-rudd-applying-to-stay-after-brexit-will-be-easy-as-getting-online-account-with-lk-bennett-sfcqj505b>

Boris Johnson calls for amnesty for illegal immigrants who have been in UK for 10 years
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/24/boris-johnson-challenges-theresa-may-introduce-migrant-amnesty/>

The Windrush scandal shows the need for immigration legal aid
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/25/windrush-scandal-immigration-legal-aid>

'Britain is my home': how the hostile environment damage has spread
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/27/britain-home-hostile-environment-damage-spread-beyond-windrush>

Linton Kwesi Johnson: 'It was a myth that immigrants didn't want to fit into British society. We weren't allowed'
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/27/linton-kwesi-johnson-brixton-windrush-myth-immigrants-didnt-want-fit-british-society-we-werent-allowed>

'Not British enough': ex-high commissioner's baby denied UK passport in 2011
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/25/arthur-snell-high-commissioner-baby-denied-uk-passport-2011>

British High Commissioner's baby son denied a UK passport after being born in Trinidad
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-latest-british-high-commissioner-arthur-snell-son-uk-passport-denied-citizen-a8321056.html>

High court blocks Amber Rudd attempt to deport witness
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/apr/28/amber-rudd-attempt-deport-immigration-witness-blocked-high-court>

Government announces Jamaican nurse recruitment partnership amid Windrush scandal
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/jamaica-nhs-nurse-windrush-theresa-may-amber-rudd-government-india-staff-shortage-a8318121.html>

Home Office faces court action over asylum children
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/24/home-office-faces-court-action-over-asylum-children>

Immigration lawyers using delaying tactics to keep illegal immigrants in Britain, High Court says
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/26/immigration-lawyers-using-delaying-tactics-keep-illegal-immigrants/>

Migrant rules 'leaving NHS short of doctors'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-43898969>

NHS bosses attack immigration rules after dozens of Indian doctors refused entry to Britain
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/27/nhs-bosses-attack-immigration-rules-dozens-indian-doctors-refused/>

Windrush cancer patient has UK residency status confirmed
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/27/windrush-cancer-victim-has-uk-residency-status-confirmed>

Windrush scandal: Man who has lived in Britain for 54 years misses daughter's wedding after Home Office refuses him a passport

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-man-misses-daughters-wedding-home-office-joseph-bravo-a8316276.html>

'No basis to remain': woman, 63, told she will be removed from UK to Jamaica

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/28/yarls-wood-woman-told-she-will-be-removed-from-uk-to-jamaica>

Windrush grandmother who worked in UK for decades sacked from migrants' charity job over right to remain

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-scandal-jessica-eugene-grandma-sacked-immigration-amber-rudd-a8322006.html>

'I felt like dirt': disabled Canadian woman told to leave UK after 44 years

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/24/canadian-woman-told-to-leave-uk-margaret-obrien>

Man injured in bomb blast as a child waiting to hear whether Theresa May can deport him to Afghanistan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-turyalai-khaksar-bomb-theresa-may-deport-uxbridge-a8322396.html>

Daughter of Windrush immigrant facing imminent deportation despite dying mother and young grandchildren in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-scandal-yvonne-williams-immigrants-migration-theresa-may-uk-government-a8320401.html>

The Yorkshire Dales farmer helping asylum seekers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-43878185>

Arabic to be taught to Syrian refugee children in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/arabic-to-be-taught-to-syrian-refugee-children-in-scotland-1-4731706>

Refused Asylum seekers last resort

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3306_refused_asylum_seekers_last_resort

Scotland needs to make the case for more immigration, not less

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16185337.Alison_Rowat_Scotland_needs_to_make_the_case_for_more_immigration_not_less/

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-11950 Anas Sarwar (Labour): International Recognition for Interfaith Glasgow – That the Parliament congratulates Interfaith Glasgow on receiving the prestigious 2018 bronze medal from King Abdullah II of Jordan in recognition of its activities during World Interfaith Harmony Week; is aware that, in 2010, the UN unanimously established by resolution this awareness week; notes the international

recognition that this highly-contested prize represents; is supportive of the charitable efforts of Interfaith Glasgow to promote dialogue, respect and friendship between people of different faiths and beliefs; endorses in particular its Weekend Club initiative, which is a response to the social isolation experienced by many refugees and asylum seekers, and wishes Interfaith Glasgow ongoing success in its important and laudable endeavours.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11950>

New Publication

Unpacking Summary Measures of Ethnic Residential Segregation Using an Age Group and Age Cohort Perspective

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10680-018-9475-3.pdf>

News

Crossing Divides: Split British town fights back to foster tolerance

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43791600>

100 Women: 'Mo Salah is so important to Muslim children like mine'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-43921603>

Ironically enough, the Windrush scandal has brought the British African and Caribbean communities together for the first time

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/windrush-black-british-community-caribbean-immigration-ethnic-minority-a8321206.html>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ethnicity: Poverty

S5W-15605:Elaine Smith (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in light of reports that people from minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be living in poverty.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to tackling poverty amongst minority ethnic communities. That's why Every Child, Every Chance: the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan focuses on priority families who are at higher risk of poverty, including minority ethnic families. The final chapter of the Plan sets out an assessment of how each substantive action benefits these families and which of the main drivers it tackles.

For instance, in bringing forward our Financial Health Check, we will work with organisations representing minority ethnic communities to promote our Financial Health Check offer, taking into account any additional support that may be required - for example, around language support and travel costs.

We also published our Race Equality Action Plan in December 2017, which sets out the key actions for the Scottish Government to drive positive change for minority ethnic communities. The Action Plan contains more than 120 actions spanning employment, education, health, housing, poverty, community cohesion

and safety for all minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15605>

The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533606.pdf>

The Race Equality Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528746.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11475&i=104211#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Inquiry into Hate crime and its violent consequences

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/oral/81930.html>

News

When women were forced to choose between faith and football

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2018/apr/28/women-faith-football-hijab-fifa-ban>

Race equality warning over plan to ask voters for ID

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/race-equality-warning-over-plan-to-ask-voters-for-id-1-4728624>

White Scots more likely to die early

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/white-scots-more-likely-to-die-early-s58d8b7rw>

Judge rules coroner's 'cab rank' policy discriminatory

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/apr/27/london-coroners-cab-rank-policy-ruled-discriminatory>

Coroner told to drop 'cab rank' rule and prioritise Jewish and Muslim cases

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/27/coroner-told-drop-cab-rank-rule-prioritise-jewish-muslim-cases/>

Burial policy that ignored Jews and Muslims reversed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-28/news/burial-policy-that-ignored-jews-and-muslims-reversed-ckdqjw8cl>

Muslim Council of Britain Welcomes High Court ruling in against St Pancras Coroner's Court 'Cab Rank' burial policy

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/mcb-welcomes-high-court-ruling-in-against-st-pancras-coroners-court-cab-rank-burial-policy/>

Board of Deputies welcomes High Court ruling that coroner's 'cab rank' policy is unlawful

<https://www.bod.org.uk/board-of-deputies-welcomes-high-court-ruling-that-coroners-cab-rank-policy-is-unlawful/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Gypsy Travellers

Christina McKelvie (SNP): Members of a brand new Young Gypsy Travellers Assembly are watching from the public gallery today. I welcome them to the Parliament and say that the Equalities and Human Rights Committee is looking forward to meeting them in the future. I know that they will also meet the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities this afternoon. Does the First Minister agree that it is time that we ensure that, in Scotland, the well-used phrase that “discrimination against Gypsy Travellers is the last acceptable form of racism” should become a phrase of the past?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Let me offer a warm welcome to the young Gypsy Travellers who are with us in the public gallery. The Gypsy Traveller community continues to face prejudice and discrimination. I hope that, across this chamber, we can all agree that that is absolutely unacceptable and has no place whatsoever in a modern and inclusive Scotland.

As Christina McKelvie knows, we have set up a new ministerial working group to drive improvements for that community at a faster pace. I am delighted that the Young Gypsy Travellers Assembly has been invited to speak at the meeting of that group next week. The cabinet secretary will meet our visitors this afternoon, and I hope that members of the young Gypsy Traveller community will be regular visitors to the Parliament in the future, because they are most welcome.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11484&i=104283#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism

S5W-15665 Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of (a) Islamophobia, (b) racism, (c) homophobia and (d) anti-Semitism have been reported to police in each year since 2012.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: Not all of the information requested is held centrally. The Scottish Government has previously published statistics on Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, with the most recent release covering the reporting year of 2013-14

(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/PubRacistIncidents>).

This publication noted the intention to scope out the possibility of replacing this release with a new and broader product on police recorded hate crime. This would include information on other strands of hate crime recorded by the police, in addition to retaining data on hate incidents with a race element. Scottish Government statisticians have been working with Police Scotland as it develops the data it holds on its existing systems. We anticipate an update on the outcome of this work in the near future, and plans for a new publication. This update will be circulated to users through the ScotStat network

(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>).

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) also publish annual statistics on crimes aggravated by race, religious, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity prejudice (<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>). These figures relate to charges reported to the COPFS and includes information on how those charges were proceeded. Information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim is not included. Statistics for 2017-18 will be published on 15 June 2018.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15665>

Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and anti-Semitism

S5W-15669 Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been convicted of crimes relating to (a) Islamophobia, (b) racism, (c) homophobia and (d) anti-Semitism in each year since 2012.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: Statistics on the number of people convicted for crimes with an aggravator recorded is available in table 12 of the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2016-17 publication. The Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings database does not hold information on the faith group, gender, race or country of origin of the victim.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15669>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Hate Crime: Social Media

Steve McCabe (Labour) [135740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to review hate crime legislation to tackle social media hate speech directed towards ethnic minority groups.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is clear that what is illegal offline is illegal online.

The Prime Minister announced on 6 February that Government has commissioned the Law Commission to launch a review of current legislation on offensive online communications to ensure that laws are up to date with technology.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-13/135740/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-next-steps-to-make-the-uk-the-safest-place-to-be-online>

Hate Crime: Social Media

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [136264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 March 2018 to Question 133769, what specific steps her Department is taking to encourage social media companies to tackle online hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan set out a number of Home Office and cross-Government actions to tackle online hate crime, including engagement with industry. We will be refreshing the action plan this year.

The Government has already gone further than these actions: in October 2017 the Home Secretary announced funding for a national online hate crime hub that will help the police to manage online cases more effectively and efficiently; we have successfully worked with industry and partners internationally to agree the removal of illegal hate speech within 24 hours through the EU Commission Code of Conduct on Illegal Hate Speech; and we will publish the Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy consultation in the spring which will set out details on a comprehensive new social media code of practice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136264/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-21/133769/>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

The online hate crime hub announcement referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

The EU Code of Conduct referred to above can be read at http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/document.cfm?doc_id=42985

Social Media: Antisemitism

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [136145] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he has taken to establish codes of conduct for social media companies and industry bodies on the treatment of antisemitic content on their platforms.

Reply from Margot James: We treat all hate crime with equal seriousness. There is simply no place for treating victims differently regardless of their race, religion, gender identity, sexuality or disability.

As announced by the Prime Minister in her speech on 6 February, we intend to publish the Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy consultation in the spring. This will include further details about our social media code of practice which will help tackle abusive conduct online.

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism's Cyber Hate Working Group has been engaging with industry and one of its achievements is the agreement of a 'Best Practice' document which is published by the Anti-Defamation League and has been signed by all the major companies based in the United States, but does not specifically call for the removal of illegal content within 24 hours.

The Government supports the European Commission's initiative to agree a second generation of this agreement, which commits the signatories to removing illegal hate speech within 24 hours.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136145/>

The Prime Minister's speech referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-on-standards-in-public-life-6-february-2018>

The Best Practice guidance referred to above can be read at <https://www.adl.org/best-practices-for-responding-to-cyberhate>

Antisemitism

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [136144] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what progress his Department has made in response to the 2015 recommendation of the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism on creating a database of symbols slogans and flags that may be illegal because the organisations that use them incite hatred.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: We are working with True Vision, the police online hate crime portal, and community stakeholders to provide an assessment of the impact symbols, slogans and flags have on community tensions. We expect the database to be in operation later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136144/>

Press Releases

UN human rights expert to visit UK to assess racism post Brexit vote

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22991&LangID=E>

UN human rights experts says deaths in custody reinforce concerns about 'structural racism' in UK

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22997&LangID=E>

News

Structural racism at heart of British society, UN human rights panel says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/27/racism-british-society-minority-ethnic-people-dying-excessive-force>

Amber Rudd under new pressure after UN criticises 'racism' of British police forces

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/vpolice-custody-black-minority-deaths-uk-numbers-un-warning-racism-united-nations-a8324886.html>

Jewish leaders say Corbyn has failed to act against Labour anti-Semitism

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16182026.Jewish_leaders_say_Corbyn_has_failed_to_act_against_Labour_anti_Semitism/

Jewish leaders dismiss Corbyn meeting on antisemitism as 'missed opportunity'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/apr/24/jewish-leaders-dismiss-corbyn-meeting-on-antisemitism-as-missed-opportunity>

Jeremy Corbyn: we have not done enough to tackle antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/apr/24/corbyn-must-expel-antisemites-says-holocaust-survivor>

Jeremy Corbyn admits to antisemitism in Palestinian movement

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-24/news/corbyn-admits-to-antisemitism-in-palestinian-movement-jvls60bqn>

Jeremy Corbyn apologises for Labour antisemitism ahead of meeting with Jewish leaders

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-antisemitism-jewish-leaders-israel-racism-a8320041.html>

Jewish leaders say Corbyn is failing to take 'concrete' action on anti-Semitism as they label crunch meeting a 'missed opportunity'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/24/jewish-leaders-say-corbyn-failing-take-concrete-action-anti/>

Jewish leaders call meeting with Jeremy Corbyn 'disappointing and a missed opportunity'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-party-antisemitism-jewish-leaders-meeting-a8320641.html>

Holocaust survivor accuses Jeremy Corbyn of failing to tackle anti-Semitism ahead of meeting with Jewish community

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/24/holocaust-survivor-accuses-jeremy-corbyn-failing-tackle-anti/>

As a Jewish Labour MP I know the impact unchallenged antisemitism can have on a country

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-antisemitism-row-fabian-hamilton-jewish-nazis-hatred-a8319706.html>

Arrested Bristol councillor accuses police of institutional bias

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/26/arrested-bristol-councillor-afzal-shah-accuses-police-of-institutional-bias>

Labour activist expelled after remarks to MP at anti-Semitism event

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43920227>

Labour activist expelled over anti-Semitism row

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/16189525.Labour_activist_expelled_over_anti_Semitism_row/

Former SNP councillor denies racism in £100,000 court case

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/16181245.Former_SNP_councillor_denies_racism_in_100_000_court_case/

Catholic Church hits out at sectarian working group amid claims it was ignored

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/16190255.Catholic_Church_hits_out_at_sectarian_working_group_amid_claims_it_was_ignored/

Retired police officer who ranted online about Muslims is freed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-27/scotland/retired-police-officer-who-ranted-online-about-muslims-is-freed-q5hs3mpxr>

Nottingham Trent University 'racist' video pair face charges

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-43892509>

Sheffield universities probe 'racism' reports

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-43908646>

Sheffield universities investigate four allegations of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/24/sheffield-universities-investigate-four-allegations-of-racism>

Ucas orders inquiry into 'racial profiling' of UK students

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/apr/24/ucas-orders-inquiry-into-racial-profiling-of-uk-students>

As a young Jew at Cambridge, university is where I have felt most vulnerable

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-27/news/as-a-young-jew-at-cambridge-university-is-where-i-have-felt-most-susceptible-3qjb5p0tr>

Oxford porters should be given 'unconscious bias' training, amid claims that they target black students

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2018/04/26/oxford-porters-should-given-unconscious-bias-training-amid-claims/>

Call for ban on taxpayer funding for Scottish football to end "culture of cowardice" on sectarianism

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/16191826.Exclusive_Call_for_ban_on_taxpayer_funding_in_Scottish_football_in_bid_to_end_quot_culture_of_cowardice_quot_on_sectarianism/

If we want to tackle antisemitism in the modern world, then we need make GCSE history a compulsory subject in schools

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/antisemitism-holocaust-gcse-history-education-propaganda-a8325011.html>

Man fined for hate crime after filming pug's 'Nazi salutes'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-43864133>

Man who filmed dog giving Nazi salutes fined £800

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/23/man-who-filmed-dog-giving-nazi-salutes-fined>

Mark Meechan given £800 fine for hate crime after filming pug giving 'Nazi salutes'
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16177408.Coatbridge_man_given_800_fine_for_hate_crime_after_filming_pug_giving_Nazi_salutes_/?ref=rss

Nazi dog joker fined £800 for teaching pet pug vile salute
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nazi-dog-joker-fined-800-12411333>

Man who taught girlfriend's pet pug dog to perform Nazi salutes fined £800
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/count-dankula-nazi-pug-salutes-mark-meechan-fine-sentenced-a8317751.html>

Nazi pug' Coatbridge 'comedian' Mark Meechan fined £800 over YouTube video
<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2542931/nazi-pug-mark-meechan-coatbridge-fined-800-youtube-video-jews/>

£800 fine for Mark Meechan, who taught dog to give Nazi salute
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-24/news/800-fine-for-mark-meechan-who-taught-dog-to-give-nazi-salute-8cskwr65f>

Daily Express helped create 'Islamophobic sentiment', admits newspaper's editor
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/daily-express-islamophobic-sentiment-editor-gary-jones-home-affairs-select-committee-a8321026.html>

Islamophobia not an issue in the British press? You've got to be kidding
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/27/islamophobia-not-british-press-issue-got-to-be-kidding>

Institutional racism is alive and well in UK
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/ayesha-hazarika-institutional-racism-is-alive-and-well-in-uk-1-4729680>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Withdrawal Bill amendments 'undermine devolution', says Minister
<https://news.gov.scot/news/withdrawal-bill-amendments-undermine-devolution-says-minister>

Negotiations on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill
<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11481&i=104234&c=2084675#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Further progress needed to protect devolution
<https://news.gov.scot/news/further-progress-needed-to-protect-devolution>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Topical Questions: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Philip Davies (Conservative): In the interests of consumer choice, will the Secretary of State introduce compulsory labelling of halal and kosher meat? That would benefit both those who particularly want to buy it and those who particularly do not want to buy it.

Michael Gove: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for raising this issue. We are consulting at the moment on how we can improve food labelling to ensure that we can provide consumers with greater choice, but it is also important to bear in mind that freedom of religious worship and practice is a core virtue of the United Kingdom. Although I believe very strongly in improving animal welfare standards, I also believe that we should show appropriate respect towards those individuals, from whatever faith background, who want to ensure that the meat they eat is prepared in accordance with their religious traditions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-26/debates/1C76D7FC-3050-44D3-AEFB-6495BFF65E5F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-21745D31-B683-4F6C-AE83-442F01665437>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Cultural Heritage: Minority Groups

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [136634] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of educating young people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups about their ethnic cultural heritage.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government believes that as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different cultures, and about how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. Schools have the flexibility to teach these topics in ways that are appropriate and sensitive to the needs of their pupils.

The national curriculum programme for the study of citizenship also supports this, while arts GCSE specifications require students to know and understand how sources inspire the development of ideas, by, for example, drawing on the work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-19/136634/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Donors: Ethnic Groups

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [136190] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has assessed the potential merits of producing a strategy to support research into the barriers and motivations affecting BAME organ, blood and stem cell donation; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is responsible for the collection, manufacturing and issuing of blood products to the National Health Service in England; for organ and tissue donation in the United Kingdom; and for the British Bone Marrow Registry, to which it recruits registered blood donors to be potential stem cell donors.

NHSBT has ongoing strategies to recruit more blood, organ and stem cell donors from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in order to address the health inequalities faced by patients from those communities. These strategies

are informed by research; for example, in 2013 NHSBT commissioned a report by Optimisa Research to understand attitudes and behaviours towards organ donation. Research conducted in 2015 by ESRO Ltd revealed some of the barriers and motivations of people from BAME communities towards blood donation. Copies of these reports are attached.

NHSBT strategies include targeted marketing activity, events, education resources, PR and media work and engagement with faith organisations. The impact of these strategies is evaluated on an ongoing basis to inform future work. There will be a new national campaign to increase the number of BAME organ donors later this year. The Department sponsors Anthony Nolan and NHSBT to improve equity of access to unrelated donor stem cell transplantation for BAME patients.

[PQ136190 attached document](#)

[PQ136190 attached document](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136190/>

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New Publication

High Court Judgment (London): The Queen on the application of (1) Adath Yisroel Burial Society (2) Mrs Ita Cymerman Claimants - v - HM Senior Coroner for Inner North London and Chief Coroner of England and Wales

<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/aybs-v-hmcoroner-judgment.pdf>

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Other News

Times distorted Muslim foster case, regulator finds

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43887481>

Complaint upheld over Times story about girl fostered by Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2018/apr/24/complaint-upheld-over-times-story-about-london-girl-fostered-with-muslim-family>

Muslims and prison: When crime collides with faith and morality

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/muslim-prisoners-crime-islam-faith-moral-life-a8318306.html

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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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-23/debates/5481ABDF-ABEB-49C7-9404-6B4B85E24400/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-23/debates/5481ABDF-ABEB-49C7-9404-6B4B85E24400/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-25/debates/A9F4CE42-D434-4DC4-8DAE-799A1265BB8A/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-25/debates/A9F4CE42-D434-4DC4-8DAE-799A1265BB8A/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Ministerial StatementL European Union (Withdrawal) Bill: Clause 11

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-25/debates/18042575000008/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)BillClause11](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-25/debates/18042575000008/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)BillClause11)

Supplementary Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-supplementaryDPM3.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

Police and Fire Reform Act (closing date 24 May 2018)
http://www.parliament.scot/2012_Act_call_for_evidence.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>

**** Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information**
(closing date 18 July 2018)
<https://consult.gov.scot/disclosure-scotland/protection-of-vulnerable/>

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!**

Volunteering Support Fund
closing date for applications: 4 May 2018

Scottish Government grants between £7,500 and £10,000 per annum for organisations, who will be expected to recruit at least 15 additional volunteers, including, 10 who experience disadvantage or would traditionally experience barriers to volunteering; and provide opportunities for both current and new volunteers to benefit from a meaningful volunteering experience, eg through training, learning new skills, and increased participation in their local community. For information and to apply for a grant see
<https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

'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>

**** this week!**

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

Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting

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

Equalities & Human Rights Focus Groups

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

**** Peace Walk**

13 May 2018 in Edinburgh (1.45-4.45)

Edinburgh Interfaith Association walk around some of the city's diverse places of worship, to get to know some of the different faith communities and cultures that make up Edinburgh. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/annual-peace-walk-tickets-44257232574>

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator

15 May 2018 in Perth (1.15-4.00)

30 May 2018 in Peterhead (1.15-4.00)

13 June 2018 in Stirling (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2018 in Edinburgh (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2018 in Motherwell (1.15-4.00)

3 October 2018 in Oban (9.45-12.30)

Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions. Topics will include the role of the charity trustee, and guidance on safeguarding. For information and to book see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator>

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

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.

Scottish Parliament and Officeholders British Sign Language Plans

18 May 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (2.00-5.00)

19 May 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Events to help the Scottish Parliament prepare their British Sign Language Plan and gather the views of BSL users. Tours of the Scottish Parliament debating chamber and garden lobby will be available in BSL on both days. For information see <http://www.parliament.scot/help/108210.aspx> or contact 0131 348 5000 / [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](mailto:contactSCOTLAND-BSL@parliament.scot) / info@parliament.scot

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

Black History Month

October 2018

Call for submissions to the programme: deadline 16 July 2018

Black History Month aims to raise awareness of the positive role that Black / Minority Ethnic men and women have played in shaping both Glasgow and Scotland's history. To submit an event for the 2018 programme complete the form at https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/18_black_history_month.doc and return it to zandra@crer.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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