

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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## Contents

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Human Trafficking

**Christina McKelvie:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address human trafficking. (S4O-03859)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson):** I recognise Christina McKelvie's long-standing interest in pursuing the issue as one of the co-conveners of the cross-party group on human trafficking.

On 11 December 2014, we introduced the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill. If the bill is approved by Parliament, it will clarify and strengthen the law to prosecute and disrupt traffickers. It will also strengthen the rights of victims. That will include giving adult victims of trafficking rights to access immediate support and assistance that are equivalent to those that child victims already have.

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

The proposals in the bill build on the actions that were taken following the human trafficking summit that was hosted by the Scottish Government in October 2012. The Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland and the Solicitor General Lesley Thomson hosted a further human trafficking summit at the Scottish Parliament on 17 October 2014, which was attended by the heads of prosecution services from across the United Kingdom and Ireland. It was agreed that prosecutors would work together to share information to ensure that there would be robust and effective prosecutions of those who engage in this heinous crime.

**Christina McKelvie:** I attended the event for prosecutors, and it was heartening to see like-minded people in the room.

The bill includes victim support measures. As the cabinet secretary mentioned, adult victims will be given the same assistance that children already receive. That is extremely important.

The bill also includes a duty to secure such support and assistance, and I hope that the Government will press for that assistance to be provided as soon as possible. That assistance should include the provision of accommodation, because trafficking victims can be left destitute; assistance with day-to-day living; medical advice and treatment; language translation and interpretation services, because it is becoming ever more difficult for people to go and give evidence to the Home Office; counselling; and repatriation and legal advice.

I draw the cabinet secretary's attention to a campaign by the refugee women's strategy group on the fact that victims have to give evidence on some of the horrible things that have happened to them, sometimes in front of their children, and ask the Scottish Government to look at that.

How does the cabinet secretary intend to implement the provision on assistance and give adult and child victims of human trafficking the best support possible?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** Christina McKelvie has raised an extremely important point. The very nature of human trafficking and exploitation is such that it is often hidden. Those individuals who have been trafficked or exploited are often reluctant to come forward and get assistance and support. That is why the provision of support to those who have been trafficked or exploited is a key measure in our bill.

The areas that the member has highlighted are all key areas. For example, if a person has been trafficked or exploited, they might have been completely dependent for their accommodation on the person who was controlling their situation. Once they are no longer in that situation, they might become much more vulnerable and might not have accommodation. Such factors will have to be taken into account when consideration is given to the type of support that will be required for the victims of trafficking, given the complexity of such crime, its controlling nature and its impact on the individuals concerned.

A key part of the work that we will take forward as part of the national strategy that the bill will place a requirement on ministers to develop and to regularly review will be ensuring that we have the right provisions in place to support victims of trafficking effectively when they come forward. The member has raised a number of important points, all of which I will be more than happy to consider as we proceed with the bill and as we begin to develop the national strategy.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9709&i=88496>

### Human Trafficking (Airports)

**Adam Ingram:** To ask the Scottish Government how the proposals in the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill will help deter trafficking through airports. (S4O-03853)

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson):** Our bill aims to clarify and strengthen the criminal law by introducing a new single human trafficking offence and by increasing the maximum penalty to life imprisonment. The bill will give Scotland's law enforcement agencies greater tools in their armoury to use in bringing those responsible for the misery of human trafficking to justice, as well as guaranteeing support for victims.

The bill includes provisions for courts to impose new preventative orders, restricting the activities of people convicted or suspected of human trafficking offences, including controls on foreign travel. There are specific proposals in the bill that will allow for the detention of property, including aircraft, owned or possessed by persons arrested on suspicion of a trafficking offence.

The Lord Advocate's recent summit and communiqué on human trafficking acknowledged the need for co-operation between law enforcement agencies across the United Kingdom in responding to this crime. Alongside our bill, we will continue to engage with the UK Government, UK border force and other relevant UK bodies to share intelligence and to disrupt and deter traffickers who seek to cross our borders.

**Adam Ingram:** ... The bill is very welcome indeed and will help to give my constituents the reassurance that we will not tolerate the use of our airports for this heinous crime. The bill will require the creation of a Scottish human trafficking strategy. How does the Government intend to work with the airports in drafting that strategy to ensure that they are doing all that they can to prevent human trafficking?

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The member raises an important point because, alongside the improvements to the criminal law and the strengthening of the rights of victims, the bill will commit Scottish Government ministers to engage with relevant stakeholders in order to bring forward a trafficking and exploitation strategy for Scotland.

I assure the member of the Government's intention to ensure that, in developing the strategy, we engage with organisations and frontline staff, including those at our airports and ports, so that they have an opportunity to have an input into the development of the strategy and so that the strategy is framed in a way that supports them by ensuring that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to identify the signs of trafficking and stop traffickers from being able to bring people across our borders.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9709&i=88492>

## UK Parliament Questions

### Migration Target

**Nic Dakin:** What recent assessment [has the Home Secretary] made of the likelihood of the next migration target being met. [906746]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May):** Where we can control migration, our reforms have cut non-EU migration to levels close to those not seen since the 1990s. However, EU immigration has almost doubled to unprecedented levels in the past two years. Many EU migrants are coming to the UK to work because of this Government's success in rebuilding the economy and creating jobs.

**Nic Dakin:** Does the Home Secretary agree that when the Prime Minister said "no ifs, no buts" about getting net migration down to tens of thousands, he made a promise to the British people that he now appears to have broken?

**Reply from Theresa May:** I have been very clear and said publicly that yes, we

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

have been blown off course of our net migration target. I have just indicated that in the figures I mentioned in relation to EU migration. The Prime Minister has set out a number of ways in which we intend to address that particular issue, but it is this Government who have been addressing issues across the immigration system that have led to non-EU immigration coming down to levels close to those of the 1990s.

**James Gray:** I strongly support the work that the Home Secretary has done with regard to controlling bogus student visa applications. That was a huge problem that she has got rid of. However, how would she answer my constituent Sir James Dyson, who said that if her latest remarks about automatically sending all students home on completion of their studies were taken literally, there would be dire consequences for businesses such as his which rely on engineers and scientists from overseas?

**Reply from Theresa May:** We have been very clear in all the changes we have made to the immigration system that we welcome the brightest and the best to the United Kingdom. We have no limit on the number of people who are coming here genuinely to study in a proper educational establishment. I am pleased to say that visa applications from university students rose by 2% in the year ending September 2014, with an increase of 4% for the Russell Group universities. We also need to recognise that the latest survey showed that in one year 121,000 students came in from overseas and only 50,000 left. Figures suggest that in the 2020s, we will see 600,000 overseas students each year in this country. ...

**Pete Wishart:** Will not the Home Secretary just concede that her immigration cap did not work and could never work, because we live in an interconnected, globalised world of which the free movement of people is a key feature? Will she agree that any future attempt at a UKIP-inspired immigration cap will be as disastrous as the last UKIP-inspired immigration cap?

**Reply from Theresa May:** I said in my original answer that we have been blown off course from the net migration target. The hon. Gentleman says that it is impossible to bring about changes in net migration, but I remind him that migration from outside the European Union has come down to levels close to those of the 1990s.

**Tony Baldry:** It is clearly progress that net migration from non-EU countries is now at levels not seen since the 1990s. Will my right hon. Friend update the House on what action the Home Office is taking to ensure that those who have no right to be within the jurisdiction are removed from the country, such as foreign prisoners when they have completed their sentence of imprisonment and those who have been found by an immigration appeals tribunal to have no right to asylum here? What action is being taken to ensure that those people leave the country when they are told that they have no right to be in the country?

**Reply from Theresa May:** My right hon. Friend is right to raise the issue of dealing with those who have no right to be here. We are addressing it in a number of ways. For example, we are working hard with a number of other countries to ensure that they are willing to take back their foreign national offenders; we have ensured that there are fewer appeal routes for people who no longer have a right to be in the United Kingdom; some foreign national offenders have a right of appeal outside the country rather than inside the country; and we have undertaken a pilot with university students in the south-west to remind them when their visa comes to an end so that they leave the country. The issue is being addressed in a number of ways.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150105/debtext/150105-0001.htm#15010515000015>



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Indefinite Leave to Remain

**David Ward:** What assistance [does the Home Office offer] to people without five years' residency applying for indefinite leave to remain, who have been delayed in entering the country on a spouse visa because they are waiting for a determination on a British passport application for a child born outside the UK due to delays in obtaining the initial spouse visa. [906751]

**Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire):** In considering immigration applications, UK Visas and Immigration will not generally take into account the time taken to establish the British citizenship of a child of the applicant. That is because the child's status will affect the immigration requirements on the applicant, such as the minimum income threshold to be met by foreign spouses, which should be dealt with before an application is made.

**David Ward:** Is the Minister aware of the impact on family life of these long delays? Such are the delays that by the time the spouse's visa is granted, there may be one or two children, and then the mother will often have to make a decision about whether to stay abroad and be delayed there by starting the probationary period or to come to this country and leave the children abroad.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** I am obviously happy to look at any individual cases that my hon. Friend may wish to highlight and I can examine further. A British passport is not issued to a child born overseas until the Passport Office is satisfied that all the relevant identity, nationality and child protection issues have been identified. I am sure that my hon. Friend would support that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150105/debtext/150105-0001.htm#15010515000018>

### Citizenship Applications

**Andrew Turner:** How many applicants have been granted citizenship over the last 20 years; and what estimate she has made of the number of errors or mistakes made in decisions on citizenship in that period. [906763]

**Reply from the Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire):** The published national statistics of British citizenship grants show that there have been more than 2.4 million grants of citizenship over the last 20 years. The recent report by the independent chief inspector of borders and immigration endorsed decision making in the overwhelming majority of cases examined.

**Andrew Turner:** None the less, will my hon. Friend say when errors were made and what the consequence of such changes would have been? Is he able to find out how many such citizenship errors should not have been made?

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Government are clear that the grant of UK citizenship is a privilege for those who deserve it, not an automatic right for those who do not. Some of the issues identified by the chief inspector relate to a decision in 2007 to grant a large number of people the right to remain here indefinitely even if they did not meet the rules, and we are working through a process on that. We have also tightened the rules so that if someone has a bad immigration history, they are banned from becoming a British citizen for at least 10 years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150105/debtext/150105-0001.htm#15010515000024>

### British Nationality

**David Hanson [218817]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

many people who were granted British citizenship have had referees from outside the UK in each year since 2010.

**James Brokenshire:** Information on how many individuals were granted British citizenship who had referees from outside the UK is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218817/>

#### British Nationality

**David Hanson [218818]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who were granted British citizenship disclosed financial fraud in their application for citizenship.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Information on how many individuals who were granted citizenship who disclosed financial fraud in their application for citizenship is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data.

However where the Secretary of State is aware that a person has practised fraud they would not normally be granted citizenship as the good character requirement would not be satisfied.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218818/>

#### British Nationality

**David Hanson [218743]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants were granted British citizenship who had undertaken illegal work in the UK in each year since 2010.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Information on how many individuals who were granted British citizenship who had undertaken illegal work in the UK is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data. However where the Secretary of State is aware that a person has undertaken illegal work in the UK they would not normally be granted citizenship as the good character requirement would not be satisfied.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218743/>

#### British Nationality

**David Hanson [218744]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants were granted British citizenship who had previously committed crimes in other countries in each year since 2010; and of what crimes those applicants had been convicted.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Information on how many individuals who were granted British citizenship who had previously committed crimes in other countries is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data. However where the Secretary of State is aware that a person has committed crimes in other countries they would not normally be granted citizenship as the good character requirement would not be satisfied.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218744/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### British Nationality

**David Hanson** [218985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants were granted British citizenship who had previously absconded from immigration detention in the UK in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Information on how many individuals who were granted British citizenship who had previously absconded from immigration detentions is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data. However where a person has previously absconded from immigration detention they would not normally be granted citizenship as the good character requirement would not be satisfied.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-16/218985/>

### British Nationality

**Andrew Turner** [218986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people successfully applied for UK citizenship in each of the last five years; how many applications for citizenship in that time have been rejected; and how many people's applications for citizenship are pending.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The published National Statistics of British citizenship grants and refusals, 2009 to 2013, are given in the table below.

British Citizenship grants and refusals, United Kingdom, 2009 to 2013		
Year	Decisions taken to grant	Decisions taken to refuse or withdraw
2009	203,789	10,251
2010	195,046	7,974
2011	177,785	6,884
2012	194,209	6,878
2013	207,989	7,269
Source Immigration Statistics July to September 2014		
Tables cz_01: Home Office, Migration Statistics		

The latest Home Office immigration statistics, including grants and refusals of British citizenship, 2000 to 2013, are published in the release Immigration Statistics July – September 2014, table cz\_01 (Citizenship tables), which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

As at 30 September 2014, a total of 40,620 applications for British citizenship were awaiting despatch, either work in progress or outstanding not input.

The latest UK Visas and Immigration management information, including cases that are work in progress or outstanding not input, are published in the release Transparency data, Temporary and permanent migration data: November 2014, table InC4 which is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-november-2014>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-16/218986/>

### Naturalisation

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3823] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applicants for naturalisation demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of the English language because they had obtained an academic qualification (not being a professional

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

or vocational qualification), which is deemed by the United Kingdom National Recognition Information Centre to meet the recognised standard of a Bachelor's or Master's degree or PhD in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Information on how many applicants for naturalisation demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of English by providing an academic qualification which is deemed by UK NARIC to meet the standard of a UK degree is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-16/HL3823/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3759] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people took the Life in the United Kingdom citizenship test in each month from January 2013 until November 2014 inclusive.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Information is not published in this format. However, statistics relating to the number of Life in the UK tests taken are already published quarterly on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-november-2014>

Table LUK1 refers, which provides data up to and including September 2014. Data relating to October and November 2014 will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-15/HL3759/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3761] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people have taken the Life in the United Kingdom citizenship test for a second time after passing the test previously because they lost the certificate confirming they had passed.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** No statistical information is available showing how many people have re-taken the test for this purpose. It would not be necessary to re-take the test in these circumstances as each test result is transferred to Home Office systems for reference purposes and would therefore be available to the caseworker considering any subsequent application for settlement or citizenship.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-15/HL3761/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3824] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Life in the United Kingdom citizenship tests were taken and were passed in Welsh and in Scots Gaelic in each year since 2005.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** No Life in the UK tests have been taken in Welsh since 2005. One test was taken in Scots Gaelic in 2010.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-16/HL3824/>

### British Nationality: Assessments

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3825] To ask Her Majesty's Government why in England applicants have been unable to sit the Life in the United Kingdom citizenship test in Welsh or Scots Gaelic since 2013.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We introduced a new version of the Life in the UK test in



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2013, but there was no change to our policy on offering the test in Welsh or Scottish Gaelic. Demand for tests in these languages is very low and we have no record of any requests outside Wales or Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-16/HL3825/>

### Naturalisation

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3826] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an applicant for naturalisation is exempt from satisfying the English language requirement if the applicant can prove a knowledge of Welsh or Scots Gaelic at a minimum level of Bachelor of Arts on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** An individual applying for naturalisation is required to demonstrate their knowledge of language and life in the UK. The British Nationality (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 specify how that requirement may be satisfied, which does not include demonstrating proficiency in either Welsh or Scottish Gaelic. The ability to speak to and understand the wider community is key to integration. As English is the language spoken throughout the UK, an ability to speak English enables interaction wherever an individual chooses to live. Therefore, a person can only meet this part of the knowledge of language and life requirement by demonstrating speaking and listening proficiency in English.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-16/HL3826/>

### Entry Clearances: English Language

**Graham Brady** [218716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2014 to Question 218042, how many and what proportion of candidates took their English language tests online in each country in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Secure English language tests for visa purposes require attendance in person at an invigilated test centre. As such there are no online tests that can be taken from home.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218716/>

### Entry Clearances: English Language

**Graham Brady** [218720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2014 to Question 218042, how many cases of fraud or abuse in relation to English language testing have been identified in each country in each of the last five years; and what proportion such cases were of the total number sitting those tests in each country.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The data requested is not held centrally and the costs of gathering the information would involve disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218720/>

### Entry Clearances: English Language

**Graham Brady** [218718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2014 to Question 218042, what steps her Department takes to ensure that the candidate sitting a test online is the same person who completed the secure online verification process.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** English language tests for visa purposes

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

require attendance in person at an invigilated test centre. It is incumbent upon Secure English Language Test (SELT) providers to check the identity of individuals sitting their tests. The secure online verification process is the system delivered by the SELT test providers which the Home Office uses to check results relied on in support of an immigration application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218718/>

### Entry Clearances: English Language

**Graham Brady** [218717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2014 to Question 218042, what licences were awarded to which companies testing English language skills in connection with visa applications for travel to the UK in the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** In April 2011 this Government introduced a requirement that certain immigration routes required a Secure English Language Test (SELT) as evidence of English language ability. When SELTs were introduced in 2011, 5 providers were licensed to provide SELTs for Immigration purpose. These were Trinity, Pearson, Cambridge, City & Guilds and ETS. All of these providers were already providing English language tests for certain immigration purposes prior to 2011. In December 2012 a sixth provider, Cambridge International Examinations, was added as an approved SELT provider for UK Immigration purposes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-15/218717/>

### Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

**Anne McIntosh** [906838] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on amendments required to EU law to limit the access of migrants to national welfare systems.

**Reply from Esther McVey:** Ministers and officials are in regular dialogue with the European Commission and other Member States about the coordination of social security in the European Union. DWP Ministers and officials have met with a number of their European counterparts in recent months to discuss mutual matters of interest where reforms to the social security coordination system have been discussed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-18/906838/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Jeremy Corbyn** [219555] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many immigration tribunal decisions in favour of the applicant were subsequently overturned on appeal in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15 to date.

**Reply from Shailesh Vara:** The Upper Tribunal disposed of 8,902 appeals between April 2013 and March 2014. 2,238 of these appeals have been identified as lodged by the Home Secretary, of which 943 were allowed.

The Upper Tribunal disposed of 4,635 appeals between April and September 2014, the last date for which figures are currently available. 1,964 of these appeals have been identified as lodged by the Home Secretary of which 730 were allowed. In all cases, lodged by either the appellant or Home Office, the Upper Tribunal dismissed 4,630 appeals in 2013/14 and 2,425 appeals during the period April to September 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-18/219555/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum

**Kerry McCarthy** [219013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance she has given to the UK Border Agency on (a) the maximum distance that asylum seekers can be asked to travel when reporting to police stations and (b) other aspects of the interpretation of that requirement.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** There is no maximum distance set on the distance individuals can be asked to travel to report to either a Home Office reporting centre or a police station.

Current Home Office guidance states that an individual will not normally be required to travel more than 25 miles to report (Reporting – Standards of Operational Practice).

Any asylum seeker living outside of the three mile radius of their reporting location who receives Asylum Support under Section 95 or Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999 is eligible to apply for assistance with travel expenses.

Initially, reporting location is determined on the basis of the postcode of an individual's proposed address. Further consideration may then be given to the reporting location should the individual raise exceptional circumstances which makes travelling difficult, for example medical issues or pregnancy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-16/219013/>

### Asylum: Appeals

**Julian Huppert** [218892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is that the Home Office Visas and Immigration section is taking to respond to decisions taken by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in the last 12 months; and in how many cases a response is outstanding.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The information requested covers a broad range of case types and is not held centrally for in country cases. It could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. For international appeals the average time for allowed appeals to be implemented from October 2013 to September 2014 was 45 calendar days. Information relating to how many international appeals remain outstanding could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

The Home Office has 14 calendar days to consider whether to appeal an allowed First-tier or Upper Tribunal decision (although this can be longer in some Upper Tribunal decisions where the last avenue to appeal is direct to the Court of Appeal) for in country cases and 28 calendar days for out of country cases. The relevant unit responsible for implementation will be notified once a decision has been made not to appeal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-16/218892/>

### Asylum: Homosexuality

**Lord Scriven** [HL3860] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report in *The Guardian* on 8 February, what steps they are taking to ensure that homosexual asylum seekers are not asked "degrading" questions related to their sexuality.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** It has never been the policy of the Government to allow its asylum case owners to ask "degrading" questions. As was indicated to the Noble Lord in the Government's response to his previous question on this issue (15 December 2014: WA2), existing guidance, which was drawn up in consultation with Stonewall, the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is clear that questions of a sexually explicit nature should not usually be asked. The Government is currently revising its

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

guidance further and will be making it clear that there are no circumstances in which such questions should be asked. Since February 2014, all interviews and decisions in sexuality-based claims have been subject to a 'second pair of eyes' check by a senior caseworker who provides constructive feedback to the decision maker. Senior caseworkers also provide ad hoc support and guidance to decision makers during the course of the asylum process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-17/HL3860/>

### Asylum: Deportation

**David Hanson** [212266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been returned to France under the Dublin Convention in each year since 2010.

**Reply from James Brokehshire:** The number of people transferred to France under the Dublin Convention, and the later Dublin II and Dublin III Regulations is shown in the following table:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013
People Transferred	121	153	57	49

Since 2010 we have been stopping more clandestine migrants before they cross the Channel. The number of illegal migrants detected at juxtaposed controls by our agencies have risen from over 8,000 in 2011/2012 to over 18,000 in 2013/2014.

The Dublin Regulations are extremely helpful in ensuring that asylum seekers who are properly the responsibility of another participating State can be transferred from the UK to that State.

The figures quoted in the table above have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-10-28/212266/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Steve McCabe** [219231] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what support her Department offers to local authorities for caring for and accommodating victims of child trafficking.

**Reply from Edward Timpson:** Local authorities have overarching duties in respect of the safeguarding of individual children in their area. Under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, local authorities are under a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area by providing services to such children and their families. Under section 20, local authorities also have a duty to accommodate such children in need in their area.

Spending on child abuse and neglect is included within local authority core funding for children's social care which comes from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant, and from local taxation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219231/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Steve McCabe** [219232] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what cross-departmental work his Department undertakes with the Home Office to tackle the sexual



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Kris Hopkins:** The Government's Modern Slavery Strategy was published on 29 November. This sets out a comprehensive cross-Government approach to tackling modern slavery, including the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation. The strategy can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-strategy>.

My Department works closely with the Home Office and other departments to ensure an effective national strategy is maintained to tackle the sexual trafficking of children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219232/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Steve McCabe** [219247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of victims of child sexual trafficking in each local authority in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** The National Referral Mechanism was established in 2009 and is managed by the National Crime Agency's UK Human Trafficking Centre. The Centre uses the mechanism to collect data on potential victims of trafficking, including a breakdown of child referrals by type of exploitation.

The published data for the number of minors referred to the NRM as potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are not broken down by local authority area, but by first responder in each case, which may be a charity, police force, agency or local authority.

Statistics are published on the National Crime Agency website: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

Archived statistics are published on the National Archives website:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130703102353/http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/about-the-ukhtc/national-referral-mechanism/statistics>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219247/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

*The following three questions all received the same answer.*

**Steve McCabe** [219293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department contributes to the trialing of independent advocates for trafficked children.

**Steve McCabe** [219317] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2014 to Question 213215, when her Department expects to lay before Parliament a report in relation to advocates for victims of child trafficking.

**Steve McCabe** [219318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2014 to Question 213215, which 23 local authorities are taking part in the trial of specialist-independent advocates for trafficked children.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** Barnardo's has been awarded a grant of £420,916 from the Home Office for the provision of advocates during the 12 month trial across 23 local authorities. The cost of the independent evaluation being undertaken by the University of Bedfordshire is £138,543 exclusive of VAT.

An evaluation report will be submitted to the Home Office at the end of the trial in November 2015. The Modern Slavery Bill commits the Government to lay a report

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

before Parliament no later than 9 months after Royal Assent on setting out the steps it is proposed to take in relation to child trafficking advocates. Lessons learnt from the trial will be detailed in the report, at which point we will be in a better position to assess what works best in supporting and protecting these vulnerable children.

In January 2014 the Government announced proposals to trial specialist independent advocates for trafficked children. The trial began on 8 September 2014 and will run for a period of 12 months across 23 local authorities in England. These are listed in the table below.

Manchester City	Kent
Stockport	Lancashire
Tameside	Oxfordshire
Oldham	West Sussex
Rochdale	Birmingham
Bury	Coventry
Bolton	Dudley
Wigan	Sandwell
Salford	Solihull
Trafford	Walsall
Croydon	Wolverhampton
Derbyshire	

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219293/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219317/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219318/>

## Press Release

**'Deport first, appeal later' measures start to bite**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deport-first-appeal-later-measures-start-to-bite>

## New Publications

**The political economy of immigration policy: The example of Scotland**

[http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc\\_working\\_papers/pdf/2015\\_WP58\\_The\\_Political\\_Economy\\_of\\_Immigration\\_Policy\\_McCollum\\_et\\_al.pdf](http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_working_papers/pdf/2015_WP58_The_Political_Economy_of_Immigration_Policy_McCollum_et_al.pdf)

**New mobilities across the lifecycle: A framework for analysing demographically linked drivers of migration**

[http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc\\_working\\_papers/pdf/2015\\_WP59\\_New\\_Mobilities\\_Across\\_The\\_Lifecycle\\_Findlay\\_et\\_al.pdf](http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_working_papers/pdf/2015_WP59_New_Mobilities_Across_The_Lifecycle_Findlay_et_al.pdf)

## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **News**

### **City translation service cost almost £1 million**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/city-translation-service-cost-almost-1-million-1-3649325>

### **Maternity units spend millions on interpreters**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/health/news/article4314904.ece>

### **Boris Johnson: it's a disaster that some UK citizens don't speak English**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/06/boris-johnson-multi-culty-balkanisation-uk-english-speaking-nhs>

### **Theresa May backs student visa crackdown**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30570248>

### **'Sending foreign students home will hurt Scotland'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/sending-foreign-students-home-will-hurt-scotland-1-3640700>

### **May must rethink foreign students policy**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/leaders-may-must-rethink-foreign-students-policy-1-3640640>

### **May warns of 600,000 foreign students**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4315026.ece>

### **Theresa May warns that foreign student numbers will hit 600,000 in 2020s**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/11326512/Theresa-May-warns-that-foreign-student-numbers-will-hit-600000-in-2020s.html>

### **Theresa May defends student immigration policy**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/05/theresa-may-student-immigration-james-dyson>

### **Osborne blocks May's plan to deport foreign students**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4316192.ece>

### **Student visa U-turn: the battle is far from over**

<http://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2015/jan/07/student-visa-u-turn-the-battle-is-far-from-over>

### **Let foreign graduates stay in UK, says Boris**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4316993.ece>

### **Dyson: deporting foreign students will harm Britain**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4314131.ece>

### **The real reasons immigrants come to the UK**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11249577/Revealed-the-real-reasons-immigrants-come-to-the-UK.html>

### **More immigration and population growth? London can take it**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jan/06/immigration-population-growth-london-1939>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Thousands of refugees allowed to stay in Britain will be destitute this Christmas, says Labour**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/thousands-of-refugees-allowed-to-stay-in-britain-will-be-be-destitute-this-christmas-says-labour-9943368.html>

**No surge of Romanian and Bulgarian migrants after controls lifted**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/dec/30/no-surge-romanian-bulgarian-migrants-controls-lifted>

**Number of Romanians and Bulgarians not in work increases 15 fold in eight years**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11316680/Number-of-Romanians-and-Bulgarians-not-in-work-increases-15-fold-in-eight-years.html>

**First Romanian to UK warns fellow countrymen 'don't come here'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11310785/First-Romanian-to-UK-warns-fellow-countrymen-dont-come-here.html>

**250,000 Romanians and Bulgarians now living in Britain**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4309369.ece>

**I'll live like a king back home, says pioneer Romanian migrant**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4311866.ece>

**47,000 Bulgarians and Romanians enter UK in a year: Number who now live here has increased fivefold in last eight years**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2890660/47-000-Bulgarians-Romanians-enter-UK-year-Number-live-increased-fivefold-eight-years.html>

**Stop blaming immigrants, Carswell tells Ukip**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4308585.ece>

**Britain's hospitality is being abused**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11323394/Britains-hospitality-is-being-abused.html>

**Migrant benefit ban wins poll**

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1503123.ece>

**Migrant scam cooked up PR 'jobs' in kebab houses**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4312670.ece>

**No crime check on asylum**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/Crime/article1503186.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Crime/article1503186.ece)

**Asylum seekers not checked for criminal past in home country in policy loophole branded 'nonsense on stilts'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2895996/Asylum-seekers-not-checked-criminal-past-home-country-policy-loophole-branded-nonsense-stilts.html>

**Traffickers move into cheap goods**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/britains\\_secret\\_slaves/article1503009.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/britains_secret_slaves/article1503009.ece)



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Yarl's Wood: UN special rapporteur to censure UK government**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jan/03/yarls-wood-un-special-rapporteur-censure>

**Nigel Farage says Ukip would get rid of foreign NHS workers who 'can't speak English properly'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-says-ukip-would-get-rid-of-foreign-nhs-workers-who-cant-speak-english-properly-9956190.html>

**Home Office told that splitting up young family is 'inhumane' after American fiancée is denied residence**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/home-office-told-splitting-up-4918695>

**Expelling grads 'only helps rivals'**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/expelling-grads-only-helps-rivals-1.770414>

**Andrea Gada's funeral delayed amid visa row**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-30707113>

**Funeral of five-year-old who was killed by car by car is postponed after grieving grandparents are denied visa to fly over from Zimbabwe**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2902170/Funeral-five-year-old-killed-car-car-postponed-grieving-grandparents-denied-visa-fly-Zimbabwe.html>

**Drummer to the stars wins right to remain in Scotland**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4317141.ece>

**Illegal immigrant with forged passport worked in Commons**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4314991.ece>

**Election may be decided by votes of 1.5m foreign residents**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4314021.ece>

**Immigrant children still being detained, figures show**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigrant-children-still-being-detained-figures-show-9966155.html>

**Detention: the black hole at the heart of British justice**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/detention-the-black-hole-at-the-heart-of-british-justice-9961576.html?origin=internalSearch>

**No way to treat migrants**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/no-way-to-treat-migrants-9961577.html>

**128 doctors barred over language**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/128-doctors-barred-over-language-1.779850>

**Campaign for women seeking asylum to be treated fairly**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/latest\\_blogs/2546\\_campaign\\_for\\_women\\_seeking\\_asylum\\_to\\_be\\_treated\\_fairly](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_blogs/2546_campaign_for_women_seeking_asylum_to_be_treated_fairly)

[TOP](#)

## Community Relations

### Press Release

**Muslim Council of Britain Express Solidarity With Jewish Community After Paris Kosher Supermarket Deaths**

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/mcb-paris-kosher-supermarket-090115/>

### News

**Government's obsession with faith and free schools 'breeds social and racial segregation'**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/faith-and-free-schools-breed-social-and-racial-segregation-warns-leading-campaigner-9952374.html>

**Muslim faith schools are causing serious divisions in society because of their lack of diversity warns top equality campaigner**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2893366/Muslim-faith-schools-causing-divisions-society-lack-diversity-warns-equality-campaigner.html>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Cancer

**Virendra Sharma** [219611] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to tackle inequalities among BME communities' awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer, early diagnosis and treatment of cancer and patient experience of cancer care.

**Reply from Jane Ellison:** *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer* (2011) set out our ambition to save an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15, and to narrow the inequalities gap at the same time. This strategy is backed by over £750 million, and although final figures will not be known for some time, projections show that we could be on course to save 10,000 lives over this time period.

Since 2010-11 the Department and Public Health England (PHE), since 2013, in partnership with NHS England (including NHS Improving Quality (NHS IQ)) and other stakeholders have run Be Clear on Cancer (BCOC) campaigns to raise the public's awareness of cancer signs and symptoms; and encourage people with those signs and symptoms to go to the doctor promptly. As part of these campaigns, PHE works with a specialist multicultural marketing consultancy to develop activities with black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. Activities include targeted television, radio and press advertising in key national, regional and specialist media. As part of the BME public relations activity, healthcare professionals and cancer survivors from ethnic minorities (where possible), are recruited to participate in media interviews to address the barriers preventing early presentation to general practitioners (GPs).

A pilot BCOC campaign was run in six boroughs of London between October and November 2014 to raise awareness of the increased risk of prostate cancer amongst black men aged over 45. Early findings from the qualitative evaluation show that the majority of respondents demonstrated some awareness of seeing, hearing or taking some action about prostate cancer over the last few months and

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

that GPs welcomed the campaign and were aware of the local activity.

To reduce inequalities in cancer treatment and to support the National Health Service to tackle regional variations we are providing data to providers and commissioners that allow them to benchmark their services and outcomes against one another and to identify where improvements need to be made. In June 2014, the National Cancer Intelligence Network published a second annual report on Cancer and equality groups: key metrics, which highlighted improvements in trusts reporting ethnic group.

To help cancer teams and professionals in trusts and support continual improvement in cancer patient experience, NHS IQ and Macmillan Cancer Support produced An Introductory Guide to Quality Improvement in November 2014. NHS IQ is launching a pioneering project that pairs highly-rated cancer trusts with trusts that have potential to improve their patient experience. This is a drive to reduce national variation in patients' experience of care and raise overall standards. NHS IQ is also running events in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and NHS England to look at how cancer patient experience data is used by commissioners.

Through the National Cancer Equality Initiative we will continue to work with NHS England and relevant stakeholders to reduce inequalities in cancer care.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-02/219611/>

#### **Directors: Equal Opportunities**

**Lord Tebbit** [HL3644] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have in place to monitor the diversity of (1) Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, and (2) LGBT, persons serving as directors of public companies.

**Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** Under the Companies Act listed companies are required to report on diversity, including gender, in their annual reports. Company reporting is overseen by the Financial Reporting Council and companies are required to follow the UK Corporate Governance Code on a comply-or-explain basis.

In September 2014 FRC published an updated Code, including changes to the preface reinforcing the importance of diversity in all its forms on the board. This includes, but is not limited to, gender and race.

At the launch on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills welcomed a new private sector-led campaign which will look to address the lack of ethnic diversity in boardrooms, based in part on research that indicates the proportion of Black & Ethnic Minority people in leadership positions is lower than expected compared to the wider population (estimated at 5.1% and 14% respectively). Measuring progress is a key part of the campaign.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-10/HL3644/>

#### **Further Education: Ethnic Groups**

**Sharon Hodgson** [217809] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps his Department has taken to increase representation of ethnic minorities in the further education workforce.

**Reply from Nick Boles:** The Department for Business Innovation and Skills is not the employer of the further education workforce. Further education providers are independent organisations responsible for all matters relating to the recruitment of their staff.

In awarding grants or contracts, the Department does include within the terms and

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

conditions of funding, a requirement that every provider must comply with relevant legislation. This includes being mindful of and meeting responsibilities laid out in the Equality Act 2010. Contracts and grants also pass on the Public Sector Equality Duty, which was introduced in April 2011, and describes equality responsibilities.

The Education and Training Foundation was established in 2013 as the independent sector owned and led organisation. It is responsible for professionalism in further education and has Government endorsement. The Foundation is playing an active role in supporting the sector to address findings from further education workforce surveys and improve the diversity of the further education workforce.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-09/217809/>

#### Travellers

*The following two questions both received the same answer.*

**Andrew George** [218264] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which ministers are responsible for the implementation of the commitments arising from the work of the Ministerial Working Group on Gypsies and Travellers; and when he expects his Department to fully deliver each of those commitments.

**Andrew George** [218265] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, on how many occasions in each year since it was set up the Ministerial Working Group on Gypsies and Travellers has met; which ministers attended each such meeting; and what steps have been taken by ministers in pursuance of the recommendations and commitments arising from the work of that group.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 11 November 2014, *Official Report*, House of Lords, Column WA36.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218264/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-11/218265/>

*The House of Lords answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/141111w0001.htm#14111164000469>

*The document referred to in the House of Lords answer can be read at*

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2014-1503/Gypsies\\_and\\_Travellers\\_commitments\\_-DEPOSITEDPAPER-455504\\_HL2504\\_.doc](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2014-1503/Gypsies_and_Travellers_commitments_-DEPOSITEDPAPER-455504_HL2504_.doc)

#### Travellers

**Caroline Lucas** [218133] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the findings of the UK Civil Society Monitoring Report on implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy in the UK in 2012 and 2013; what the (a) activities and (b) outputs have been of the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers since 2012; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** We have noted the Monitoring Report and the views expressed within it, and we are advancing such integration through our broader social inclusion and integration policies.



## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

In relation to the Working Group, I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 11 November 2014, *Official Report*, House of Lords, Column WA36.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-10/218133/>

*The House of Lords answer referred to above, and document referred to in that answer, can be read at the links listed immediately above this question.*

#### Education: Travellers

**David Blunkett** [219067] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she plans to take, and on what timetable, to respond to the report from Ofsted entitled *Overcoming barriers: ensuring that Roma children are fully engaged and achieving in education*, published on 16 December 2014.

**Reply from David Laws:** Ofsted's report recommends that the Department for Education considers how the allocation of existing school funding can be more reactive to in-year changes in pupil numbers. Local authorities currently have discretion to top up a school's funding to take account of high numbers of pupils arriving at unusual times of the year. The Department is considering whether there could be ways to make the funding system even more responsive to in-year changes as part of work on funding reform beyond 2015-16.

Ofsted also recommends that the Department takes steps to encourage more accurate recording of pupil ethnicity. From January 2016, schools will be able to record separate data on Gypsy and Roma pupils, instead of the current joint category. It is anticipated that this change will encourage Roma parents to declare their child's ethnicity accurately, which in turn will help schools to tailor their support for these pupils.

In addition, the Department will work with the its Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Stakeholder Group to disseminate the effective practice identified in Ofsted's report and encourage local areas to consider what action they can take to improve outcomes for Roma pupils, in line with Ofsted's recommendations to schools and local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-17/219067/>

## Press Release

**Religious and belief tolerance necessary for workplace**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/ReligionInWorkplace.aspx>

## News

**We've had one day of diversity on Radio 4. Now for the other 364**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/31/lenny-henry-diversity-radio-4-editing-today-programme-minority-news>

**Our racially diverse present (and future) deserves better than tokenism**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/dec/29/interracial-present-and-future-better-than-tokenism>

## Equality

### News (continued)

#### Ofsted 'positive discrimination' call

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-30720203>

#### Discriminate against white teachers to ensure 'ethnic mix', says Ofsted chief Sir Michael Wilshaw

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/secondaryeducation/11329859/Ofsted-chief-Sir-Michael-Wilshaw-defends-use-of-positive-discrimination-to-appoint-teachers.html>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Xenophobia

**Christina McKelvie:** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to tackle xenophobia in Scotland. (S4W-23617)

**Reply from Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government launched the One Scotland campaign 'Scotland believes in equality' in July 2014 to promote equality in Scotland and celebrate Scotland's diversity. A new phase of the campaign was launched on 6 November 2014 with a focus on race and LGBTI equality. The race phase of the campaign includes radio and press advertising, partnership work, PR and social media to emphasise the contribution that people from minority ethnic communities make to Scotland, as well as celebrate the progress Scotland has made in the promotion of equal rights and opportunities. The campaign also reflects that, while progress has been made, there is still work to be done to ensure equality for all.

The One Scotland campaign follows our high profile Speak Up Against Hate Crime campaign, which was launched in February 2014 to empower victims of and witnesses to hate crime to report all incidents to Police Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-23617&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S4M-11995 Stewart Maxwell: Holocaust Memorial Day 2015**—That the Parliament notes that 27 January 2015 marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and an opportunity for schools, colleges, faith groups and communities across Scotland to remember the six million men, women and children murdered by the Nazi regime in occupied Europe; acknowledges that this year marks perhaps the last significant anniversary that will be marked with the Holocaust in living memory; further notes that the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 is Keep the Memory Alive; values the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which gives two post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; applauds Lucy Paterson and Kieran Smyth, two students from St Andrew's RC Secondary in Glasgow, who took part in the project and will deliver the Parliament's Time for Reflection message on 27 January; celebrates the Holocaust survivors who have enriched Scotland as a nation, and recommit to ensuring that racism, sectarianism and bigotry are never allowed to go unchallenged in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-11995&ResultsPerPage=10>

## **Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination** (continued) **Press Release**

**Report highlights great strides Britain has made in fighting antisemitism**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/report-highlights-great-strides-britain-has-made-in-fighting-antisemitism>

## **New Publications**

**Government action on antisemitism**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/390904/Government Action on Antisemitism final 24 Dec.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/390904/Government_Action_on_Antisemitism_final_24_Dec.pdf)

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 activity packs**

<http://hmd.org.uk/campaign-pack>

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 resources**

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2015-keep-memory-alive>

## **News**

**British anti-Semitism set to hit record high**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11301583/British-anti-Semitism-set-to-hit-record-high.html>

**Racism probe police officers avoid sack, FOI request reveals**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-30398621>

**Fury after anti-Semitic vandals scrawl Swastikas on cars and buildings in north London Jewish community**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2891511/Fury-anti-Semitic-vandals-scrawl-Swastikas-cars-buildings-north-London-Jewish-community.html>

**FA rejects Dave Whelan's claim he was misquoted about Jewish people**

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/jan/01/fa-dave-whelan-misquoted-jewish-people-ban>

**Dave Whelan: Wigan chairman banned for six weeks and given £50,000 fine for comments he made about Jewish and Chinese people**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/dave-whelan-wigan-chairman-banned-for-six-weeks-and-given-50000-fine-for-comments-he-made-about-jewish-and-chinese-people-9951903.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Twitter and Facebook 'allowing Islamophobia to flourish' as anti-Muslim comments proliferate**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/twitter-and-facebookallowing-islamophobia-to-flourish-as-antimuslim-comments-proliferate-9954940.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Facebook and Twitter are 'allowing Islamophobia to spread by refusing to report offensive postings'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2895458/Facebook-Twitter-allowing-Islamophobia-spread-refusing-report-offensive-postings.html>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

#### Antisemitism 2015: A Global Challenge

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catherine-chatterley/antisemitism-2015-a-global-challenge\\_b\\_6400620.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=religion&ir=Religion](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catherine-chatterley/antisemitism-2015-a-global-challenge_b_6400620.html?utm_hp_ref=religion&ir=Religion)

#### British Chinese people say racism against them is 'ignored'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/30538929>

#### Ex-Ukip councillor Rozanne Duncan allegedly said she had a problem with black people because there was 'something about their faces'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/exukip-councillor-rozanne-duncan-allegedly-said-she-had-a-problem-with-black-people-because-there-was-something-about-their-faces-9964651.html>

#### UKIP councillor 'had a problem with negroes' faces'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/ukip/11333422/UKIP-councillor-had-a-problem-with-negroes-faces.html>

#### Expelled Ukip councillor said she had a 'problem' with 'negroes' because there was 'something about their faces'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2901758/Expelled-Ukip-councillor-said-problem-negroes-faces.html>

#### Attorney General steps into social media racism row

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/attorney-general-steps-into-social-media-racism-row-9961364.html>

[TOP](#)

## Scottish Devolution

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Smith Commission (United Kingdom Legislation)

**Bill Kidd:** To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the publication of draft legislation arising from the recommendations of the Smith commission. (S4O-03874)

**Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Economy (John Swinney):** There have been a number of contacts with the UK Government at official and ministerial level to take forward implementation of the conclusions of the Smith commission. I have been assured by the Secretary of State for Scotland that the Scottish Government will be fully involved in further work to develop draft clauses for publication later this month.

**Bill Kidd:** What discussions have been had or plans made by the Scottish Government regarding early action on transferring powers that do not require primary legislation?

**Reply from John Swinney:** The Scottish Government has set out to the UK Government a number of areas where we believe that it is possible and practical for powers to be transferred in early course. One of the most significant priorities that were advanced by the First Minister in her discussion with the Prime Minister in December was the issue of 16 and 17-year-olds being able to vote in the 2016 Scottish Parliament elections. Progress is being made in that respect.

There are a number of other areas of activity where we would like to see swifter

## Scottish Devolution

### Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

progress, not least of which is on the devolution of the work programme, which the Smith commission said should be the subject of early devolution and which the Scottish Government is concerned is the subject of contract extension, which we believe breaches the spirit of the Smith commission report.

**Duncan McNeil:** I am sure that the cabinet secretary will be aware of Scottish Labour's call yesterday for a section 106 order to be brought forward to transfer the responsibility for the job-creating powers of the work programme to the Scottish Government ministers. We have had positive comments of support for that, particularly from Glasgow City Council and the City of Edinburgh Council. Will the Scottish Government also support that call?

**Reply from John Swinney:** With the greatest respect to Duncan McNeil, he has obviously not been listening for some considerable number of weeks, because we have made that point to Parliament, consistent with the Smith commission report, in which the Smith commission said that the work programme was one of the areas that could be the subject of early devolution. We as a Government have been concerned that, at the same time as that report was being finalised, the Department for Work and Pensions was consulting about extending the existing work programme contracts and not enabling early and timeous devolution of the responsibility to the Scottish Parliament.

I welcome Mr McNeil's support for what the Scottish Government has been trying to do. I encourage him to use every opportunity he has to say to the United Kingdom Government, consistent with the spirit of the Smith commission, that there should be early devolution of the work programme so that we can ensure that it is configured in a fashion to meet the needs and expectations of individuals who want to access employment in Scotland.

**Annabel Goldie:** Like many in Scotland, I look forward to the launch and publication of draft clauses later this month. I hope that the cabinet secretary will respond in a far less curmudgeonly manner to that exciting development than he did to the Smith agreement, which seemed to frazzle in his hand within 24 hours of the agreement being published. Everybody now accepts that the political debate in Scotland has moved on from what powers this Parliament has or will get to what we do with the powers. If the cabinet secretary is given the power over air passenger duty, which he is so enthusiastic should be devolved here, will he abolish the duty or will he just reduce it?

**Reply from John Swinney:** If I can be so ungallant to Baroness Goldie on a Thursday morning, being accused of being curmudgeonly by her is a bit like the pot calling the kettle black.

Air passenger duty is one of the topics that we have said to the UK Government merits early devolution. We also made clear in the white paper exactly what our proposal would be on reducing air passenger duty. I have reaffirmed that position to Parliament, as have other ministers, and I urge the UK Government to take speedy and timeous action to devolve the responsibility to allow the Scottish Parliament do something different from the current regime that has been put in place by the UK Government.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9711&i=88524>

## Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

**Electoral Commission Report—"Scottish Independence Referendum"**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9713&i=88570>



## Scottish Devolution (continued) New Publication

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: The Smith Commission Report: Overview  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-03\\_The\\_Smith\\_Commission\\_Report-Overview.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-03_The_Smith_Commission_Report-Overview.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Motion

**S4M-12004 Chic Brodie: Voluntary Action Scotland, Supporting a Stronger Third Sector**—That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Voluntary Action Scotland (VAS) report, *Supporting a Stronger Third Sector*, understands that this report highlights the impact that third sector interfaces (TSIs) make in communities across the country and their vital role in supporting the third sector; notes the contribution of VAS in supporting, advocating for and coordinating the 32 TSIs; considers that TSIs play a crucial role in building partnerships and collaborations locally between the third and public sectors and others, of particular importance when trying to deal with the difficult impacts of fiscal austerity and welfare reform; is encouraged by what it sees as the progress being made by TSIs in supporting the third sector and the potential that they demonstrate, particularly in supporting the third sector contribution to public service reform, and believes that continued support for VAS, TSIs and the third sector is crucial to supporting the social fabric of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12004&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Press Releases

#### First Minister's New Year message 2015

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/First-Minister-s-New-Year-message-2015-1418.aspx>

#### New Year boost for Scottish charities

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-Year-boost-for-Scottish-charities-1429.aspx>

#### Organ donation wish

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Organ-donation-wish-13fc.aspx>

[TOP](#)

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Travellers: Caravan Sites

**Sharon Hodgson** [217302] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the sufficiency of Traveller sites in England.

**Reply from Brandon Lewis:** It is for local authorities to plan to meet their traveller site needs, based on robust evidence, as is consistent with national planning policy as a whole.

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The total number of caravans on authorised sites has risen from an estimated 14,498 in July 2010 to an estimated 16,771 in July 2014. This shows our locally-led approach is working, with the abolition of top-down regional targets, the revocation of politically correct planning guidance, increased protection of the Green Belt and new powers for councils to tackle unauthorised sites.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-05/217302/>

### Travellers

**David Blunkett** [219411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential benefits of the adoption by the police of ethnic category codes currently defined in the 2011 census in respect of the Roma, Gypsy and Traveller population as part of their collection of data in accordance with Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** The Census categories for ethnicity are assessed each year as part of the Home Office's process of agreeing each year's Annual Data Requirement (ADR) of mandatory collections of statistical data from the police. This process includes consultation with stakeholders of the Ministry of Justice biennial release Race and the Criminal Justice System, produced in accordance with section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The ADR collections currently use the Census 2001 ethnicity framework, and there are no plans at present to move to the Census 2011 framework, which would add a separate category of 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2014-12-18/219411/>

### Forced Marriage

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans** [HL3493] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they collect data on the number of British girls sent abroad to marry each year; and if they do not collect such data, what they are doing to assess the scale of such activity.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) was established in 2005 to lead on the government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. The FMU operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals. In 2013, the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1302 cases.

It should be noted that cases include people or groups of people thought to be at potential risk of future forced marriage, those currently going through a forced marriage and those who have already been forced to marry. This statistic includes all initial contacts with the FMU via the helpline or by email relating to a new case.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3493/>

### Forced Marriage Protection Orders

*The following two questions both received the same answer.*

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL3646] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for a Forced Marriage Protection Order have been made since the coming into force of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007; and how many have been successful.

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL3647] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications have been made for a Forced Marriage Protection Order since the coming into force of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** Forced marriage is an appalling practice and should not be tolerated. That's why the Government has criminalised forced marriage to ensure that victims are protected by the law. The new offences of forced marriage in section 121 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into force on 16 June.

Since the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force on 25 November 2008 and up to the end of September 2014, 762 applications for a forced marriage protection order have been made, and 785 forced marriage protection orders have been issued. The number of orders made generally exceeds the number of applications as forced marriage protection orders are sometimes made during the course of applications for other family orders, and there is no differentiation between interim orders and final orders.

Section 120 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which also came into force on 16 June 2014, made it a criminal offence to breach a forced marriage protection order. There were 63 applications for a forced marriage protection order in the period 1 July to 30 September 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-10/HL3646/>

### Female Genital Mutilation

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3454]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are resourcing the provision of training and education in communities in the United Kingdom in which female genital mutilation is practised.

**Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Long-term and systematic eradication of female genital mutilation in the UK will require practising communities to abandon the practice themselves. To keep girls safe we need to work directly with local people who know what will work in their areas.

Faith has an important role to play. At the Girl Summit we launched declarations for faith leaders to sign against female genital mutilation and forced marriage. These have now been signed by over 350 leaders from all major faiths. These declarations make it clear that no religion condones the practice.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Government Equalities Office have also committed £270,000 to community projects to prevent female genital mutilation and other forms of so-called honour based violence. We recently announced the projects that successfully secured this funding. We will fund 17 community projects which include three organisations that will set up networks of community champions against female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Many of these projects will work with young people. Brave young women and men have been at the forefront of campaigning against female genital mutilation and their courage and determination inspire us all to do more. Videos of the projects can be found at <http://www.thinglink.com/scene/597214845217013762>.

This funding is in addition to £100,000 committed by the Home Office to run a female genital mutilation community engagement initiative. The Home Office is funding 12 voluntary and community sector organisations to carry out community work to raise awareness of female genital mutilation amongst women already affected by this and young girls at-risk, as well as men in the community.

On 5 December 2014 the Government also launched a new female genital mutilation unit to drive a step change in nationwide outreach on female genital mutilation with criminal justice partners, children's services, healthcare professionals and affected communities.

The unit will deliver outreach support to local areas to assist them in developing

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

their local response to tackling female genital mutilation and to raise awareness of the unit. The first phase of this work will be carried out in a series of training workshops which Forward UK are delivering to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards in high prevalence female genital mutilation areas.

The unit will also offer bespoke targeted peer support to local areas who want to strengthen their ability to tackle female genital mutilation. Organisations interested in receiving peer support or an outreach presentation can email the unit at [FGMenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FGMenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-04/HL3454/>

### Honour Based Violence

*The following four questions all received the same answer.*

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3489]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure uniform police reporting, in forces across the United Kingdom, of honour killings.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3490]** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many British citizens are the victims of honour killings each year.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3491]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve extra-territorial reporting and prosecution of honour killings.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL3492]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the safety of those who testify against their relatives in honour killing cases can be better protected.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The government finds so called honour-based violence unacceptable and condemns this practice. At the Girl Summit in July the College of Policing announced the development of a new Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for police on honour based violence and forced marriage. The APP is the official and most up to date source of policing practice. In 2015 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies will be carrying out an inspection into honour based violence. The inspection will look at the way cases are handled, how officers are trained and any community based prevention work.

While the government does not hold specific data on honour killings of British citizens as it is not a separately identifiable offence, the Crown Prosecution Service Violence Against Women and Girls Report 2013-14 published in July 2014 sets out that the volume of referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service of honour based violence related offences rose to 240 in 2013-14 from 230 in 2012-2013. 158 (65.8% of these referrals) were charged. 206 defendants were prosecuted for honour based violence related offences in 2013-2014, a rise from 200 last year, with 59.7% convicted.

To improve the extra-territorial reporting and prosecution of honour killings, extra-territorial provision is included in the new forced marriage offence, introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Serious Crime Bill includes provisions to extend extra-territorial jurisdiction over offences of female genital mutilation, recognised in some instances as a type of honour based violence, committed abroad.

Witnesses in cases of honour based violence may be eligible for special measures during the trial, such as giving evidence from behind a screen or with the assistance of a video link, to enable them to give their best possible evidence. The Judge can also order that the court is cleared if intimidation is suspected in the court room. The police can employ measures proportionate to an assessed risk to the witness, including the installation of locks and security alarms. In the most serious cases where there is a threat to life, witnesses may be referred to

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the UK Protected Person Service for the highest level of protection.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3489/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3490/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3491/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-12-08/HL3492/>

## Press Releases

### Christmas 2014: Prime Minister's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-2014-prime-ministers-message>

### Christmas 2014: message from Nick Clegg

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-2014-message-from-nick-clegg>

## New Publications

### New Year Honours Lists

#### Main list

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/391413/New\\_Year\\_Honours\\_List\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391413/New_Year_Honours_List_2015.pdf)

#### Diplomatic Service and Overseas List

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/391415/Diplomatic\\_and\\_Overseas\\_NY15\\_Honours\\_List.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391415/Diplomatic_and_Overseas_NY15_Honours_List.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## New Publications

### Supporting a Stronger Third Sector

<http://www.vasotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/TSI-Impact-Report-2013-14.pdf>

### Victims of crime in the EU: the extent and nature of support for victims

[http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2015-victims-crime-eu-support\\_en\\_0.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2015-victims-crime-eu-support_en_0.pdf)

### Review of evidence on the outcomes of youth volunteering, social action and leadership

<http://www.ivr.org.uk/images/stories/Institute-of-Volunteering-Research/Projects/sports-leaders-literature-review-dec-2014.pdf>

[TOP](#)



## Other News

### **The slippery slope from halal meat to FGM**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4310921.ece>

### **Travellers' war efforts overlooked**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4311325.ece>

### **What does 2015 have in store for the Big Lottery Fund and for you?**

<http://bigblogscotland.org.uk/2015/01/08/what-does-2015-have-in-store-for-the-big-lottery-fund-and-for-you/>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **\*\* Assisted Suicide Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

Justice Committee Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_JusticeCommittee/Reports/juR-15-03w.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_JusticeCommittee/Reports/juR-15-03w.pdf)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-02\\_Assisted\\_Suicide\\_Scotland\\_Bill.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-02_Assisted_Suicide_Scotland_Bill.pdf)

#### **Community Empowerment Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/77926.aspx>

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

#### **Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/84356.aspx>

### **Bills in Progress**

#### **UK Parliament**

#### **Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

#### **Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/assisteddying.html>

#### **\*\* Asylum (Time Limit) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/asylumtimelimit.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0043/15043.pdf>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### **\*\* Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill 2014-15**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/counterterrorismmandsecurity.html>

Report Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150106/debtext/150106-0001.htm#15010636000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150107/debtext/150107-0002.htm#15010754000001>

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0142/pro1420601p.393-399.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0142/pro1420701p.403-406.html>

Third Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150107/debtext/150107-0003.htm#15010773000276>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150107-0002.htm#15010782000133>

Bill as introduced to the House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0075/15075.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0075/en/15075en.pdf>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0142/amend/pbc1420701m.1341-1347.html>

#### **Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

#### **\*\* Modern Slavery Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/modernslavery.html>

Scottish Parliament Justice Committee Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_JusticeCommittee/Reports/jur-15-01w.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_JusticeCommittee/Reports/jur-15-01w.pdf)

#### **\*\* UK Borders Control Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/ukborderscontrol.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0053/15053.pdf>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150109/debtext/150109-0002.htm#15010961000005>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Introducing mandatory reporting for FGM** (closing date 12 January 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-mandatory-reporting-for-fgm>

**Connecting Scotland - how the Scottish Government and its agencies engage internationally** (closing date 30 January 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/84816.aspx>

**Community Empowerment Bill** (no closing date given)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVglCS\\_Rgro&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVglCS_Rgro&feature=youtu.be)

**Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK** (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

**Advancing Migrant Access to health Services in Europe** (no closing date given)

<http://www.amase.eu/wp/be-part-of-amase/>

**Inquiry into the recruitment and appointment practices on company boards**

(no closing date given)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/our-legal-work/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-recruitment-and-appointment-practices-company-boards>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* Postcode Community Trust Community Grants Programme**

*closing date for applications: 30 January 2015*

Grants of between £500 and £20,000 for charities and community groups that support environmental protection, community development, engagement in sport, advancement of health, promotion of human rights and prevention of poverty. For information see

<http://www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk/community-grants.htm>

**\*\* SCVO Digital Challenge Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 13 February 2015*

Grants of between £200 and £10,000 to enable groups and organisations to digitise content, build digital networks and improve the digital skills of their members, so that they can continue to thrive in the digital world. For information see

<http://digital.scvo.org.uk/challenge/>

**Volunteering Support Grant**

*Closing date for applications: 27 February 2015*

The Volunteering Support Grant offers funding to third sector organisations to create new or enhanced volunteering projects, increasing the diversity of volunteers, especially those

## Funding Opportunities (continued)

from disadvantaged groups, and improving opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/volunteering-support-grant/>

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

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

#### **New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

13 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

18 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

25 February 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

3 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

15 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 May 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

#### **Discrimination Law in 2015**

26 January 2015 in Glasgow

Equalities and Human Rights Commission conference to explore recent changes in employment law and equal opportunities, and their practical implications. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/lm5cgyd>

#### **Essentials of Asylum**

28 January 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

6 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide information about the UK asylum process, including the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee, asylum support, and rights and entitlements. For information contact Martha Harding

[martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

### \*\* **Bringing women together with different religions, faiths and personal beliefs**

28 January 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

The issues of religious, faith and personal beliefs can be complex, challenging, inspiring and often confusing. This Open Space event will bring women together with different faiths, religions and personal beliefs to address some of these issues in a safe and respectful environment. For information contact 0141 550 7557; to book see

[http://www.wisewomen.org.uk/gwvsn\\_form1.html](http://www.wisewomen.org.uk/gwvsn_form1.html)

### \*\* **As Seen Through These Eyes: A Holocaust Memorial Day Event**

30 January 2015 at the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life in Glasgow (12.30 – 2.30)

Film, followed by presentations from Ela Weissberger who used art as a means of survival in Theresienstadt, Marian Grant, credits her love of art with saving her life in the death camps, and Morag Reid, who will speak about Jane Haining. The event is free but

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

please book in advance. For information contact [mungobookings@glasgowlife.org.uk](mailto:mungobookings@glasgowlife.org.uk) / 0141 276 1625.

### Supporting Refugee Women

4 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of the issues and legal systems impact specifically on refugee women. This includes discussing issues of FGM and sexual violence. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

### Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage

11 February 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid seminar to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact [booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk) / 0131 226 6606 or see <http://tinyurl.com/ovxofgs>.

### Working with Interpreters

18 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

14 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

[TOP](#)

## Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

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

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

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/>



## Useful Links (continued)

ACAS [www.acas.org.uk](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

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

BBC Democracy Live [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm)

[TOP](#)



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



**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



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://onescotland.org/>

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