

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Useful Links

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Yarl's Wood

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): Detention is an important part of a firm but fair immigration system. It is right that those with no right to remain in the UK are returned to their home country if they will not leave voluntarily, but a sense of fairness must always be at the heart of our immigration system, including for those we are removing from the UK. That is why the allegations made by Channel 4 about Serco staff at Yarl's Wood are serious and deeply concerning, it is why they required an immediate response to address them, and it is why the Government have ensured that that is being done.

All immigration removal centres are subject to the detention centre rules approved by this House in 2001. Those rules, and further operational guidance, set out the standards that we all expect to ensure that the safety and dignity of detainees is upheld. No form of discrimination is tolerated. In addition to the rules, removal centres are subject to regular independent inspections by Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons and by independent monitoring boards that publish their findings. The chairman of the independent

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UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

monitoring board for Yarl's Wood is Mary Coussey, the former independent race monitor. The most recent inspection by Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons found Yarl's Wood to be a safe and respectful centre that is continuing to improve. The last annual report of the independent monitoring board commented positively on the emphasis placed on purposeful activities within the centre and the expansion of welfare provision, and raised no concerns about safety. None the less, the Home Office expects the highest levels of integrity and professionalism from all its contractors and takes any allegations of misconduct extremely seriously. As soon as we were made aware of the recent allegations, Home Office officials visited Yarl's Wood to secure assurances that all detainees were being treated in a safe and dignified manner.

The director general of immigration enforcement has written to Serco making our expectations about its response to these allegations very clear. We told Serco that it must act quickly and decisively to eradicate the kinds of attitudes that appear to have been displayed by its staff. Serco immediately suspended one member of staff who could be identified from information available before the broadcast, and has suspended another having seen the footage. The company has also commissioned an independent review of its culture and staffing at Yarl's Wood. This will be conducted for Serco by Kate Lampard, who, as the House will be aware, recently produced the "lessons learned" review of the Jimmy Savile inquiries for the Department of Health. However, more needs to be done. The Home Office has made it clear that we expect to see the swift and comprehensive introduction of body-worn cameras for staff at Yarl's Wood. In addition, we have discussed with Her Majesty's chief inspector of prisons how he might provide further independent assurance.

This Government have a proud record of working to protect vulnerable people in detention. We have reviewed the Mental Health Act 1983 and set out proposals for legislative change as a result; held a summit on policing and mental health, highlighting in particular the concerns of black and ethnic minority people; and commissioned Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary to undertake a review of vulnerable people in police custody that will be published shortly. Before these allegations were made, the Home Secretary commissioned Stephen Shaw, the former prisons and probation ombudsman for England and Wales, to lead an independent review of welfare in the whole immigration detention estate. We will of course invite him to consider these allegations as part of that overarching review.

This country has a long tradition of tolerance and respect for human rights. Detaining those with no right to remain here and who refuse to leave voluntarily is key to maintaining an effective immigration system. But we are clear that all detainees must be treated with dignity and respect. We will accept nothing but the highest standards from those to whom we entrust the responsibility of their care.

To read the subsequent question and answer session in the House of Commons see <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150303/debtext/150303-0001.htm#150303104000002>

To read the subsequent question and answer session in the House of Lords see <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150303-0001.htm#150303114000955>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Ian Paisley [224983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the minimum income threshold of £18,600 set for migrants will apply to parts of the UK for which the average wage is below that level.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: The minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsoring a non-European Economic Area national partner to come or remain here applies across the UK under the new family Immigration Rules implemented on 9 July 2012. The level of the income threshold, which aims to prevent burdens on the taxpayer and promote integration, was set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee and reflects the income at which a family settled here generally cannot access income-related benefits. The Committee, in its November 2011 report, could see no clear case for differentiation of the income threshold between UK countries and regions and noted several arguments against such an approach. These included that a family living in a wealthy part of a relatively poor UK country or region could be subject to a lower income requirement than a family living in a deprived part of a relatively wealthy one. The Government continues to agree with that assessment and a single income threshold across the UK has been found to be lawful by the courts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-23/224983/>

Entry Clearances

Baroness Hamwee [HL5038] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether representatives from the entertainment industry have been consulted on proposed changes to the rules and guidance relating to visitor visas to the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: We consulted with a wide range of sectors on our proposals to streamline the visitor routes and produce new, clearer Immigration Rules and guidance for visitors. These included business groups, tourism bodies and representatives from the arts and creative sectors which included organisations that work in the entertainment industry.

The new Immigration Rules for visitors will be laid in Parliament on 26 February and will come into force in April. More details will be available then.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-12/HL5038/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Greg Mulholland [225301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on renewing the visa concession for Syrian internationals studying at UK higher education institutions.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government is deeply concerned about the conflict in Syria, and we are committed to helping people affected by the crisis.

Given the continuing violence and displacement in Syria, we have now renewed our immigration concession which helps Syrian nationals who are in the UK legally to extend their stay here more easily.

We have renewed the concession for a further 12 months, until 28 February 2016. I made a written ministerial statement to that effect on 26 February 2015. The Government first introduced the Syrian immigration concession in October 2012 in response to the crisis, and has previously renewed it in February 2013 and again in February 2014.

Under the renewed concession, Syrians in the UK with valid leave (or leave which has expired within the last 28 days) in specified visa categories will continue to be able to apply to extend their stay in that visa category, or switch into a different specified category from within the UK (with some restrictions) rather than being required to return home first. Those applying still need to meet the requirements of the relevant visa category, pay the appropriate fee, and adhere to the normal conditions of that category – no access to public funds, for example. If a required

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

document is not accessible due to the civil unrest in Syria the Home Office may apply its discretion and the requirement to provide that document may be waived where appropriate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225301/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mike Hancock [225663] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-EU students who were given visas to study in the UK failed to leave the UK after their studies had ended in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In 2012, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) changed its methodology to provide a better indicator of how many people leaving the UK first came here as students. The ONS uses this data to estimate that in the year to September 2014, 133,000 non-EU students came to the UK to study for more than 12 months while only 48,000 left - a difference of 85,000. This is partly because students are able to extend their Tier 4 visa or switch into another immigration route in-country, and so remain in the UK. Therefore student emigration or the lack of it is a key driver of overall net migration.

The Immigration Act 2014 has provided new powers to implement exit checks, which the last Labour government scrapped in 1998. The data collected by exit checks will provide the most comprehensive picture we have ever had of whether those who enter the UK leave when they are supposed to. The Act will also stop migrants using public services to which they are not entitled, reduce the factors which encourage people to come to the UK and make it easier to remove people who should not be here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-26/225663/>

Overseas Students

Ian Paisley [224984] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that international students and graduates are exempted from targets to reduce net migration.

Reply from James Brokenshire: International students are included in net migration statistics which are produced by the independent Office for National Statistics (ONS). In line with the internationally agreed UN definition, these statistics define a migrant as someone changing their normal place of residence for more than a year. Students are therefore included in the same way as other migrants. Other countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand also include students in their net migration figures.

The ONS has recently improved its methodology so that it is possible to better identify students in the emigration flows to give a more accurate measure of the contribution of students to overall net migration. The ONS estimates that in the year ending September 2014, 133,000, non-EU students came to Britain to stay for more than 12 months, but only 48,000 left the country.

All migrants who are in the UK for 12 months or more have an impact on our communities, infrastructure and public services. Changing the way we measure migration would not make any difference to our student migration policy. Nonetheless, the United Kingdom welcomes the brightest and best students from around the globe to our world-class universities. There is no cap on the number of students who can come to the UK. All those who are sponsored by a reputable institution, have the right qualifications and sufficient funds to support themselves and can speak adequate English can study here. The UK has

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an excellent offer for international students, and as a result remains the second most popular destination for international higher education students. The latest figures show that between 2012/13 and 2013/14 academic years there has been a 6% increase (to 165,515) of full time non-EU new entrants to UK Higher Education Providers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-23/224984/>

Overseas Students: Deportation

Mike Hancock [225645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign students at schools and colleges that have lost their right to sponsor such students were removed from the UK in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Immigration removal statistics do not capture the category in which those removed originally came to the UK. Since 2010, UK Visas and Immigration have removed more than 860 education institutions from the register of those licensed to recruit international students to the UK. Students whose sponsors' licence has been revoked must find a new licensed sponsor or leave the UK within 60 days of notification.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-26/225645/>

Overseas Students: Deportation

Mike Hancock [225664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many schools and colleges that have had their right to sponsor overseas students removed have been subject to criminal proceedings in each of the last four years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is not recorded in this way. Immigration Enforcement prosecutes individuals rather than schools and companies who have had their right to sponsor overseas students removed. It would be a disproportionate cost to disaggregate information on the number of individuals prosecuted for this offence from all of those prosecuted.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-26/225664/>

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Frank Field [225816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concessions were granted to individuals on a UK partner visa whose relationship has broken down because of domestic violence in each of the last three years; and how many individuals granted a DDV concession were later granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each of those years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of individuals who have been granted a Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession, since the concession was introduced on 1 April 2012 is as follows:

2012 – 455; 2013 – 650; 2014 – 665

The number of individuals who have been granted a DDV concession who have then been granted indefinite leave to remain, since the concession was introduced on 1 April 2012 is as follows: 2012 – 125; 2013 – 270; 2014 - 290

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-02/225816/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5124] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to the Azure Card scheme, what assessment they have made of the possibility of introducing a time limit for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Reply from Lord Bates: No such assessment has been made.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-23/HL5124/>

Asylum: Liverpool

Luciana Berger [225237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department carried out with Liverpool City Council in advance of the recent decision by her Department to make Liverpool the place failed asylum seekers must go to lodge their final appeals.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The new process applies only to failed asylum seekers whose claims have already been carefully considered by UK Visas and Immigration and had their cases examined and found by the independent courts not to need protection or have any other basis to stay in the UK. It is not an appeals process.

The decision to centralise this work in Liverpool was taken to significantly improve customer service and speed up decision making, enabling UKVI to grant protection more quickly to those who need it and remove those who have no right to be here.

These changes represent an extension of the Further Submissions Unit in Liverpool, which has been successfully dealing with Further Submissions for pre 2007 cases for at least five years, at times in far higher numbers than we envisage will be generated from this work. The Older Live Cases Unit in Liverpool, including the Further Submissions team, achieved Customer Service Excellence last year, and received positive feedback from many applicants and stakeholders.

As this was an extension of a pre-existing service, with no identified impact on the City of Liverpool or its services, no reason for consultation was identified. We also believe that early public consultation would have led to a rush of further submissions. As a courtesy we have paused implementation to discuss further with the Council and address their concerns.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225237/>

Asylum: Appeals

Julian Huppert [225434] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 January 2015 to Question 218892, what average length of time it takes for her Department to grant a visa after a decision is taken not to appeal a decision of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

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 January to December 2014 was 43 calendar days. Since 2006, the average time has been 69 days with a peak of 92 days in 2009.

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 international (out

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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/2015-02-25/225434/>

Asylum

Pete Wishart [225163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many further submissions under rule 353 of the Immigration Rules were made in each of the last seven years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is as follows:

Year	Further Submissions
2008	6,266
2009	14,107
2010	28,971
2011	14,657
2012	11,164
2013	9,873
2014	9,598
Grand Total	94,636

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225163/>

Asylum

Mark Lazarowicz [225187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2015 to Question 222300, when she plans to announce the content of the inserts to be made by Member States in the Directive identifying the national authority to which appeals and reviews must be lodged and the time limits for doing so; which that national authority is; and what the time limits are.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Dublin Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 118/2014 is designed to 'increase the efficiency of the Dublin system and improve the cooperation between national authorities' by ensuring the 'effective application' by Member States of the Dublin III Regulation (EU) No. 604/2013 in practice. As part of that intent Article 4 of the Dublin Regulation concerns the provision of information to applicants, including the use of common leaflets. Many States, including the UK, are currently experiencing technical issues with the leaflets, delaying their implementation. However the necessary information they contain is provided to applicants by other means at relevant points during the consideration process.

In particular, information about the possibility to challenge a decision to transfer a case to another signatory state under the Dublin III Regulation, the national authorities to which appeals and reviews are to be lodged and the relevant time limits are provided to applicants in the papers accompanying the transfer decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225187/>

Asylum

David Hanson [225206] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the arrangements to send out the status letter, biometric residence permit, National Insurance number and the NASS35 form simultaneously to people newly-granted refugee status.

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Reply from James Brokenshire: Consideration has been given to sending all of these documents to newly-granted refugees' simultaneously, however there are currently practical obstacles in doing so. Officials have been engaged with external stakeholders and colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on this issue and are working on further refining operational procedures.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225206/>

Asylum

David Hanson [225216] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is for people granted refugee status from discontinuation of S95 support to the start of mainstream benefits.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold the information requested. Once an asylum seeker has been granted refugee status they are entitled to apply for mainstream benefits through the normal processes like any other applicant. The Department for Work and Pensions does not separately record those that have been granted refugee status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225216/>

Asylum

Frank Field [225410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the performance of Serco in providing accommodation and transport services for asylum seekers under the Compass contract.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The COMPASS contracts contain robust provisions to ensure that providers meet the contractual standards relating to the provision of accommodation and transport.

The Home Office works closely with Serco to continually monitor the compliance processes to ensure that accommodation remains of an acceptable standard. Serco has invested significantly to update its property portfolio and transportation service and now routinely achieves the standards of accommodation and transport required within the contract.

Serco faced some difficulties in the second half of 2014 which necessitated the use of contingency accommodation. The Home Office continues to work closely with Serco to ensure that they can source sufficient volumes of accommodation to meet the demands of the contract.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-25/225410/>

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [226000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria are used for determining to which areas asylum seekers are dispersed.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The last Labour Government passed the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to alleviate the pressure on local authorities in London and the South East of England where most asylum seekers made their asylum claims.

The effect of the 1999 Act was to pass the support responsibility to the Home Office. Regional dispersal policy established by the then Home Secretary in 2000 provides that, as a general rule, asylum seekers should be accommodated in areas where there is a greater supply of suitable and cheaper accommodation.

Asylum seekers who need accommodation are housed across the UK according

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

to an agreed ratio, based on various regional factors. The Home Office has voluntary agreements with 95 local authorities throughout the United Kingdom in accepting the dispersal of asylum seekers. As part of the regional dispersal policy established in 2000 an advisory cluster limit was set by the Home Office at 1 asylum seeker for every 200 of the settled population.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-03/226000/>

Asylum

Pete Wishart [225190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of further submissions made under rule 353 of the Immigration Rules were (a) accepted as fresh claims and (b) rejected with no right of appeal in each year for which figures are available.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is as follows:

a)

Year	Fresh Claims	Proportion
2001	13	16%
2002	4	3%
2003	11	3%
2004	22	4%
2005	38	3%
2006	68	4%
2007	115	4%
2008	307	5%
2009	1,066	8%
2010	1,254	4%
2011	1,100	8%
2012	798	7%
2013	558	6%
2014	413	4%
Total 5,767		

b)

Year	Rejected no ROA	Proportion
2001	13	16%
2002	31	22%
2003	80	25%
2004	149	28%
2005	240	20%
2006	447	26%
2007	922	33%
2008	2,316	37%
2009	4,621	33%
2010	9,534	33%
2011	7,457	51%

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2012	5,546	50%
2013	4,474	45%
2014	4,026	42%
Total	39,856	

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225190/>

Asylum

Pete Wishart [225191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) grants and (b) refusals of international protection her Department made in cases where further submissions under rule 353 of the Immigration Rules were accepted as fresh claims for each of the last seven years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is as follows:

a)

Grants on protection grounds	
2008	161
2009	441
2010	361
2011	684
2012	759
2013	401
2014	119
Total	2,926
Grants non protection grounds	
2008	786
2009	1,357
2010	2,719
2011	2,391
2012	1,719
2013	1,165
2014	562
Total	10,699

Grand Total 13,625

b)

Refusals as fresh claims	
2008	307
2009	1,064
2010	1,252
2011	1,100
2012	798
2013	558
2014	413
Total	5,492

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refusals as further submissions	
2008	2,316
2009	4,621
2010	9,534
2011	7,457
2012	5,546
2013	4,474
2014	4,026
Total	37,974

Grand Total 43,466

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-24/225191/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Nicola Blackwood [225536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are detained in prison for immigration control purposes under the service level agreement between her Department and the National Offender Management Service; and when that agreement is due to be renewed.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As at 15 December 2014 there were 394 detainees held in prison establishments in England and Wales solely under Immigration powers as set out in the Immigration Act 1971 or UK Borders Act 2007.

The current Service Level Agreement between the Home Office and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) ends on 31 March 2015. The Home Office is in negotiation with NOMS to renew the agreement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-26/225536/>

Human Trafficking

Diana Johnson [225481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there were for human trafficking offences in 2014; and how many such cases involved a victim who was a child.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Prosecution and conviction data for human trafficking offences for 2014 has not yet been published. The data is expected to be published in May 2015. The data for 2013 is in the table below. The Crown Prosecution Service does not separately record the number of cases where the victim was a child.

Ministry of Justice figures for prosecutions and convictions in 2013:

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2013				
Offences	Prosecutions		Convictions	
	On a principle offence basis ⁽³⁾	On an all offence basis ⁽⁴⁾	On a principle offence basis ⁽³⁾	On an all offence basis ⁽⁴⁾
Trafficking for sexual exploitation ⁽¹⁾	28	75	12	28
Trafficking for non-sexual exploitation ⁽²⁾	12	29	7	20

(1) Includes offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, S.57, S.58 and S.59.

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- (2) Includes offences under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, S.4.
- (3) Figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
- (4) Figures relate to all offences for which all defendants are proceeded against or found guilty. When a defendant has been proceeded against or found guilty of two or more offences, each of the two or more offences is counted.

Note: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice. Ref: 516-14

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-25/225481/>

New Publications

The Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom
<https://detentioninquiry.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/immigration-detention-inquiry-report.pdf>

Legal entry channels to the EU for persons in need of international protection: a toolbox

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-focus_02-2015_legal-entry-to-the-eu.pdf

Supreme Court Ruling relating to asylum applications on the grounds of persecution on grounds of homosexuality

Press release

https://www.supremecourt.uk/decided-cases/docs/UKSC_2013_0162_PressSummary.pdf

Judgement

https://www.supremecourt.uk/decided-cases/docs/UKSC_2013_0162_Judgment.pdf

News

MPs call for immigration detention cap

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31700911>

Call for immigration detention cap

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2975920/Migration-goals-impossible-Clarke.html>

Asylum seekers detained at Dungavel for more than a year

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-31710402>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Home Office defends immigration detention as figures show some Dungavel detainees are held for over a year

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/home-office-defends-immigration-detention-as-figures-show-some-dungavel-detainees-are.119850577>

Asylum seekers and illegal immigrants being held at Scots detention centre for more than a year

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/asylum-seekers-illegal-immigrants-being-5267921>

Yarl's Wood worker suspended following undercover investigation

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11446031/Yarls-Wood-worker-suspended-following-undercover-investigation.html>

Why Yarl's Wood needs to ditch male guards. Urgently

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-politics/11446389/Yarls-Wood-immigration-detention-centre-needs-to-ditch-male-guards.html>

MPs call for end to indefinite detention of migrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/03/mps-call-end-indefinite-detention-migrants>

Theresa May 'allowed state-sanctioned abuse of women' at Yarl's Wood

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/03/yarls-wood-may-state-sanctioned-abuse-women>

'What crime have I committed to be held like this?': inside Yarl's Wood

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/03/inside-yarls-wood-detention-centre-asylum-seekers-abuse-suicide>

Migrant detention: Souleymany's story

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/03/migrant-detention-souleymanys-story>

Locking up immigrants diminishes us all

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/mar/03/locking-up-asylum-seekers-channel-4-yarls-wood-immigration-centre>

Detention Inquiry report shows it's time for change

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2594_detention_inquiry_report_shows_its_time_for_change

Immigration centres: Act now to overhaul Britain's 'shocking' detention of migrants indefinitely and in appalling conditions, say MPs

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/act-now-to-overhaul-britains-shocking-detention-of-migrants-indefinitely-and-in-appalling-conditions-say-mps-10081353.html>

Yarl's Wood play puts audience in detention

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/07/yarls-wood-play-puts-audiences-in-detention-rule-35>

Human trafficking bill: MSPs to hear from charities

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-31704121>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Councils must support human trafficking victims, says regulator

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/councils-must-support-human-trafficking-victims-says-regulator.119682265>

We need more migrants . . . they are the best workers in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/article4372444.ece>

Don't blame immigrants. Try emulating them

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4371443.ece>

Labour 'conspiracy let in 3.6m to create multicultural Britain'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4372594.ece>

May defies cabinet over 100,000 cap on migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4370504.ece>

We missed immigration target but did make a difference, insists May

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4370222.ece>

Tories WILL repeat broken migration promise, says Theresa May despite number soaring to treble what Cameron wanted

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2977100/Tories-repeat-broken-migration-promise-says-Theresa-despite-number-soaring-treble-Cameron-wanted.html>

MPs, not immigrants, are the real problem

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4370339.ece>

Immigration is here to stay. Our job is to make it work

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11450120/Immigration-is-here-to-stay.-Our-job-is-to-make-it-work.html>

Gay asylum seekers need our help

<http://www.theguardian.com/global/commentisfree/2015/mar/05/gay-asylum-seekers-lesbians-uk>

Sprakab agency misled Home Office over checks on asylum-seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sprakab-agency-misled-home-office-over-checks-on-asylumseekers-10089311.html>

Migrant population 'rose 565,000 since 2011'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31748422>

Migrant population in England increased by 565,000 in three years – study

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/06/englands-migrant-population-increased-by-565000-in-three-years-study>

Number of migrants in England increases by half a million in in three years

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/number-of-migrants-in-england-increases-by-half-a-million-in-in-three-years-10089837.html?origin=internalSearch>

Migrant population rose by 565,000 in past three years

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4375262.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Britain and Europe must slam the brakes on mass immigration

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/columns/CamillaCavendish/article1528140.ece>

England's migrant population 'soars by 565,000' since 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11453770/Englands-migrant-population-soars-by-565000-since-2011.html>

Population rose 565,000 since 2011 - Oxford analysis

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31748422>

London and south-east see largest increase in foreign-born residents

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/mar/06/london-south-east-foreign-born-england-residents-oxford-university-migration-observatory>

Immigration: 576% rise in poorest Europeans registering for work

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11456944/Immigration-576-rise-in-poorest-Europeans-registering-for-work.html>

Migrant population of Britain has increased by more than half a million in three years after boom in EU workers... and former Brussels chief says there's nothing we can do about it

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2982237/Migrant-population-Britain-increased-half-million-three-years-people-coming-EU-countries-new-figures-estimate.html>

More opportunities for refugees to enter the EU legally can save lives, says FRA Focus paper

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/more-opportunities-refugees-enter-eu-legally-can-save-lives-says-fra-focus-paper>

Criminal cartels run thousands of slaves in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4375386.ece>

Slaves in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4375266.ece>

Human trafficking crackdown: Scots flight attendants being trained to spot potential victims among passengers

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/human-trafficking-crackdown-scots-flight-5292230>

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Apprentices

Gloria De Piero [224745] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many people aged 16 to 24 of each ethnic group started an apprenticeship in each of the last five years; and in what sector subject area each of those starts were for each of those ethnic groups.

Reply from Nick Boles: As the requested table is large, I have attached a

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

document detailing the number of apprenticeship starts for the under 25 age group by ethnicity and sector subject area.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/222383/original/Apprenticeship-starts-under-25s-by-ethnicity-SSA.xls>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-20/224745/>

Apprentices

Gloria De Piero [224670] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many people aged 16 to 24 of each ethnic group applied for an apprenticeship in each employment sector in each of the last five years.

Reply for Nick Boles: As the requested table is large, I have attached a document detailing the number of apprenticeship applications made through the apprenticeship vacancy online system by ethnicity and Sector Subject Area for the 16-24 age group.

The table shows the number of applications made, not the number of individuals who have applied. An individual can make multiple applications.

Sector Subject Area breakdowns have been provided as information specific to the employment sector is not collected. Additionally, information on applications by the industry sector of the employer is available online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeship-vacancies>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400304/SECTOR SUBJECT AREAFeb](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/400304/SECTOR_SUBJECT_AREAFeb)

To read the table see

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/222381/original/Applications-by-Ethnicity-SSA-16-24.xls>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-20/224670/>

Armed Forces: Sikhs

Kevan Jones [225425] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, on what date his Department expects to receive the recommendations of the Chief of the General Staff on whether the British Army should form a Sikh regiment; and what criteria will be used to take a decision on that matter.

Reply from Julian Brazier: The Army is committed to recruiting from all sections of society. It is actively engaged with Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic Groups, including the Sikh community, as well as other groups which represent the demography of the UK and employs a range of measures to maximise its talent and ensure that it better reflects the society from which it recruits.

Proposals designed to achieve these goals are looked at in detail to establish their feasibility and whether they can be incorporated into its overall engagement strategy. We hope to have this work completed by the summer.

Of course, we are required to comply with current anti-discrimination legislation whereby the Armed Forces must ensure that service is open to all, regardless of race or religion. The only exception to this is service in the Brigade of Gurkhas, where this is permitted under the Race Relations Act (now subsumed by the Equalities Act).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-25/225425/>

Glasgow Uni building diversity with new names

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/glasgow-uni-building-diversity-with-new-names-1-3705717>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Pegida Scotland Anti-Muslim Demonstration

Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government what concerns it has regarding reports that an anti-Muslim demonstration is to be called by the organisation, Pegida Scotland. (S4T-00957)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson): Police Scotland's monitoring of social media has revealed that Pegida intends to hold a static demonstration in Edinburgh on the evening of Saturday 21 March. Police Scotland is taking the event very seriously and closely monitoring developments. Public safety is paramount and those who seek to demonstrate must behave lawfully or face prosecution.

I spoke earlier today to Chief Superintendent Mark Williams, police commander for Edinburgh. He has provided assurances that all steps are being taken to ensure that no issues arise out of Pegida's proposed demonstration. Police Scotland has, under the Public Order Act 1986, powers available to it to ensure that public safety is protected and order is maintained. Those who seek to incite violence will be dealt with firmly and reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. The Scottish Government fully supports Police Scotland in taking all appropriate and proportionate action required.

I speak for all my colleagues in the Scottish Government and, I am sure, all members of this Parliament, when I say that we do not tolerate Islamophobia or any other form of hatred or hate crime. We will not tolerate extremists who peddle hatred under the guise of protecting society.

Patrick Harvie: I am grateful to the cabinet secretary for his answer, particularly the last part of it, which properly addresses the threat that such organisations pose across Europe. We have seen some Governments in Europe make the mistake of aping or giving ground to the hard right and racist xenophobic movements. That strategy is doomed to fail. Others have given clear leadership and said that such movements are not welcome in their countries. I hope that the Scottish Government will continue to do that, too.

Given that part of the organisation's express aim is to rid these islands of Islam, is it not clear that the movement poses explicit threat to Muslim citizens in this country? Any such organisation clearly raises public safety concerns that must be addressed and taken seriously.

Reply from Michael Matheson: The member raises an important point. The Muslim faith is an integral and important part of Scottish society; it is part of the rich, multi and interfaith relationships that we have in Scotland. Any organisation that seeks to unpick or exploit that should not be tolerated in any shape or fashion. The Scottish Government will certainly not tolerate that.

Pegida and the message of hatred that it seeks to peddle should not be tolerated in any shape or fashion. I give the member and the chamber an assurance that Police Scotland will deal with the issue robustly and proportionately; so, too, will

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

the Government. We are a Government that believes in a tolerant society and that the Islamic faith has an important part to play in Scottish society.

Alongside the important work that Police Scotland will take forward in dealing with the issue is the offer of reassurance to those members of the Muslim faith in Scotland, especially those in Edinburgh, prior to and after this particular demonstration. I also give the member and the chamber an assurance that Police Scotland and the Government will provide the local community, the local Muslim community and the Muslim community in Scotland with all the reassurance that they require.

Patrick Harvie: Does the cabinet secretary agree that many Muslims in this country, and in many other European countries, feel under threat and marginalised not only by these aggressive and hostile movements against them but by the expectation that it is for them to apologise continually for acts of extremism that they have never sought to condone or support? Does he agree that the Scottish Government must work across departments, including the education department, to ensure that all young people growing up in Scotland are given a sense of an inclusive Scotland in which the values of tolerance and respect are important? It is not just about responding to the movement of hatred, but about building an inclusive sense of the kind of Scotland that we want to build in the future.

Reply from Michael Matheson: Patrick Harvie is right: as well as being robust in how we tackle hatred within our society, we should promote community cohesion and partnership. That is an important element of the work that the Scottish Government does in the justice directorate and with the help of my colleague Alex Neil to support members of our faith groups in Scotland.

Some of the meetings that I have had with individuals in the Muslim community have been about providing reassurance that it is not a question of Muslims having to apologise for the appalling behaviour and acts of barbarity by certain individuals and organisations that conduct their operations under the guise of Islam, and that Muslims in this country are seen as valued members of our society. They should in no way feel that they have to apologise for the appalling acts of other people in other parts of the world or—should this ever happen—on our own shores. Alex Neil and I will continue to offer that reassurance.

I add that I think that our media have an important part to play in getting the message across that we do not expect Muslims in Scotland to apologise for the barbaric actions of those in other parts of the world. That is the message that I have taken out to the Muslim community, and it is the message that this Government will continue to take out to the Muslim community.

Malcolm Chisholm: Does the cabinet secretary think that it would be entirely appropriate for the City of Edinburgh Council to use whatever powers it has to prevent the demonstration from taking place, given that the whole purpose of the demonstration is to foster Islamophobia and to stir up hatred against the thousands of Muslims who live in Scotland and who contribute so much to Scottish life?

Reply from Michael Matheson: We have already been in contact with the City of Edinburgh Council on the matter and it has had no contact from Pegida. The reason for that is that it would appear that Pegida is not intending to have a march, for which it would require permission from the council.

I assure the member that Police Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government will take the measures that we consider to be appropriate. We are still at an early stage in terms of having the full details of what is to happen, but from the discussion that I had with the chief superintendent today, Malcolm Chisholm can be assured that Police Scotland and the council are taking the matter very seriously, and that they will take measures that they consider to

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

be appropriate when they get further information on the nature and the potential scale of the demonstration.

Jamie McGrigor: Does the cabinet secretary agree that, in the light of recent incidents of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, it is essential that we safeguard freedom of speech? Will he join me in commending the United Kingdom Government's work to ensure that all of us, regardless of our religious or racial background, feel safe and respected in our country?

Reply from Michael Matheson: I recognise that freedom of speech is a fundamental human right, which we all have a duty to protect, respect and uphold, but it is not an absolute right and it must not be exercised in such a way that it has an impact on the rights of others. That is why there is a clear difference between gatherings for legitimate public protest and gatherings the intention of which is to stoke up racial hatred and to cause fear and alarm in our communities, and that difference should be recognised appropriately.

John Mason: I associate myself with all that the cabinet secretary has said. How do we get the right balance between allowing freedom of speech and preventing hate speech by groups such as Pegida?

Reply from Michael Matheson: There is no straightforward way in which to do that, as the member will properly recognise. The human right of freedom of speech and expression is not an absolute right. It is possible for someone to fail to have regard to the offence and injury that they might cause to another. That is particularly true of those whom I have mentioned who might wish to incite racial hatred and racial violence, and to create fear and alarm in our communities.

We must ensure that we are alive to such issues and that we respond to them at the appropriate time. The member and the chamber can be assured that, as a Government, when we believe that action is taken that is about promoting racism and causing fear and alarm in our communities, appropriate measures will be taken by our law enforcement agencies and by other partners who work to promote cohesion within our communities to ensure that neither communities nor individuals feel alienated as a result of such events.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9811&i=89914&c=1803943>

UK Parliament Question

Religious Hatred

Kate Green [225817] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to (a) help to promote awareness of Tell MAMA and (b) encourage reporting of anti-Muslim incidents.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: The Coalition Government is committed to building confidence and making it easier for victims of all types of hate crime to come forward and report what has happened to them.

We are working with key voluntary sector organisations to encourage greater reporting of all hate crimes, for example through the use of third party reporting services such as Tell MAMA. We are also working closely with the police to support the development of their True Vision website, which allows victims of hate crime to report it electronically.

We provided start-up funding for the Tell MAMA website in 2011/12, and we have also set up the first ever cross-government working group on anti-Muslim hatred. As part of this group, Home Office officials engage with Muslim

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination UK Parliament Question (continued)

communities to increase awareness of hate crime against Muslim communities and organisations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-02/225817/>

News

Kick It Out Reveals 35% reporting increase

<http://www.kickitout.org/news/kick-it-out-reveals-35-reporting-increase/#.VPIAFkZ4hpk>

No tolerance for anti-Muslim hatred, warns MSP

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/no-tolerance-for-anti-muslim-hatred-warns-msp-1-3708132>

Anti-Islam 'hate' rally at Princes street Gardens

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/anti-islam-hate-rally-at-princes-street-gardens-1-3705839>

Pegida sets its sights on anti-Islam rally in Glasgow

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/pegida-sets-its-sights-on-anti-islam-rally-in-glasgow-199492n.120042249>

Rise in reports of discrimination in football, says Kick It Out

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/0/football/31701145>

Reported incidents of racism are on the rise: it means we are winning the battle

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/mar/02/reported-racism-football-kick-it-out>

Football Association welcomes a 70% rise in reporting racist abuse

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/mar/02/kick-it-out-racism-football-fa-david-conn-lord-ouseley>

Police probe into "sectarian" songs on Glasgow to Perth train

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/police-probe-into-sectarian-songs-on-glasgow-to-perth-train.119742252>

Women make their voices heard in the fight against sectarianism

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/tackling-sectarianism-in-schools-199396n.119981174>

Chelsea fans 'caught chanting the N-word and anti-Semitic slurs' in new race hate storm following League Cup final

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2981618/Chelsea-fans-caught-chanting-N-word-anti-Semitic-slurs-new-race-hate-storm-following-League-Cup-final.html>

Racial stereotypes are not a bad thing, says equality chief

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4375363.ece>

Bring on the haters: the show that's getting laughs out of Islamophobia

<http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2015/mar/02/hate-poetry-germany-islamophobia>

Hate mail is one thing, but a pig's head . . .

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article1527916.ece>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Research to see how young people can tackle sectarianism

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/families-and-young-people/research-to-see-how-young-people-can-tackle-sectarianism>

Book voices women's stories of sectarianism

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/social-justice-and-poverty/book-voices-womens-stories-of-sectarianism>

Discrimination against Christians 'ignored' across Europe – MPs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11440548/Discrimination-against-Christians-ignored-across-Europe-MPs.html>

Guide for judiciary ensures no ill-judged political incorrectness

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/scotland/article1528440.ece

Racist nurse struck off for anti-Muslim Facebook posts

<http://tellmamauk.org/racist-nurse-struck-off-anti-muslim-facebook-posts/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what work it is conducting to support schools and teachers in identifying and reporting cases of students at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM). (S4W-24625)

Reply from Alex Neil: Scottish Ministers wrote to all headteachers in February 2014 to alert them that female genital mutilation is illegal in the UK, is considered child abuse and should be dealt with as a child protection concern, with links to the National Guidance for Child Protection and a number of other resources. Education Scotland subsequently prepared material for all schools to use to update staff at the start of the 2014-15 school term. Education Scotland is currently in the process of gathering resources that can be used in the classroom in an age appropriate manner.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24625&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it provides to Police Scotland regarding female genital mutilation (FGM). (S4W-24626)

Reply from Alex Neil: Police Scotland is a member of the Scottish Government Multi Agency Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Short Life Working Group. Through this group they are working collaboratively with the Scottish Government and other partners to develop national guidance to ensure agencies and organisations have the necessary understanding and skills to deal appropriately and consistently with FGM.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24626&ResultsPerPage=10>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to raise awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM). (S4W-24627)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government has taken a range of steps to raise awareness of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Scotland and during 2014: Wrote to all head teachers in Scotland reminding them of the procedures to be followed and guidance available in relation to FGM. Education Scotland subsequently prepared material for all schools to use to update staff at the start of the 2014-15 school term. Education Scotland is currently gathering resources that can be used in the classroom in an age appropriate manner. Issued a letter from the Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Medical Officer to update health care professionals on developments in Scotland related to FGM. Provided funding to the Women's Support Project to develop a range of information and training materials on FGM, launched 06 February 2015. These resources are being circulated and promoted via relevant websites and established multi agency networks.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24627&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what support is provided to women and girls who may be affected by female genital mutilation (FGM). (S4W-24628)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government has allocated £213.500, for the period 2014-15, to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM), in Scotland. This includes support for survivors of FGM through counselling, medical intervention and peer group assistance and support to minority ethnic women's organisations which provide services to women who come from communities affected by FGM. All women are asked about FGM during their maternity booking and women would be referred to relevant specialists as required, subject to their consent. Health professionals would also signpost women to third sector support services as appropriate. Where it is considered that a baby is at risk of FGM, child protection processes would begin and women would have the support of the wider multiagency team.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24628&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what (a) support and (b) protection is available for girls who fear that they will be subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM). (S4W-24629)

Reply from Alex Neil: (a) The Scottish Government has allocated £213,500, for the period 2014-15, to tackle female genital mutilation (FGM) in Scotland (see also answer to S4W-24628 on 5 March 2015). This includes support for survivors of FGM through counselling, medical intervention and peer group support and to support and empower women and girls to resist FGM. (b) The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, updated in 2014, offers comprehensive guidance for professionals working with children and sets out what action should be taken if there are child protection concerns about any child (including the suspicion or knowledge of abuse). Within that guidance is a specific section providing advice on how to respond if there are concerns that a child may have been subject to, or may be at risk from, FGM. Local authorities will also have specific local guidance in place to supplement the national guidance as required. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24629&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Patricia Ferguson: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to establish a partnership with the UK Government's new specialist female genital mutilation (FGM) unit. (S4W-24630)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Scottish Government has confirmed through contact with the UK Government that a lead official has recently been appointed to the female genital mutilation unit, however is not yet in post. Once the official is in post Scottish Government officials will establish and maintain connections to exchange information.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24630&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

National roll-out for sign language interpreting service

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/National-roll-out-for-sign-language-interpreting-service-168a.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Kidney Diseases

Kate Green [225685] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what guidance his Department issues to clinical commissioning groups and local authorities on developing appropriate services to identify kidney disease among people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Reply from Jane Ellison: The NHS Health Check programme, which launched in 2008, is a universal and systematic programme for everyone between the ages of 40-74 years (not already on a chronic disease register) that assesses people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. It is estimated that the programme could detect at least 20,000 cases of diabetes or kidney disease earlier, allowing individuals to be better managed and to improve their quality of life.

Economic modelling suggested that the NHS Health Check programme would be cost effective and it is estimated that savings to the National Health Service budget nationally would be around £57 million per year after four years, rising to £176 million per year after a 15 year period.

Black and south Asian people are three to five times more likely to have kidney failure than white people, but many are unaware of the condition. Local authorities, which are responsible for roll-out of the health check in their respective areas, can choose to target high-risk groups to encourage participation in the NHS Health Check programme, if appropriate. Guidance and tools for

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Question (continued)

commissioners, clinicians and local authorities on the programme, including case study examples on its application in specific communities, can be found at the following link: www.healthcheck.nhs.uk

In addition to this, the NHS Choices Website contains detailed information on both black and Asian health issues which includes a page on the increased risk these ethnic groups have of developing kidney disease. The page can be viewed at the following link:

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Kidneyhealth/Pages/BlackandAsiankidneyhealth.aspx

Finally, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's guidance *Chronic kidney disease: early identification and management of chronic kidney disease in adults in primary and secondary care* sets out best practice for clinicians on early diagnosis and care of patients with the condition. The guidance was updated in July 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-27/225685/>

News

Ministers reject call to ban religious slaughter of animals that have not been stunned first despite 100,000-strong petition

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2983589/Ministers-reject-call-ban-religious-slaughter-animals-not-stunned-despite-100-000-strong-petition.html>

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Other News

Scotland failing girls on FGM, says McConnell

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/scotland/article1528487.ece

Mosque and police work together to tackle domestic abuse

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31787354>

#OPENYOUREYES film-making competition for young people (closing date for entries 22 May 2015)

<http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/openyoureyes/>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

**** Community Empowerment Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9815&i=89979>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9817&i=90009>

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml1-LG.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml1-LG.pdf)

and

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml1-RU.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Empowerment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b52s4-stage2-ml1-RU.pdf)

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>

Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9812&i=89918>

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>

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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150304-0001.htm#15030468000828>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0184/150184.1-4.html>

Explanatory note to proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0184/en/150184en.htm>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Age and Social Isolation (closing date 13 March 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/85810.aspx>

Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other Related Matters in Scotland
(closing date 24 April 2015)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00468846.pdf>

Modern Slavery and Supply Chains Consultation (closing date 7 May 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403575/2015-02-12_TISC_Consultation_FINAL.pdf

** **Draft Charity Test Guidance Consultation** (closing date 26 May 2015)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations/draft-charity-test-guidance-consultation>

** **Discrimination in Football Survey** (no closing date given)

http://efemico.eu/main_files/FARacismSurvey/FARacismSurvey.html

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: major grant

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2015

Grants of up to £15,000 over three years for locally based faith groups in Scotland to

Funding Opportunities (continued)

undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see <http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/how-to-apply/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Introduction to Politics in Scotland

9 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to improve understanding of Scotland's political landscape at local, Scottish and UK government level. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/499-introduction-to-politics-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

**** this week!**

Parent Council Training – Equalities and Engagement

11 March 2015 in Glasgow (6.00 – 8.00)

BEMIS & Gathered Together training designed for Parent Councils wanting to engage with all the parents in their school, particularly parents from Ethnic Minorities. The training will explore in detail equalities practice and practical steps that Parent Councils can take to promote greater participation. For information contact Marion Fairweather marion.fairweather@bemis.org.uk or see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Adelphi-11-March-PC-Flyer.pdf>

**** this week!**

Asylum

13 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Research Centre seminar on the Impact of policy and procedures on Asylum seeking women. For information see <http://www.mwrc.org.uk/> or contact Amina 0141 212 8420 / info@mwrc.org.uk

Introduction to Equality in Scotland

17 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to explore basic equality concepts, look at equality law in Scotland, consider different types of discrimination, and identify some ways of promoting equality. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/introduction-to-equality-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** What does racism look like in Glasgow?**

20 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 2.00)

Glasgow Voluntary Sector Racial Equality Network event to mark the UN International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Places must be booked in advance. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

Women in Employment: Advancing Equal Opportunities

24 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

BEMIS conference in partnership with STUC, Scottish Refugee Council, Scottish Women's Convention and GRAMNet. For more information see http://bemis.org.uk/events-files/wie_programme_web.pdf or contact events@bemis.org.uk

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

25 (9.30-4.30pm) & 26 (9.30-12.30pm) March 2015 in Edinburgh

15 (9.30-4.30pm) & 16 (9.30-12.30pm) April 2015 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing minority ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <https://shaktibmetraining.eventbrite.co.uk/> or contact Ola or Mridul 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Supporting Refugee Women

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Essentials of Asylum

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 / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

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Useful Links

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland 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

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

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



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



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

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