

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 31 August.

The UK Parliament will be in recess from 23 July to 7 September.

During the holiday period, MEMO will be published on 13 July, 27 July, 10 August, 24 August, and 6 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Post-study Work Visas

Roderick Campbell: To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the post-study work visa. (S4O-04493)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Angela Constance: This Government is committed to working with the UK Government, as recommended in the Smith report, to ensure that a post-study work route is put in place in Scotland. I welcome the recent backing for the

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

scheme by 100 figures from business and academia.

My colleague Humza Yousaf, the Minister for Europe and International Development, has twice written to Mr Brokenshire, who was previously the UK Minister for Immigration and Security and is now the Minister for Immigration, about the issue—most recently on 20 May, following the UK election. My colleague, Mr Matheson, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, also raised the issue in a letter to the Home Secretary, Theresa May, on 15 May. I understand that officials are currently seeking a meeting to discuss the post-study work visa, among other matters.

In addition, Scottish Government and UK Government officials met on 23 January and again on 13 March to discuss a potential post-study work route.

Roderick Campbell: I thank the cabinet secretary for that comprehensive answer, which dealt with my supplementary question.

Reply from Angela Constance: I hope to reassure Mr Campbell and the rest of the chamber that we will continue to keep up the pressure. Colleagues may be aware that Humza Yousaf has established a new cross-party working group that includes representatives from across the chamber. We look forward to progressing the matter further.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10037&i=92101#ScotParIOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S4M-13602 Kevin Stewart: Ludicrous Immigration Proposals—That the Parliament condemns reports that the UK Government is planning new immigration laws that would see workers recruited from outside the EU who earn less than £35,000 per annum having to return to their country of origin after six years; considers that, if implemented, this proposal would have a catastrophic impact on public services, including the NHS; understands that, in the NHS alone, 30,000 nurses from overseas would be affected by this plan; agrees with the chief executive of the Royal College of Nursing that this will cause NHS chaos, and calls on the UK Government to drop what it considers this ludicrous proposal.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13602&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-13595 Christina McKelvie: World Refugee Day 2015—That the Parliament welcomes World Refugee Day, which took place on 20 June 2015; considers that this provided a necessary opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of refugees across the world; notes with concern the ongoing situation in the Mediterranean; understands that, unless serious action is taken, aid groups have estimated that this could cost 30,000 lives; calls on the UK Government to make a clear commitment to working with its EU partners to find a long-term solution to the problem, and further calls for a complete change in the UK's approach to asylum to one that prioritises compassion, fairness and humanity rather than what it sees as the uncaring attitude displayed until now.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13595&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-13589 Christian Allard: International Organization for Migration—That the Parliament recognises the work of the International Organization for Migration; supports what it considers the positive message of its campaigns, #MigrantHeroes and I am an Immigrant, which aim to share the stories of how individual migrants have contributed

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

to the UK and, by showcasing the positive impact that they can make around the world, the overall contribution of migrants to society; believes that there is a growing need to develop a positive environment for migrants and encourages steps to include them in communities, politics and the democratic process; calls on all of Scotland's elected representatives to adopt the tone of these campaigns, and encourages migrants in Scotland to share their stories on the website, iamanimmigrant.net.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13589&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debate

English as an additional language (Pupil Support)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150623/halltext/150623h0001.htm#15062350000001>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Border Management (Calais)

... the ongoing situation in Calais serves as an important reminder of why EU member states need to work together to tackle the causes of illegal immigration in source and transit countries. We are already co-operating closely with the French to tackle the organised criminal gangs that facilitate the movement of migrants into and across Europe. UK and French law enforcement organisations have already had considerable success in dismantling criminal networks behind people trafficking and smuggling on both sides of the channel, resulting in the prosecution of 223 individuals ... As the Prime Minister and I have repeatedly made clear, the most important step to resolving the situation in the Mediterranean is breaking the link between migrants making this dangerous journey and achieving settlement in Europe. ...

To read the full statement and subsequent question and answer session in the House of Commons see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150624/debtext/150624-0001.htm#15062462000004>

and in the House of Lords see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150624-0001.htm#15062461000463>

UK Parliament Questions

NHS: Immigration Rules

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government what their response is to the Royal College of Nursing report concerning the impact of immigration rules on the employment of foreign nurses within the National Health Service.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Lord Prior of Brampton): My Lords, ensuring we have the right number of nurses is vital. That is why we are taking the issue of nursing recruitment seriously and have prioritised and invested in front-line staff, so there are over 8,600 more nurses on our wards. Health Education England's workforce plan for England for 2015-16 forecasts that, following further increases in the number of training commissions, the proposed levels for nurse training will deliver over

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23,000 more nurses by 2019.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: My Lords, the noble Lord will know that the RCN report estimates that as a result of the migration rules around 7,000 nurses will be forced to leave the NHS because they do not reach the £35,000 per annum employment threshold. Despite the modest increase in the number of training places, is he confident that that gap can be filled, alongside dealing with the current recruitment crisis, the extra nurses needed for seven-day working, the extra nurses needed for improved patient-staff ratios and the Government's indication that they want to rule out the use of agency nurses in future? When will all those policies be adopted alongside the 7,000 reduction in overseas nurses?

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: My Lords, the Royal College of Nursing figure I saw was closer to 3,000 than 7,000, but in a sense that is not what is important. What is important is that over the long run we train our own nurses in this country. Although we recruit some exceptionally wonderful nurses from places such as the Philippines, it does not seem a good long-term strategy to rely on recruiting nurses, often from third-world, quite poor countries, so I am very pleased that we are going to train 23,000 new nurses over the next five years. That is the right answer to any short-term, temporary shortage.

Lord Fowler: My Lords, surely the central point is that we should review the policy of recruiting nurses from overseas, as I think my noble friend is indicating. Should we not in a bipartisan way now concentrate on training our own nurses in this country rather than permanently taking them from other countries, for example, in Africa, which often desperately need their care?

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: My Lords, I agree with my noble friend; it cannot be right for a rich country such as ours to recruit nurses from much poorer countries. ... the Philippines, for example, produces more nurses on a deliberate basis than it needs for itself, so that they can go overseas, usually for temporary periods, not permanently. Interestingly, over the last five years, the number of non-EU overseas nurses working in this country has reduced by 41%. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150624-0001.htm#15062461000462>

Immigration: Commonwealth

Barry Sheerman [3236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Commonwealth countries entered the country in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14 and (e) 2014-15.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available published information is given in the table below:

Commonwealth nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom 2010 - 2013

2010 4,810,000

2011 4,930,000

2012 4,680,000

2013 4,870,000

Data for the calendar year 2014 are due to be published on 27 August 2015. The latest Home Office immigration statistics relating to persons entering the United Kingdom by nationality are published in "Immigration Statistics January to March 2015", table ad_03 (Admissions tables) which is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3236/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Cox [HL313] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether anyone applying to enter the United Kingdom accompanying an employer on a Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa since 2009 has disclosed abuse perpetrated by their employer.

Baroness Cox [HL314] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether anyone entering the United Kingdom accompanying an employer on a Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa since 2009 has disclosed abuse perpetrated by their employer.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office does not collect data on disclosures of abuse by applicants for, or those entering the United Kingdom on, domestic worker visas. However, disclosures of abuse perpetrated by employers do occur. Analysis of Home Office management information indicates that of the 1,623 trafficking cases which were confirmed between May 2009 and May 2015, 71 were linked to people who had previously been issued an overseas domestic worker visa. This includes the Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa and the Private Servants in a Diplomatic Household visa issued under the International Agreement category of Tier 5 of the Points Based System. The Government has asked James Ewins, an expert on modern slavery, to carry out an independent review of the overseas domestic worker visas, which will consider whether they are effective in protecting potential victims from abuse. Mr Ewins is due to report in July.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL313/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL314/>

Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

Baroness Cox [HL395] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people in the United Kingdom on overseas domestic worker visas have, since 2012, been granted a residence permit, including grants of discretionary leave to remain, following a positive conclusive grounds decision that they have been trafficked.

Reply from Lord Bates: A manual review of a significant number of applications would be needed in order to provide an accurate response and this would incur a disproportionate cost to the public purse. Therefore we are unable to confirm the number of individuals in the United Kingdom who have been issued residence permits following positive identification as a victim of Human Trafficking who held leave as a domestic worker since 2012.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-10/HL395/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Nutall [2742] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many citizens of other member states of the EU are resident in the UK.

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

John Pullinger: The Office for National Statistics collects data on country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS comprises the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus various sample boosts. The latest available data is for the period January to December 2013. There are two important issues to bear in mind when using this data:

- As with any survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of

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uncertainty. A confidence interval has been provided against the estimate provided below.

- The APS is a household survey and therefore excludes people in most types of communal establishment (e.g hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile homes), and excludes students in educational accommodation who do not have a UK resident permit.

The number of EU nationals (not including British citizens) resident in the UK, between January and December 2013 (the latest year available) was 2,507,000, with a corresponding margin of uncertainty of +/- 69,000¹.

¹ This means that the number of EU nationals (not including British citizens) resident in households in the UK is within the range of 2,438,000 to 2,576,000 in 19 out of 20 possible survey samples drawn.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-16/2742/>

Visas

David Winnick [2953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's practice is in cases in which hon. Members send further documentary evidence to UK Visas and Immigration on visitor's applications which have been refused after meeting constituents who are visa sponsors; whether that body considers that evidence as part of the original application; whether it is her Department's policy to give advice in all such cases that a new application should be made; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: An application to visit the UK can be reconsidered where representations are made that assert and provide evidence showing that the refusal contained a material error. Where representations contain new evidence that was not submitted with the original application, applicants should submit such evidence through a fresh application, which will then be considered on its own merit against the requirement of the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-17/2953/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Lord Green of Deddington [HL331] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many certificates of sponsorship were issued in respect of Scottish employers for students who switched from Tier 4 into Tier 2 in each of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of certificates of sponsorship used in each of the calendar years 2012, 2013 and 2014 by migrants to switch from Tier 4 into Tier 2 employment in Scotland, is set out at Table 1 below.

Table 1: Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) Used per calendar year 2012 to 2014 for employment in Scotland

Year	2012	2013	2014
Tier 2 CoS used to switch from Tier 4 to Tier 2 employment in Scotland	164	501	527

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL331/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Lord Green of Deddington [HL332] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students from Scottish higher educational institutions were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study

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Work visa in each year since 2009.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is not possible to provide data on the number of students from Scottish higher educational institutions who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa for every year since 2009 because our records for Tier 1 Post-Study Work applications do not record the previous sponsoring institution in a format which can be used as the basis for a search.

It is however possible to provide data on the number of applicants who were granted a Tier 1 Post-Study Work visa while they were resident in Scotland. This data can be found below.

Year Total amount of grants issued to migrants resident in Scotland

2009 2374

2010 2648

2011 2999

2012 2249

Total 10270

It cannot be confirmed that these migrants had previously studied at Scottish higher educational institutions, for the reasons previously stated. The Tier 1 Post-Study work route was closed to new applications on 6 April 2012.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL332/>

Entry Clearances

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [2657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions were made from outside the UK for (a) entry clearance and (b) extension of stay in relation to non-European Economic Area partner applications in each year since 2008; and how many of those applications were (i) successful, (ii) unsuccessful, (iii) withdrawn and (iv) lapsed.

Paul Blomfield [2658] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions were made from within the UK for (a) entry clearance and (b) extension of stay in relation to non-European Economic Area partner applications in each year since 2008; and how many of those applications were (i) successful, (ii) unsuccessful, (iii) withdrawn and (iv) lapsed.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available published information is shown in the following tables,

TABLE 1

TABLE 2

The figures provided relate to partners in the family immigration category.

Withdrawn and lapsed applications are not available in the published extensions data.

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on entry clearance visa decisions by category in table vi_01_q (Entry clearance visas tables volume 1) and extension of stay decisions in table ex_01_q within the 'Immigration Statistics' release. The published statistics do not distinguish between applications made and decided under the family Immigration Rules in force before and from 9 July 2012. Grants and other case resolutions do not necessarily correspond to an application made in the same period.

A copy of the latest release, "Immigration Statistics January to March 2015", is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

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The tables can be read at

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/381537/original/PQ%202657%20and%202658%20Table%201.xls>
and

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/381537/original/PQ%202657%20and%202658%20Table%202.xls>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-16/2657/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-16/2658/>

Asylum: Eritrea

Baroness Hayter of Kentish Town [HL451] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many requests for asylum from Eritreans have been granted over the last year, on a month by month basis.

Reply from Lord Bates: The table below shows the latest published number of nationals of Eritrea granted asylum and other form of protection in the UK, based on initial decisions for main applicants since January 2014.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-11/HL451/>

Refugees: Yemen

Louise Ellman [3193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Yemenis have been granted refugee leave since the beginning of the present political and military crisis in Yemen.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the six months to the end of March 2015 there were 11 grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or another form of protection, for Yemeni nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3193/>

Refugees: Detainees

Frank Field [2832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on the detention of refugee women.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office will not routinely use immigration powers to detain individuals who have been granted refugee status, though may need to do so in specific circumstances, for example if the refugee has subsequently been convicted of committing a crime and deportation action is being taken against them. We would not seek to deport a refugee in such circumstances if they still faced a real risk of death, persecution or torture.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-17/2832/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Caroline Lucas [3223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission an audit of reports submitted by healthcare professionals in Immigration Removal Centres under Detention Centre Rule 35 to maintain compliance with policy on the detention of victims of crime.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 requires doctors working in immigration removal centres to report to the Home

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Office if they have concerns about the case of any particularly vulnerable detainee in order that the appropriateness of their continued detention can be reviewed.

A Home Office audit of Rule 35 compliance was undertaken in 2014 and a summary of the audit's findings will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3223/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Hylton [HL585] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many separate incidents of detainees self-harming and requiring medical treatment occurred at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Reply from Lord Bates: Information is collated on the number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical treatment at Yarl's Wood IRC. In 2013 there were 74 incidents and in 2014 there were 61.

These are the number of incidents of self-harm requiring medical attention; they do not necessarily equate to the number of detainees requiring medical attention as one individual may have received medical attention on more than one occasion.

The data quoted has been taken from management information only and has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for national statistics publications.

These figures are provisional and are subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL585/>

Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre

Caroline Lucas [3178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what measures she plans to take to implement the recommendations of the most recent report on Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons; and if she will conduct a review of the operation of (a) the families unit and (b) alternatives to detention at that centre.

Reply from James Brokenshire: HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) published their report of Tinsley House immigration removal centre (IRC) on their website on 28 May following the unannounced inspection.

The recommendations made are already under consideration. This includes the recommendation to reassess the role of the family unit and to consider alternatives to detention before holding families with children at the centre.

In line with the protocol agreed with HMIP, we will respond formally to the report with a service improvement plan (SIP) within two months of the report's publication. The SIP will be made public on HMIP's website.

On 9 February the Home Secretary announced an independent review of detainee welfare in immigration detention, led by the former prisons ombudsman Stephen Shaw. The review is expected to report in September and will seek to identify whether improvements can be made to safeguard the health and wellbeing of detainees across the immigration detention estate, short term holding facilities, and those being escorted in the UK.

The Government will publish the report by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to the recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3178/>

Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre

Caroline Lucas [3179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how

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many and what proportion of detainees sent to Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre were assessed by a nurse upon arrival in the last 12 months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The operating standards for immigration removal centres requires that all detainees are medically screened, to include an assessment for risk of self-harm/suicidal behaviour, within two hours of admission. Performance is reported on a monthly basis by the service provider. The on-site Home Office team also has the opportunity to view the induction records for individual detainees.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons conducted an inspection of Tinsley House between 1-12 December 2014 and found that all detainees were interviewed by a member of the health care team on reception and information was shared sensitively between escort and centre staff.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3179/>

Deportation

Chris Stephens [2561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she takes to ensure compliance with the UK's international legal obligations on non-refoulement when deporting people to conflict affected countries.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In accordance with the Refugee Convention and our other international obligations, the UK carefully considers all asylum claims, so that no-one is returned to a country where they have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group or political opinion, or to a country where they would be at real risk of serious harm as a result, for example, of indiscriminate violence due to armed conflict. Those whose applications are rejected and whose appeal rights are exhausted are required to leave the UK and their removal will be enforced if they fail to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-15/2561/>

Deportation

Greg Mulholland [2013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on the deportation of people to countries which use the death penalty.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Where legally permissible we will deport foreign nationals to countries with the death penalty, provided the individual will not face the death penalty when they return.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-10/2013/>

Slavery

Jeremy Lefroy [3739] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what regulations have been made under section 50 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to identify and support victims of trafficking.

Reply from Karen Bradley: No regulations have been made under section 50 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to identify and support victims of trafficking. The Government will consider the introduction of regulations once the proposed changes to the National Referral Mechanism have been tested.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-23/3739/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Mediterranean Sea: Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stephen Gethins [2319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support migrants and asylum seekers who (a) are children, (b) are elderly, (c) have serious injuries and (d) have other specialist needs who are rescued during operations in the Mediterranean.

Stephen Gethins [2321] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with its EU counterparts on search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Initial medical triaging and assistance is carried out on board UK vessels deployed to the Mediterranean for search and rescue purposes. Migrants are then taken to a nearby port, as directed by the Italian authorities, where their needs can be more fully assessed and addressed by Italian authorities there.

The UK has regular discussions with other Member States about search and rescue in the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, the UK is also playing a leading role in pushing for comprehensive, long-term action through the EU and the UN to tackle the cause of illegal immigration and the organised trafficking gangs behind it, as well as increasing support and protection for those who need it North and East Africa. We are clear that the need to break the link between getting on a boat and achieving residence in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-12/2319/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-12/2321/>

Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL571] To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they have made to ensure that refugees crossing the Mediterranean are not assumed to be economic migrants.

Reply from Lord Bates: EU Member States have obligations requiring them to accept and consider without delay an application for asylum from any migrant arriving on their territory. These obligations include the application of the Dublin Regulation to determine which EU member State is responsible for examining the merits of the application. Her Majesty's Government has made very clear that it expects all EU Member States to honour those obligations as we do.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-17/HL571/>

Press Releases

UK must reconsider stance on migrants

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/UK-must-reconsider-stance-on-migrants-1aae.aspx>

'They know they will be exploited during their journey' – New UN report on human trafficking

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16117&LangID=E>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables (April 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/438214/asylum-apr2015.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers (May 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437470/children-detention-may2015.ods

Royal College of Nursing: International Recruitment 2015

http://www.rcn.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/629530/International-Recruitment-2015.pdf

International Students and Post Study Work – Do employers need them?

<http://www.migrationwatchuk.org/briefing-paper/2.31>

What do home students think of studying with international students?

<http://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/HEApaper7.pdf>

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Trafficking/GA_Report_Trafficking_A-69-33797.doc

News

Scotland's colleges back return of post study work visa

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-s-colleges-back-return-of-post-study-work-visa-1a9c.aspx>

Migrant salary rules may cost NHS nurse jobs, union warns

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-33201189>

Fears for NHS as foreign nurses forced to leave UK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/fears-for-nhs-as-foreign-nurses-forced-to-leave-uk-1-3808653>

We either cut immigration or have a properly staffed NHS. We can't do both

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/22/cut-immigration-nhs-nurses-deported>

New immigration rules will cost the NHS millions, warns nursing union

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/jun/22/new-immigration-rules-cost-nhs-millions-nursing>

New migrant rules will cost NHS thousands of nurses, says union

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/new-migrant-rules-will-cost-nhs-thousands-of-nurses-says-union-10335348.html>

Nurses 'will be deported' under new visa rules

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11690480/Nurses-will-be-deported-under-new-visa-rules.html>

Immigration rules to leave UK short of nurses

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/health/news/article4476487.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Migrants victims of 'throwaway society', says Pope

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/world/migrants-victims-of-throwaway-society-says-pope-1-3808611>

Prisoners facing deportation mount legal challenge

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/prisoners-facing-deportation-mount-legal-challenge-1-3811867>

Two criminals challenge new immigration rules

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4479336.ece>

Immigration law revamp will hit more than just NHS

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/immigration-law-revamp-will-hit-more-than-just-nhs-1-3811855>

Right to rent: all landlords must check immigration status or face £3,000 fine

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/investing/buy-to-let/11683858/Right-to-rent-all-landlords-must-check-immigration-status-or-face-3000-fine.html>

NHS translation costs in Tayside and Fife rocket to £430,000 a year

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/nhs-translation-costs-in-tayside-and-fife-rocket-to-430-000-a-year-1.886779>

Migrants only want what you want. Why is that so frightening?

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jun/26/migrants-want-frightening-western-passport>

Illegal immigrants caught at UK border more than doubled last year, says 'British FBI'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11693857/Illegal-immigrants-caught-at-UK-border-more-than-doubled-last-year-says-British-FBI.html>

UK students 'groomed to smuggle illegal immigrants from Calais'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11693445/British-students-groomed-to-smuggle-illegal-immigrants-from-Calais-French-prosecutor-claims.html>

Court suspends fast-track asylum appeal system

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/26/court-suspends-fast-track-asylum-appeal-system>

Fight against illegal immigration suffers new blow

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11700922/Fight-against-illegal-immigration-suffers-new-blow.html>

UK's 'structurally unfair' asylum appeals process suspended by court after legal challenge

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uks-structurally-unfair-asylum-appeals-process-suspended-by-court-after-legal-challenge-10347724.html>

Streamline asylum system or we'll have to let them all stay

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/ireland/News/article1574351.ece>

Pupils denied university place due to immigration status 'should get loans'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-n>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Majid Ali: Glasgow student - 'feared dead' after 'forced' deportation - tells lecturer hours before: 'I'm scared'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/majid-ali-glasgow-student--feared-dead-after-forced-deportation--tells-lecturer-hours-before-im-scared-10335539.html>

Yarl's Wood: Children fleeing warzones being locked up at detention centre, investigation finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/children-fleeing-warzones-being-locked-up-at-yarls-wood-detention-centre-investigation-finds-10337409.html>

UK population increases by 500,000, official figures show

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33266792>

UK population grew by 500,000 last year, taking total living in Britain to 64.6m

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-population-grew-by-500000-last-year-10344329.html>

Immigrants push population to 64.5m

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4480278.ece>

Britain becomes middle-aged, despite immigration surge

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4479757.ece>

EU leaders agree to relocate 40,000 migrants

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33276443>

Lawless scramble to reach Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4479217.ece>

Mediterranean migrant crisis: Britain under EU pressure to open doors to African refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mediterranean-migrant-crisis-britain-under-eu-pressure-to-open-doors-to-african-refugees-10346184.html>

New UK immigration rules: will you be affected?

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/24/new-uk-immigration-rules-will-you-be-affected>

We're all hypocrites when it comes to migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4481491.ece>

Mediterranean migrant crisis: Where has Britain's altruism gone?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/mediterranean-migrant-crisis-where-has-britains-altruism-gone-10350240.html?origin=internalSearch>

Britain sends 2-miles fence to France to stop migrants hiding in lorries boarding Channel Tunnel trains

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3142100/Britain-sends-2-miles-fence-France-stop-migrants-hiding-lorries-boarding-Channel-Tunnel-trains.html>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Questions

Community Relations

Lyn Brown [2696] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, whether the strategy set out in his Department's paper, Creating the conditions for integration, published on 21 February 2012, remains the strategy of his Department.

Marcus Jones: My Department remains fully committed to the approach to creating an integrated society set out in "Creating the Conditions for Integration". As detailed in the report, integration is achieved when neighbourhoods, families and individuals come together on issues that matter to them. As such, we focus on supporting shared activities to bring people together to enable strong communities where people feel they belong. We continue to support projects based on this approach, such as the community-based English language programme which enables isolated adults to learn English, and the Near Neighbours campaign, which brings together diverse faith communities to help them improve their local neighbourhoods.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-16/2696/>

"Creating the Conditions for Integration" can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7504/2092103.pdf

Community Relations

Matthew Offord [3050] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local councils uphold their statutory duty to promote community cohesion.

Reply from Marcus Jones: Whilst there is no specific duty on local authorities to promote community cohesion, they clearly must show due regard to the need to tackle discrimination and foster good relations between people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-18/3050/>

News

Race row as residents told 'wear earplugs' for Ramadan

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/race-row-as-residents-told-wear-earplugs-for-ramadan-1-3808819>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-13610 Patricia Ferguson: Saheliya is Highly Commended at Enterprise Awards—That the Parliament congratulates Saheliya on being highly commended in the Social Enterprise with Social Impact section of the 2015 Job & Business Glasgow Enterprise Awards; notes that Saheliya is a specialist mental health and wellbeing support organisation for women and girls from black and minority ethnic (BME)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

communities in Scotland; further notes the other commendations that the organisation received in recent years, such as the True Honour Award from the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation for its work in preventing honour-based violence, protecting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice, as well as being recognised by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy for its innovative approach to counselling; commends the staff and volunteers for all their hard work, and recognises what it sees as the vital role that they play in supporting BME women to improve their self-esteem and confidence and reduce feelings of isolation and depression.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-13610&ResultsPerPage=10>

New Publications

Equality, diversity and inclusion in the civil service

<http://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Equality-diversity-and-inclusion-in-the-civil-service.pdf>

Ethnic minorities and attainment: the effects of poverty

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/435780/Ethnic_minorities_and_attainment_the_effects_of_poverty.pdf

News

Teenage sports champion says he lost out on employment opportunities because of his ethnicity

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/13349696.Teenage_sports_champion_says_he_lost_out_on_employment_opportunities_because_of_his_ethnicity/

Whitehall must improve diversity, National Audit Office says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-33261303>

Labour's Yvette Cooper calls for party to double tally of black, Asian and ethnic minority MPs

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/labours-yvette-cooper-calls-for-party-to-double-tally-of-black-asian-a.130266162>

Facebook only hired seven black people in latest diversity count

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/jun/25/facebook-diversity-report-black-white-women-employees>

Measuring Child Poverty: Implications for Black and minority ethnic families

<http://www.racecard.org.uk/education/measuring-child-poverty-implications-for-black-and-minority-ethnic-families/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

Tackling Sectarianism: evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10030&i=92042#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Questions

Racial Discrimination

Lord Ouseley [HL492] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the actions and resources required to minimise the adverse effects and impact of institutional racism in society as a whole and in the Metropolitan Police Service, particularly in the light of the statement by the Commissioner for the Metropolitan Police that institutional racism remains a serious problem.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government recognises that people from all communities want the police to fight crime while having confidence that their individual needs will be understood and respected.

The Metropolitan Police have worked hard to improve equality and diversity since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. The officer workforce is more representative in terms of gender and ethnicity than it has ever been. However, the Government is clear that there is more for all police forces to do.

Our reforms will allow for faster progress on equality and diversity. PCCs and the College of Policing will play a key role in ensuring improvements in forces. The College of Policing has published advice for forces on the use of more proactive, lawful approaches to the recruitment and progression of officers from currently under-represented groups, using positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010.

New entry routes into policing such as direct entry and Police Now are also helping to improve the diversity of the police workforce. Police Now, a flagship Metropolitan Police scheme aimed at attracting top university graduates, which is supported by Home Office funding received over 2,200 applications, of which 48% were from women, and 19% were from people from Black or Minority Ethnic backgrounds. 79 individuals accepted provisional job offers. Of these, 16% are from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 47% are women. This is in contrast to the current representation levels in the Metropolitan Police where only 11% of police officers are from a Black or Minority Ethnic background and 25% are women.

We have reformed the use of stop and search to ensure that the police use all such powers lawfully, in a targeted and intelligence-led way; and local communities must be able to hold the police to account for their use of the powers. All 43 forces in England and Wales, and the British Transport Police, signed up to the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

In London, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has introduced London residency criteria for police constable recruitment in 2014. Since its introduction MPS figures indicate that the proportion of black and other minority ethnic applicants is now reaching representative levels when compared with London's population.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-15/HL492/>

Communities: Young Muslims

Baroness Afshar: To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have put in

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

place to counter the impact of Islamophobia and stigmatisation on young Muslims.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, this Government are committed to preventing anti-Muslim hatred and the stigmatisation of young Muslims. We are continuing the extensive community engagement of my predecessors to help to understand the concerns faced by Muslim communities, including working with the cross-government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group and Tell MAMA in order to record and monitor anti-Muslim hate crime.

Baroness Afshar: I think the Minister for her reply. Have the Government considered celebrating differences by marking occasions such as Eid al-Fitr and applauding actions such as those by Muslims in this month of Ramadan in forgoing eating all day in order to share an evening meal with those who cannot afford it? Could we have more celebration and less condemnation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, this Government and the Prime Minister himself have done extensive engagement in celebrating some of the occasions in communities of different faiths, in marking those occasions that are so important to them. In the Prime Minister's message for Ramadan, he talked—as indeed did my honourable friend Greg Clark in the other place—about the peaceful nature of Islam and the phenomenal contribution of Muslims to this country.

I have been one of the lucky recipients of several invitations to Big Iftars, and that coming together of different faiths has been a great success.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, I pay tribute to the extensive relationship and engagement that my noble friend has with British Muslim communities, but is she aware of the Government's report on the review of Prevent and other reports that identify Islamophobia as a driver of radicalisation? In light of the Government's determined effort to defeat extremism, when can we expect to hear from them about the rising phenomenon of Islamophobia in a keynote speech? What is the Government's policy response to tackle it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I return the compliment to my noble friend, who over the years has, not just in her words but in her actions, worked hard to tackle Islamophobia in this country. She has been a great support to me in some of the multifaith work that we have done. My noble friend makes a good point about the problems of the disaffection and isolation of young men. Those problems do not apply just to the Muslim community but can apply to young men and women in all areas of this country. The Government have put £8 million into supporting adults in learning English, which is a very good measure in terms of tackling the isolation and disaffection that young people may have. One of the projects that I visited in Rochdale was a Near Neighbours project, which has done phenomenal work in bringing together not just different faiths but different age groups and different aspects of the community. It has created some very peaceful outcomes in terms of that community's well-being.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, amid reports that the Government have started to disengage with Muslim grass-roots communities, does the Minister think that it is helpful for the Prime Minister to say that some Muslims “quietly condone” radicalisation—apparently we are sitting at home, quietly condoning it? Or does the Minister agree with the Home Secretary's most senior counterterrorism adviser, Charles Farr, who was quoted in the *Telegraph* the other day saying that there is a danger of oversimplification, given that there are 2.7 million Muslims in the UK, and just a few hundred have joined Daesh—so-called ISIS? Who does the noble Baroness think is right?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I agree with both of them.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Prime Minister is not saying that Muslims are a problem but that Islamic ideology is a problem that needs to be tackled, and Charles Farr was making a similar point.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: My Lords, is the Minister aware that ever since 9/11 there has been a huge increase in the number of attacks on Sikhs and Sikh places of worship in cases of mistaken identity? The most recent case was a machete attack on a young Sikh dentist in south Wales, which was described on “Newsnight” as Islamophobia. Does the Minister agree that hate crime is hate crime against any community, and that it should be tackled even-handedly, irrespective of the size of the community?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right—hate crime is hate crime.

Lord Beecham: My Lords, will the Government consider convening a meeting of the different faith communities to encourage collaboration around combating Islamophobia? Perhaps that could draw on the experience of the Community Security Trust, which works with both Jewish and Muslim communities to protect places of worship—a very good example of interfaith collaboration.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have a long history of work with interfaith communities, which is well established back in my home area of Trafford. I am pleased to be able to tell the noble Lord that I am already engaging in that work.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150625-0001.htm#15062547000484>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tulip Siddiq (165) Neo-Nazi rally in Golders Green – That this House notes with concern the planned neo-Nazi demonstration in Golders Green on 4 July 2015; highlights that this rally is due to take place on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, in an area in which 40 per cent of the population is Jewish; praises the public activism in opposition to the rally, particularly the change.org petition to ban it and the work of Hope Not Hate and the London Jewish Forum, under the umbrella of the Golders Green Together campaign, to promote solidarity and celebrate diversity in the local area; believes that every measure should be taken to protect Golders Green's vibrant community from provocation and abuse; and calls on the Home Secretary to consider what further actions the Government could take to isolate the politics of hate and division on our streets.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/165>

News

National Express investigates claim of driver's 'racist and Islamophobic' tirade

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/25/national-express-investigates-claim-of-drivers-racist-and-islamophobic-tirade>

Stagecoach faces criticism over accusations that Oxford bus driver did not stop to pick up Muslims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/stagecoach-faces-criticism-over-accusations-that-oxford-bus-driver-did-not-stop-to-pick-up-muslims-10340550.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Neo-Nazi attack on Asian dentist was a 'terrorist act', say family

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neonazi-attack-on-asian-dentist-was-a-terrorist-act-say-family-10346416.html>

Dentist attack: 'If my brother was white this would be called a terror attack'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11699384/Attacker-on-Lee-Rigby-revenge-mission-guilty-of-attempted-murder.html>

Group of students refused entry to Leicester nightclub 'because they are black'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/group-of-students-refused-entry-to-leicester-nightclub-because-they-are-black-10270145.html?origin=internalSearch>

Report about Asian grooming gangs was suppressed to avoid inflaming racial tension

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11699179/Report-about-Asian-grooming-gangs-was-suppressed-to-avoid-inflaming-racial-tension.html>

Bigoted anti-Muslim Graphics Start to do the Rounds

<http://tellmamauk.org/bigoted-anti-muslim-graphics-start-to-do-the-rounds/>

TELL MAMA – Our Relevance & Our Efficacy – Examples

<http://tellmamauk.org/tell-mama-our-relevance-our-efficacy-example/>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Releases

Call for Scotland Bill engagement

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Call-for-Scotland-Bill-engagement-1a62.aspx>

Scotland Bill is about strengthening the union, not ending it

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-bill-is-about-strengthening-the-union-not-ending-it>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Gypsy Traveller Community (National Halting and Permanent Site Network)

Nigel Don: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to establish a national network of halting and permanent sites for the Gypsy Traveller community. (S4O-04512)

Reply from The Minister for Housing and Welfare (Margaret Burgess): Local authorities are responsible for taking decisions about the provision of Gypsy Traveller sites in their areas, based on their assessment of local accommodation needs. We therefore have no plans for the Scottish Government to establish a national network of sites.

Nigel Don: The minister will understand that councils find it difficult to establish sites

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

because few places are in public ownership. Councillors are naturally reluctant to support approved sites as Travellers are always perceived as bad neighbours, even though we know that many of them cause little trouble. Could the Government use its national planning powers—or at least consider doing so—to provide a national network of halting and permanent sites, because that might enable such a network to happen?

Reply from Margaret Burgess: The Government's position is that decisions about the provision of Gypsy Traveller sites are best made by those who have local knowledge and accountability. A decision on whether to provide a Gypsy Traveller site is therefore one for the relevant local authority. Local authorities could choose to work together to create a national network of sites.

We funded Planning Aid for Scotland to carry out a project on planning and the Gypsy Traveller community. It has now produced guides for councillors and council officials on Gypsy Travellers and the planning system. Those are useful documents that have information on the Gypsy Traveller community and local authorities' legal duties.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10038&i=92125#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

Be inspired to see the world differently at this year's Festival of Politics

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/90770.aspx>

Wider reforms needed to Scottish Parliament committee system

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/90866.aspx>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Annual Report 2014–2015

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Annualreportsandaccounts/AnnualReport14-15_ENG.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Animal Welfare: EU Action

Roger Gale [2954] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the European Commission's study on information to consumers on the stunning of animals, published in May 2015, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the findings of that report; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government welcomes the findings of the Commission's report into the labelling of meat and religious slaughter, which is a serious contribution to the debate. We are studying the findings and look forward to any proposals that come forward from the EU Commission.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-17/2954/>

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Colleen Fletcher [2923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent female genital mutilation in communities affected by that practice.

Colleen Fletcher [2924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what programmes and projects her Department funds that carry out community engagement work to raise awareness of female genital mutilation.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Home Office has provided £100,000 through the FGM Community Engagement Initiative. The fund was open to organisations across all parts of the UK to bid for up to £10,000 to carry out community work to raise awareness of FGM amongst women already affected by FGM, young at-risk girls, as well as men in the community.

The organisations that were funded were:

Africa Advocacy Foundation;

All FM;

BAWSO (Black Association of Women Step Out);

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid;

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development);

Integrate Bristol;

Katherine Low Settlement;

Manchester BME Network;

Manor Garden Welfare Trust;

NESTAC (New Step for African Community);

Safe Hands for Mothers;

and Springfield Community Flat

The Government's specialist Home Office-led FGM Unit launched on 5 December 2014. The Unit provides outreach support to local areas and communities in England and Wales, coordinates cross-Government activity, acts as a hub for effective practice and works with the police, voluntary and community sector, survivors and professionals to develop policies and practices to end FGM.

Additionally, through the Serious Crime Act 2015, we are introducing a new mandatory reporting duty which requires known cases of FGM to be reported to the police.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-17/2923/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-17/2924/>

Detainees: Death

Lord Ouseley [HL429] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Faulks on 10 June (HL139), what assessment they have made of the report by the Institute for Race Relations, *Dying for Justice*, and in particular the finding that, between 1991 and 2014, over 500 deaths occurred in some form of custody, resulting in 10 verdicts of unlawful killing, five prosecutions, and no convictions.

Reply from Lord Faulks: Every death in custody is a tragedy. Each one is investigated independently by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman or the Independent Police Complaints Commission, and is the subject of a coroner's

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

inquest. Every effort is made to learn lessons from these investigations, and the prevention of further deaths is a priority for police, prisons and immigration detention services.

The very small number of cases in which criminal offences are believed to have been committed are referred for further investigation by the police and/or to the Crown Prosecution Service, and where appropriate charges are brought. The final outcome in such cases is a matter for the courts.

The report by the Institute of Race Relations brings together information from a number of sources to highlight the particular issue of deaths of Black and Minority Ethnic people in custody. It describes 509 cases of 'suspicious' death, including large numbers of natural causes deaths as well as self-inflicted deaths and the ten cases that resulted in inquest findings of unlawful killing. These deaths occurred over a period of more than twenty years.

The report acknowledges some of the improvements that have been made during that period. It also reminds us of the enduring nature of many of the issues related to deaths in custody, particularly that the families of the deceased and others in the Black and Minority Ethnic community continue to lack confidence that appropriate action is being taken in response to such deaths. The Government is working to address this, for example through more effective liaison with families, as well as improvements to restraint techniques and training.

The Government announced in February 2014 that Lord Harris of Haringey would lead a review into self-inflicted deaths of 18-24 year olds in NOMS custody. The report will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-11/HL429/>

Radicalism

Jim Shannon [2671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to address the rise in far-right organisations in the UK.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government takes very seriously the need to respond to the threat from all types of extremism. Our new counter-extremism strategy will create a new partnership to protect people from extremism in all its forms: non-violent and violent, neo-Nazi and Islamist. The strategy will also introduce a comprehensive range of additional measures including additional legislation to tackle extremist individuals, groups and to close premises used for extremist activity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-06-16/2671/>

New Publications

Updated practice guide: Islamic financing

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/islamic-financing/practice-guide-69-islamic-financing>

Trust and confidence in the Charity Commission 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/438017/Trust_and_Confidence_in_the_Charity_Commission_2015.pdf

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New Publications

50 Human Rights Cases That Transformed Britain

<http://rightsinfo.org/infographics/fifty-human-rights-cases/>

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Other News

Hundreds of new female genital mutilation cases in West Midlands

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-33211823>

Over 600 new victims of FGM identified in the West Midlands in seven months

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/over-600-new-victims-of-fgm-identified-in-the-west-midlands-in-seven-months-10335513.html>

The unkindest cut

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/article1574013.ece>

'Disgusting' FGM campaign wins prestigious awards

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11699603/FGM-Ogilvy-campaign-wins-Cannes-Lion-awards.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Community Justice Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/88702.aspx>

Criminal Justice Bill

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

Education Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/87330.aspx>

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

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

Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/89893.aspx>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

**** Scotland Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

Evidence session, Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10041&i=92158#ScotParlOR>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Race, ethnicity and employment (closing date 1 July 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/89097.aspx>

**** closes next week!**

Minimum salary thresholds for Tier 2 (closing date 3 July 2015)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437324/Call_for_Evidence_Salary_Thresholds_FINAL.pdf

Proposals for a Lobbying Transparency Bill (closing date 24 July 2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00477580.pdf>

Community Justice Bill (closing date 12 August 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/89658.aspx>

EU Blue Card: recruitment of highly qualified third-country nationals (closing date 21 August 2015)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting_0029_en.htm

**** The devolution of public finances in the United Kingdom** (closing date 21 August 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/devolution-public-finances/Public-Finances-in-a-Devolved-United-Kingdom-Call-for-Evidence-for-publication.pdf>

Further extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to more organisations (closing date 4 September 2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00479060.pdf>

**** Higher Education Governance Bill (closing date 4 September 2015)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/90819.aspx>

Creating A Fairer Scotland: What Matters To You? (no closing date given)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00479666.pdf>

Understanding and Perception of Risk in the Charity Sector (no closing date given)

<https://stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/understanding-and-perception-of-risk-in-the-charity-sector>

Impact on Children of the Family Migration Rules (no closing date given)

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=143229967772>

What's Changed about Being Jewish in Scotland? (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JewishinScotland2015>

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/>

Consultations (continued)

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

Multicultural Scotland: Year of Food and Drink Scotland 2015, and Scotland's Winter Festivals – small grants programme

BEMIS Scotland in conjunction with the Scottish Government have been tasked with developing a series of events between June and January 2016 which will celebrate the rich cultural diversity of Scotland utilising the key cultural characteristics of diverse communities. The small grants programme will enable community groups to develop and host localised Multicultural Celebrations under the 'Year of Food and Drink 2015 and Winter Festivals' banner and showcase this important dynamic of Scotland's identity and evolving heritage. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/project/year-of-food-and-drink/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

BEMIS AGM

2 July 2015 in Glasgow (6.00)

For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 / sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk

**** Festival of Politics**

14-16 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

To read the full programme see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/whats-on/>

**** Scotland and Slavery**

14 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (4.30 – 6.00)

Festival of Politics event to consider the role of Scots in the slave trade and the legacy of that today. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/scotland-and-slavery/>

**** Muslim Women – Freedom, Femininity and Faith**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.00)

Festival of Politics panel discussion to consider freedom, femininity and faith for Muslim women. For information see <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/muslim-women-freedom-femininity-and-faith/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Building a Peaceful Future after Genocide**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss ways of building peace, unity and reconciliation in a region when genocide has taken place. For information see

<http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/building-a-peaceful-future-after-genocide/>

**** Freedom of Speech**

15 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event in the aftermath of the attacks on the French magazine Charlie Hebdo this year which themselves triggered worldwide verbal, written and physical attacks, defenders of freedom of speech were challenged to redefine and reconsider whether that position does have its limits. For information see

<http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/freedom-of-speech/>

**** Migration**

16 August 2015 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (1.30 – 3.00)

Festival of Politics event to reflect on how we engage with migration, and respond to people who are looking to live, work, study and seek refuge in Scotland. For information see

<http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/events/migration/>

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Primary School Information**

30 September 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

1 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see

<http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/>
or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Secondary School Information**

7 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

8 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see

<http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/>
or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Parental Involvement and Engagement**

21 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

22 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see

<http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/>
or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Post 16 Education and Choices**

28 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

29 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see

<http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/>
or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Mother tongue – at home and school**

4 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

5 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

**** Ethnic Minority Parent Workshops: Children's Rights in Scotland**

11 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.30 – 12.30)

12 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

BEMIS / Gathered Together Gathered Together workshops to help parents understand and be more involved in their children's education and what happens in schools. For information see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/ethnic-minority-parent-workshops/> or contact gtevents@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

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Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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