

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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**The UK Parliament is in recess from 18 September until 12 October.  
The next issue of MEMO will be circulated on 7 October.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### English for Speakers of Other Languages

**Tavish Scott:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-26185 by Humza Yousaf on 8 July 2015, what response it has received from the UK Government to the concerns raised by the First Minister. (S4W-27308)

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** From November 2015, Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications will no longer be recognised by UK Visas and Immigration to demonstrate English language skills for settlement and citizenship applications. The First Minister has written twice to the UK Immigration Minister making clear Scottish Government concerns about these changes. The UK Government has however refused to continue to recognise SQA ESOL qualifications for settlement and citizenship applications. We are very disappointed by this response. Scottish Government

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

and Education Scotland officials will remain in touch with SQA and with key sector contacts to monitor, and where possible, mitigate negative impacts of these changes.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-27308&ResultsPerPage=10>

*The question and answer referred to above are:*

*Tavish Scott: To ask the Scottish Government what representations it has made to UK Visas and Immigration regarding the availability of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications through the SQA being available to applicants throughout Scotland in their locality.*

*Reply from Humza Yousaf: In March 2015 the Scottish Government was informed by the UK Minister for Immigration that in November 2015, the UK Government will no longer recognise Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) ESOL qualifications for UK settlement and citizenship applications. The First Minister has made Scottish Government concerns about these proposed changes clear to the UK Immigration Minister and has called on the UK Government to continue to recognise SQA ESOL qualifications as evidence of English language for UK Visas and Immigration requirements.*

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-26185&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Migration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150916/debtext/150916-0001.htm#15091628000005>

## UK Parliament Questions

### English Language: Qualifications

**Alistair Carmichael** [10205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department decided to remove the Scottish Qualifications Authority's English for speakers of other languages examinations from her Department's list of recognised qualifications.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Following significant abuse in the English Language sector that was uncovered in 2014, a procurement exercise was undertaken to strengthen the arrangements for English language testing for immigration purposes. As part of the procurement, any test provider could have made a bid to be included on the list of Secure English language tests.

In order to ensure that all English tests are administered to the same security standards, the procurement exercise included tests suitable for settlement and naturalisation purposes, the decision was taken to apply the SELT arrangements to settlement and naturalisation applications from November 2015.

Trinity and the IELTS Consortium were the only test providers to meet these requirements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10205/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Scientists and Engineers: Visas

**Chuka Umunna** [9220] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many scientists and engineers have been refused a Tier 2 (General) Certificate of Sponsorship since May 2015 due to the annual cap of 20,700; which Standard Occupational Classification codes have been affected by the cap; and how many applications have been refused for each such code.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** An annual limit on Tier 2 migrant workers coming from overseas was introduced in 2011 as a key part of our strategy for reducing net migration. We have committed to maintaining the limit at 20,700 during this Parliament.

Since May 2015, we have not refused any applications for a Tier 2 (General) restricted certificate of sponsorship with a scientist Standard Occupational Classification code. We have refused 66 applications with an engineer Standard Occupational Classification code:

Engineer SOC Codes	Refused
2127 Production and process engineers	2
2123 Electrical engineers	3
2122 Mechanical engineers	4
2124 Electronics engineers	6
2121 Civil engineers	8
2461 Quality control and planning engineers	9
2126 Design and development engineers	13
2129 Engineering professionals not elsewhere classified	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>

A full breakdown of all refusals since May 2015, for each Standard Occupational Classification code, has been placed in the House Library.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-07/9220/>

### Immigrants: Employment

**Patrick Grady** [8942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what circumstances the Employer Checking Service will review or revisit a determination it has made on an individual's right to work in the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Employer Checking Service will review or revisit a decision after a complaint or after receiving further information regarding an individual's immigration status. If an error is found it is rectified immediately.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/8942/>

### Immigration Controls: Nurses

**Colleen Fletcher** [9785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will include nursing on the Shortage Occupation List.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) advises the Government on changes to the Shortage Occupation List.

The MAC considered nurses in its February 2015 report, which can be read at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partial-review-of-the-shortage-occupation-lists>

The evidence provided to the MAC by Government and other organisations is set

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

out in its report.

The MAC recommended, based on the evidence it received, that nurses should not be added to the list.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-09/9785/>

### Nurses: Visas

**Sammy Wilson** [9263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of nurses from outside the European Economic area who will lose their Tier 2 visas because of the requirement that within six years of coming to the UK they must be earning £35,000 or more.

**Reply from John Hayes:** The Government first announced in 2011 our intentions to reform the settlement rules, and those new rules would apply to migrants who entered Tier 2 from 2011.

Following a public consultation, we announced the details of the new rules in 2012. From 6 April 2016, Tier 2 (skilled worker) visa holders who apply for settlement in the UK will be required to meet a minimum annual salary requirement of £35,000.

The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012. The impact assessment is available on the gov.uk website at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-07/9263/>

### Nurses: Migrant Workers

**The Marquess of Lothian** [HL2027] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many NHS nurses they estimate will be affected by the new pay threshold for migrants; and whether they anticipate there will be a shortfall in NHS nursing staff as a result.

**Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton:** The Home Office estimate that there were 713 visas issued to nurses in 2011/12 to whom the pay threshold and six year cap would apply if they are still resident in the United Kingdom.

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for delivering a better health and healthcare workforce for England and for ensuring a secure future supply of nurses with the right skills, values and behaviours to meet future demand.

HEE has increased nurse training places by 11% over the last two years and there are currently over 20,000 more professionally qualified clinical staff since 2010, including over 8,100 more nurses on our wards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL2027/>

### Visas: Overseas Students

**Lord Stevenson of Balmacara** [HL1937] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in (1) the period from 1 January to 30 June 2015, (2) 2014, and (3) 2013, how many credibility interviews of potential international students were undertaken by UK Visas and Immigration; in which countries those credibility interviews took place; and what percentage of students who had been issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies and were subject to a credibility interview were refused a visa to study in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The number of point of application credibility interviews of Tier 4 applicants conducted by UK Visas and Immigration during the time

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

periods requested can be found in the table below. All of these interviews were conducted via video conference by staff based in the UK.

We are unable to provide information on the percentage of students issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies; interviewed and subsequently refused Entry Clearance. We do not hold this data in a format which would allow us to answer the question, and have estimated that to obtain the necessary information would incur disproportionate cost.

We are able to provide the overall refusal rates for student applications for the time periods requested.

<b>Number of Tier 4 credibility interviews conducted*</b>	
<b>Period</b>	<b>Interviews</b>
Apr-13 to Dec-13	102,635
Jan-14 to Dec-14	125,580
Jan-15 to Jun-15	17,330

\*Data is taken from unpublished management Information and is therefore subject to change.

<b>Overall refusal rates for Tier 4 applications</b>	
<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Refusal rate</b>
Q2 2013	8%
Q3 2013	5%
Q4 2013	13%
Q1 2014	15%
Q2 2014	7%
Q3 2014	5%
Q4 2014	11%
Q1 2015	14%
Q2 2015	5%

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1937/>

### **Overseas Students: Immigration Controls**

**Lord Lexden** [HL2208] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have plans to exclude overseas students in institutions of further education from their net migration target.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** International students are included in net migration statistics that 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, and Australia also include students in their net migration figures. Like other migrants, students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here, so it is right that they are included in the net migration count. The ONS estimates that in the year ending March 2015 there was a difference of 96,000 in the number of non-EU students coming to and leaving the UK.



## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions *(continued)*

Therefore student emigration, or the lack of it, is a key driver of overall net migration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2208/>

#### Immigration

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1909] To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts they are making to recognise and meet the genuine need those attempting to enter the United Kingdom at Calais; and what efforts they are making to contribute to finding solutions to the problems arising out of large-scale global migration.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The UK and French Governments have been working together closely for many months to address the situation in northern France, and are committed to resolving it together.

The declaration signed by the Home Secretary and the French Interior Minister, on 20 August, cements a comprehensive programme of work between our two countries.

As part of this, the two Governments agreed that there will be increased observation in the camp in Calais to identify those migrants who are especially vulnerable or potential victims of trafficking. A system for transferring those who are especially vulnerable to places of safety and to offer those people advice and support will also be put in place, within broader arrangements the Republic of France already has.

The UK is also playing a leading role in pushing for comprehensive, long-term action through the EU and the UN to tackle the causes of illegal immigration and the organised trafficking gangs behind it, as well as increasing support and protection for those who need it in North and East Africa.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1909/>

#### Refugees

**Catherine West** [10166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have been accommodated in each local authority in (a) England, (b) Wales and (c) Scotland under the Gateway scheme in each of the last five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** From 2010 up to 30 June this year, 3,822 refugees have been accommodated by 14 local authorities under the Gateway Protection Programme. All 14 local authorities are in England. A further 22 refugees have been resettled with their relatives and were not accommodated by any local authority.

It would not be appropriate for us to release details of where individuals are currently being placed or where they may be placed in the future, as this may undermine their privacy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10166/>

#### Refugees

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Eames** [HL2111] To ask Her Majesty's Government what conversations they have had with the devolved administrations about plans to resettle Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom.

**Lord Eames** [HL2112] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consultations they have had with relevant charitable relief organisations based in the United Kingdom about the future resettlement of Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Lord Eames** [HL2113] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to involve charitable relief organisations in the long-term arrangements for resettling Syrian and other refugees in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The plans to resettle refugees, in particular under the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme announced on 7 September, will be a national effort involving all parts of the UK.

The Prime Minister and First Minister have already exchanged correspondence on the issue and the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Scotland will work closely with the Scottish administration on the arrangements for resettling refugees, with a Home Office official attending the Scottish refugee taskforce. Further discussions are intended with representatives of the administrations of Wales and Northern Ireland.

We are consulting a range of external partners and charitable organisations on refugee resettlement options and they will need to play a full part in the success of the expanded scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-09/HL2111/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-09/HL2112/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-09/HL2113/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Wes Streeting** [9053] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of refugees that the UK will accept from Syria in the next 12 months.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Prime Minister has announced the expansion of the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme, which is based on need rather than fulfilling a quota in a particular year. We expect to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. As the expanded scheme is based on need and reliant on the UNHCR and other partners to deliver, it is not possible or appropriate to set any sort of annual target, but we are clear that we must help people as soon as possible as the Home Secretary updated the House on 16 September.

In addition to the Scheme, since the crisis in Syria began in 2011 we have granted asylum or other forms of leave to almost 5,000 Syrian nationals and dependants through normal asylum procedures. The UK has a proud history of offering asylum to those who need it most; we will continue to carefully consider all asylum applications made in the UK on their individual merits to ensure we provide protection where it is really needed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/9053/>

### Diabetes: Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL2158] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are providing to refugees in the United Kingdom who suffer from diabetes.

**Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton:** Refugees who have been granted asylum status are eligible for services from the National Health Service on the same basis as the general population. This includes access to primary medical care and any

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

specialist diabetes treatment and care required.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-10/HL2158/>

### Refugees: Legal Aid Scheme

**Lord Hylton** [HL2222] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have responded, or plan to respond, to the British Red Cross report *Not so Straightforward: the need for qualified legal aid support in refugee family reunion*; if so, whether they will place copies in the Library of the House; and whether they plan to simplify the current application form for entry to the United Kingdom for family reunion and to provide clear and consistent guidance about it.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Following the publication of the report, I wrote to the British Red Cross to confirm that we are reviewing our process for dealing with applications for refugee family reunion in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Justice.

We are working closely with the British Red Cross and are considering the recommendations in detail.

We are in the process of improving our guidance so that it is clear, consistent and accessible. We are also redesigning the application form to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them. ...

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-15/HL2222/>

### Asylum

**Lord Hylton** [HL2205] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will issue fresh guidance on the Dublin III Agreement concerning asylum applicants, in particular about family reunions.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Government has no plans to change its policy on the application of the Dublin and Eurodac Regulations. Guidance to officials is under review in order to reflect current organisational structures and wider departmental procedures: an updated version will be published once the review has been completed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2205/>

### Asylum

**Louise Haigh** [10105] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 2 July 2015 HCWS83, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of safeguards within the Detained Fast Track procedure to protect vulnerable applicants.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Following the decision to suspend temporarily the Detained Fast Track (DFT), we are reviewing the system and the safeguarding mechanisms. As in the statement made to the House on 2 July, this work will be informed by the findings of the Stephen Shaw review which is due to report shortly. We will update Parliament on revised arrangements for recommencing DFT once they have been finalised.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10105/>

### Asylum

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1906] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Court of Appeal's ruling in *Lord Chancellor v Detention Action* [2015] EWCA Civ 840



## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

regarding the Detained Fast Track, what steps they are taking to ensure that immigration officers can process asylum claims quickly and efficiently.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** On 2 July the Minister for Immigration temporarily suspended the operation of the Detained Fast Track policy. The operation of this policy will resume when the Minister is satisfied that revised structures and safeguards are in place. For those who can be detained in line with general detention policy, the Home Office continues to detain and decide asylum claims quickly under Detained Asylum Casework.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1906/>

#### Asylum

**Lord Hylton** [HL2069] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether adults in receipt of five-year humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom will be allowed to work; and what provision will be made for their education or training.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** People who have been granted five years' humanitarian protection in the United Kingdom, including Syrian nationals admitted under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme, have permission to work and access to broadly the same rights, benefits, education and training as British nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-08/HL2069/>

#### Asylum: Scotland

**Patrick Grady** [9409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on (a) receiving representations and (b) entering into correspondence with Members of the Scottish Parliament on behalf of constituents who are seeking asylum in the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** UK Visas & Immigration responds to enquiries on immigration cases raised by all levels of elected representatives and peers. The Home Office recommends that constituents with immigration enquiries use their Member of Parliament for the speediest response through one of UKVI's six MP Account Management teams across the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-08/9409/>

#### Asylum: Pregnant Women

**Baroness Cumberlege** [HL1941] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the report by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council *When maternity doesn't matter: dispersing pregnant women seeking asylum*, they plan to publish revised guidance on procedures for dispersing and accommodating pregnant women seeking asylum in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The revised guidance will be published shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1941/>

#### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1908] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will give an assurance that no asylum seeker, whatever their status, will be denied the necessary support to avoid destitution.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We are committed to fulfilling the UK's international obligations to meet minimum standards for asylum seekers who would otherwise

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

be destitute until their asylum claim has finally been determined. These minimum standards are met through the support provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, usually in the form of accommodation and a weekly cash allowance of £36.95 to cover essential living needs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1908/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Hylton** [HL2204] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to reverse the cut imposed with effect from August on asylum support, in the light of the fact that this has been frozen since 2011; and whether they will introduce special rates for children under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** There have been two recent changes to the level of the cash allowances provided to destitute asylum seekers to cover their essential living needs.

With effect from 6 April, the allowance provided to asylum seekers without dependants was raised to £36.95 per week (from £36.62).

Since 10 August a standard payment of £36.95 per week has been provided for each person in a family group (the asylum seeker and any dependants). This resulted in a reduction in the total allowance provided to asylum seekers with children. The change was made because a review of the support system showed that the allowances previously provided exceeded the amount necessary to cover essential living needs.

There are no plans to reverse either of these changes. The Government generally reviews the level of the allowances each year and plans to do so again in 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2204/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Hylton** [HL2206] To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds their consultation on reforming support for failed asylum seekers proposes to remove all support from some 15,000 asylum applicants who are not able to produce sufficient evidence to sustain their cases; what assessment they have made of the likelihood that such people will be removed or returned to their countries of origin; and whether they plan to publish a summary of the consultation and their response to it.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The consultation document on reforming support for failed asylum seekers published on 4 August referred to the estimated 15,000 failed asylum seekers and their dependants who were in receipt of support under section 95 or section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 at 31 March 2015. It set out proposals for transitional arrangements for these cases, under which that support would remain available, subject to the use of existing powers under which it can be discontinued. A summary of the consultation and the Government's response to it will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-14/HL2206/>

### Asylum: Housing

**Paul Flynn** [10174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the overall cost to the public purse of Serco's contract with the Government to re-house asylum seekers.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** We cannot divulge the payments made under the COMPASS contracts for reasons of commercial sensitivity.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

However, the costs of the COMPASS contracts were anticipated at the time of procurement to be £172 million in the North West of England, and £82 million in Scotland and Northern Ireland. These costs relate to the full seven year life of the contracts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10174/>

### Asylum: Housing

**Lord Beecham** [HL1862] To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements to support asylum seekers and refugees are included in the contracts with suppliers of accommodation for those people; and what steps they are taking to monitor contractors' performance in this and other respects.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** COMPASS Contract Providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with relevant mandatory and statutory requirements in relation to housing. This includes the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Homes Standard.

Asylum applicants are provided with signposting support services as soon as they arrive at their dispersed accommodation with information and advice that they need in order to cope with the new environment in which they are being accommodated. The focus of this support is the accommodation provided, individual safety, the operating instructions for equipment, facilities and installed items provided for comfort and general living. Service users are also given advice on access to healthcare and how to register with the nearest GP practice or attendance at the nearest hospital in case of immediate medical concerns.

The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place including monthly meetings with providers, and quarterly and biannual strategic meetings. Home Office contract compliance teams scrutinise providers' services on a daily basis (via inspections, monitoring customer service and administrative audit) and they are supported by Home Office Service Delivery Managers. The Home Offices governance regime which is subject to Government oversight through quarterly reports to the Cabinet Office ensures that contracts and providers are well managed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1862/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Ramsbotham** [HL1938] To ask Her Majesty's Government what audit procedures are performed across the immigration detention estate to ensure that the requirements of Detention Services Order 13/2012 regarding the transfer of medical records when transferring detainees between detention centres, or removing them under escort, are carried out.

**Lord Ramsbotham** [HL1939] To ask Her Majesty's Government what audit procedures, if any, exist under the Detention Centre Rules 2001, or other detention centre rules, to monitor the preparation and presentation of medical records and discharge summaries to detainees on release or unescorted removal; if such procedures exist, what were the results of the audit or audits in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; and if such procedures do not exist, whether they plan to take steps to put such procedures in place.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Operating Standards and contracts for service providers in the immigration detention estate require them to operate a schedule of self audit to include compliance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, Operating

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Standards and Detention Service Orders.

Since 1 September 2014 the preparation and presentation of medical records and discharge summaries to detainees on release or unescorted removal is the responsibility of service providers commissioned by NHS England. NHS England's national specifications for healthcare commissioned in Immigration Removal Centres requires providers to have in place a programme of annual audit in line with their organisation's clinical governance framework.

The first annual audits under the new arrangements have not yet taken place.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1938/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-07/HL1939/>

### **Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre: Per Capita Costs**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Stuart McDonald** [8826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average daily cost is of detaining an individual at Dungavel detention centre.

**Stuart McDonald** [8640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average daily cost is of detaining a person at Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** It is not possible to provide details of the cost of a specific Immigration Removal Centre as the information is commercially sensitive, and if it were released, could compromise the Government's ability to continue to drive down costs on behalf of the taxpayer. Nationally, the average cost per day to hold an individual in immigration detention was £91.61 in the year ending June 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/8826/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/8640/>

### **Asylum: Deportation**

**Gareth Thomas** [9083] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions (a) she and (b) Ministers in her Department have had with their EU counterparts on the use of the Dublin Convention to remove asylum seekers to the country in which they were first encountered; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Home Office Ministers have meetings with a wide variety of international partners, as well as organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and delivery. Details of these meetings are passed to the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis and are subsequently published on the Gov.uk website:

<http://data.gov.uk/dataset/ministerial-data-home-office>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/9083/>

### **Illegal Immigrants: Deportation**

**David Davies** [8909] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal migrants have been forcibly deported in the last three years for which figures are available.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The table below shows the published National

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Statistics for the number of illegal migrants removed in the last three years for which complete data is available. Most immigration offenders are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK. Deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. We have taken the question as meaning all enforced removals.

Year ending	Total
June 2013	14,159
June 2014	12,539
June 2015	12,609
Grand Total	39,307

These figures do not include those who left the UK voluntarily from within the immigration detention estate as part of our ongoing promotion of voluntary returns options, for example those who departed on the Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) Scheme whilst in detention, which was available to detainees up to April 2014, or those who choose to buy their own ticket once the subject of enforcement action.

By way of context, these figures correspond over the same period with a rise in the number of departures facilitated by the Home Office without the use of detention, which has been realised by increasing contact with people who are in the UK unlawfully and limiting their access to services for which they are not entitled.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/8909/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motions

**Alison Thewliss (480) Glasgow welcomes refugees** – That this House is pleased to note the vigil in George Square, Glasgow, which took place on 12 September 2015 to show solidarity with refugees fleeing Syria; considers that those attending the vigil also called for the Government to increase vastly the number of refugees it proposes to settle in the UK who have fled conflict and an increasingly desperate humanitarian crisis; echoes the view of those attending the Glasgow Sees Syria vigil that the UK can and must accommodate more refugees in a much quicker timescale than that proposed by the Prime Minister in his statement to the House on 7 September 2015; commends Glasgow City Council for draping a large banner over the frontage of Glasgow City Chambers which stated Glasgow Welcomes Refugees; congratulates the kind-hearted people of Glasgow who have worked so hard to fundraise and donate items of clothing to those fleeing Syria; and calls on the Government to do the right thing and consider increasing the number of refugees it plans to settle in Glasgow and further afield.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/480>

**Chris Law (487) Dundee refugee support** – That this House recognises the outstanding response and contribution of Dundee Refugee Support in raising funds and collecting essential items to support refugees who desperately need help during the



## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Early Day Motions (continued)

unfolding European refugee crisis; praises the work of this organisation and the generosity of the citizens of Dundee; appreciates the urgency of delivering support to those who need it most as quickly as possible; welcomes the establishment of a website by the Scottish Refugee Network in partnership with the Scottish Government to help co-ordinate Scotland's response to the crisis; is concerned about the erection of border fences in a number of European countries and the impact that this may have on those seeking refuge; and calls on the Government to work with European partners to find a sustainable solution to the crisis.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/487>

## Press Releases

### **Urgent refugee action required**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Urgent-refugee-action-required-1d56.aspx>

### **Scotland extends helping hand to refugees**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-extends-helping-hand-to-refugees-1d36.aspx>

### **Proposals will discriminate against migrants**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Proposals-will-discriminate-against-migrants-1d3d.aspx>

### **UK support offered to UN refugee agency**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-support-offered-to-un-refugee-agency>

### **Massive arrival of refugees in Europe**

<http://tinyurl.com/nog5l6a>

### **Relocation of 120 000 refugees - European Commission Statement following the decision at the Extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council**

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150922\\_2\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150922_2_en.htm)

### **European Parliament President Schulz at the European Council: "Compassion and human decency must motivate our political decisions"**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150923STO94354/html/Martin-Schulz-Compassion-and-decency-must-motivate-our-political-decisions>

### **More Responsibility in managing the refugee crisis: European Commission adopts 40 infringement decisions to make European Asylum System work**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5699\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5699_en.htm?locale=en)

### **Managing the refugee crisis: Immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-5700\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5700_en.htm?locale=en)

### **Asylum in the EU - Over 210 000 first time asylum seekers in the EU in the second quarter of 2015 - A third are from Syria or Afghanistan**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STAT-15-5677\\_en.htm?locale=en](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-15-5677_en.htm?locale=en)

### **MEPs give go-ahead to relocate an additional 120,000 asylum seekers in the EU**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150915IPR93259/html/MEPs-give-go-ahead-to-relocate-an-additional-120000-asylum-seekers-in-the-EU>

## Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

**Migration: civil liberties committee to debate Commission plan for permanent relocation scheme**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150921STO94019/html/Migration-civil-liberties-committee-to-debate-permanent-relocation-scheme>

**All countries must contribute to solving global refugee crisis, says General Assembly President**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51928#.VgE8lo-qqko>

**The refugee crisis' toll on children**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/refugee-crisis-toll-children>

## New Publications

**No child should be stateless**

[http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS\\_NoChildStateless\\_final.pdf](http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_NoChildStateless_final.pdf)

**International study for an international career: A survey of the motivations and aspirations of international students in the UK**

[http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc\\_briefing\\_papers/pdf/BP27\\_International\\_study\\_for\\_an\\_international\\_career.pdf](http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_briefing_papers/pdf/BP27_International_study_for_an_international_career.pdf)

## News: Scottish Politics

**Nicola Sturgeon demands UK action on refugee crisis**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/nicola-sturgeon-demands-uk-action-on-refugee-crisis-1-3894130>

**First Minister Sturgeon says Scotland ready to take Syrian refugees following meeting with Foreign Secretary**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13773274.Sturgeon\\_Scotland\\_is\\_ready\\_to\\_take\\_the\\_first\\_Syrian\\_refugees/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13773274.Sturgeon_Scotland_is_ready_to_take_the_first_Syrian_refugees/)

**Sturgeon: Scotland 'willing and able' to take refugees immediately**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34312139>

## News: UK Politics

**Refugee crisis: Theresa May under pressure to increase number of refugees taken by Britain**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-crisis-theresa-may-under-pressure-to-increase-number-of-refugees-taken-by-britain-10499287.html>

**Syrian refugees in new scheme 'to arrive in UK soon' - May**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34268604>

**First Syrian refugees to arrive 'in the coming days', Theresa May says**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13764411.First\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_to\\_arrive\\_in\\_the\\_coming\\_days\\_Theresa\\_May\\_says/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13764411.First_Syrian_refugees_to_arrive_in_the_coming_days_Theresa_May_says/)

## Immigration and Asylum News: UK Politics (continued)

**David Cameron says British aid has prevented 'hundreds of thousands' of refugees from trying to reach Europe - but aid agencies reject claim**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/david-cameron-says-british-aid-has-prevented-hundreds-of-thousands-of-refugees-from-trying-to-reach-europe--but-aid-agencies-reject-claim-10499427.html>

**Refugee crisis: UK government promises extra support to UN refugee agency**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-uk-government-promises-extra-support-to-un-refugee-agency-10509540.html>

## News: Europe

**EU forces nations to take 120,000 refugees**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/eu-forces-nations-to-take-120-000-refugees-1-3895229>

## News: Other Organisations

**Refugees will 'not be housed in spare rooms'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34314195>

**Councils need clarity over refugees - Local Government Association**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34333667>

**Refugee crisis: Local councils asked to open up their empty buildings**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/refugee-crisis-local-councils-asked-to-open-up-their-empty-buildings-1.901303>

**Councils wrestle with practicalities of welcoming refugees**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13772413.Councils\\_wrestle\\_with\\_practicalities\\_of\\_welcoming\\_refugees/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/13772413.Councils_wrestle_with_practicalities_of_welcoming_refugees/)

**Aberdeen 'to take in about 100 migrants'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-34336570>

**Archbishop of Canterbury offers cottage to refugees**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34306514>

**Welby gives home to refugee family**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/National/article1609627.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1609627.ece)

**Archbishop of Canterbury gives refugees his home**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11877667/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-gives-refugees-his-home.html>

**Worship resources created in response to refugee crisis**

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/recent/worship\\_resources\\_created\\_in\\_response\\_to\\_refugee\\_crisis](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/worship_resources_created_in_response_to_refugee_crisis)

**Politicians decide future of vulnerable refugees**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2769\\_politicians\\_decide\\_future\\_of\\_vulnerable\\_refugees](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2769_politicians_decide_future_of_vulnerable_refugees)

## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **News: Background and Comment**

### **The complex reality of fostering a refugee child in Britain**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11864162/Refugee-crisis-The-complex-reality-of-fostering-a-refugee-child-in-UK.html>

### **'Refugees welcome here': UK marchers take to streets with message of support**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/12/refugees-welcome-uk-marchers-un-warns-war-syria-million-displaced>

### **We took Huguenots, Jews, Vietnamese. So why not Syrians?**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/18/britain-helped-refugees-history-syrians>

### **Refugee crisis: Giving cash – not clothes – is the most effective way to help, research says**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-giving-cash--not-clothes--is-the-most-effective-way-to-help-research-says-10499289.html>

### **Charities call for looser asylum rules as UK receives just 1 in 30 of total EU asylum claims**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/charities-call-on-government-to-relax-asylum-rules-as-uk-receives-just-1-in-30-of-total-eu-asylum-applications-10508319.html>

### **Trying to control migration is like putting your finger in the tap**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/world\\_news/article1609324.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/world_news/article1609324.ece)

### **Operation welcome Syria's refugees**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/insight-operation-welcome-syria-s-refugees-1-3892470>

## **News: Other Issues Relating to Immigration and Asylum**

### **Theresa May loses court battles against two failed asylum seekers**

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/sep/14/theresa-may-loses-court-battles-failed-asylum-seekers>

### **Current limits on immigration are anti-family and un-Conservative**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11865903/Current-limits-on-immigration-are-anti-family-and-un-Conservative.html>

### **New English language rules for migrant public sector workers**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11872664/New-English-language-rules-for-migrant-public-sector-workers.html>

### **Illegal migrants in UK face jail if caught driving**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/sep/17/illegal-migrants-in-uk-face-jail-if-caught-driving-a-car>

### **Why David Cameron's immigration rules will worsen nurse shortages**

<http://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2015/sep/16/nurses-philippines-immigration-rules-nhs-staffing-crisis-worse>

### **Young refugees in the UK left demoralised and jobless**

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/sep/15/young-refugees-without-job-right-to-work>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News: Other Issues Relating to Immigration and Asylum (continued)

**Christians who seek asylum 'treated unfairly' by Home Office**

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/National/article1609559.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1609559.ece)

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## Equality

### News

**Ethnic minority students less likely to win university places**

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/sep/18/ethnic-minority-students-less-likely-to-win-university-places>

**British armed forces must recruit more people from ethnic minorities, says Defence Secretary**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-armed-forces-must-recruit-more-people-from-ethnic-minorities-says-defence-secretary-10508450.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News

**"Why was I born a Jew?" - Mother's agony as son is bullied because of his religion**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/why-born-jew-mothers-agony-6483624>

**Glasgow preacher robbed in 'hate crime'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-34304469>

**Police open office on gypsy and traveller site**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11867448/Police-open-office-on-gypsy-and-traveller-site.html>

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## Scottish Devolution

### Press Release

**David Mundell calls for Scottish Government clarity on new powers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-calls-for-scottish-government-clarity-on-new-powers>

### News

**Study examines referendum demographics**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-34283948>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Forced Marriage

**Fiona Mactaggart** [10114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of suspected forced marriage have been reported by the forced marriage unit to the police for investigation and possible prosecution in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out this brutal practice, with our Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat forced marriage both at home and abroad. In 2014, the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1,267 cases. To provide a breakdown on the nature of the assistance provided, including referrals to the police, would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-14/10114/>

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Jeremy Lefroy** [9562] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what services NHS England commissions to support women and girls who have suffered female genital mutilation.

**Reply from Jane Ellison:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) services are the commissioning responsibility of clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and are often provided linked to maternity services. FGM services are not commissioned by NHS England at a national level.

The commissioning of such services by CCGs is being developed, and can now be informed by the publication of national statistics by the Health and Social Care Information Centre. For the first time these show how many patients are treated who have FGM, with data published about local areas.

The Department recently published FGM guidance for commissioners setting out the elements of a successful and safe service. The aim of the document is to highlight what commissioners might want to consider when developing a new FGM service and it can be used by any healthcare commissioners, clinical commissioning groups, area teams and service development leads.

There are details of 14 FGM clinics across England published on the NHS Choices website at: <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/sexual-health-services/Pages/fgm-health-services-for-women.aspx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-08/9562/>

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Mark Hendrick** [8565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of alleged female genital mutilation were investigated by each police force in England on 22 July 2015.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The Home Office does not routinely collect information on the number of police investigations into female genital mutilation (FGM). The new mandatory reporting duty for FGM, introduced through the Serious Crime Act 2015, is due to commence in October this year and will lead to a greater number of cases being referred to the police. However, indicative information provided to the Home Office FGM Unit shows that the level of reporting of this crime to police is increasing. For example, the Metropolitan Police Service received 81 reports of suspected FGM in 2013/14, compared to 25 in 2011/12. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary is currently undertaking an

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

inspection into 'honour' based violence, including FGM, which will help to build a better picture of the police response.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-09-04/8565/>

## Press Releases

**Eid al-Adha 2015: David Cameron's message**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eid-al-adha-2015-david-camerons-message>

**Foreign Secretary's message for Eid al-Adha**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-message-for-eid-al-adha>

## New Publication

**Female Genital Mutilation - April-June 2015, Enhanced Dataset**

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB18533>

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## Other News

**Religious speakers to sign anti-extremism register**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4556146.ece>

**Abuse going unreported in Britain's south Asian communities – study**

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/sep/19/abuse-going-unreported-in-britains-south-asian-communities-study>

**Settled Gypsies could be forced back on to the road by new planning laws**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/settled-gypsies-could-be-forced-back-on-to-the-road-by-new-planning-laws-10509414.html>

**NHS uncovers 1,000 FGM cases in England**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-34335853>

**BBC Open Newsroom Day**

Opportunity for 16-24-year-olds to spend a day in a BBC newsroom, and find out what it is like to be a news presenter or film a story, edit the pictures or report online. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15x\\_bbc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15x_bbc.pdf)

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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>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10086&i=93115#ScotParIOR>

#### **\*\* Criminal Justice Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill35ML2S042015.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill35ML2S042015.pdf)

#### **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>

Supplementary financial Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57AFMS042015.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Human%20Trafficking%20Bill/SPBill57AFMS042015.pdf)

#### **Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill**

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

## **Bills in Progress**

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill**

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

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

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

#### **\*\* Immigration Bill**

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

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/15074.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/en/15074en.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/461687/Immigration\\_Bill\\_Delegated\\_powers\\_memo.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461687/Immigration_Bill_Delegated_powers_memo.pdf)

European Convention of Human Rights Memorandum

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/462206/Immigration\\_Bill\\_ECHR\\_Memo.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462206/Immigration_Bill_ECHR_Memo.pdf)

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### Immigration Bill (*continued*)

Overarching Impact Assessment

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/461689/Overarching\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461689/Overarching_Impact_Assessment.pdf)

Factsheet – Overview of the Bill

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/462004/Immigration\\_Bill\\_Factsheet\\_01\\_-\\_overarching.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462004/Immigration_Bill_Factsheet_01_-_overarching.pdf)

First Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm150917/debtext/150917-0002.htm#15091732000011>

#### Scotland Bill

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

#### UK Borders Control Bill

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Review of Tier 2 [of the points-based immigration system]** (closing date 25 September 2015)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/441429/Call\\_for\\_Evidence\\_Review\\_of\\_Tier\\_2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441429/Call_for_Evidence_Review_of_Tier_2.pdf)

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

**Testimonies on the impact that the EU has had on the lives of people in Scotland**

(closing date 30 September 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/91225.aspx>

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

**EU Blue Card: recruitment of highly qualified third-country nationals** (closing date extended to 30 September 2015)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting\\_0029\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting_0029_en.htm)

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

**Veterinary Surgeons: language control for EU migrants** (closing date 30 September 2015)

[https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/vet\\_language\\_controls](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/vet_language_controls)

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

**Consultation on the draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in England and Wales** (closing date 30 September 2015)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-draft-statutory-multi-agency-practice-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

## Consultations (continued)

**\*\* closes next week!**

**The Union and Devolution** (closing date 2 October 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/constitution/union-and-devolution/The%20Union%20and%20Devolution%20Call%20for%20Evidence.pdf>

**Countering Extremism** (closing date 8 Oct)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/150827-new-inquiry-countering-extremism/>

**Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 12 October 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/91986.aspx>

**\*\* Syrian Refugee Crisis** (closing date 12 October 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry-name/>

**Mediterranean migration inquiry** (closing date 21 October 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/mediterranean-migration/>

**Smart Borders Package** (closing date 29 October 2015)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150729\\_01\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2015/20150729_01_en.htm)

**Hate Crime Reporting in Scotland** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/amina-hatecrime>

**Experiences and opinions about having been a volunteer** (no closing date given)

<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/738838/newtest/Y/lang/en>

**Experience and practice about working with young volunteers** (no closing date given)

<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/454824/newtest/Y/lang/en>

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

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

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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**

**Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund**

**Deadline for applications: 12 October 2015**

Voluntary Action Fund grants to help small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland with income under £25,000 to run an event or engagement activity to gather views on how we can create a Fairer Scotland. Grants of up to £300 (or exceptionally up to £500 for a larger event) are available to support an event or



## Funding Opportunities (continued)

engagement activity with a group of five or more people to discuss how we can create a Scotland where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/fairer-scotland-engagement-fund>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### Minority ethnic community conversations

29 September 2014 in Glasgow (G3) (9.30 – 12.30)

1 October 2015 in Glasgow (G40) (5.30 – 8.30)

3 October 2015 in Glasgow (G41) (9.30 – 12.30)

Series of events bringing together people from minority ethnic communities and public service providers from the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to give minority ethnic communities a voice and a way to influence community planning. For information contact Helen Hunter [helen.hunter2@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:helen.hunter2@glasgow.gov.uk) / 0141 287 0060

**\*\* this week!**

### Fairer Scotland

29 September 2015 in Kilmarnock (5.30 – 9.00)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-kilmarnock-tickets-18167729167>

7 October 2015 in Inverness (1.30 – 5.00)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-inverness-tickets-18178512420>

14 October 2015 in Midlothian (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-midlothian-tickets-18178524456>

20 October 2015 in Dumfries (1.30 – 5.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-dumfries-tickets-18178531477>

29 October 2015 in Stornoway (1.30 – 5.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-stornoway-tickets-18178557555>

5 November 2015 in Dundee (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-dundee-tickets-18178566582>

10 November 2015 in Inverclyde (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-inverclyde-tickets-18178573603>

17 November 2015 in Glasgow (5.30 – 9.00)

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairer-scotland-planning-event-glasgow-tickets-18178575609>

Voluntary Action Fund events to hear, discuss, prioritise, and take action on ideas to create a Fairer Scotland, and make people's lives better. This is your chance to think about and prioritise ideas that will help make Scotland a fairer place to live and make a real impact on Scotland's future. For information see the relevant weblink above.

**\*\* this week!**

### Supporting Youth-Led Research: Training for Youth Workers

30 September 2015 in Dundee

YouthLink Scotland training for youth workers who would like to know more about supporting young people to undertake research into issues that affect them and their communities. For information see <https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/supporting-youth-led-research-training-for-youth-workers-2> or contact Amy Goulding 0131 313 2488

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

#### **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](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **\*\* next week!**

#### **Creating a Fairer Scotland Community Conference**

3 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.00)

Opportunity for asylum seekers and refugees to tell the Scottish Government what matters to them and what needs to be done to make their life better. For information see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0060/Fairer\\_Scotland.pdf](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0060/Fairer_Scotland.pdf) or contact [communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 07734 030 760

### **\*\* next week!**

#### **Employment and Equality Rights**

5 October 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 3.00)

Scottish Employment Rights Network and Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference and Practical Workshops on Discrimination Claims to increase awareness of how best to protect employment and equality rights from first complaint, lodging an Employment Tribunal claim and preparing cases for tribunal. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15x\\_sern.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/15x_sern.pdf) or contact Kyle Mulholland [equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com) / 0141 228 5925.

### **\*\* next week!**

#### **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](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

#### **15 Days of Action: Young People's Event**

8 October 2015 in Glasgow (11.00)

British Institute of Human Rights event for young people between the ages of 11 and 18 to find out how the Human Rights Act works and what it means about how we should be treated by people who have power over us. For information see <https://www.bihr.org.uk/Event/15-days-of-action-young-peoples-event-glasgow>

#### **15 Days of Action: Community Event**

9 October 2015 in Arbroath (10.00)

British Institute of Human Rights event to debate current media and political issues, including the future of the Human Rights Act. For information see <https://www.bihr.org.uk/Event/15-days-of-action-full-day-community-event-arbroath>

#### **Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage**

12 October 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Training to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/nq29vuo>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Section 4 Support: How to Win Appeals**

21 October 2015 Online Webinar (10.00 – 11.30)

Asylum Support Appeals Project webinar to discuss the eligibility criteria for section 4 support, examine some of the most common grounds of appeal and provide hints and tips on how to prepare successful appeals. For information see <https://asaproject.clickmeeting.com/section-4-appeals/register>

### **Further Submissions, JR and Asylum Support: What You Need to Know**

22 October 2015 Online Webinar (10.00 – 11.30)

Asylum Support Appeals Project webinar for delegates with experience of asylum support casework and legal practitioners to explore the issue of how access to asylum support is affected when an asylum seeker's further submissions have been refused, and steps are being taken towards judicial review of this decision. For information see <https://asaproject.clickmeeting.com/further-subs-asylum-support/register>

### **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](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **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](mailto:gtevents@bemis.org.uk) / 0141 548 8047.

### **Organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day**

6 November 2015 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop for people interested in organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2016. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / [enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk) or see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hmdt-workshop-glasgow-tickets-17792785701?ref=ebtn>

### **Organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day: young people**

7 November 2015 in Glasgow (12.00 – 3.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Youth Champions workshop for people aged 14 to 24 who are interested in organising an activity to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2016. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / [enquiries@hmd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@hmd.org.uk) or see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hmdt-youth-workshop-glasgow-tickets-17792908067?ref=ebtn>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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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