

## 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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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Refugees (Housing)

**Alex Johnstone:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has determined the number of homes that are immediately available to house refugees in Scotland. (S4T-01161)

**Reply from the Minister for Housing and Welfare (Margaret Burgess):** Scotland is expected to take around one third of the refugees who are expected to arrive in the United Kingdom before Christmas through the Syrian refugee resettlement programme. That is testament to the work of the members of the refugee task force and all our partners around Scotland.

Local authorities are responsible for identifying accommodation for refugee households, and local authorities that will welcome refugee households have identified housing as part of their on-going preparation. They will also ensure that other services are ready to support the wider needs of refugee households.

As co-chair of the accommodating refugees sub-group of the task force, I am very

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

aware of and welcome the great lengths that local authorities have gone to in order to ensure that accommodation and support are in place for refugee households.

**Alex Johnstone:** I presume that the minister has included Bute house in the number of homes that are available, given the First Minister's declared intention to provide accommodation for a refugee.

Many communities across Scotland want to be part of the process and look forward to welcoming refugees, but there are currently an estimated 173,587 households on local authority or common housing register lists. With waiting lists of that size, is the minister confident that she will be able to allocate refugees around Scotland in such a way that will achieve a fair distribution and avoid the terrible error of putting them all in the same place, with the pressures that that may bring about?

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** Local authorities across Scotland have very much indicated their willingness to accommodate refugees. It is up to the local authorities, which work directly with the Home Office, to determine the best accommodation for them.

We have to make it very clear that the work is not just about the accommodation; it is about finding houses and ensuring that other services are available for the refugees. We are very confident that, through the task force sub-group that I co-chair, refugees will be taken into local authority areas across Scotland and they will all be accommodated and have support services to go with that accommodation.

**Alex Johnstone:** The minister and other political parties are making plans for how they will construct more social and affordable housing in the next session of Parliament. Can the minister make a commitment at this time that the local authorities that have dug deepest, have the biggest waiting lists and are willing to do their part will be given an appropriate level of support to ensure that additional houses can be built in those areas during the next five years?

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government and the First Minister have already made very clear our commitment to increasing housing across all tenures in Scotland, and we continue to do that.

As I said in my earlier answer, local authorities work directly with the Home Office in accommodating the refugees, and our responsibilities to the people of Scotland do not prevent us from taking the right humanitarian approach on housing and housing refugees.

We are looking very carefully at the matter and are working closely with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the 32 local authorities to ensure that refugees are accommodated across Scotland in good accommodation, as any other person on the waiting lists in Scotland would expect.

**Bruce Crawford:** Does the minister agree with the approach that Stirling Council has taken in recently holding a summit of all interested parties in the Stirling area, including registered social landlords and private landlords in the council's own housing area, on how to provide services for the refugees who will eventually arrive, and in working together to come to an appropriate conclusion on how best to provide services for refugees in the future? I recommend that approach to others across Scotland.

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** Yes, I very much welcome the approach by Stirling Council and other local authorities across Scotland. Community planning partnerships are taking the same approach. Communities are coming together, and housing services, voluntary agencies and members of the public are all looking together at how best we can support refugees when they come to Scotland.

**Reply from Patricia Ferguson:** Does the minister agree that a welcome change in this

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

round of refugee settlement is that so many local authorities are coming forward? In the past, it seemed as though only Glasgow City Council was responsible for rehousing refugees, because no other local authority would come forward. Does she welcome the efforts being made not only by local authorities across the country but by organisations such as the Maryhill Integration Network, which provides such wonderful support to new and existing members of our community and ensures, wherever it can, that those relationships remain harmonious?

**Reply from Margaret Burgess:** Yes, I very much support what the member said. I welcome local authorities looking at taking refugee families into their communities. Local authorities have learned a lot from what Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Housing Association have done in the past. Their experience has been shared, and other local authorities are confident that they can provide the required services and a support network like the one in Glasgow.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10188&i=93884#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament Questions

### English Language: Scotland

**Alistair Carmichael** [14302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on students in Orkney and Shetland of reducing the accredited English language courses available to students in the highlands and islands of Scotland.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office has not reduced accredited English language courses in the highlands and islands of Scotland, including Orkney & Shetland.

Following a procurement exercise, the Home Office has reduced the number of test centres in the UK that are able to provide Secure English Language Testing for immigration purposes, but this should not affect the availability of English language courses in Scotland or in any other part of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-02/14302/>

### Immigration Controls: Criminal Records

**Andrew Rosindell** [14395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will take steps to ensure that it is aware of the criminal histories of all people admitted into the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The UK has detailed arrangements in place to identify people of concern seeking to enter the country. All passengers are checked against police, security and immigration watchlists and where we are aware of individuals who pose a risk, Border Force officers can – and do - refuse them entry.

The onus for flagging a threat lies with the authorities in their home country and the UK is leading the way in Europe on improving the exchange of information in cases involving dangerous criminals. In April the UK connected to the second generation Schengen Information System (SISII), this provides us with real time information about all those individuals wanted under a European Arrest Warrant so that they can be stopped at the border.

Since 2010, checks on foreign nationals going through the UK criminal justice system have increased by more than 1,500 per cent, helping ensure more foreign criminals are taken off our streets and making our communities safer.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

In September, we introduced a new requirement for Tier 1 investor and entrepreneur applicants to supply an overseas criminal record certificate covering the last 10 years as part of their application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-02/14395/>

### Visas: Overseas Students

*The following two questions received the same answer*

**Lord Teverson** [HL3406] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of halving the maximum visa refusal rate on the Highly Trusted Sponsor status given to higher education institutions in the UK.

**Lord Teverson** [HL3407] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering making further reductions in the maximum university visa refusal rate in relation to Highly Trusted Sponsor status.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Highly Trusted Sponsor status was replaced with Tier 4 Sponsor status in April 2015.

The maximum permitted visa refusal rate for Tier 4 sponsors was reduced from 20% to 10% in November 2014 to make sure that the colleges and universities who directly benefit from student migration help prevent abuse, and to ensure that institutions are only offering places to genuine students with an appropriate level of English.

Since the new rate was introduced, visa applications from students wishing to study at the UK's world-class universities have continued to rise. Latest figures show that visa applications from university students are now 17 per cent higher than they were in 2010, and visa applications to Russell Group universities are 33 per cent higher than in 2010.

We will continue to keep the visa refusal rate under review but we have no imminent plans to change the maximum permitted rate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-09/HL3406/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-09/HL3407/>

### Immigrants: Travel Requirements

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Louise Haigh** [13993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many certificates of travel with a validity of 12 months or less were granted to people with indefinite leave to remain in each year since 2010.

**Louise Haigh** [14078] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason people with indefinite leave to remain have been granted certificates of travel with validity of less than five years.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Certificates of travel (COT) are normally issued for 5 years to individuals with indefinite leave to remain. COTs may be issued for a shorter duration where

- There are Security or criminality reasons to do so
- The applicant has lost or abused previous documents
- The COT is being issued solely to facilitate the applicant travelling to their country of nationality to obtain a national passport.
- There is an urgent short term need to travel, and the applicant's embassy cannot process a passport application fast enough.

The table below shows the number of COT valid for 12 months or less where the

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

applicant has ILR for each year since 2010.

This data only counts people who have submitted applications for ILR in country. It excludes people who have ILR on Asylum grounds. The data also excludes any people with an ILR grant which pre dates the Case Information Database.

Year Number of Cases

2010 50

2011 50

2012 15

2013 15

2014 35

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-29/13993/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-29/14078/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL2704] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the cuts in the budget of the Ministry of Justice on the ability of first-tier tribunals to hear and determine immigration and asylum appeals.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** The Government is confident that there is sufficient funding to enable the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration & Asylum Chamber) to hear and determine the number of immigration and asylum appeals to be received during 2015-2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-19/HL2704/>

### Migrant Workers

**Matt Warman:** What steps he is taking to prevent businesses exploiting migrant workers. [902091]

**Reply from the Minister for Skills (Nick Boles):** We are creating a director of labour market enforcement. This will strengthen our ability to find and stop exploitative employers, such as the 41 businesses in my hon. Friend's constituency who have had their gangmasters' licences refused or revoked.

**Matt Warman:** As my hon. Friend knows, Lincolnshire produces some of the finest food in the country, but some of its workers are affected by the issues under discussion. Does he agree that it should be as much down to supermarkets and consumers to make sure that everyone knows that the food we eat is produced in humane conditions?

**Reply from Nick Boles:** I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend. It is very important that supermarkets and other traders are as transparent as possible about the work they have done to ensure that nowhere in their supply chain is there any kind of slavery or other kind of labour exploitation. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 specifically requires them to make a statement of that kind.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151110/debtext/151110-0001.htm#15111034000027>

### Refugees

**Lord Blencathra** [HL2836] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Church of England following the letter sent to the Prime Minister by 86 bishops on 10 September about the Church providing funds to meet all additional costs of increasing the number of refugees taken into the United Kingdom; and what assessment they have made of the further support the Church of England can provide to

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

meet the needs of refugees in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** On 10 September 2015 a letter signed by 37 Bishops was sent to the Prime Minister. This letter set out how the Church stands ready to play their part but also how they believe the country could resettle more than 20,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years.

The Home Office wants to involve the Church in the design and implementation of the longer term programme of work. We are happy to have meetings with representatives from the Church to discuss the issues raised in the Bishops letter. Some of these meetings have already taken place with more planned over the next few weeks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-21/HL2836/>

### Refugees: Children

**Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead [HL3025]** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are considering allowing refugee children to join relatives, such as grandparents, in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Our refugee family reunion policy allows immediate family members of a person in the UK with refugee leave or humanitarian protection status - that is a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18, who formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country of origin - to reunite with them in the UK. We have no plans to extend these provisions.

Where a family reunion application is rejected under the Immigration Rules, such as in the case of refugee child applying to join extended relatives, the Entry Clearance Officer must consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting a visa outside the Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-26/HL3025/>

### Refugees: Children

**Paul Monaghan [14440]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what measures are in place to protect orphaned children from exploitation subsequent to their being taken to the UK from (a) Syria and (b) other countries and removed from their extended family.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Any child who arrives in the UK unaccompanied, either as a result of resettlement or via another route, would be expected to receive the same protection and support as a child who is resident in the UK, under the provisions set out in the Children Act 1989, as amended, and related statutory guidance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-02/14440/>

### Refugees: Iraq

**Lord Green of Deddington [HL3176]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 22 October (HL2920), how many Iraqis have been granted refugee status in the United Kingdom in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The numbers of Iraqi nationals (main applicants and dependants) granted asylum or another form of protection in the UK, in each year since 2010 were as follows:

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Number of Iraqi nationals granted asylum or another form of protection in the UK (for main applicants and dependants), based on initial decisions <sup>1</sup>	
Year	Total grants <sup>2</sup>
2010	169
2011	113
2012	95
2013	109
2014	208

(1) Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) Total grants include grants of Asylum, Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave, grants under family and private life rules, Leave Outside the Rules and UASC leave

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3176/>

### Refugees

**Toby Perkins** [14166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that at least 1,000 refugees are resettled in the UK before Christmas 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** The Government has committed to resettling 20,000 Syrian Refugees in the lifetime of this Parliament. The Prime Minister has said that we want to see 1,000 brought to the UK by Christmas.

The Government is working closely with local authorities; international delivery partners and the voluntary sector, putting in place the plans and structures to deliver this and ensuring the system is scaled up in a way that protects the interests of all concerned.

Details on numbers will be published in the regular quarterly immigration statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-30/14166/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Roger Godsiff** [11546] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that at least 1,000 Syrian children are brought to settle in the UK before Christmas 2015.

**Richard Harrington:** Scaling up the system in a way that protects the interests of all concerned, including local communities, will take a little bit of time. It will take several months to reach full capacity. However, on 19 October, I set out our intention to welcome 1,000 Syrian refugees (adults and children) before Christmas. This is the ambition that the Home Office are working towards and we will report on it after Christmas.

We are not expecting the refugees arriving in the first months of the scheme to include unaccompanied children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-13/11546/>

### Syria: Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3107] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support is in place to help local authorities to resettle Syrian refugees.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under the expanded Vulnerable Persons scheme, local authorities costs for the first year of a Syrian refugee's resettlement

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

are funded from the Official Development Assistance budget. To ensure that local authorities can plan ahead we will also provide additional funding to assist with costs incurred in future years (2 to 5). The Government is working closely with the Local Government Association and individual councils on the details of how funding arrangements for years 2 to 5 will operate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-28/HL3107/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Hilary Benn** [14380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been identified for resettlement in the UK as part of the vulnerable Syrian refugee resettlement programme since 20 September 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** UNHCR identifies and proposes Syrian refugees for the VPR scheme from among the whole of the registered refugee population in the region, over 4 million people. This includes people in formal refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities. Approximately 430,000 registered refugees meet UNHCR's vulnerability criteria.

We will not be giving a running commentary on how many people have been identified for resettlement in the UK. Not all referrals translate into arrivals for a variety of reasons. We therefore do not consider it would be appropriate to provide this figure. Notwithstanding this the Home Office is committed to publishing data on arrivals through the resettlement programme in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 26 November 2015 and will cover the period July-September 2015. These numbers will be updated each quarter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-02/14380/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Jamie Reed** [13769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will publish its strategic plan for housing Syrian refugees.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** This is a voluntary scheme whereby local authorities sign up to accept refugees on a voluntary basis. Housing is one element they would take into consideration before participating. We are working closely with those local authorities that have indicated they wish to be involved as well as with the Local Government Associations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-28/13769/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Jamie Reed** [13774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees she expects to be housed in the UK by December 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** The Government has committed to resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees in the lifetime of this Parliament. The Prime Minister has said that we want to see 1,000 refugees brought to the UK by Christmas.

The Government is working closely with local authorities, international delivery partners and the voluntary sector, putting in place the plans and structures to deliver this and ensuring the system is scaled up in a way that protects the interests of all concerned.

Details on numbers will be published in the regular quarterly immigration statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-28/13774/>



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugees: Syria

**Lord Blencathra** [HL2837] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost, in the first year, of accepting Syrian refugees.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The first 12 months of each refugee's resettlement costs will be funded using ODA (Official Development Assistance). After year one we will also provide additional funding to assist with costs incurred in future years. The anticipated cost for the first year is still being worked out between relevant Government departments and local authorities. We expect to agree indicative costings in the near future. There are a range of factors that have to be included when it comes to bringing people to the UK and helping them to settle. Each person coming from Syria will have different needs so it is not possible to say how much the support for any individual will cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-21/HL2837/>

### Refugees: Syria

**The Earl of Sandwich** [HL2941] To ask Her Majesty's Government which towns in the United Kingdom have been designated as potential destinations for Syrian refugees arriving under the Government's Gateway Protection Programme; which town councils have so far indicated acceptance; and of what numbers.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Syrian refugees are brought to the United Kingdom as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. This scheme has been expanded to resettle up to 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. This is in addition to those we resettle under the Gateway and Mandate schemes which are completely separate schemes. Resettlement under the government schemes is voluntary on the part of local authorities. We are grateful to those who take on this role and will continue to work in partnership with them. We do not disclose the details of where refugees will be resettled upon their arrival in the UK under the Government resettlement schemes as this may undermine the privacy and recovery of this vulnerable group of people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-22/HL2941/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Alistair Carmichael** [14617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees arrived in the UK through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme in October 2015.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** The refugees that we are bringing to the United Kingdom are very vulnerable people. Our prime concern is their safety and protection as they arrive in this country. We believe that one way to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available. We want to ensure the understandable public interest in the scheme is not based on a running commentary on the numbers that have arrived.

Notwithstanding this the Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 26 November 2015 and will cover the period July-September 2015. These numbers will be updated each quarter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-03/14617/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Syria: Refugees

**Hilary Benn** [14772] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the number of Syrian children in Europe who are (a) vulnerable to trafficking and (b) unaccompanied.

**Reply from Philip Hammond:** As of 2 November the number of people arriving in Europe had reached 745,229 according to the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Of these 149,045 are children, including around 79,000 Syrian children. Humanitarian organisations are expecting that, given the rate of arrivals, a total of 225,000 children will need assistance between September and December 2015. All of these are considered to be vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-04/14772/>

### Syrian Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have entered the United Kingdom under the vulnerable persons relocation scheme for Syrian nationals, and what, if any, are the advantages of that scheme as compared to entry under normal immigration regulations.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates):** My Lords, the last published figures show that, by June 2015, 216 people were resettled in the UK under the Syrian resettlement scheme. Additionally, we have granted 5,000 Syrians protection under the normal asylum procedure since 2011. The Government will resettle 20,000 Syrians this Parliament. Resettlement provides exceptional protection routes for vulnerable cases whom the UNHCR judges are unable to access adequate support in the region, providing help by resettling them to the UK.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** ... is it not really rather difficult, when the Prime Minister has promised that we shall have 1,000 refugees settled here by Christmas and only 216 were resettled in the summer? Also, how are you going to make sure that the promise of 1,000 refugees is fulfilled? The 20,000 in five years does not compare very well with Canada, which is taking 25,000 by Christmas. How are the people who come going to be accommodated? Have the Government been in touch with local authorities? Even this morning, I had a text message from somebody in my own valley who said, "We want to accommodate Syrian refugees". What are you doing about that?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Specifically on the last point of the local authorities, Richard Harrington, a Member in the other place, is the Minister with responsibility for the Syrian refugees who are coming to this country, and he is working very closely with the local authorities and devolved Administrations on this important issue. The Prime Minister has repeated his claim that he wants to see 1,000 here by Christmas, and the Home Office and all other groups are working to ensure that that happens. A key part of this is that the resettlement scheme comes through the UNHCR, and we want the UNHCR to identify the people who are most vulnerable to ensure that those who are most at risk get the protection that we want to give them.

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark:** My Lords, how close are Her Majesty's Government to announcing the details of a third route in addition to the two mentioned in the noble Lord's Question—namely, the introduction of a private sponsorship scheme, in which many faith and community groups have expressed strong interest? This would enable faith communities to work in partnership with the Government and reflects a desire to do this, as expressed by the Bishops in their recent letter to the Prime Minister.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** That is under active consideration at the moment. Of course, many of the people on whom we are focusing at present are the most

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

vulnerable and in need, particularly of medical care and what have you, so they may not be appropriate for the type of generous offer that has been made. But we have talked about creating a register for charities, churches and faith groups to get involved; there is also a page on the government website that tells people how they can get involved. Once the immediate urgency is over and the first group is brought to the UK safely, we will very much want to take up those offers of great generosity by others.

**Lord Higgins:** My Lords, would my noble friend agree that, with regard to the Answer to this Question and more generally, it would be immensely helpful if the Government had a means of communicating with refugees? Would they therefore consider very carefully setting up an app on the web so that refugees using their phones—which seems to be true across the whole of Europe and beyond—could access this information in a way that would be cost effective and extremely helpful both for them and for the Government?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** That is an intriguing idea. Of course, the key point is that we want to get the message out to people who are thinking of travelling and taking these dangerous routes to the UK that there is now a better chance of their actually achieving the resettlement that they seek by going through the UNHCR and staying where they are. However we can communicate that information to them, we need to do that. The use of technology is one answer. The topic is seriously on the agenda and is the main focus of the summit in Valletta on Wednesday and Thursday this week. I shall follow that up with my noble friend.

**Lord Reid of Cardowan:** My Lords, it is obviously right and proper that the Government respond to the terrible plight of the Syrian refugees, but in order that the people of this country who might have any fears that such a system would be misused by those who would wish to damage this country and the people of this country, could the Minister say something about the security screening that accompanies the acceptance of the refugees?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The noble Lord is absolutely right. That is one of the reasons why we want the application and vetting processes to happen under the auspices of the UNHCR in the refugee camps rather than having a group of people attempting to enter the UK so that we have to make those judgments at the border. We want it to take place in the Middle East so that the right people can be brought to this country and the wrong people cannot.

**Baroness Hamwee:** My Lords, I heard this morning of an asylum seeker from Syria who has been told by the Home Office at Croydon that he cannot even make an application for asylum for another two months, which means that he cannot access Section 95 benefits and is dependent on the charity sector for clothing, food and so on. Can the Minister assure the House that, even though the vulnerable persons scheme is working in conjunction with the UNHCR, there is not a backlog growing in the Home Office as a result of the work which is being done? The person who told me about this also commented that it would be a pity if a backlog grew up because the Home Office seems to be getting much better at processing applications more quickly.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** As the noble Baroness knows, many of the people arrive at our border without any identification documents. To come back to the previous point, we need to make those checks and be absolutely sure that we are not putting the people of this country at risk by allowing people in. If there is a specific case, I am happy to take it up with the noble Baroness later. It underscores the importance of getting the message out that the way to approach Syrian refugees is through the UNHCR and the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme.

**Baroness Butler-Sloss:** Will the Government reconsider taking some of the unaccompanied children who have crossed into Europe? We have had a very good record, particularly at the beginning of the war, in terms of looking after the children.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

There are some who really do need our help as well as that of other countries.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** I am aware of that; that is Save the Children's proposal, which it has talked about. The UNHCR has cautioned against taking unaccompanied children into the country because they are particularly vulnerable. The scheme we are proposing in Syria would enable not only children but their parents and brothers and sisters to qualify. We think that that is a better route.

**Lord Rosser:** Will the Minister clarify the situation a little more? How many councils in the United Kingdom have finalised agreements, including financial arrangements with the Government, to take 1,000 Syrian refugees before the end of the year under the scheme? How many Syrian refugees are covered by agreements that have already been finalised?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** We have issued guidance on this for local authorities. The Prime Minister made the announcement on 7 September and it is up to local authorities to come forward and volunteer to be part of the scheme, and they are coming forward. That is important because they need to make sure that they have the ability, through schools and social care, to do it properly. This is a fast-moving situation. We do not have a number on the specific local authorities, but 140 individuals have arrived since 7 September. The Prime Minister has given a commitment that we will seek to get 1,000 here by Christmas. We will do that, providing we work in partnership with local authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151109-0001.htm#1511093000504>

### Asylum: Applications

**Stephen Timms** [11987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reduce the time taken to process asylum applications.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** We have an ongoing recruitment campaign to ensure we maintain our levels of decision makers and have also began work to further improve on the efficiency of our interview and decision-making process across case work teams. We have significantly improved our suite of guidance on considering asylum claims, including key instructions on asylum interviews and assessing credibility. We have also streamlined processes by reducing the volume of paperwork required and cutting duplication in the asylum process, including improvements to the way in which decisions are explained to applicants in correspondence to make it easier to understand. These changes are designed to support caseworkers to improve decision quality and efficiency to ensure we grant protection where it is needed whilst refusing unfounded claims more quickly, whilst also ensuring a more customer focused approach. We aim to decide straightforward asylum claims within six months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-14/11987/>

### Deportation

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3108] To ask Her Majesty's Government what safeguards are in place to ensure and monitor the security and wellbeing of individuals deported from the United Kingdom to potentially dangerous home countries.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The Home Office does not routinely monitor the treatment of individuals once removed from the UK as they have been found not to need protection and therefore that they are not at real risk of harm. Each case is considered on its individual merits including, where relevant, the reasonableness of internal relocation.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Returns are only undertaken when the Home Office and courts deem it is safe to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-28/HL3108/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Tom Brake (666) Save the Children's 3,000 unaccompanied children campaign** – That this House calls on the Government, in line with Save the Children's campaign, to accept 3,000 unaccompanied children already in the EU into the UK, and to accept that, as the UNHCR states, these unaccompanied children do not have family members, are vulnerable and at risk of disappearing; and urges the Government to show compassion and provide sanctuary to these children, many of whom will have fled the Assad regime and the tyranny of IS, and provide as many of them as possible with a safe haven in the UK before Christmas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/666>

## Press Releases

**Syrian refugees: what you can do to help**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/syria-refugees-what-you-can-do-to-help--2>

**Schulz: The refugee crisis can only be tackled if all EU countries commit to dealing with it**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20151112STO02462/html/Schulz-Refugee-crisis-can-only-be-tackled-if-all-EU-countries-commit-to-it>

**Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights' and expert panel meeting discusses safeguarding rights of asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need during the migration crisis**

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/199736>

## New Publications

**Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee Report: Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldsecleg/53/53.pdf>

**Put Yourself in Our Shoes**

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/asset/download/464.pdf>

## News

**Migrant crisis: We need to 'smash' trafficking gangs - PM**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-34793258>

**Home Office criticised over delays in immigration cases**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34770135>

# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

**Home Office criticised for 'delays' and 'poor decisions' in immigration cases**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3311248/Home-Office-criticised-delays-poor-decisions-immigration-cases.html>

**Warning of huge backlog of immigration cases in UK**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/10/warning-of-huge-backlog-of-immigration-cases-in-uk>

**SNP challenge Cameron on EU reform over migrants' right to keep benefits**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14032552.SNP\\_challenge\\_Cameron\\_on\\_EU\\_reform\\_over\\_migrants\\_right\\_to\\_keep\\_benefits/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14032552.SNP_challenge_Cameron_on_EU_reform_over_migrants_right_to_keep_benefits/)

**Analysis for David Cameron's migrant benefit claim has 'limitations'**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14022141.Analysis\\_for\\_David\\_Cameron\\_s\\_migrant\\_benefit\\_claim\\_has\\_limitations/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14022141.Analysis_for_David_Cameron_s_migrant_benefit_claim_has_limitations/)

**David Cameron 'open to different ways' of achieving core goal of barring EU migrants from claiming benefits**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-open-to-different-ways-of-achieving-core-goal-of-barring-eu-migrants-from-claiming-a6728406.html>

**Cameron scales back pledge to curb migrant benefits for four years**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4610102.ece>

**EU migrants claiming benefits: questions the government must answer**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/datablog/2015/nov/10/eu-migrants-claiming-benefits-questions-the-government-must-answer>

**EU migrants on benefits: separating the statistics from the spin**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/datablog/2015/nov/10/eu-migrants-on-benefits-separating-the-statistics-from-the-spin>

**Three in four new jobs go to migrants from EU countries**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/economics/article4611933.ece>

**The four charts that show how vital EU migrants are to the UK workforce**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-four-charts-that-show-how-vital-eu-migrants-are-to-the-uk-workforce-a6731811.html>

**Treasury tells City: we'll sort banker visa row**

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/business/Finance/article1633119.ece>

**Theresa May: Refugees will be screened to check they are not terrorist threat**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032789.Theresa\\_May\\_Refugees\\_will\\_be\\_screened\\_to\\_check\\_they\\_are\\_not\\_terrorist\\_threat/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032789.Theresa_May_Refugees_will_be_screened_to_check_they_are_not_terrorist_threat/)

**More refugees are given leave to remain**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/irishnews/article4608471.ece>

**Britain must respect the rights of refugees**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/12/britain-must-respect-the-rights-of-refugees>

# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

**Our asylum system is forcing vulnerable teenagers to relive their trauma**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/11/asylum-teenagers-refugees-mental-health>

**Home Office accused of breaking rules on cuffing asylum seekers**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/09/home-office-broke-rules-handcuffing-asylum-seekers-yarls-wood-charity>

**First refugee charter flight due in Glasgow next week**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-34815218>

**Plane of Syrian refugees set to arrive in Glasgow on Tuesday**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14031306.Plane\\_of\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_set\\_to\\_arrive\\_in\\_Glasgow\\_on\\_Tuesday/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14031306.Plane_of_Syrian_refugees_set_to_arrive_in_Glasgow_on_Tuesday/)

**Home Office announce plane of Syrian refugees due to arrive in Glasgow on Tuesday**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14031317.Home\\_Office\\_announce\\_plane\\_of\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_due\\_to\\_arrive\\_in\\_Glasgow\\_on\\_Tuesday/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14031317.Home_Office_announce_plane_of_Syrian_refugees_due_to_arrive_in_Glasgow_on_Tuesday/)

**First Syrian refugees flight due to land in UK next week**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34779524>

**First charter jet to fly Syrian refugees to Britain will arrive next week**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11987285/First-charter-jet-to-fly-Syrian-refugees-to-Britain-will-arrive-next-week.html>

**Refugee crisis: UK to receive 1,000 Syrians by Christmas - but is it enough?**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-uk-to-receive-1000-syrians-by-christmas-but-is-it-enough-a6729836.html>

**It's a wonderful life: Scotland's holiday isle prepares to greet its first Syrian refugees**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/15/isle-of-bute-syrian-refugees-its-a-wonderful-life>

**'People want to help': Scottish town prepares to host Syrian refugees**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/14/scotland-rothesay-bute-refugees-syria-welcome>

**Asylum seekers pretending to be Syrian in UK applications risking prosecution**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-pretending-to-be-syrian-in-uk-applications-risking-prosecution-a6731426.html>

**Scottish Action for Refugees charity raises £10k since August**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-action-refugees-charity-raises-6820890>

**The Syrian refugees building a new life in Scotland**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/life\\_style/14030664.The\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_building\\_a\\_new\\_life\\_in\\_Scotland/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/14030664.The_Syrian_refugees_building_a_new_life_in_Scotland/)

**Showdown between SDL and pro-refugee groups in Ayrshire town over asylum hotel**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032526.Showdown\\_between SDL\\_and\\_pro\\_refugee\\_groups\\_in\\_Ayrshire\\_town\\_over\\_asylum\\_hotel/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032526.Showdown_between SDL_and_pro_refugee_groups_in_Ayrshire_town_over_asylum_hotel/)

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**The things they carried: Europe's refugees share the possessions they cling to**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/11989436/The-things-they-carried-Europes-refugees-share-the-possessions-they-cling-to.html>

**What they carried: Refugees' worldly possessions in pictures**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/11993282/What-they-carried-Refugees-worldly-possessions-in-pictures.html>

**Mum and two young children to be deported after dawn raid in Glasgow**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14028074.Mum\\_and\\_two\\_young\\_children\\_to\\_be\\_deported\\_after\\_dawn\\_raid\\_in\\_Glasgow/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14028074.Mum_and_two_young_children_to_be_deported_after_dawn_raid_in_Glasgow/)

**One in six teachers in England 'qualified abroad'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11994267/One-in-six-teachers-in-England-qualified-abroad.html>

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## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S4M-14832 Bob Doris: Scottish Multicultural Cup Finals**—That the Parliament congratulates BEMIS Scotland and the SFA on what it considers the success of the Scottish Multicultural Cup Finals; understands that the multicultural festival of football was held at the Lesser Hampden Football Centre on 17 October 2015 and saw 16 teams and more than 120 players from diverse cultural backgrounds competing for the national title; notes the work of the SFA Equity Project, which is a partnership between the SFA and BEMIS Scotland; understands that this is a CashBack for Communities-funded initiative that develops participation for diverse communities in football via bespoke training, coaching and volunteering opportunities and uses the sport as a means of promoting health, wellbeing, community spirit, respect and equal opportunities; recognises that the festival is part of the 2015 Year of Food and Drink, which is led by BEMIS Scotland and celebrates the country's diverse cultural and ethnic minority communities, and wishes all of the participants, organisations and community groups involved with the year every success for the remainder of the celebrations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-14832&ResultsPerPage=10>

### News

**Pride and prejudice in a snapshot of British Hinduism**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4613844.ece>

**Government policy 'negatively affects' Muslims**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34777243>

**Lifting the veil - 'Most people see Islam in terms of conflict'**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/dundee/lifting-the-veil-most-people-see-islam-in-terms-of-conflict-1.909619>

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## Equality

### News

**Ethnic minorities 'more likely to go to university' than white working-class British children**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/11987142/Ethnic-minorities-more-likely-to-go-to-university-than-white-working-class-British-children.html>

**It is a scandal that ethnic minority kids are more likely to go to university than poor white ones**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/11986204/It-is-a-scandal-that-ethnic-minority-kids-are-more-likely-to-go-to-university-than-white-ones.html>

**Hospices 'must take more inclusive approach to ageing Muslims'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/nov/12/hospices-must-take-more-inclusive-approach-ageing-muslims>

**Minority ethnic directors on verge of being 'shut out' of TV industry**

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/nov/13/minority-ethnic-directors-on-verge-of-being-shut-out-of-tv-industry>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions

#### **Castes: Discrimination**

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL3180] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 July (HL Deb, col 575), whether they will clarify how the judgment in *Tirkey v Chandhok* has changed the law on caste discrimination.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The judgment suggests there is an existing legal remedy for claims of caste-associated discrimination, under the 'ethnic origins' element of Section 9 of the Equality Act 2010.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3180/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/150715-0001.htm#15071539000415>

#### **Castes: Discrimination**

**Lord Lester of Herne Hill** [HL3181] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they next plan to consider the case for further consultation on caste discrimination.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are currently considering the need for a consultation on caste discrimination. This is part of our wider consideration of the implications of the *Tirkey v Chandok* tribunal judgments.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-02/HL3181/>

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

**Woman sentenced for racist abuse on London bus**

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest\\_news/woman\\_sentenced\\_for\\_racist\\_abuse\\_on\\_london\\_bus/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/woman_sentenced_for_racist_abuse_on_london_bus/)

### **News**

**MSP Sandra White apologies over anti-Semitic tweet**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34807884>

**MSP apologises following SCoJeC protest about antisemitic image posted on Twitter**

[http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15xi\\_antisemitism/msp.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15xi_antisemitism/msp.html)

**MSP offers apology to group that accused her of sharing image "reminiscent of Nazi propaganda"**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14024852.MSP\\_offers\\_apology\\_to\\_group\\_that\\_accused\\_her\\_of\\_sharing\\_image\\_quot\\_reminiscent\\_of\\_Nazi\\_propaganda\\_quot/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14024852.MSP_offers_apology_to_group_that_accused_her_of_sharing_image_quot_reminiscent_of_Nazi_propaganda_quot/)

**Glasgow MSP offers apology to group that accused her of sharing image "reminiscent of Nazi propaganda"**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14026613.Glasgow\\_MSP\\_offers\\_apology\\_to\\_group\\_that\\_accused\\_her\\_of\\_sharing\\_image\\_reminiscent\\_of\\_Nazi\\_propaganda/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14026613.Glasgow_MSP_offers_apology_to_group_that_accused_her_of_sharing_image_reminiscent_of_Nazi_propaganda/)

**Sturgeon says sorry for MSP's retweet of antisemitic image**

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/nov/12/sturgeon-says-sorry-to-jewish-community-for-anti-semitic-tweet>

**SNP politician apologises 'unreservedly' for anti-Semitic tweet**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/snp-politician-apologises-unreservedly-for-anti-semitic-tweet-a6732756.html>

**Welsh Muslims in 'immense fear' over Paris attacks**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-34825371>

**Majority of British Muslims have witnessed Islamophobia – study**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/11/majority-of-british-muslims-have-witnessed-islamophobia-study>

**Tesco customer is convicted of abusing a mother-of-four in front of her children by shouting 'Why can't I see your face?' at her for wearing a veil as she shopped**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3317281/Why-t-face-Mother-four-abused-children-shopped-Tesco-wearing-veil.html>

**Woman who abused Muslim passenger on bus given suspended sentence**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/13/woman-who-abused-pregnant-muslim-on-bus-escapes-jail>

**Simone Joseph: Woman in anti-Islam bus rant avoids jail**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/simone-joseph-woman-in-anti-islam-bus-rant-avoids-jail-a6734156.html>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**Shocking moment man 'pushes a Muslim woman wearing a hijab into an oncoming Tube train'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3316787/Shocking-moment-man-push-Muslim-woman-wearing-hijab-oncoming-train-London-s-underground.html>

**How do I ... respond when I see racial abuse in public?**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/13/how-do-i-respond-racial-abuse-public-transport-onlookers-silent>

**Workplace racism is on the rise – we need action, not lip service**

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/10/workplace-racism-racial-bullying-discrimination>

**Ex-BNP leader Nick Griffin: advertising agency bosses should 'go to the wall' for using mixed race children in TV adverts**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14021183.Nick\\_G](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14021183.Nick_G)

**Football fans urged to kiss bigotry goodbye**

<http://www.scotsman.com/giving-back/charities/football-fans-urged-to-kiss-bigotry-goodbye-1-3944871>

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## Scottish Devolution

### News

**Scotland Bill: Scottish powers bill backed by Commons**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34760508>

**Scotland Bill backed by MPs in crucial Commons vote**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13982205.Scotland\\_Bill\\_backed\\_by\\_MPs\\_in\\_crucial\\_Commons\\_vote/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/13982205.Scotland_Bill_backed_by_MPs_in_crucial_Commons_vote/)

**Scotland Bill: Devolution settlement passes final stage**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-bill-devolution-settlement-passes-final-stage-1-3942316#axzz3qpQdeTeQ>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**Paris terror attack**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Paris-terror-attack-1f47.aspx>

**Paris statement**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Paris-statement-1f46.aspx>

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government Press Releases (continued)

### On-going response to Paris attacks

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/On-going-response-to-Paris-attacks-1f49.aspx>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Faith Schools: Islam

**Liam Byrne** [13359] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the framework is for assessing quality of education and inspecting standards and safety in settings where children are instructed in madrassas.

**Reply from Edward Timpson:** Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding children in their areas, regardless of where they are educated. The statutory guidance on the Prevent Duty[1] makes it clear that local authorities should take steps to understand the range of out of school settings, such as supplementary schools and tuition centres, in their area and take appropriate steps to ensure that children attending such settings are properly safeguarded.

The Prime Minister has recently announced that supplementary schools which provide intensive education will need to register themselves for inspection. The government's counter-extremism strategy[2] sets out our intentions to introduce this system. We will be consulting on this regulatory framework.

Intervention will apply if there are concerns about the safety or welfare of the children attending these supplementary schools. Where institutions are teaching intolerance we will not hesitate to take action. We are consulting on the coverage of this proposed scheme, which is likely to include some madrasa schools.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counter-extremism-strategy>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-26/13359/>

#### Forced Marriage: Convictions

**Stephen Timms** [14455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many convictions there have been relating to forced marriage under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** We made forced marriage a criminal offence last year to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK.

Data on convictions is not collated centrally. However, the first successful prosecution under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 was secured in June 2015, and the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) most recent violence against women and girls report shows that the volume of forced marriage prosecutions completed in 2014-15 rose to 46 from 45 in 2013-14, the highest volume ever. 63% of those prosecutions were successful.

In addition, to date, over 800 civil Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been made to prevent people from being forced into a marriage and to assist in repatriating victims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-02/14455/>

## Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Releases

### Home Office 'Project Innovation Fund for Prevent' launched

The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism in the Home Office has launched the Prevent Innovation Fund, inviting funding proposals costing up to £100,000 ... supporting the following types of activities:

- particularly innovative projects developing new methods and/or developing new technologies with a potential for replication nationally
- projects promoting understanding and learning, identification and dissemination of best practices
- pilot projects, including in sectors covered by the Prevent duty

The fund will be available to all specified authorities under the Prevent duty, businesses, registered charities, civil society groups and third sector organisations.

The fund competition and all associated documents are now on the [Innovate UK website](#).

The competition call will close on Wednesday 2 December. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/message-from-the-home-office-project-innovation-fund-for-prevent-launched>

### Prime Minister statement on Paris terrorist attack

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-statement-on-paris-terror-attack>

### Foreign Secretary's 2015 Diwali message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-2015-diwali-message>

## New Publication

### Freedom of Information Release: Forced Marriages

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/477021/FOI\\_0975-15\\_Forced\\_Marriage\\_Cases\\_2012-14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477021/FOI_0975-15_Forced_Marriage_Cases_2012-14.pdf)

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## New Publication

### Justice, Resistance and Solidarity: Race and Policing in England and Wales

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/images/Race%20and%20Policing%20v4.pdf>

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## Other News

### Glasgow cinema criticised for cancelling screening of Islam-themed film

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/nov/11/glasgow-cinema-criticised-cancelled-screening-islam-film-the-message>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **\*\* Burial and Cremation Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/92664.aspx>

Local Government and Regeneration Committee Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10185&i=93873#ScotParlOR>

#### **\*\* Community Justice Bill**

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

Justice Committee, Stage 1 Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_JusticeCommittee/Reports/JS042015R18REV.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_JusticeCommittee/Reports/JS042015R18REV.pdf)

#### **Criminal Justice Bill**

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

#### **Education Bill**

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

#### **\*\* Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/90125.aspx>

Education and Culture Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10194&i=93908#ScotParlOR>

#### **\*\* Lobbying Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/93324.aspx>

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10198&i=93983#ScotParlOR>

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

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

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-75\\_Transplantation\\_Authorisation\\_of\\_Removal\\_of\\_Organs\\_Etc\\_Scotland\\_Bill.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-75_Transplantation_Authorisation_of_Removal_of_Organs_Etc_Scotland_Bill.pdf)

## **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>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

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

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151110/am/151110s01.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151110/pm/151110s01.htm>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/psc0741011m.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/psc0741011a.1-7.html>

#### **\*\* Scotland Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Commons followed by Third Reading

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151109/debtext/151109-0002.htm#15110915000001>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151110-0001.htm#15111033000498>

Bill as brought to the Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0073/15073.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0073/en/15073en.pdf>

#### **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!**

**Human Rights Inquiry** (closing date 18 November 2015)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/92604.aspx>

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

**Shaping the work of your Human Rights Commission** (closing date 20 November 2015)

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/SP%20Consultation%20Document.docx>

**Introduction of diversity succession planning for board appointments** (closing date 29 November 2015)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00486751.pdf>

## Consultations (continued)

**Burial and Cremation Bill** (Closing date 4 December 2015)

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Inquiries/CfE.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Inquiries/CfE.pdf)

**Charity Trustee Guidance** (closing date 18 December 2015)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations/open-consultations>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission 2016 - 2019 Strategic Plan** (closing date 18 December 2015)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/our-work/ehrc-consultations/2016-2019-strategic-plan-consultation?wssl=1>

**\*\* Race equality in the UK** (closing date 18 December 2015)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/projects-and-publications/europe/cerd.html>

**Scotland's Census 2021 – Topic Consultation** (closing date 15 January 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487152.pdf>

**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>

**\*\* Primary care for new migrants** (no closing date given)

<https://newmigrantsinprimarycare.wordpress.com/survey/>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events/Conferences/Training

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**\*\* this week!**

**The needs of ethnic minority communities**

16 November 2015 in Perth (10.30 – 12.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-perth-tickets-19315289551>

17 November 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 12.00)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-glasgow-tickets-19315149131>



## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

23 November 2015 in Aberdeen (1.30 – 3.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-aberdeen-tickets-19315535286>

27 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.30 – 12.30)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/want-to-find-out-more-about-the-needs-of-ethnic-minority-communities-in-edinburgh-tickets-19315643610>

Opportunity to discuss some of the emerging themes from recent research into the needs of minority ethnic communities, respond to new statistics about local needs, learn more about issues affecting ethnic minority communities and hear the solutions identified by innovative service and support providers. For information contact Elspeth Parsons [elspeth@thelinesbetween.co.uk](mailto:elspeth@thelinesbetween.co.uk) / 0131 235 2012 or see relevant link above.

**\*\* this week!**

### **Fairer Scotland**

17 November 2015 in Glasgow (5.30 – 9.00)

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

**\*\* this week!**

### **BEMIS at Skills Scotland**

18 November 2015 in Glasgow (5.15)

BEMIS information session about supporting children with their career and learning choices. For information contact Liz McConnell [liz.mcconnell@bemis.org.uk](mailto:liz.mcconnell@bemis.org.uk) or Patricia Crook [patricia.crook@sds.co.uk](mailto:patricia.crook@sds.co.uk) or see <http://bemis.org.uk/events/1158-2/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **A 'Scottish Approach' to race equality?**

18 November 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 5.30)

Event to stock of approaches to race equality in Scotland and look forwards as a new Framework for Race Equality in Scotland is developed. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/625/273/A-Scottish-Approach-to-race-equality.html> or contact Nasar Meer [nasar.meer@strath.ac.uk](mailto:nasar.meer@strath.ac.uk)

**\*\* this week!**

### **Scottish Interfaith Week**

22-30 November 2015

Full programme of events

<http://www.interfaithscotland.org/app/download/22335310/Scottish+Interfaith+Week+2015+Programme.pdf>

### **Female Genital Mutilation Seminar**

1 December 2015 in Glenrothes (2.00 – 4.00)

Multi-agency seminar aimed at professionals to raise awareness of issues surrounding FGM, including prevalence, consequences, legal aspects, and implications for practice. For information contact Lynda Dargie [lynda.dargie@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lynda.dargie@fife.gov.uk)

### **\*\* Equality in procurement for minority ethnic businesses**

7 December 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council event to raise awareness on public sector procurement, tendering processes and advantageous methods of engaging with public sector bodies. For information contact Bushra Iqbal [biqbal@wsrec.co.uk](mailto:biqbal@wsrec.co.uk) / 0141 337 6626

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Inclusion Fundamentals**

9 December 2015 in Kirkcaldy (9.30 – 4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities seminar on the basics for understanding and meeting the diverse needs of people of different protected characteristics. For information see <http://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=6569>

### **\*\* Discrimination Law in 2016**

25 January 2016 in Edinburgh (9.55 – 4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an updated overview of discrimination cases in the UK through presentations from experts in the field. Fee £75 but free places may be available to voluntary organisations and individuals on application. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16i\\_ehrc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16i_ehrc.pdf) or contact Kyle Mulholland 0141 228 5925 / [equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com)

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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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

**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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