

## 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.*

### Contents

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

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

**Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to [MEMO@scojec.org](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Migration

**John Spellar** [902160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the likelihood of the Government's net migration target being met.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Uncontrolled mass immigration increases pressure on public services and can drive down wages. That is why our ambition remains to cut net migration to sustainable levels. We continue to work across government to reduce net migration outside of the EU and seek reform in Europe to reduce the pull factor behind EU migration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/902160/>

#### UK Visas and Immigration: Email and Telephone Services

**Danny Kinahan** [15520] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to make the email and telephone inquiry service within

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

UK Visa and Immigration more user-friendly.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** UKVI Contact Centres currently handle approximately 34000 calls and 15000 emails a week from customers both in and outside the UK. We continuously review our processes and use customer feedback to inform any changes made.

UKVI Contact Centres currently answer over 90% of all calls within an average 1:18 minutes and respond to 100% of emails within the published service standards.

The latest customer survey returned a high satisfaction rating of 85%.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-09/15520/>

### Visas

**Lord Green of Deddington [HL3327]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the minimum salary required of a Tier 2 (General) visa applicant in order to be allocated a Certificate of Sponsorship in each of the last 24 months.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The minimum salary threshold for Tier 2 (General) rises annually in line with UK wage inflation. It was £20,300 from 2013/14, £20,500 in 2014/15 and £20,800 in 2015/16. Additionally, for a Certificate of Sponsorship to be allocated, the employer (the sponsor) must be paying the appropriate salary rate for the occupation in question. These rates are set out in Appendix J of the Immigration Rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-j-codes-of-practice-for-skilled-work>

Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship are subject to an annual limit and are allocated to sponsoring employers each month. The limit was undersubscribed until June 2015 and so all valid applications for Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship were granted, where the salary was at least equal to the minimum thresholds above.

If the limit is oversubscribed, as it has been since June, applications for Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship are prioritised using a points table. Points are awarded for shortage occupations, PhD-level occupations, and salary. The minimum salaries for successful applications since June are shown in the table below:

Month	Minimum salary for successful applications		
	Shortage occupations	PhD-level occupations	Other occupations
June 2015	£20,800	£20,800	£46,000
July 2015	£20,800	£20,800	£32,000
August 2015	£20,800	£20,800	£24,000
September 2015	£20,800	£20,800	£27,000
October 2015	£20,800	£20,800	£22,000

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3327/>

### Immigration

**David Davies [15006]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have entered the UK as a result of successful family reunion applications in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The available relevant data are provided below

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

for the number of individuals granted entry clearance visas to the UK for family reunion back to 2005. However, the grant of a visa does not necessarily mean that a person has actually entered the UK.

### Entry clearance visas granted for family reunion

Year	Granted
2005	7,731
2006	5,277
2007	4,497
2008	3,632
2009	4,209
2010	4,887
2011	4,306
2012	3,671
2013	4,126
2014	4,541

**Source:** Immigration Statistics April-June 2015, Home Office, tables vi\_01\_q, and corresponding datasets.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas are published in 'Immigration Statistics, April-June 2015', available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-05/15006/>

### Visas

**Lord Ahmed** [HL3235] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the current waiting time for processing of (1) Spouse Visas, (2) Visitor Visas, (3) Student Visas and (4) Entrepreneur Visas.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The average global processing time for the period July 2014 to June 2015 and the most recent data – which covers the month of June 2015 - on global processing times for spouse, visitor, student and entrepreneur visas are set out in the table below.

Type	Category	Average processing time (working days) - (Jun-15)	Average processing time (working days) - (Jul-14 to Jun-15)
Non-Settlement	Visit	7	7
Non-Settlement	Student	6	8
Non-Settlement	T1 Entrepreneur	11	11
Settlement	Spouse	35	54

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3235/>

### Visas

**Lord Ahmed** [HL3236] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the granting of United Kingdom visas is regulated to ensure that they are meeting their stated targets in relation to visas from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and China.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Performance against service standards for visa processing is routinely monitored through internal performance management processes, and is also subject to external scrutiny from the Independent Chief

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Inspector of Borders and Immigration and the Home Affairs Select Committee. Data on how UKVI is performing against its processing targets is published here:

<https://visa-processingtimes.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3236/>

### Visas

**Lord Ahmed** [HL3237] To ask Her Majesty's Government which categories of United Kingdom visa application processes are outsourced; which companies have been given the right to process those applications; and whether those companies have been provided with guidance in relation to religious and cultural sensitivities.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** UKVI has two suppliers, VFS and Teleperformance, who are contracted to run UK Visa Application Centres (VACs) overseas. Their role is to capture visa applicants' biometrics and forward their visa application documentation to the Home Office run Decision Making Centres (DMCs). Once Home Office staff have decided an application, the decision is returned to the customer via the suppliers. The suppliers have no role in visa decision making. VACs are generally staffed and managed by local nationals, so staff should be aware of any local cultural and religious sensitivities. Where local sensitivities require special arrangements, such as ensuring that there are female as well as male security guards or privacy when capturing biometrics, UKVI ensure the arrangements are in place by setting out requirements in the contract, providing guidance and training and through inspection visits.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3237/>

### Immigration: Children

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Falconer of Thoroton** [HL2805] To ask Her Majesty's Government based on closed matters, what was (1) the total number of immigration cases (not including asylum) involving children under 18, and (2) the total civil legal aid spending on those cases in 2012–13.

**Lord Falconer of Thoroton** [HL2806] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases where legal aid advice or representation was granted involved children in (1) immigration, or (2) asylum cases each year for the last five years; and how much was paid out in total and on average in each such year.

**Reply from Lord Faulks:** The total number of closed non-asylum immigration cases for 2012/13 where the appellant was recorded as being under 18 cannot be provided by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service without incurring disproportionate costs.

The table below shows volumes of legal aid claims paid in immigration and asylum matters, and the expenditure on the same covering the last five financial years, where the assisted party was an individual under 18 years of age.

As this information is based on closed cases only (i.e. where the final bill has been paid) it will not reflect the total number of cases for which legal aid funding has been made available, particularly in more recent years.

Please note that asylum cases cannot be separately reported on at the Civil Representation level. Legal aid is a vital part of our justice system, but we cannot escape the continuing need to reduce the deficit. The Coalition Government reformed legal aid to reduce its cost and ensure the system commands the confidence of the public. The great majority of unaccompanied children are asylum seekers, and therefore will continue to be eligible for legal aid.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

	Legal Help / Controlled Legal Representation				Civil Representation	
	Immigration		Asylum		Immigration & Asylum	
	Volume	Value (£)	Volume	Value (£)	Volume	Value (£)
2010-11	3,907	1,917,936	9,229	8,576,360	136	335,675
2011-12	1,623	889,997	6,389	6,812,981	131	541,146
2012-13	915	431,192	4,130	4,962,635	141	490,059
2013-14	486	254,747	3,490	4,094,460	125	690,401
2014-15	231	104,968	4,133	4,761,707	166	539,570

Legal aid is a vital part of our justice system, but we cannot escape the continuing need to reduce the deficit. The Coalition Government reformed legal aid to reduce its cost and focus it on those who most need legal advice or help. Last year we spent £1.6bn on legal aid, around a quarter of the department's expenditure.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2805/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-10-20/HL2806/>

### Visas

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Lord Ahmed** [HL3298] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many visa applications were made by visitors from (1) Pakistan, (2) India, (3) Bangladesh, and (4) China, in each of the last two years, and what was the total success rate for each category in each year.

**Lord Ahmed** [HL3299] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of visitor visas from (1) Pakistan, (2) India, (3) Bangladesh, and (4) China, were rejected in each of the last two years.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The information requested is provided in the attached table.

Entry clearance visitor visa cases resolved by nationality (including dependants)								
Year	Nationality	Applications	Cases Resolved	of which:				
				Granted	%	Refused	%	Withdrawn or lapsed
2013	Pakistan	85,749	<b>88,901</b>	61,578	<b>69%</b>	27,102	<b>30%</b>	27315
2014	Pakistan	87,541	<b>89,709</b>	57,117	<b>64%</b>	32,332	<b>36%</b>	32560
2013	India	352,740	<b>354,262</b>	316,911	<b>89%</b>	36,510	<b>10%</b>	37312
2014	India	352,880	<b>354,184</b>	319,804	<b>90%</b>	33,647	<b>9%</b>	34344
2013	Bangladesh	25,089	<b>25,842</b>	18,107	<b>70%</b>	7,588	<b>29%</b>	7734
2014	Bangladesh	24,153	<b>24,516</b>	16,027	<b>65%</b>	8,420	<b>34%</b>	8484
2013	China	303,746	<b>303,668</b>	291,826	<b>96%</b>	11,305	<b>4%</b>	11821
2014	China	338,847	<b>340,064</b>	327,349	<b>96%</b>	12,250	<b>4%</b>	12687

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Notes: Data on visa grants and refusals may relate to applications made in an earlier period. For this reason the grant and refusal rates are calculated as proportions of the total resolved cases in each year, not the total applications.

**Source:** Immigration Statistics April-June 2015, Home Office, tables vi\_01\_q, and corresponding datasets.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas are published in 'Immigration Statistics, April-June 2015', available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3298/>

ND

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-04/HL3299/>

### Health Professions: Visas

**Caroline Flint** [15696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the effect of the changing criteria for the Adult Dependent Relative Visa on recruitment and retention of health professionals.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Government reformed the Immigration Rules for adult dependent relatives in July 2012 in light of the significant NHS and social care costs which can be associated with these cases. The new rules seek to ensure that only those who have a genuine need to be physically close to and cared for by a close relative in the UK are able to settle here. Those who do not have such care needs can be supported financially in the country in which they live by their relative in the UK. We have kept the family Immigration Rules under regular review in light of any evidence received as to their impact and will continue to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/15696/>

### Overseas Students: English Language

**Nic Dakin** [15825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the reduction in the number of English language testing centres on the number of international students entering the UK; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** English language ability is a key strand of the immigration requirements for many of those coming as partners and to work, study and settle in the UK. Significant abuse within the English language testing sector was uncovered in 2013/2014, following which the Home Office commissioned an independent review. A key outcome was the need to develop new and robust business and commercial requirements for Secure English Language Testing (SELT). The Home Office has rightly responded to that abuse robustly, particularly considering that thousands of people sought to use evidence that was obtained fraudulently to enter and remain in the UK. The new, strengthened arrangements for SELT came into effect on 6th April 2015.

One of the security changes introduced was the reduction of the test centre network to mitigate the risks of oversupply and enable the Home Office to achieve greater control and ability to audit centres.

Whilst the Home Office has reduced the number of test centres, it has increased the number of countries where students could sit tests. Before the 6<sup>th</sup> April

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

students could sit tests in 79 countries (excluding the UK), they can now sit tests in 129 countries.

The Home Office has planned the reduced test centre network to meet anticipated demand and test centres in each country are currently meeting demand.

We continue to have a highly competitive offer for international students who would like to study at our world-class institutions and this is borne out by the figures: visa applications from international students to study at British universities are up by 17 per cent since 2010, whilst visa applications to our world-leading Russell Group institutions are up by 33 per cent since 2010.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/15825/>

### Immigration

**Stella Creasy** [15227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to provide (a) humanitarian visas, (b) facilitated refugee family reunion and (c) other safe legal routes for migrants to enter the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** There is no provision in our Immigration Rules for someone to be given a visa to travel to the UK to seek asylum or humanitarian protection and we have no plans to change this.

However, we recognise that families may become fragmented because of the nature of conflict and persecution and the speed and manner in which those seeking asylum often flee their country of origin. Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK, are able to sponsor their pre-flight family members to join them under the family reunion policy.

We also operate three discretionary resettlement schemes for recognised refugees for whom resettlement is the most appropriate answer. We operate these schemes in partnership with the UNHCR: Gateway; Mandate; and the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme.

We are also making a significant contribution to support refugees and their families in other ways. The UK has contributed over £1 billion in humanitarian aid in response to the Syrian crisis and we intend to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees displaced to neighbouring countries over the lifetime of this Parliament under the VPR scheme.

Migrants wishing to enter the UK for other reasons such as work or study can apply for a visa for that purpose. They will need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they apply in order to qualify for a visa. Details about the criteria and how to apply are available on gov.uk.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-06/15227/>

### Migrant Workers: Conditions of Employment

**Baroness Kennedy of Cradley** [HL3531] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that migrant workers are not exploited or paid less than the minimum wage.

**Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe:** The appointment of the Director of Labour Market Enforcement, due shortly, will strengthen our ability to find and stop exploitative employers. We are currently consulting on proposals to create a new offence of an aggravated breach of labour market legislation and to widen the remit and strengthen the powers of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority to enable it to tackle serious exploitation.

Migrant workers who are entitled to other employment rights in UK law are also entitled to the National Minimum Wage (NMW) rate relevant to their age. Anyone

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

concerned about underpayment of the NMW should call Acas's confidential helpline on 0300 123 1100 or visit <http://www.acas.org.uk/nmw>. HMRC will investigate every complaint it receives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-10/HL3531/>

### Refugees

**Paul Monaghan** [14982] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to relax immigration rules on the reunification of families and allow members of a refugee's extended family to join them in the UK.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** 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 widen these criteria, which are fully compliant with our international obligations and enable thousands of people each year to be reunited with their families in the UK.

We are also making a significant contribution to support refugees and their families in other ways. The UK has contributed over £1 billion in humanitarian aid in response to the Syrian crisis and we intend to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees displaced to neighbouring countries over the lifetime of this Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-05/14982/>

### Refugees: Sponsorship

**Stella Creasy** [15101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the requirements of the community sponsorship route to Britain for refugees are; and when she plans to establish that route.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** As set out in the Home Secretary's Conference speech, we will compile a register of people and organisations who can provide accommodation to those who come to UK as refugees and develop a community based sponsorship scheme, learning from schemes operated in countries like Australia and Canada to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly.

The Government will develop the options in discussion with interested parties, including faith groups and NGOs. It is important that we take the time to develop an effective scheme which best meets the needs of the vulnerable individuals resettled in the UK. The Government will provide Parliament with further detail in due course, following these discussions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-05/15101/>

### Syrian Refugees

**Jeff Smith:** What progress [the Home] Department has made on the resettlement of Syrian refugees. [902150]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May):** As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out on 19 October, our intention is to welcome 1,000 Syrian refugees before Christmas. The Government are working closely with others to put in place the plans and structures to deliver this. Details of numbers will be published in the regular quarterly immigration statistics.



## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Jeff Smith:** ... will the Home Secretary commit to funding the resettlement scheme fully, and extend local authority funding to support refugees beyond one year to a minimum of three years?

**Reply from Theresa May:** The costs for the first year of resettlement will be met in full; that is possible under the official development assistance budget. The Treasury is looking at what funding will be made available for subsequent years.

**Roger Gale:** ... The events of the weekend have verified that he is right to seek refugees who have UN approval, but, given those events, will the Home Secretary go further and make sure that the credentials of every refugee coming to this country are double-checked?

**Reply from Theresa May:** ... We want to ensure that we can put into action our undertaking to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees over this Parliament. As he implies, we take them directly from camps, so that we are able to take the most vulnerable, but we also ensure that there are proper security checks. In fact, at the moment, there are two levels of security checks: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees undertakes security checks that involve biometrics, the checking of documents and interviews; and further checks, including further biometrics, are undertaken by the Home Office once people have been referred to it for resettlement in the UK. ...

**Gavin Robinson:** ... Had someone suggested a week ago that the refugee crisis was being abused by terrorists, they could have been set aside as a heartless xenophobe. I fear that the public will not be as resistant to that message as they would have been a week ago. How do we ensure that the compassion of this country is kept to the fore, while recognising that there will always be a few who abuse our good will?

**Reply from Theresa May:** ... There has been quite a lot of speculation in the press about the potential abuse of the route for refugees to come into Europe. It is important not to make judgments until the full facts are known.

**Anne Main:** Many local authorities, including my own, wish to resettle some of the Syrian refugees who may come into the country. If the refugees are dispersed around the country, some families will inevitably lose contact with loved ones and will wish to get in touch. Will a database be available to them as a means of communication?

**Reply from Theresa May:** Obviously, records of where the Syrian refugees are resettled will be maintained. If I understand my hon. Friend's question, it was about Syrian refugees who may wish to access information about others who may have come to the country. As she will have noticed, the Minister is here and will have heard that, and he will consider the point she has made.

**Joanna Cherry:** ... With the first 100 Syrian refugees due to arrive in Scotland for resettlement this week, does the Home Secretary agree that it is imperative to make it clear to the public that these refugees are fleeing the same evil forces as were behind the attacks in Paris? Will she work with the Scottish Government and local authorities throughout the country to make sure that communities are supported to understand that and to make the vulnerable refugees feel as welcome as possible?

**Reply from Theresa May:** ... These individuals have been fleeing evil of various sorts, including the very evil that led to the attacks in Paris on Friday, and we wish them to be welcomed and to be able to reach sanctuary here and get the assistance that they need for their particular concerns, medical or otherwise. So it is right that the whole House should send out a message that we welcome and open our arms to those who have fled for their lives from the terrible evil of what is taking place in Syria. ...

**Joanna Cherry:** ... We are all aware that the Syrian refugees who are coming to the United Kingdom are particularly vulnerable individuals. They will need time and privacy to settle and integrate into the communities that they go to. Will the Home Secretary tell us

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

what work the Home Office is doing to support local communities to give the refugees the time and privacy to integrate?

**Reply from Theresa May:** I am happy to tell the hon. and learned Lady that a considerable amount of work is being done by the Home Office, primarily with the local authorities that are receiving the Syrian refugees, to discuss the sort of support that is available to them. That links in to the last question I answered from my hon. Friend the Member for Totnes (Dr Wollaston): it will often be possible for charities and other organisations to provide support and help for refugees in settling into life in whichever part of the United Kingdom they come to.

**Keir Starmer:** ... What steps have been taken to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to provide not only the necessary accommodation, but the care and support that will be needed? What messages are planned to ensure that they are welcomed when they arrive here?

**Reply from Theresa May:** The considerable amount of work that the Under-Secretary of State for Refugees has been doing with teams from the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for International Development is about ensuring that those refugees who are referred to the UK and accepted for resettlement here are given the right package of support. It is not simply a case of allocation; there is careful consideration of what is available in any particular local authority in terms of accommodation or to meet the medical needs that individuals have. A considerable amount of work goes into ensuring that people are given the right support when they come to whichever area they come to. It is also important to recognise that individuals and families should be given a degree of privacy. They are making a huge move in coming to the UK, so it is right to give them not just the right support, but the time and space to settle into the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151116/debtext/151116-0001.htm#1511162000014>

### Syrian Refugees

**Tommy Sheppard:** What timetable she has set for resettlement of Syrian refugees; and whether she plans to increase the number of such refugees that the UK will accept. [902158]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Refugees (Richard Harrington):** The Government have 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. We have no plans to increase this number. It is now important that we focus on bringing these vulnerable people to the UK.

**Tommy Sheppard:** In refusing to assist refugees already in Europe, the Secretary of State has given great support to the creation of hotspots to fast-track registration. May I bring to the Government's attention the recent report from International Rescue? The report says that "the way hotspots are currently being rolled out is causing chaos, increasing tensions and violence, and leaving more people without basic shelter." In the light of that, will the Government stay on the sidelines in respect of helping refugees in Europe?

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** The hon. Gentleman will be fully aware that our taking 20,000 refugees on the grounds of vulnerability is only a part of our efforts for refugees. The Government are spending more than £1.1 billion on helping refugees in the countries adjacent to Syria. I think he will agree that our record is second to none in that respect.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151116/debtext/151116-0001.htm#1511162000019>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum

**Jim Shannon** [15863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with Amnesty International and the Committee Against Torture on recent and proposed changes to the legislation on asylum seekers.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** No legislation is planned in respect to asylum seekers. A number of changes to arrangements for supporting failed asylum seekers have been included in the Immigration Bill published on 17 September. Amnesty International sent a written response to the consultation on the proposals contained in the Immigration Bill and some of its representatives have met Home Office officials to discuss the proposals. The Committee Against Torture did not respond to the consultation and there have been no discussions on the proposals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/15863/>

### Asylum: EU Law

**Diana Johnson** [15325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have sought asylum in the UK through the Dublin III regulation.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Home Office received 2122 asylum claims following a request for claimants to be accepted under the Dublin III regulations. This figure is based on the latest available data from January 2014 to June 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-06/15325/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Caroline Lucas** [15296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential financial effect of proposals to deny refused asylum seekers access to financial support will have on (a) local authorities and (b) (i) homelessness, (ii) health and (iii) mental health service providers,

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** An assessment of the financial impact of the proposed changes to support for failed asylum seekers was published on 4 August and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reforming-support-for-failed-asylum-seekers-and-other-illegal-migrants-impact-assessment>

The government has consulted widely on the proposals, which are now contained in Schedule 6 to the Immigration Bill published on 17 September, and is discussing the detail of how they will be implemented with local authorities and others. The financial impact of the changes will be reviewed in light of these discussions and reflected in a revised impact assessment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-06/15296/>

### Asylum: Finance

**Liz McInnes** [902165] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of changes to support for asylum seekers on local authority services.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The Immigration Bill reforms support for failed asylum seekers and other illegal migrants. It restricts the availability of support, consistent with our international and human rights obligations, and removes incentives to remain in the UK illegally. The measures have been subject to public consultation and will be subject to a new burdens assessment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/902165/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Finance

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3280] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will consider increasing the weekly Azure card allowance to include the costs of travel.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** There are no plans to increase the allowance provided on the Azure card. Travel assistance is provided separately and information on how to apply for it is published on the GOV.UK website.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-03/HL3280/>

### Deportation: Appeals

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Gavin Newlands** [14743] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people deported under the deport first, appeal later measures have successfully appealed against their deportation; how many of those people have returned to the UK; and of those people that have returned, what the length of time was that each such person spent outside the UK between their deportation and return.

**Gavin Newlands** [14744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the length of time was that each person who successfully appealed against their deportation under the deport first, appeal later measures spent outside the UK.

**Gavin Newlands** [14745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of foreign national offenders deported between July 2014 and August 2015 who returned to a country other than their country of nationality.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2015 to Question 11080, that there had been 13 successful appeals, the additional data requested is not available. Such data is not aggregated in national reporting systems, which would mean these questions could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-04/14743/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-04/14744/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-04/14745/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Roger Godsiff (729) Refugee crisis in winter 2015-16** – That this House notes with great concern the appalling situation facing refugees from war-torn countries and failed states, who have survived the dangerous journey into Europe only to face the prospect of having to survive the winter in inadequate camps; is extremely worried at the prospect of vulnerable people, including women and children, left traumatised and ill after years of war and long journeys and being left to freeze after seeking asylum in some of the world's wealthiest countries; believes that the UK has a responsibility to accept a much greater share of these refugees than it has done so far; notes that refugees fleeing countries such as Syria are not in any sense economic migrants, but have instead been forced to leave a home country run by a regime which tortures, murders and bombs its own citizens, as well as suffering the brutality of ISIS; applauds the generosity of UK citizens who have donated to help refugees and called for the UK to accept more

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Early Day Motion (continued)

refugees; and calls on the Government to take urgent action to ensure that refugees in Europe and the UK are adequately housed and clothed this winter and that there are no deaths from cold or exposure.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/729>

## Press Releases

**Minister hosts Post Study Work Visa summit**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Minister-hosts-Post-Study-Work-Visa-summit-1f6c.aspx>

**Refugee Arrival**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Refugee-Arrival-1f60.aspx>

**Supreme Court judgement regarding the requirement for a foreign spouse or partner of a British citizen or person settled in the United Kingdom to pass a test of competence in the English language before coming to live here**

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0266-press-summary.pdf>

## New Publications

**An Inspection of Settlement Casework**

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ICIBI-report-on-Settlement-Nov-2015.pdf>

**Protecting stateless persons from arbitrary detention**

[http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/ENS\\_Detention\\_Reports\\_Malta.pdf](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/ENS_Detention_Reports_Malta.pdf)

**Moved to care: the impact of migration on the adult social care workforce**

[http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/images/uploads/publication-pdfs/IA\\_Moved\\_to\\_care\\_report\\_12\\_11\\_15.pdf](http://www.ilcuk.org.uk/images/uploads/publication-pdfs/IA_Moved_to_care_report_12_11_15.pdf)

**Experiences of Migrant Workers in Fish and Food Processing in North-East and Central Scotland: A fact finding study 2015**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication\\_pdf/Experiences%20of%20migrant%20workers%20in%20fish%20and%20food%20processing%20v2.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Experiences%20of%20migrant%20workers%20in%20fish%20and%20food%20processing%20v2.pdf)

## News: Scotland

**Nicola Sturgeon: refugees' arrival is a proud day for Scotland**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-refugees-arrival-is-a-proud-day-for-scotland-1-3950364>

**Refugees deserve compassion says Nicola Sturgeon**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14034562.Refugees\\_deserve\\_compassion\\_says\\_Nicola\\_Sturgeon/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14034562.Refugees_deserve_compassion_says_Nicola_Sturgeon/)

**Sturgeon's plea not to fear Syrian refugees**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4615931.ece>

## **Immigration and Asylum**

### **News: Scotland** (continued)

**Free from terror: 100 Syrians arrive in Scotland to start new lives**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/free-terror-100-syrians-arrive-6851964>

**Scottish Syrian refugees tell their tales of survival**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-syrian-refugees-tell-their-tales-of-survival-1-3955028>

**Syrian refugees welcomed to Glasgow on "a proud day for Scotland"**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037379.Syrian\\_refugees\\_welcomed\\_to\\_Glasgow\\_on\\_a\\_proud\\_day\\_for\\_Scotland/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037379.Syrian_refugees_welcomed_to_Glasgow_on_a_proud_day_for_Scotland/)

**First Syrian refugees touch down in Scotland**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/first-syrian-refugees-touch-down-in-scotland-1.910906>

**First refugees arrive in Scotland as concerns grow over fallout from Paris killings**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14038014.First\\_refugees\\_arrive\\_in\\_Scotland\\_as\\_concerns\\_grow\\_over\\_fallout\\_from\\_Paris\\_killings/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14038014.First_refugees_arrive_in_Scotland_as_concerns_grow_over_fallout_from_Paris_killings/)

**Syrian refugees flight lands in UK**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34839477>

**Flight carrying refugees touches down at Glasgow Airport**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037224.Flight\\_carrying\\_refugees\\_touches\\_down\\_at\\_Glasgow\\_Airport/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037224.Flight_carrying_refugees_touches_down_at_Glasgow_Airport/)

**Government pledges screening of Glasgow refugees**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/government-pledges-screening-of-glasgow-refugees-1-3949019>

**Row breaks out over Scotland's welcome for Syrian refugees**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14033129.Row\\_breaks\\_out\\_over\\_Scotland\\_and\\_its\\_welcome\\_for\\_Syrian\\_refugees/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14033129.Row_breaks_out_over_Scotland_and_its_welcome_for_Syrian_refugees/)

**Refugees row provost under pressure to resign**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4618011.ece>

**An island in two minds as refugees arrive**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4615722.ece>

**Imam will visit refugees on Bute**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4620145.ece>

**First Syrian refugees to touch down in Scotland today**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14035496.First\\_Syrian\\_refugees\\_to\\_touch\\_down\\_in\\_Scotland\\_today/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14035496.First_Syrian_refugees_to_touch_down_in_Scotland_today/)

**First Syrian refugees arrive in Glasgow to low-key welcome**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/17/syrian-refugees-arrive-glasgow-scotland>

**Paris attacks will have 'no effect' on plans to welcome Syrian refugees to Scotland**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/nov/16/paris-attacks-no-effect-plans-welcome-syria-refugees-scotland>

## Immigration and Asylum News: Scotland (continued)

**The first of the new Syrian refugees have just arrived in Glasgow**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-first-syrian-refugees-have-just-arrived-in-glasgow-a6738021.html>

**First Syrian refugees flying to Britain land in Glasgow as Tory MPs urge ministers to make sure they are 'genuine asylum seekers, not terrorists'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3322197/First-Syrian-refugees-flying-Britain-Tory-MPs-urge-ministers-make-sure-genuine-asylum-seekers-not-terrorists.html>

**Let's be proud, Scots urged, as refugees fly in**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4616957.ece>

**Public abandons support for Syrian refugees coming to Britain**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4616930.ece>

## News: UK and World

**Britons encouraged to 'adopt' a Syrian family as part of David Cameron's refugee scheme**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11992175/Britons-encouraged-to-adopt-a-Syrian-family-as-part-of-David-Camerons-refugee-scheme.html>

**Opposition to Britain taking more refugees almost doubles to 49% amid calls for tougher security checks after Paris attacks**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3323643/Opposition-Britain-taking-refugees-DOUBLES-49-amid-calls-tougher-security-checks-Paris-attacks.html>

**Refugees should not be turned into scapegoats following Paris attacks, says UN agency**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52572#.VktShd8rKnY>

## News: Misc

**Immigrant spouses must speak English, court rules**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34857838>

**Immigrants' spouses 'must speak English before entering UK'**

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2015/nov/18/immigrants-spouses-must-speak-english-before-entering-uk>

**Supreme Court rejects challenge to 'speak English' immigration requirement**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3323329/Supreme-Court-rule-challenge-against-pre-entry-English-test.html>

**Home Office guidelines on English language tests for migrants could be in breach of human rights laws, judges warn**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3324737/Home-Office-guidelines-English-language-tests-migrants-breach-human-rights-laws-judges-warn.html>

**What one Syrian family thinks about coming to the UK**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34844107>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News: Misc (continued)

**'It was the first time I realised I was different' – a UK migrant's story**

<http://www.theguardian.com/careers/2015/nov/17/it-was-the-first-time-i-realised-i-was-different-a-uk-migrants-story>

**Anti-asylum seeker protest by Scottish Defence League falls flat as only a handful turn up**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/anti-asylum-seeker-protest-scottish-6838884>

**Migrants rank UK among least welcoming nations**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/migrants-rank-uk-among-least-welcoming-nations-1-3952080>

**We were all once refugees!**

<http://stucbetterway.blogspot.co.il/2015/11/we-were-all-once-refugees.html>

**Refugees Welcome Here**

<http://stucbetterway.blogspot.co.il/2015/11/refugees-welcome-here.html>

**No Racism: Refugees Welcome Here**

<http://stucbetterway.blogspot.co.il/2015/11/the-st-andrews-day-anti-racism-march.html>

**£350,000 immigration bill for restaurant boss**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4619069.ece>

[TOP](#)

## Community Relations

### News

**How patriotic are British Muslims? Much more than you think, actually**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12000042/How-patriotic-are-British-Muslims-Much-more-than-you-think-actually.html>

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Modern apprenticeship programme

**Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government how many black and minority ethnic people have taken part in the modern apprenticeship programme in each of the last five years. (S4W-28255)

**Reply from Annabelle Ewing:** The numbers of people starting a Modern Apprenticeship and reporting their identity as black and minority ethnicity over the past five years is as follows:

2014-15 – 361; 2013-14 – 284; 2012-13 – 274; 2011-12 – 442; 2010-11 - 288

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28255&ResultsPerPage=10>



## Equality (continued)

### Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee

#### Inquiry into Race, Ethnicity and Employment: evidence session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10203&i=94004#ScotParIOR>

### Press Release

#### Fly the flag for human rights

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Fly-the-flag-for-human-rights-1f5a.aspx>

### News

#### Ethnic minority board members stuck at 1998 levels of gender equality

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/jobs/11998254/Ethnic-minority-board-members-stuck-at-1998-levels-of-gender-equality.html>

[TOP](#)

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### Racial Discrimination

**Hanzala Malik:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to tackle racial discrimination and what is believed to be the underreporting of cases. (S4O-04815)

**Reply from the Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment (Marco Biagi):** Any form of racism is unacceptable. The Scottish Government is committed to tackling racial discrimination and all forms of hate crime. We are renewing our approach to promoting race equality by developing a new race equality framework for Scotland, which will run between 2016 and 2030.

**Hanzala Malik:** It is all very well to say how welcoming we Scots are—this week, Glasgow welcomed the first refugees from Syria—but that does not mean that we Scots are immune from racism or discrimination. In a study on discrimination in Scotland, Dr Nasar Meer from the University of Strathclyde found that around a third of the ethnic minority people who were surveyed said that they had experienced discrimination in the past five years and that 60 per cent of those people did not report it to anyone. It is therefore obvious that what the Government is currently doing is not working.

What practical steps are being taken to address what minority communities are experiencing? I would like the minister to write to me to demonstrate the Scottish National Party Government's commitment to tackling racial discrimination and to show what is being done to address the issues that are being experienced in the community out there.

**Reply from Marco Biagi:** I am aware of the research to which the member refers. It also found that 82 per cent of everyone who was surveyed would encourage a friend or family member to make a formal complaint if they had encountered discrimination. Therefore, there is a strong feeling that people will urge one another to report discrimination.

We recognise that the level of reporting is not high enough. Throughout the summer, we engaged widely to ensure that we take on board the views of everyone with an interest in the issue, so that we can develop a really

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

effective strategy. I would be happy to write to the member with the list that I have in front of me of the many concrete steps that we are taking, so that he can be reassured that we are taking action to increase reporting and to ensure that hate crime is tackled.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10213&i=94071#ScotParIOR>

#### Hate Crime

**Elaine Murray:** To ask the Scottish Government what its most recent estimate is of the cost of hate crime to the economy. (S4W-28400)

**Reply from Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government has not estimated the cost of hate crime to the economy. We are clear that there is no excuse for any form of hate crime – it is simply not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We are committed to continuing to work closely with public and third sector organisations to address the causes and consequences of hate crime.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28400&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Paris Terrorist Attacks

... col 383 **Andy Burnham:** ... ISIL's evil ideology is not a true reflection of Islam; indeed, it is a perversion of it. However, the Muslim community in this country will be feeling an extra sense of nervousness right now. What more can [the Home Secretary] say to reassure law-abiding members of the Muslim community that they will have our full support in dealing with this threat? ...

col 384 **Theresa May:** ... Islam is a peaceful religion that is practised peacefully by millions of people around the world, and many of them have already risen up in communities here in the UK, in France and elsewhere to say that these attacks were not perpetrated in their name. We look forward to working further with people in the Muslim communities around the United Kingdom to help those mainstream voices to be heard.

... we have asked the police to identify anti-Muslim hate crime separately so that we can see the nature and extent of it. It has been increasing in recent years, as has the number of anti-Semitic incidents. ...

col 390 **Dominic Grieve:** ... Islamophobia ... is very widespread at present in this country and this House would be wise not to underestimate its impact on law-abiding Muslims. That is a task for all of us.

**Theresa May:** ... One reason why it is important to ask the police to record anti-Muslim hate crime separately is so that we can get a much better understanding of its extent. The Tell MAMA statistics suggest that it has been increasing in recent years. It is therefore important that we all play our part in addressing the problem and recognising the impact it has on Muslim communities. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151116/debtext/151116-0001.htm#151116200002>

## UK Parliament Questions

#### Hate Crime

**Stuart Andrew:** What assessment [has the Home Secretary] made of the performance of

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the police in tackling hate crime. [902149]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley):** The police continue to make significant progress on tackling hate crime. The recording of hate crime has improved and the True Vision website was launched in 2011. Guidance for officers was published in 2014 and there is improved training on the handling of hate crime cases and support for victims.

**Stuart Andrew:** I am grateful for that answer and associate myself with the comments made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary. Given the horrific attacks in Paris at the weekend, many Muslim communities are concerned about the potential increase in anti-Muslim hate crime in this country. Can my hon. Friend reassure those communities in my constituency and across the country that the Government are committed to tackling such hatred in all its forms?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** My hon. Friend makes a very important point. It is absolutely clear that there is no excuse for hatred—no religious excuse and no other excuse. Hatred will not be accepted by this Government. We work closely with community organisations such as Tell MAMA to ensure that we are aware of community work to stop hate crime and to ensure that we increase reporting of it. We have also announced that Muslim hate crime will be recorded separately by the police to ensure that we have a full assessment of its levels.

**Keith Vaz:** Further to the comments of the hon. Member for Pudsey (Stuart Andrew), these terrible events in Paris mean that it is very important that police officers engage fully with local communities. The Government were right to suspend the operation of the police funding formula, which deals with frontline policing. Although the counter-terrorism budget has been protected, dealing with such offences means that we need bobbies on the beat. Will the Minister speak to the Home Secretary and see whether we can present an argument to the Chancellor to protect front-line policing so that the police can deal with such issues, which impact on local communities?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** I am not sure that I need to speak directly to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, as she heard what the right hon. Gentleman said. It is important to point out that the proportion of police on the frontline has gone up and it is incredibly important that we work with communities to ensure that we root out these crimes.

**Michael Fabricant:** Is my hon. Friend aware that ISIL has sought to justify its attack on the Bataclan theatre by saying that it was an attack on promiscuous youth and the perversion of French homosexuals? Does she agree that that is the worst of all hate crimes and would be condemned by all decent people?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** My hon. Friend sums it up perfectly and I do not think that there is anything I can add.

**Stephen Twigg:** Merseyside police have done fantastic work over the past decade or so in tackling hate crime. Does the Minister understand that there is real concern that the likely impact of spending cuts in the spending review could make it a lot harder for Merseyside police to maintain that brilliant work?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** I commend the work of Merseyside police, and police across the country. Hate crime has been coming down, and there has been increased reporting of it, which means that more victims are prepared to come forward. That is due to the excellent work of the police and the criminal justice system, and we should all congratulate them on that.

**Alan Brown:** Building on earlier comments, and noting that prevention is better than cure, may I ask the Government what extra measures they are taking to prevent hate crime, rather than tackle it once it has occurred? Also, I offer a reminder: Ministers should always be temperate in their language.

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The hon. Gentleman will, I am sure, be aware of the launch of the counter-extremism strategy. We have also committed to a new, cross-Government hate crime action plan to make sure that we tackle this crime at source, and prevent it.

**Lyn Brown:** But it is about resources. The Merseyside police and crime commissioner has said that proposed cuts “will affect the teams which fight serious and organised crime, investigate rape and sexual violence and tackle hate crime.” The chief constable of that service asks if he should take resources out of teams dealing with child abuse, gun crime, hate crime, or online fraud. What is the Minister’s answer?

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The hon. Lady, who was a member of a Government who saw increases in crime, should congratulate this Government on reductions in crime, and on the fact that hate crime is going down. That is down to the excellent work of our police, and we should commend them for that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151116/debtext/151116-0001.htm#151116200013>

### Secondary Education: Racial Discrimination

**David Simpson** [15889] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle racism in secondary schools.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** All forms of bullying and discrimination are unacceptable and all schools are required to have in place a behaviour policy with measures to tackle bullying, which includes racist bullying. They are held to account by Ofsted and inspectors will look at records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either directly or indirectly. This includes racist, disability and homophobic bullying, use of derogatory language and racist incidents.

In addition, all schools are required to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faith and beliefs. Our guidance published in November 2014 says that British values include accepting that others of different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

All publicly funded schools are required to promote community cohesion and teach a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum provides many opportunities to foster tolerance and understanding. As part of the history curriculum, pupils can learn about different cultures, and about how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. The citizenship programme of study sets out a requirement for pupils to be taught about ‘the diverse national, regional, religious, and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding’. PSHE can teach young people about the rights and responsibilities of living in a diverse community and how to respect others.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-10/15889/>

## News

**Paris attacks: Nicola Sturgeon warns against post-terrorism bigotry**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-34831412>

**Nicola Sturgeon says hate crime in wake of Paris attacks is ‘totally unacceptable’**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/nicola-sturgeon-says-hate-crime-in-wake-of-paris-attacks-is-totally-unacceptable-1.910672>

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## News (continued)

**Nicola Sturgeon issues strong warning over hate crime in wake of Paris attacks saying it is 'totally unacceptable'**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/nicola-sturgeon-issues-strong-warning-6841604>

**Humza Yousaf: 'Friends asked why Muslims want to plant bombs'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4620139.ece>

**Racist admits to vile Twitter slur at SNP minister Humza Yousaf**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-admits-vile-twitter-slur-6865217>

**Man admits sending racist tweet to minister**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4619002.ece>

**Police Scotland probing online abuse of SNP's Humza Yousaf as Muslim leaders report hate crimes in affluent suburb of Newton Mearns**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14034184.Government\\_minister\\_flooded\\_with\\_racial\\_abuse\\_and\\_vulnerable\\_targeted\\_in\\_Islamophobia\\_Paris\\_backlash/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14034184.Government_minister_flooded_with_racial_abuse_and_vulnerable_targeted_in_Islamophobia_Paris_backlash/)

**Police launch investigation after SNP minister Humza Yousaf suffers wave of racist abuse on social media in wake of Paris attacks**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/police-launch-investigation-after-snp-6842380>

**MP Mhairi Black hits out at 'bile and racism' she has witnessed after welcoming refugees**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14040486.Video\\_MP\\_Mhairi\\_Black\\_hits\\_out\\_at\\_bile\\_and\\_racism\\_she\\_has\\_witnessed\\_after\\_welcoming\\_refugees/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14040486.Video_MP_Mhairi_Black_hits_out_at_bile_and_racism_she_has_witnessed_after_welcoming_refugees/)

**Paris attacks: Police Scotland note rise in hate crimes**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/paris-attacks-police-scotland-note-rise-in-hate-crimes-1-3948884>

**Religious hate crime spikes in Scotland on back of Paris attacks**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032926.Religious\\_hate\\_crime\\_spikes\\_in\\_Scotland\\_on\\_back\\_of\\_Paris\\_attacks/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14032926.Religious_hate_crime_spikes_in_Scotland_on_back_of_Paris_attacks/)

**Scottish police issue warning as they probe religious hate crimes in wake of Paris attacks**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-police-issue-warning-probe-6841485>

**Religious hate crime spikes in Scotland on back of Paris attacks**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14032930.Religious\\_hate\\_crime\\_spikes\\_in\\_Scotland\\_on\\_back\\_of\\_Paris\\_attacks/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14032930.Religious_hate_crime_spikes_in_Scotland_on_back_of_Paris_attacks/)

**Muslims urged to stay at home after signs of Paris attacks backlash**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037433.Muslims\\_urged\\_to\\_stay\\_at\\_home\\_after\\_signs\\_of\\_Paris\\_attacks\\_backlash/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14037433.Muslims_urged_to_stay_at_home_after_signs_of_Paris_attacks_backlash/)

**Deliberate fire at Bishopbriggs centre used as mosque**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-34843552>

**Bishopbriggs mosque targeted in 'deliberate' fire**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/bishopbriggs-mosque-targeted-in-deliberate-fire-1-3950553>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

#### **Muslim cultural centre torched by thugs in Bishopbriggs**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14036512.Muslim\\_cultural\\_centre\\_torched\\_by\\_thugs\\_in\\_Bishopbriggs/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14036512.Muslim_cultural_centre_torched_by_thugs_in_Bishopbriggs/)

#### **STUC responds to the possible deliberate fire at a Mosque**

<http://www.stuc.org.uk/news/1205/stuc-responds-to-the-possible-deliberate-fire-at-a-mosque>

#### **Police patrols stepped up at mosques after Muslim community centre torched**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14038701.Police\\_patrols\\_stepped\\_up\\_at\\_mosques\\_after\\_Muslim\\_community\\_centre\\_torched/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14038701.Police_patrols_stepped_up_at_mosques_after_Muslim_community_centre_torched/)

#### **Police watch mosques in wake of hate crimes**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4617937.ece>

#### **Security warning for mosques after attack**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4616946.ece>

#### **'Increased hostility' towards Scottish Muslims since Paris attacks**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-34877717>

#### **Call for Scotland to unite as 64 hate crimes reported since Paris attacks**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14093378.Call\\_for\\_Scotland\\_to\\_unite\\_as\\_64\\_hate\\_crimes\\_reported\\_since\\_Paris\\_attacks/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14093378.Call_for_Scotland_to_unite_as_64_hate_crimes_reported_since_Paris_attacks/)

#### **Call for unity as 64 hate crimes reported in Scotland since Paris attacks**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/call-for-unity-as-64-hate-crimes-reported-in-scotland-since-paris-attacks-1.911590>

#### **Increase in hate crimes on Scots Muslims since Paris attacks**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/increase-in-hate-crimes-on-scots-muslims-since-paris-attacks-1-3954600>

#### **Tensions rise in Scotland in wake of Paris attack**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14095367.Tensions\\_rise\\_in\\_Scotland\\_in\\_wake\\_of\\_Paris\\_attack/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14095367.Tensions_rise_in_Scotland_in_wake_of_Paris_attack/)

#### **Communities come together as hate crimes reach record high**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4620128.ece>

#### **Don't let Paris terror attacks enable racism in Scotland**

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/dont-let-paris-enable-racism-in-scotland>

#### **Crimes against Britain's Muslims soar**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4620006.ece>

#### **New report highlights 'sharp rise' in anti-Muslim attacks and 'environment of hate' in Britain**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/new-report-highlights-sharp-rise-in-anti-muslim-attacks-and-environment-of-hate-in-britain-a6739596.html>

#### **Muslims suffer pain and prejudice of a more hostile Britain**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4615770.ece>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**All evidence is pointing to greater integration, not less**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4615766.ece>

**We must unite in condemning hate crime against Muslims**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/herald\\_view/14037989.Herald\\_View\\_We\\_must\\_unite\\_in\\_condemning\\_hate\\_crime\\_against\\_Muslims/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/herald_view/14037989.Herald_View_We_must_unite_in_condemning_hate_crime_against_Muslims/)

**Takeaway owner seriously injured in hate attack**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4615877.ece>

**Paris attacks: Bullies target Edinburgh Muslim girl**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/education/paris-attacks-bullies-target-edinburgh-muslim-girl-1-3953640>

**Celtic chairman condemns 'criminally racist abuse' of Lord Livingston**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14093050.Celtic\\_chairman\\_condemns\\_criminally\\_racist\\_abuse\\_of\\_Lord\\_Livingston/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14093050.Celtic_chairman_condemns_criminally_racist_abuse_of_Lord_Livingston/)

**Celtic's boss slams 'racist' attacks on Lord Livingston**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14094886.Celtic\\_s\\_boss\\_slams\\_racist\\_attacks\\_on\\_Lord\\_Livingston](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14094886.Celtic_s_boss_slams_racist_attacks_on_Lord_Livingston)

**Celtic chairman causes anger at club AGM after branding some fans 'criminally racist' over abuse aimed at Lord Livingston**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/celtic-chairman-causes-anger-club-6867553>

**Fan comments "criminally racist" says Celtic chairman**

<http://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/competitions/premiership/fan-comments-criminally-racist-says-celtic-chairman-1-3954153>

**MSP demands Government action on racial discrimination**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14093100.MSP\\_demands\\_Government\\_action\\_on\\_racial\\_discrimination/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14093100.MSP_demands_Government_action_on_racial_discrimination/)

**Unmasked bigot Steven Riley unrepentant over vile online rants targeting Syrian refugees**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/unmasked-bigot-steven-riley-unrepentant-6871064>

**Number of religious aggravated offences hits 40-year low**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/number-of-religious-aggravated-offences-hits-40-year-low-1-3950543>

[TOP](#)

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Debate

#### **Motion of Condolence: Paris, 13 November 2015**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10209&i=94033#ScotParlOR>

### Parliamentary Motion

#### **S4M-14848 Nicola Sturgeon: Motion of Condolence: Paris, 13 November 2015—**

That the Parliament extends its solidarity and that of the people of Scotland to the people of France and offers its condolences to all those affected by the appalling terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015; reaffirms its commitment to a diverse and multicultural society, and calls on people across Scotland to unite as one community, both here at home and in solidarity with France, to make clear that acts of terrorism will not succeed in dividing us or destroying the freedoms and way of life that are valued so highly.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-14848&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Press Releases

#### **In solidarity with France: FM visits Glasgow Central Mosque as Scotland falls silent**

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/In-solidarity-with-France-1f50.aspx>

#### **First Minister signs Book of Condolence**

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-minister-signs-book-of-condolence/>

#### **First Minister responds to Paris Attacks**

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-minister-responds-to-paris-attacks/>

[TOP](#)

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Prime Minister's Statement followed by Q&A

#### **Paris Attacks**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151117/debtext/151117-0001.htm#1511175100004>

### Early Day Motion

**Margaret Ferrier (726) Scottish Interfaith Week 2015** – That this House celebrates Scottish Interfaith Week 2015 which runs between 22 and 30 November 2015; notes that due to the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015, the specific theme is on the Care for the Environment; further notes that in light of the tragic events in Paris on 13 November 2015, it is vital that people of all faiths, and those of none, all come together to combat rising extremism; recognises that local interfaith groups and faith communities across the country enhance Scotland's rich diverse society; agrees with the First Minister of Scotland, when in 2012 she said interfaith events are tremendously



## Other UK Parliament and Government Early Day Motion (continued)

important in bringing together different communities united in a common purpose; encourages everyone in Scotland to get involved in any local events that occur; and hopes that Scotland continues to benefit from being a multicultural society.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/726>

## Press Release

### Prime Minister's statement on Paris attacks

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-paris-attacks-and-g20-summit>

## New Publication

### Work of the Scottish Affairs Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmsscota/331/331.pdf>

## News

### Minister wades into row over first-cousin couples among British Pakistanis amid fears over health risks to children

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3328818/Minister-wades-row-cousin-couples-British-Pakistanis-amid-fears-health-risks-children.html>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress \*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

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

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

Stage 1 evidence session, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10215&i=94096#ScotParlOR>

#### \*\* Community Justice Bill

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10213&i=94090#ScotParlOR>

#### Criminal Justice Bill

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

## Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

### \*\* Education Bill

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

Stage 2 evidence session, Education and Culture Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10212&i=94061#ScotParlOR>

### Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

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

### \*\* Lobbying Bill

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

Stage 1 evidence session, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10215&i=94108&c=1883568#ScotParlOR>

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

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

Stage 1 informal meeting with faith and belief groups, Health and Sport Committee

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_HealthandSportCommittee/OR's/NoteofMeeting.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/OR's/NoteofMeeting.pdf)

Stage 1 evidence session, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10210&i=94039#ScotParlOR>

Stage 1 evidence, Finance Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10208&i=94028#ScotParlOR>

## 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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/pbc0741311a.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/pbc0741711m.1-7.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/pbc0741811a.1-2.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0074/amend/pbc0742011a.1-3.html>

## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### Immigration Bill (continued)

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmpublic/immigration/151117/am/151117s01.htm>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee (with changes marked)

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2015-16/compared-bills/Immigration-bill-151118.pdf>

#### Scotland Bill

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

#### UK Borders Control Bill

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

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

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

**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>

## Consultations (continued)

**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/>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* 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>

**\*\* this week!**

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.

### **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

### **Inclusion Fundamentals**

9 December 2015 in Kirkcaldy (9.30 – 4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities seminar on the basics for understanding and meeting the

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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)

[TOP](#)

## 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)

[TOP](#)



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



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



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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.