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Contents

Immigration and Asylum

Community Relations

Equality

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Other UK Parliament and Government

Other News

Bills in Progress

Consultations

Job Opportunities

Funding Opportunities

Events/Conferences/Training

Useful Links

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

English as an additional language

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government how many school pupils have been recorded as having English as an additional language (EAL) in each of the last five years, and how many staff have been trained in teaching EAL pupils. (S4W-28722)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: The number of pupils who have been recorded as having English as an additional language (EAL) in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The level of English language competence for these pupils ranges from 'New to English' to 'Competent', and therefore pupils would have differing levels of need for support.

Number of pupils recorded with EAL:

Year	Number
2015	33,440
2014	32,509
2013	29,532

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

2012	26,131
2011	24,555

Source: Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland

The number of staff who have been trained in teaching EAL pupils is a matter for education authorities and not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28722&ResultsPerPage=10>

English as an additional language

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language and whether these are being met. (S4W-28724)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: It is for education authorities to assess the needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language. The Additional Support for Learning Act 2004 (as amended) requires education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of pupils for whose education they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs. English as an additional language has been identified as a potential additional support need specifically within the Act's Code of Practice.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28724&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15116 Christian Allard: Impact of UK Immigration Bill on Scotland—That the Parliament condemns the passage of the UK Government's Immigration Bill in the House of Commons; considers that it will have an impact on devolved areas of responsibility; believes that, by further criminalising and marginalising undocumented workers, the Bill is in danger of driving people further into the hands of unscrupulous employers, risking deepening exploitation; considers with regret that the Bill could lead to increased homelessness and discrimination and will place onerous immigration duties on landlords and other private individuals, including in the North East Scotland region, through provisions on residential tenancies; condemns the powers to remove in-country rights of appeal against Home Office immigration decisions, which it believes will result in families being split up and employment ended simply due to Home Office errors or oversights; condemns the removal of financial support for families with children as a deliberate policy of destitution; opposes any extension or application of this legislation to Scotland without the consent of the Scottish Parliament, and notes calls for the UK Government to rethink what it sees as this injurious legislation and to repeal its provisions to protect human rights of all citizens.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15116&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

UK Visas and Immigration: Internet

Julian Lewis [17395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what remedy exists for enquirers whose electronic communications with the International Enquiry Service are not answered.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The International Enquiry Service currently

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

handles approximately 12,000 emails a week and, from management information received, continues to answer all emails within the published service standards (100% of emails responded to within one working day (24 hours)). In addition, all email enquiries receive an auto response which states "Your email has been submitted - We have received your email. You will receive a response within one working day."

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-23/17395/>

Immigration Controls

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Crisp [HL4015] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review their current immigration policies to enable universities, research institutes, and other science and health-based organisations to recruit talent globally.

Visas

Lord Crisp [HL4016] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the current visa categories and visa application processes to help foster international research collaborations, in particular in the health and science sectors.

Reply from Lord Bates: Our current immigration policies, categories and processes already explicitly take account of the needs of academics, scientists and researchers. We have consistently protected and enhanced the treatment of these roles in the immigration system, even whilst restricting migration in other spheres.

In Tier 2, the skilled work route, we have given PhD level roles, which include academics, scientists and researchers, higher priority when allocating places within the annual limit and relaxed rules relating to recruitment and settlement. We have introduced the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route for world leaders in science, engineering, humanities, the arts and digital technology, and several universities and research organisations are making use of this route. The Tier 5 (Temporary Work) route contains provisions to enable sponsored researchers to participate in international research collaborations, and for overseas medical and dental post-graduates to undertake training in the UK.

The immigration system also supports the health sector, with several health professions, including doctors in emergency medicine, included on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). Nurses have been added to the SOL as a temporary measure, pending a full review of the evidence by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

We keep all immigration routes under review to ensure they are working effectively in line with the Government's migration objectives. For the future, we have commissioned the MAC to advise on restricting Tier 2 to genuine skills shortages and jobs which require highly-specialised experts, but with sufficient flexibility to include high value roles and key public service workers. We await the MAC's report with interest and will consider it carefully before making any significant changes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4015/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4016/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls

Lord Crisp [HL4017] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review their current immigration policies so that international students, qualified researchers, and experts across the health and science sectors can more easily enter the UK and participate in training, run courses, and attend meetings and conferences.

Reply from Lord Bates: We keep all categories of entry and the application process under regular review. The Home Office recently concluded a wide ranging review and consultation that led to the changes to the Immigration Rules for visitors in April this year. The changes included consolidation and simplification of all visitor categories from fifteen into four routes to provide flexibility on the activities a visitor can do, as well as some expansion of the permitted activities. These included business related activities such as participating in or running training courses, meetings and conferences.

Under the Immigration Rules, visitors are allowed to teach one-off classroom sessions in the UK without pay and their sponsors are welcome to provide funding for flights and accommodation.

More details on what people can do when visiting the UK and how to apply can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa> and the detailed Immigration Rules for Visitors can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4017/>

Immigration: Appeals

Lord Scriven [HL4125] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Upper Tribunal's decision in *MSM (journalists; political opinion; risk) Somalia* [2015] UKUT 00413 (IAC), what plans they have immediately to revise their country-specific bulletins, and how they will now apply their discretion to asylum and immigration cases.

Reply from Lord Bates: We do not believe our country specific bulletins are at odds with the Upper Tribunal's decision in *MSM (Somalia)* such that they require urgent revision. However, we are constantly reviewing our country information and guidance to ensure we reflect the most up-to-date situation and caselaw.

A fundamental principle of the 1951 Refugee Convention is that each case is considered on its own merits. That is the approach taken by the Home Office.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4125/>

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

Julian Knight [18548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what protections she plans to put in place for landlords who, unwittingly and after carrying out reasonable checks, allow an illegal immigrant to rent their property.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Immigration Act 2014 prohibits landlords from leasing property to persons who are disqualified from renting by reason of their immigration status. Right to rent checks are simple to conduct and comprise of an examination of documents from a range prescribed in law as acceptable for the purposes of establishing a right to rent. Landlords are not expected to be immigration or forgery experts and the Act provides defences in law for the landlord who may have accepted a falsified document in good faith and having acted reasonably.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-02/18548/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Visas: Married People

Stephen Timms [17661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of premium service spousal visa applications were determined on the day of application in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire L The proportion of premium service spousal visa applications that received a grant or refusal outcome and were determined on the day of application during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 were (data from 2009 has been included for context):

- In 2009, of 5930 applications, 80% were determined on the day of application
- In 2010, of 6360 applications, 80% were determined on the day of application
- In 2011, of 6855 applications, 74% were determined on the day of application
- In 2012, of 5670 applications, 69% were determined on the day of application
- In 2013, of 6335 applications, 78% were determined on the day of application
- In 2014, of 6725 applications, 91% were determined on the day of application

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-25/17661/>

Visas: Married People

Stephen Timms [17662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of spousal visa postal applications were determined within eight weeks in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013 and (e) 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The proportion of postal spousal visa applications that received a grant or refusal outcome and were determined within eight weeks during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 were (data from 2009 has been included for context):

- In 2009, of 19436 applications, 11% were determined within eight weeks
- In 2010, of 17455 applications, 51% were determined within eight weeks
- In 2011, of 11570 applications, 73% were determined within eight weeks
- In 2012, of 9580 applications, 12% were determined within eight weeks
- In 2013, of 20440 applications, 31% were determined within eight weeks
- In 2014, of 13020 applications, 65% were determined within eight weeks

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-25/17662/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Baroness Rebuck [HL4127] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reintroduce automatic post-study work visas, in particular for postgraduate international students working at recognised higher education institutions in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bates: We have an excellent post-study offer for international graduates seeking to undertake skilled work in the UK after their studies. There is no limit on the number who can remain, if they secure a graduate job paying an appropriate salary.

The Government has no plans to reintroduce the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) visa, which saw large numbers of fraudulent applications and graduates who remained unemployed or in low-skilled work. We closed this visa category in 2012 and have replaced it with a more selective system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4127/>

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Lord Clement-Jones: To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of the impact on higher education institutions of their policy on visas for

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

overseas students, particularly in respect of the visa refusal thresholds set for them.

Reply from The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, we have an excellent offer for international students who wish to study at our world-leading institutions and there remains no limit on the number who can do so. The visa refusal threshold incentivises institutions to conduct checks to ensure that they are offering places to genuine students.

Lord Clement-Jones: My Lords, the new and very subjective credibility test, combined with the lowering to 10% of the refusal threshold, has caused huge difficulties for universities—I hope the Minister is aware of that—and has led to it becoming virtually impossible for them to offer places to students from Nigeria and Pakistan, to name but two countries. Is the Home Office aware of these difficulties caused to universities? It appears like racial discrimination to many of these students. Can he confirm that there is absolutely no intention of lowering the threshold to 5%?

Reply from Lord Bates: We changed the threshold from 20% down to 10% because it mirrors the national scheme, whereby we grant 90% of visas and 10% are refused. Most universities have way below 10%. They have 1%, 2%, 3%—under 5%—and therefore when somebody triggers that threshold of 10% we think it is right to ask some questions about the rigour and robustness of their application procedures. The reality is that for most universities we see increasing numbers of students—up 31% for the Russell group, up 17% for all universities—so that seems to suggest that it is not quite the issue that the noble Lord has presented.

Lord Howell of Guildford: Would my noble friend agree that as most Commonwealth countries let our students in free, it might be time to reintroduce for students the Commonwealth youth visa, the post-study work visa and flexible, reciprocal arrangements with Australia, New Zealand and Canada, which these countries would clearly welcome?

Reply from Lord Bates: The noble Lord makes an interesting suggestion about our relations with the Commonwealth. Of course, Australia and Canada also have an attractive offer to international students and, therefore, it would be good to look at forming greater relationships between us. However, the bottom line is that there is no limit on genuine students studying at genuine universities in the UK, nor will there ever be one.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, is the Minister aware of the difficulties faced by Palestinian students, who first have to go to Jordan to get their visas, which involves passing through many Israeli checkpoints on the way, before paying a large fee? Do the Government already have discretion to waive fees for poor students, particularly for those coming for short visits to take part in a conference or a performance in this country, for example?

Reply from Lord Bates: Any plans to change the system on the fees depends on the relationship with the university in the UK. Presumably a relationship can be negotiated on the financial assistance which might be given to such students. Of course it would be entirely open to the universities to make such offers as they wish. However, it is an important part of the verification process to introduce television or visual interviews with students, because that has made a significant improvement in the quality and calibre of the students coming to our institutions.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151210-0001.htm#15121052000803>

Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3899] To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have agreed to accept Syrian and other refugees.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Local authorities from across the UK participate in the four resettlement programmes which the UK operates. These run on a voluntary basis, and we do not disclose which are involved as resettlement can be a sensitive issue. Providing this information without their consent could deter other local authorities from participating in future.

It is at the discretion of Local Authorities to disclose whether or not they are involved with the Syrian Resettlement programme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-25/HL3899/>

Syrian Refugees: Settlement in the UK

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made to implement the Prime Minister's pledge to settle 1,000 Syrian refugees by Christmas.

Reply from The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the charter flights which have arrived represent a significant upscaling of the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme. We are on track to meet the Prime Minister's ambition of 1,000 arrivals from the region by Christmas.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: I thank the Minister for that reply. Is he aware of the requests that have come from many places that we accommodate 3,000 unaccompanied children? Following the Prime Minister's promise made last Wednesday—"I am very happy to look at that issue again ... to see whether Britain can do more to fulfil our moral responsibilities"—[*Official Report*, Commons, 2/12/15; col. 339.]

—what progress has been made towards Britain fulfilling its moral responsibilities?

Reply from Lord Bates: In terms of moral responsibilities, it should be recognised that we have committed to take 20,000 refugees by the end of the Parliament, which represents a significant upscaling of the scheme. The Prime Minister said last week that he would look at this issue again. He is doing so, but a key group that is concerned here is the UNHCR, which we are working closely with. It is concerned that if we offer special treatment to unaccompanied minors, that may encourage more of them to be trafficked or might take them away from the region where they would actually stand more chance of remaining with their families. In fact, that is being exploited by the people traffickers, who send the children first in the hope that they might be resettled, and that others may follow afterwards. The Prime Minister is looking at this again because on the face of it, there is a compelling humanitarian case. However, no decision has been taken yet.

Lord Tomlinson: Will the Minister reflect on the fact that another of the Prime Minister's pledges was to reduce net migration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands? Can he update your Lordships' House on the statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last week, in which he seemed to suggest that the Government are minded to take migration, for the purposes of higher education, out of the net migration count?

Reply from Lord Bates: I have two thoughts on that. First, of course, it is absolutely right that there needs to be downward pressure on the wrong sort of immigration into this country. We have got to get those numbers down, precisely so that we can also offer more generous support to the genuine refugees and asylum seekers. On the specific of students, whatever the change in the calculation of the numbers, it will make no change to the student policy. There is no cap on the number of students who can come here for genuine courses to genuine universities, and that will remain the case.

Baroness Sharples: How can we be sure that these people seeking refuge are indeed from Syria?

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Yes, my noble friend is absolutely right to point this out. That is one of the reasons why we want the investigations and checks to take place in the refugee camps in the region, under the auspices of the UNHCR, rather than encouraging people to make the perilous journey here and then try to establish whether their bona fides and credentials are as they say they are.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151207-0001.htm#15120712000429>

Refugees: Syria

Paul Scully [18463] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, when the Government will inform local authorities of the increased funding that will be available for housing Syrian refugees.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs are funded by Government using the Overseas Development Aid budget. In November 2015 the Government announced around £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 for those local authorities who are resettling refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. This is unringfenced funding and it will be for local authorities to decide how to use the funding to support the refugees they resettle.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-02/18463/>

Refugees: Syria

Stephen Timms [18850] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether additional financial support is available to local authorities who participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to assist them with housing Syrian refugees.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The first 12 months of each refugee's resettlement costs are met from the UK's overseas aid budget. At the Spending Review, government committed £129m to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 of the scheme. This is a substantial level of funding which will enable local authorities to support these vulnerable people as they rebuild their lives in safe and secure surroundings, among supportive communities in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-07/18850/>

Refugees: Syria

Stephen Timms [18565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures her Department has put in place to provide support for Syrian refugees relocated in the UK under the vulnerable persons relocation scheme who do not speak English.

Richard Harrington: Local authorities provide those resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme with a 12 month support package to assist with their integration, and this includes provision of English language tuition. This is being funded using Official Development Aid, and the Chancellor has now confirmed that the Government will provide additional funding to assist with costs incurred in years two to five of the scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-02/18565/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Syria

Stephen Timms [18811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2015 to Question 18221, what estimate she has made of the time taken to process a family from Syria onto the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme before they are housed in the UK.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The time taken to process a family from Syria onto the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme varies depending on the individual circumstances of that family.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-04/18811/>

Asylum

Lord Laird [HL4217] To ask Her Majesty's Government which are the designated dispersal areas for asylum seekers in the UK; how many asylum seekers are currently registered as living in Northern Ireland; how many asylum seekers have been refused leave to stay in Northern Ireland; and what social security benefits asylum seekers are entitled to (1) while awaiting a decision, and (2) after a refusal to remain decision has been made.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, introduced the policy of national dispersal and was designed to introduce an equitable distribution across the country such that no one area was overburdened by the obligation of supporting asylum seekers. In accordance with that Act a number of local authorities across the UK, including those within the devolved administrations, have volunteered to participate in accommodating asylum seekers. There are currently 99 areas signed-up to participate.

The Home Office publish figures on the number of asylum applicants living in dispersed accommodation (under Section 95), by local authority, in the quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The latest release for July-September 2015 is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2015/asylum>

Figures on Section 95 support by local authority (including those in dispersed accommodation) are published in table as_16q, in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables: Asylum vol. 4: tables as 14 to as 19 q. These tables show that Northern Ireland is currently accommodating 497 applicants in dispersed accommodation. All will have claimed asylum in Northern Ireland.

National figures are also published on decision outcomes at the above link.

Home Office supports Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute until their claim is fully determined and they have exhausted their appeal rights. Failed asylum seekers may be able to receive short-term support whilst preparing to return to their home country under section 4 of the 1999 Act.

Immigration Statistics July-September 2015:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/434098/original/Immigration%20Statistics%20July-September%202015.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4217/>

Asylum

Lord Laird [HL4220] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in each of the last five years, how many asylum applications have been made by people who entered the UK on a student visa; what are the top 10 countries of nationality of those people; and what assessment they have made of those figures.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Over the last five years there have been 17,387 cases of individuals who have entered on a student visa and subsequently also went on to claim asylum. Details by year and those of the top ten nationalities are listed below.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTALS
Total Claims	1,901	4,350	4,695	3,743	2,698	17,387
TOP 10 Nationalities						
Pakistan	385	1,313	1,471	1,265	892	5,326
Sri Lanka	744	1,137	1,171	715	395	4,162
Iran	244	464	307	148	77	1,240
India	26	244	320	294	266	1150
Bangladesh	31	167	318	264	291	1,071
Syria	24	256	251	134	90	755
China	25	95	162	160	92	534
Nigeria	12	94	142	136	107	491
Libya	114	73	57	86	109	439
Burma (Myanmar)	98	42	14	13	10	177
All Other	198	465	482	528	369	2,042
TOTALS	1,901	4,350	4,695	3,743	2,698	17,387

The Home Office constantly analyses patterns of migration to identify trends and possible abuses of the immigration system. In October of 2014 we began a pilot to target abuse of the visa immigration system in cases where people claimed asylum within one year of obtaining a visa for the UK. This encompasses all visa types and not just student visas. Evaluation of this pilot ahead of any decision for further roll out is ongoing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4220/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Greaves [HL4211] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 2 December (HL3987), what is the procedure for children who are dependants of British citizens and persons who are living legally in the UK, and who have had asylum claims accepted by the French authorities, to apply for entry to the UK in order to be reunited with their families.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK does not hold statistical information of the number of asylum applications made in France by dependent children of British citizens or persons living legally in the UK or how many of these applications have been accepted by the French. Statistics for transfers of asylum applicants from France to the UK on the basis of family ties are not routinely recorded.

We will consider any request made to us by the French asylum authorities to take responsibility for an asylum applicant in France because they have close family in the UK in accordance with the terms of the Dublin Regulation concerning the principle of family unity and the best interests of the child. This is subject to an applicant first claiming asylum in France. If they do not wish to claim asylum, individual migrants in France as in any other country, are entitled to apply under

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the Family Reunion provisions to join relatives in the UK by making the appropriate application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4211/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL4121] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the review of countries designated under section 94(5) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 following the Supreme Court judgment in *R (JB (Jamaica)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2015] UKSC 8.

Reply from Lord Bates: The process of reviewing all the designated countries is nearing completion. Any proposals for changes to the designation of countries must be made by order and so will be put to Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4121/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL4122] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in ensuring that management and statistical information concerning asylum claims on grounds of sexuality and gender identity are recorded accurately and comprehensively by the Home Office, and when that data will be published.

Reply from Lord Bates: We are still looking into the feasibility of publishing figures on the number of asylum applications by sexual orientation of the applicants. Any plans to publish will be subject to the data being of appropriate quality, in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4122/>

Asylum: Applications

Stephen Timms [18567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications were initially refused in each month in 2015 to date; and how many such applications were from individuals aged under 18.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications and decisions on a quarterly and annual basis.

Statistics on the number of refusals at initial decision for asylum main applicants, for quarter 1 (January to March) 2015 to Q3 (July to September) 2015, are given in the table.

Asylum applications and initial refusals for main applicants, 2015 Q1 to 2015 Q3 (1)

	Total refusals	Of which: applicant was aged under 18
2015 Q1	5744	123
2015 Q2	3598	104
2015 Q3	3995	98

(1) The information supplied on initially refused applications is based on initial decisions which do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

The latest release, Immigration Statistics July – September 2015, was published on 26 November 2015 and is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2015>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-02/18567/>

Asylum: Repatriation

Lord Laird [HL4218] To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to provide financial and other travel assistance to failed asylum seekers to enable them to return home; and what assessment they have made of whether those arrangements are being used in Northern Ireland, and to what degree.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office offers assistance to failed asylum seekers who wish to return to their country of origin, including help with flights, travel documentation and financial assistance where necessary. Voluntary departures are designed to achieve a dignified return for those individuals with the most complex needs who wish to arrange their own return from the UK. This assistance is available throughout the UK including Northern Ireland and we do not target particular areas or groups.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4218/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven [HL4120] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in preventing the bullying, harassment and abuse of LGBTI people in immigration detention centres, in the light of the recent inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, and of concerns expressed by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

Reply from Lord Bates: We take the welfare of our detainees very seriously and no form of ill-treatment or discrimination is tolerated.

On 9 February 2015 the Home Secretary announced an independent review of welfare in detention, led by Stephen Shaw CBE, which will focus on vulnerable detainees.

We will come back to this House before Committee stage of the Immigration Bill to respond to this report.

Guidance for staff in the immigration detention estate is being updated to include a new detention services order on the care and management of LGB detainees in immigration removal centres and the existing detention services order on transsexual detainees will be updated to include guidance on intersex detainees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4120/>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Lord Falconer of Thoroton [HL4023] To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions the fire brigade has been called to an incident at a migrant detention centre in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: Information for the complete data period requested is not held centrally.

Provisional management information available on the number of attendances by the fire brigade for fires at immigration removal centres from January 2013 is provided below in line with the period for published statistics:

Jan to Dec 2013 - 12 incidents

Jan to Dec 2014 - 10 incidents

Jan to Sep 2015 - 8 incidents

Attendances by the fire brigade for incidents other than fires during the same data

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

period could only be provided by examination of individual records so this information cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4023/>

UK Parliament Petition

Treatment of Asylum Seekers

Robert Ffello: ... The petition of residents of the UK, Declares that the petitioners are gravely concerned about the manner in which asylum seekers are currently treated in the UK; further that the 2015/16 Immigration Bill threatens to make those seeking sanctuary even more vulnerable; further that the Bill will leave more families homeless and further isolate an already marginalised group; further that recommendations made by the All-Party Parliamentary inquiry into the use of immigration detention have been excluded from the Bill; further that the petitioners have a moral responsibility as Christians to be a voice for those who have no voice; further that Pope Francis has said that refugees and asylum seekers are our brothers and sisters; and further that a local petition on this matter was signed by 3,000 people.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reconsider the findings of the All-Party Parliamentary inquiry into the use of immigration detention to adopt the inquiry's recommendations in order to improve the treatment of asylum seekers in the UK. ; [P001659]

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151209/debtext/151209-0004.htm#15120955000003>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Anne McLaughlin (851) Scottish Refugee Council – That this House congratulates the Scottish Refugee Council on its thirtieth anniversary; notes that it is a leading human rights agency and has been responding to refugee needs caused by events across the world since 10 December 1985, most recently coordinating the humanitarian response of the public in Scotland to the Syrian refugee crisis in partnership with the Scottish Government; further notes that the Council's work is recognised as an example of best practice in the UK, Europe and across the world, and of innovative responses to separated children, women, LGBTI refugees and families, and is pioneering in its holistic approaches to integration, recognising the dignity and resilience of refugees and works with them as assets and actors in this; views this as a cause for celebration as demonstrated annually by its Refugee Festival Scotland which not only highlights the contribution refugees make to the vibrancy of communities and cultural life, but also Scotland's welcome as a country that offers protection to people fleeing conflict and persecution where refugees can rebuild their lives in safety; and believes that this is something of which we can all be proud.

Press Releases

New guidelines to help refugees

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/news-from-copfs/1201-new-guidelines-to-help-refugees>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Enhanced helpline to benefit survivors of Modern Slavery

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/enhanced-helpline-to-benefit-survivors-of-modern-slavery>

Protect refugees and migrants, respect their human rights

<http://tinyurl.com/pb53qyu>

New Publications

More than 410 000 first time asylum seekers registered in the third quarter of 2015

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7105334/3-10122015-AP-EN.pdf/04886524-58f2-40e9-995d-d97520e62a0e>

Film: Immigration – What's the Story?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pca4ERXsS4g>

News

Refugees to be given legal protection

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-35059982>

No 10 denies claims Cameron has dropped four-year migrant benefit demand

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/13/no-10-denies-claims-david-cameron-dropped-four-year-migrant-benefit-demand>

PM 'caves in' on migrant benefits ban

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1644709.ece>

Curbing EU migrant benefits will not stop people coming here

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12039036/Curbing-EU-migrant-benefits-will-not-stop-them-coming-here.html>

Benefits curb won't stop flow of EU migrants, Cameron told

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4636077.ece>

UK net migration levels 'unsustainable', says David Cameron

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35055355>

After wires and fences refugees need help scaling the language barrier

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/dec/07/refugees-language-barrier-english-esol-cuts>

Home Office 'used wrong law' in bid to send high-risk Jamaican criminal home

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12046756/Home-Office-used-wrong-law-in-bid-to-send-high-risk-Jamaican-criminal-home.html>

The refugee children making the journey to a new life, alone: 'I expected I would die'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/11/refugee-children-alone-die-unaccompanied-sicily-kent>

Court fight to let children trapped in Calais 'Jungle' enter Britain

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/13/uk-failing-children-asylum>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

New Publication

Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good

<http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/uploads/Living%20with%20Difference.pdf>

News

In Preston, we don't bother them, they don't bother us

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/focus/article1644800.ece>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Ethnic Groups: Employment

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL3795] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps are being taken to increase racial diversity in the workplace in the light of the Business in the Community report *Race at Work 2015*, which found that ethnic minority Britons are struggling against bias at work.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Equality Act 2010 protects all individuals against racial and other forms of discrimination in the workplace. The Prime Minister has underlined the Government's commitments to increasing racial diversity in the workplace in his 2020 Vision in which he made a commitment to increase BAME employment by 20% by 2020. Her Majesty's Government welcomes the publication of the *Race at Work* report and will study its recommendations carefully.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-23/HL3795/>

Business: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL4037] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to commission a review into the obstacles that prevent more people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds from reaching senior positions in business, similar to the *Women on Boards* review by Lord Davies of Abersoch.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Government believes that businesses benefit from a rich and wide talent pool including people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Government is fully supportive of the private led Diversity initiative chaired by Sir John Parker who are currently considering this issue. We expect the group to report on their findings in 2016.

There are no current plans for Government to commission a separate review into the obstacles that are preventing more people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds from reaching senior positions in the boardroom.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4037/>

Film: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL4039] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they plan to take to promote racial diversity in the film industry.

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: This Government is committed to promoting diversity in the film industry. We support the British Film Institute's (BFI) newly launched £1 million Diversity Fund, which works to provide professional development opportunities to people from underrepresented groups, as well as funding to organisations that are looking to support diversity projects. The BFI has also recently extended its Diversity Standards to cover all Film Fund Lottery schemes which support film development, production and distribution, and widen access to film in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4039/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (822) 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Race Relations Act 1965 – That this House celebrates the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Race Relations Act 1965, which was the first legislation in the UK to address racial discrimination and which outlawed discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, or ethnic or national origins in public places; notes that it also prompted the creation of The Race Relations Board in 1966, the forerunner of the Commission for Racial Equality, which is now part of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and commends the tireless work of those who ensured that racial justice and equality are an essential part of British values.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/822>

News

Equality and Human Rights Commission statement on Freedom of Expression and the Lord's Prayer

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/statement-freedom-expression-and-lord%E2%80%99s-prayer>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publication

Seeking better solutions: tackling bullying and ill-treatment in Britain's workplaces

<http://www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/e/b/Seeking-better-solutions-tackling-bullying-and-ill-treatment-in-Britains-workplaces.pdf>

News

43% of people believe racism has increased, poll finds

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14129838.43_of_people_believe_racism_has_increased_poll_finds/

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Humza Yousaf: Islamophobia in Scotland now worse than in wake of 9/11

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14142186.Humza_Yousaf_Islamophobia_in_Scotland_now_worse_than_in_wake_of_9_11/

Young Scottish Muslims 'scared to speak about politics in case they are branded terrorists'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14142185.Young_Scottish_Muslims_scared_to_speak_about_politics_in_case_they_are_branded_terrorists/

With the rise of Isis, Muslims are being called 'beheaders'. This has to end

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/with-the-rise-of-isis-muslims-are-being-called-beheaders-this-has-to-end-a6767886.html>

Muslim man forced off London Underground after commuter accuses him of acting 'suspiciously' with an iPad

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-man-forced-off-london-underground-after-commuter-accuses-him-of-acting-suspiciously-with-an-a6766941.html>

Muslim student who was thrown off National Express coach after passengers complained he looked 'shifty' insists he was discriminated against because of his faith

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3352370/Pictured-Muslim-student-thrown-National-Express-coach-passengers-complained-looked-shifty-insists-discriminated-against-faith.html>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Faith Schools: Admissions

Heidi Allen [18302] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children who are refused admission to a state funded faith school on the grounds of differing faith or belief; and if she will work with schools and faith groups to facilitate inclusive admission policies in all state funded schools.

Reply from Edward Timpson: The department does not collect data on the reasons why individual applicants are refused a place to particular schools.

It is for the relevant admission authority of a school designated with a religious character to decide whether or not to adopt faith-based oversubscription criteria. Not all schools with a faith designation choose to allocate places by faith. Some choose to allocate only a proportion of their places on the basis of faith. Where they have places available, schools with a faith designation must admit all children who apply, without reference to faith.

The government is committed to ensuring that new faith-designated academies and free schools provide additional places not just for pupils of their own faith, but also for other local children regardless of their faith. New provision academies and free schools with a faith designation must give priority to at least 50 per cent of their intake without reference to faith, where they are oversubscribed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-01/18302/>

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Schools: Religion

Mark Hendrick [18688] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance her Department has issued to schools on meetings for prayer or religious instruction for pupils during break times.

Reply from Edward Timpson: Collective worship plays an important role in schools. It encourages children to reflect on belief, and helps shape fundamental British values of tolerance, respect and understanding for others. Parents can choose to withdraw their children from all or any part of collective worship.

The Department does not issue guidance to schools specifically on the provision of meetings for prayer or religious instruction for pupils during break times.

The Department does publish guidance on collective worship; it is for governing bodies to decide how best to meet the requirements of that guidance and the relevant legislation, which can be found online at GOV.UK:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281929/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-03/18688/>

Press Release

Youth-led website launched to end FGM

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/youth-led-website-launched-to-end-fgm>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Police 'not properly prepared' to tackle honour-based crime

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35035009>

It wasn't just the police who failed me when I became a victim of honour abuse

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/it-wasnt-just-the-police-who-failed-me-when-i-became-a-victim-of-honour-abuse-a6769656.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, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10266&i=94478#ScotParlOR>

Community Justice Bill

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

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

**** Criminal Justice Bill**

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

Stage 3 consideration of amendments, Chamber

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10256&i=94393#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10256&i=94397#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill35BS042015.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill35BS042015.pdf)

**** Education Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Education and Culture Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10258&i=94392#ScotParlOR>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10262&i=94423#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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-79_Lobbying_Scotland_Bill.pdf

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

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

Stage 1 evidence session, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10267&i=94480#ScotParlOR>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

**** Asylum (Unaccompanied Children Displaced by Conflict)**

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

First Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151208/debtext/151208-0001.htm#15120843000001>

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

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>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotlandact1998amendment.html>

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151208-0001.htm#15120844000544>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151208-0003.htm#15120854000263>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Charity Trustee Guidance (closing date 18 December 2015)

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** What are your priorities for your police service? A Review of Our Strategic Police Priorities** (closing date 12 February 2016)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00490401.pdf>

**** Overseas visitors and migrants: extending charges for NHS services** (closing date 7 March 2016)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/overseas-visitors-and-migrants-extending-charges-for-nhs-services>

Hate Crime Reporting in Scotland (no closing date given)

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

Consultations (continued)

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/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Action grants to support transnational projects to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance
closing date: 2 February 2016

Applications should focus on best practices to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance, training and capacity building for strengthening criminal responses to hate crime and hate speech, and empowering and supporting victims of hate crime and hate speech.

For full information see

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rrac_ag_en.htm

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Tuesday 15 December 2015 in Glasgow

Wednesday 3 February 2016 in Glasgow

Thursday 17 March 2016 in Glasgow

Wednesday 25 May 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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 or contact Kyle Mulholland 0141 228 5925 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Working with Interpreters

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

Facilitating events with Interpreters

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively when facilitating events with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

Thursday 21 April 2016 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training about engaging with hard to reach groups For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951.

[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

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

Useful Links (continued)

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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

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

BBC Democracy Live http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

[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/>

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