

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

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	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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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4th January 2016, the House of Commons until 5th January, and the House of Lords until 11th January. The next issue of MEMO will be on 11th January.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee

Refugee Crisis in the European Union

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10288&i=94654#ScotParIOR>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Debates

Relocation of Migrants in need of International Protection (Opt-in Decision)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151214/debtext/151214-0002.htm#1512143600002>

Motion passed

European Agenda on Migration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151214/debtext/151214-0003.htm#1512144100002>

Motion passed

UK Parliament Questions

Visas

Lord Crisp [HL4018] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to review the current visa categories and visa application processes in line with their *Britain is GREAT* campaign, which "welcomes the world to visit, study and do business with the UK".

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/HL4018/>

Visas

Lord Crisp [HL4019] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to revise current visa categories to allow non-EU professionals and experts, in particular those in the health and science sectors, to teach one-off classroom sessions in the UK without pay, but receiving funding for their flights and accommodation, without the need for a work permit.

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.

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Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-11-30/HL4019/>

Visas: Married People

Stephen Timms [19474] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2015 to Question 17662, if she will recompense postal applicants for a spousal visa whose application is not determined within eight weeks; and if she will make a statement.

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not intend to recompense all spousal visa applicants whose application was not determined within the 8 week postal service standard. The published service standard timeframes for spousal visa applications commences at the date of receipt, which is taken as the postal date marked on the application package and includes time taken for biometric enrolment.

Spousal visa applications may be decided outside of normal service standards for a range of reasons including requests for further information from the applicant or when an application is complex. An application will be deemed complex when it falls to be considered under Human Rights consideration beyond the original spousal route applied for. The applicant is normally advised when their application falls outside published service standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-09/19474/>

Visas: Married People

Stephen Timms [19475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2015 to Question 17661, if she will recompense spousal visa applicants using the premium service but not receiving a determination on the day of application; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All applicants who choose to use the premium service are offered a refund of the premium service fee if their applications cannot be determined due to unforeseen operational reasons on the day. However, if applicants do not arrive with the correct documentation and further checks are required that cannot be concluded on the day, then no recompense will be offered for the decision not being concluded on the day of the appointment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-09/19475/>

Overseas Students

Richard Arkless [19663] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the Government's immigration policies on the number of international students enrolling in UK universities.

Reply from James Brokenshire: 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. As a result, the UK remains the second most popular destination in the world for international higher education students, and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

our excellent universities continue to attract large volumes of overseas students. Annual visa applications from international students to study at British universities are now 17 per cent higher than they were in 2010, with visa applications to our elite Russell Group universities up by 39 per cent since 2010.

The most recent figures produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency also show a 6 per cent increase in the number of full-time non-EU new enrolments to UK higher education institutions between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19663/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Lord Storey [HL4248] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Tier 4 licences for non-EU students are audited annually.

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of Tier 4 licensed sponsors audited from 1 January to 30 September 2015 was 286. In the calendar year 2014 there were 383 .

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4248/>

Syrian Refugees

Roger Mullin: What recent estimate he has made of the number of local authorities that have resettled Syrian refugees. [902677]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Refugees (Richard Harrington): The number of local authorities that have resettled Syrian refugees changes frequently, as more Syrians arrive for resettlement in the UK. Although it is not practical to give a running commentary on the number of local authorities participating in the scheme, I can confirm that at the beginning of December about 50 local authorities had confirmed places before Christmas.

Roger Mullin: Does the Minister share my concerns about the rise of Islamophobia in the country, fuelled by the right-wing press? Will he issue guidance to local authorities and community organisations on how best to deal with it and to support refugees?

Reply from Richard Harrington: Of course I share the hon. Gentleman's concern about Islamophobia. All I can say is that I have found nothing but a warm welcome from all parts of the UK for the refugees who have arrived in this country, and I am certain that will continue.

John Pugh: A lot of local authorities, including my Sefton authority in the north-west, are seemingly confused about their role. Is there anything the Minister can do to add clarity and hurry things along?

Reply from Richard Harrington: Our dealings with local authorities vary very much, depending on the particular cases. We do not have any power to insist that refugees go to certain places, but we are working with county councils, district councils and metropolitan borough areas. The system is therefore very flexible, and all I can say is that at the moment it has been working very well, because the number of places that have been offered is broadly equivalent to the number of refugees arriving.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm151214/debtext/151214-0001.htm#1512142600022>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Greaves [HL4369] To ask Her Majesty's Government with which local authorities in England they are discussing an arrangement for the settlement of refugees from Syria.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

operates on a voluntary basis, and we are in discussions with local authorities across the UK regarding their participation. Resettlement can be a sensitive issue for local areas, and we therefore cannot disclose which local authorities are considering their involvement without their consent.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-08/HL4369/>

Refugees: Syria

Michael Tomlinson [19144] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what help his Department will provide to assist local authorities to resettle Syrian refugees over the next five years.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Local authorities have played a vital role in helping those Syrian refugees arriving here to settle into a new life in the UK. The Syrian Resettlement Team, made up of officials from Home Office, DCLG and DFID, is working closely with those local authorities that wish to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, helping to manage the process of accepting refugees for resettlement, providing help and advice where appropriate.

At the Spending Review the Government committed £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/2015-12-08/19144/>

Housing: Refugees

Michael Tomlinson [19145] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has taken to help councils to house refugees.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Those who have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection must qualify under local rules set by the relevant local authority and have sufficient priority under the local authority's allocation scheme to be eligible for social housing, just as anyone else.

At the Spending Review the Government committed £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/2015-12-08/19145/>

Asylum: Hotels

Lisa Nandy [19705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what date her Department has instructed SERCO to no longer house asylum seekers in hotels.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The use of hotels is permitted under the terms of the COMPASS contract as a contingency accommodation when usual accommodation cannot meet demand. The Home Office is clear that this is only ever acceptable in an emergency and providers must move clients into suitable accommodation quickly. No instruction has been given to Serco to cease use of hotels, however we and the housing providers are pursuing all options to reduce

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hotel use and put in place alternative contingency options.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-11/19705/>

Refugees: Syria

Michael Tomlinson [19243] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what financial support his Department plans to provide to local authorities to resettle Syrian refugees in years two to five of the vulnerable persons relocation scheme.

Reply from Richard Harrington: At the Spending Review the Government committed around £130 million to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 of the scheme. This will be allocated on a tariff basis over four years, tapering from £5,000 per person in their second year in the UK, to £1,000 per person in year five. There will also be support for education and healthcare, and a special cases fund to assist the most vulnerable refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19243/>

Refugees: Syria

Stephen Timms [19213] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2015 to Question 18565, what the components are of the 12 month support package provided to resettled Syrian refugees to assist with their integration.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in the region, and the 12 month support package which refugees are offered is therefore tailored according to their individual needs. The main components are accommodation; cultural integration, including English Language tuition; and addressing any medical and social care needs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19213/>

Asylum: Syria

Stephen Timms [19284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation scheme in each year until 2020.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The first 12 months of each refugee's resettlement costs under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme will be funded using Official Development Assistance, meaning over £460 million of the overseas aid budget will be used by 2019-20. At the Spending Review the Government committed £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 of the scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19284/>

Asylum: Applications

Alison Thewliss [19574] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set up a dedicated correspondence team in her Department to liaise with applicants solicitors on the processing of asylum claims.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Asylum Operations has existing processes that ensure claimants and legal representatives have contact details should they wish to discuss case progression. In addition, all claimants and representatives are

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kept informed should an initial decision on their asylum claim be delayed, with this correspondence outlining the reason for delay and providing an approximate timescale as to when a decision can be expected.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19574/>

Asylum: Families

Stephen Timms [19170] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2015 to Question 18222, if her Department will put procedures in place to ensure that family members who are not resettled together when they arrive in the UK under the vulnerable persons programme are able to maintain contact with each other.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for potential resettlement under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme using their vulnerability criteria, and submits cases for Home Office consideration. The UNHCR links family groups so we can seek to allocate them to the same local authority. We also try and place them close to any family members already residing in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19170/>

Asylum: Bank Services

Stephen Timms [19023] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department has had with HM Treasury on whether people resettled in the UK under the vulnerable persons programme will be able to access banking services.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Refugees who are resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme are granted a five year humanitarian protection visa and can therefore access banking services in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-07/19023/>

Asylum: Pakistan

The following three questions all received the same answer

Jim Shannon [19118] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Pakistan applied for asylum under the detained fast-track procedure for reasons of religious persecution and discrimination in each of the last three years.

Jim Shannon [19119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Pakistan applied for asylum and requested certification under section (a) 94(1) and (b) 94(2) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 in each of the last three years.

Jim Shannon [19121] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the reasons in the discrepancy between the proportion of granted asylum claims which are made to people from Pakistan and the proportion of applicants under the detained fast-track procedure who are from that country.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The basis of an individual's asylum claim is not recorded on Home Office systems. It is not therefore possible to differentiate Pakistani applicants claiming for reasons of religious persecution and discrimination from Pakistani applicants claiming for one or more other reasons in the Detained Fast Track (DFT) or the non-detained process.

Certification under section 94 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 is not requested by an applicant. It is applied by the Secretary of State in circumstances where the applicant's claim is refused and considered to be so

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

lacking in merit as to be clearly unfounded.

The number of initial certified refusals for Pakistan main asylum applicants, from year ending September 2013 to year ending September 2015, was 604. The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications and decisions on a quarterly and annual basis. The information supplied on certified refusals is based on initial decisions which do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. No assessment has been made of any difference that might exist between grant rates in respect of Pakistani applicants in the DFT process when it operated, and cases entering the non-detained process at the same time. However, as the DFT process avoided claims involving particular complexity and/or vulnerability, and prioritised cases which appeared to be late or opportunistic, it is to be expected that the DFT would have fewer grants than the non-detained process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19118/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19119/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19121/>

Human Trafficking: Telephone Services

Fiona Bruce [19542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of human trafficking have been identified and their identities subsequently forwarded to the police as a result of people calling the NSPCC human trafficking and slavery helpline between

Reply from Karen Bradley: I refer my Hon. Friend to my response of 11 November 2015 [14823]. Between 31 July 2014 and 31 July 2015 849 contacts were made to the NSPCC-run modern slavery helpline and of these 272 referrals were made to the police. The Home Office does not maintain a record of how many victims were identified as a result of these referrals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19542/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Fiona Mactaggart [19582] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on the evaluation of the Child Trafficking Advocates Trial.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Section 48(7) of the Modern Slavery Act requires the Government to lay before Parliament a report setting out the steps it proposes to take in relation to independent child trafficking advocates within nine months of Royal Assent of the Modern Slavery Act. The Government will publish this report and the independent evaluation, by the final day that Parliament sits this year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19582/>

Press Releases

Half of all Scottish Councils already resettling refugees

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Half-of-all-Scottish-Councils-already-resettling-refugees-2071.aspx>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

PM: Government has met commitment to resettle 1,000 refugees by Christmas

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-government-has-met-commitment-to-resettle-1000-refugees-by-christmas>

Migration and Refugees: Secretary General appoints Special Representative

<http://tinyurl.com/qb8p7ny>

European Union Joint Statement on the International Migrants' Day

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-6376_en.htm?locale=en

Undocumented migrants and the Europe 2020 strategy: making social inclusion a reality for all migrants in Europe

http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/Undocumented%20Migrants%20and%20the%20EU2020%20Strategy_FINAL.pdf

New Publications

Immigration: skill shortages

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmhaff/429/429.pdf>

Dealing with migration and refugee flows: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights advice on fundamental rights challenges

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2015-asylum-infographic.pdf

News

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon agrees to meet teenage refugee after 'harrowing' speech

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14154661.Nicola_Sturgeon_agrees_to_meet_teenage_refugee_after_harrowing_speech/

Humza Yousaf 'proud' of Scots welcoming refugees

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-proud-of-scots-welcoming-refugees-1-3976466>

Humza Yousaf 'proud' of Scots for refugees welcome

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14146714.Humza_Yousaf_proud_of_Scots_for_refugees_welcome/

David Cameron: 1,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in UK

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14150159.David_Cameron_1_000_Syrian_refugees_have_arrived_in_UK/

Number of Syrian refugees brought to UK passes 1,000

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/16/number-syrian-refugees-uk-1000-david-cameron>

More than 1,000 Syrian refugees have already arrived in Britain with another flight due to land today

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3362406/David-Cameron-confirms-1-000-Syrian-refugees-reached-Britain-time-Christmas.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Syrian refugees in Glasgow to get 'Scottish starter packs'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/syrian-refugees-in-glasgow-to-get-scottish-starter-packs-1-3978302>

Glasgow community group to embrace Syrian refugees as 'refuweegees'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14145932.Glasgow_community_group_to_embrace_Syrian_refugees_as_refuweegees/

'Refuweegees' from Syria to get special Glasgow welcome

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14145927.Refuweegees_from_Syria_to_get_special_Glasgow_welcome/

Senseless! Why are Syrian refugees being foisted on a remote Scottish island with high unemployment and poverty - then given perks some locals don't enjoy?

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3366575/Senseless-Syrian-refugees-foisted-remote-Scottish-island-high-unemployment-poverty-given-perks-locals-don-t-enjoy.html>

Wish you were here? Refugees are taken on £100,000 jollies to zoos, THEME PARKS and even to the beach to help them 'integrate' into British life... and guess who's paying for it all

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3366818/Asylum-seekers-taken-100-000-jollies-zoos-theme-parks-beach-help-integrate-British-life-money.html>

Yorkshire and Humber councils to take 1,500 refugees

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-35103434>

Syrian refugees 'happy' to be in Wales

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-35111293>

Theresa May 'wrong' to deny Indian leave to stay in UK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/theresa-may-wrong-to-deny-indian-leave-to-stay-in-uk-1-3977852>

Britain ready to consider alternatives to curb migration, says Philip Hammond

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14144423.Britain_ready_to_consider_alternatives_to_curb_migration_says_Philip_Hammond/

Immigration cap having counter-productive effect, MPs say

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35128149>

Migrant workers are driving down pay in low-skilled jobs

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/economics/article4645270.ece>

Language requirement for spouse ruled lawful

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/reports/article4641774.ece>

Home Office loses track of more than 10,000 asylum seekers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/17/home-office-loses-trace-of-more-than-10000-asylum-seekers>

10,000 missing asylum seekers 'too difficult to find'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4644108.ece>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Immigration officers give up hunting 10,000 missing asylum seekers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12056660/Immigration-officers-give-up-hunting-10000-missing-asylum-seekers.html>

Government accused of cover-up as data suggests million EU migrants unaccounted for in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/eureferendum/12057025/Government-accused-of-cover-up-as-data-suggests-million-EU-migrants-unaccounted-for-in-Britain.html>

Refugee crisis: 'Economic migrants' and asylum seekers are coming to Europe for the same reasons, report says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/refugee-crisis-economic-migrants-and-refugees-are-coming-to-europe-for-the-same-reasons-report-says-a6779616.html>

Immigration and Euroscepticism: the rising storm

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2015/dec/18/immigration-euroscepticism-rising-storm-eu-referendum>

Immigration officers to check social media of applicants to root out fanatics

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12054754/Immigration-officers-to-check-social-media-of-applicants-to-root-out-fanatics.html>

Trade unions support refugee employment rights on UN International Migrants Day

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/international-issues/migration/trade-unions-support-refugee-employment-rights-un-international>

Immigrant children 'feel more at home at school in UK than other students'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/immigrant-children-feel-more-at-home-at-school-in-uk-than-other-students-a6776206.html>

Want to know how to kill a multicultural society? Turn its ordinary citizens into border guards

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/want-to-know-how-to-kill-a-multicultural-society-turn-its-ordinary-citizens-into-border-guards-a6774151.html>

Persecuted at home, mistrusted in the UK: the refugee doctors battling for acceptance

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/19/guardian-observer-appeal-refugee-doctors-building-bridges>

'Migrants' became 'refugees' after Aylan Kurdi photo, says study

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/gadgets-gaming/migrants-became-refugees-after-aylan-kurdi-photo-says-study-1-3976090>

Meet a trio of migrants who have enjoyed a warm welcome after making Scotland their home

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/meet-trio-migrants-who-enjoyed-7040102>

The refugee's story

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/magazine/article4641570.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Immigration rules could pose 'serious risk' to Scotland's Indian restaurants

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14157237.immigration_rules_could_pose_serious_risk_to_scotland_s_indian_restaurants/

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Equality

New Publications

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights consultation reports for a New Race Equality Framework for Scotland

<http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/543-new-framework-for-race-equality-in-scotland>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15216 Stewart Maxwell: Holocaust Memorial Day 2016—That the Parliament notes that 27 January 2016 marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and an opportunity for schools, colleges, faith groups and communities across Scotland to remember the six million men, women and children murdered by the Nazi regime in occupied Europe; further notes that the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 is Don't Stand By; values the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which gives two post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; applauds Lauren Galloway and Brandon Low, two students from Auchmuty High School in Fife, who took part in the project and will deliver the Parliament's Time for Reflection message on 26 January 2016; celebrates the Holocaust survivors who have enriched Scotland as a nation, and recommits to ensuring that racism, sectarianism and bigotry are never allowed to go unchallenged in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15216&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Question

Religious Hatred: Islam

Baroness Afshar [HL4092] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of Islamophobia on Muslim communities in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Everyone in Britain has the right to feel safe and at ease in the place where they live. There is no place for hatred against people because of their race, gender, ethnic origin, faith, sexual orientation, age or disability.

Anti-Muslim attacks rose 30-40% in the first two weeks after the Paris attacks. These attacks are unacceptable in Britain. The Government funds Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) to encourage reporting of these crimes and to

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Question (continued)

support victims. We have also set up the first cross Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group to raise awareness of Islamophobic attacks. In addition, the Prime Minister announced that the police will disaggregate hate crime by religion beginning in April 2016. This will help the police to build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to hold them to account.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-01/HL4092/>

News

Humza Yousaf: All hate crime is wrong

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/opinion/14143161.Humza_Yousaf_All_hate_crime_is_wrong/

Man fined for racist Twitter message to Humza Yousaf

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/man-fined-for-racist-twitter-message-to-humza-yousaf-1-3977668>

Man fined £500 for sending racist tweet to Humza Yousaf MSP

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14149426.Man_fined_500_for_sending_racist_tweet_to_Humza_Yousaf_MSP/

No rise in anti-Muslim sentiment in UK after Paris attacks – poll

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/19/no-rise-in-anti-muslim-sentiment-in-uk-after-paris-attacks-poll>

Muslim schoolgirl's speech about Islamophobia viewed by thousands online

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3365731/Muslim-schoolgirls-speech-Islamophobia-viewed-thousands-online.html>

Passenger who yelled at two Muslim women to get off his train because 'I want to sit down, I'm English' and said they may bomb the carriage is given a suspended sentence

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3362635/Man-sentenced-racially-abusing-Muslim-sisters-train.html>

Two women wanted over 'racist attack' on London bus

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3362154/Two-women-wanted-racist-attack-London-bus.html>

Met Police chief tells the public: Use your mobile phone to record race-hate attacks and assaults

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3367449/Met-Police-chief-tells-public-Use-mobile-phone-record-race-hate-attacks-assaults.html>

Two gift shops criticised over 'racist' window golliwog displays

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14145027.Video_two_gift_shops_criti_cised_over_racist_window_golliwog_displays/

Shops blasted for "offensive" and "racist" golliwog display

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14145373.Shops_blasted_for_offensive_and_racist_golliwog_display/

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Toy shops under fire for selling 'racist' gollys

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4641981.ece>

Glasgow toy shop under fire for selling 'racist' golliwog dolls

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/12052400/Glasgow-toy-shop-under-fire-for-selling-racist-golliwog-dolls.html>

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Scottish Devolution

New Publication

Scotland's Fiscal Framework

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-83_Scotlands_Fiscal_Framework.pdf

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-15214 John Mason: State-funded Faith Schools—That the Parliament notes with interest the recent suggestion that Al-Qalam Primary School in Glasgow might seek to become state-funded; believes that, in cases where there is sufficient demand from families for a particular type of school, this should be given serious consideration by both central and local government; further believes that society benefits from a variety of cultures, religions and beliefs and that a "one size fits all" education system would not be of benefit to all of the children in Scotland, but considers that, while having different types of school can be desirable, the norm should be that state-funded schools should come under the auspices of the appropriate local authority.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15214&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Greater transparency and engagement can strengthen Holyrood petitions

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/94907.aspx>

New Publications

Draft Budget 2016-17: Scotland Performs

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491159.pdf>

Scotland's Spending Plans and Draft Budget 2016-17

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491140.pdf>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government New Publications (continued)

Equality Statement - Scottish Draft Budget 2016-17

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491153.pdf>

Review of the Petitions Process

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Reports/PPCS042015R02.pdf

Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland - A Comprehensive Analysis of the 2011 Census

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00490969.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Muslims

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL4184] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bridges of Headley on 10 June (HL56), whether they will provide updated statistics for the tables entitled *Growth in the UK Muslim Population*, to show the most recent figures available.

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

John Pullinger: The 2011 Census for England and Wales provides the definitive source of information on the religion of the population in England and Wales. Unfortunately there is no more up-to-date information available as the mid-year population estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics only provide breakdowns by age and sex. As indicated in my previous correspondence (4th June 2015 (HL56)) information on the religion of members of the usually resident population was collected by ONS as part of the 2011 and 2001 Censuses, both of which included the question "What is your religion?" This question was voluntary and where no answer was provided the response was categorised as "not stated". 7.2 per cent of the population did not answer the question in 2011. The available information on the religion of members of the usually resident population is provided in the attached table, copies of which have been placed in the House of Lords Library. As you will see the table shows, for 2001 and 2011, the population totals, the number and proportion of the population who recorded their religion as Muslim, and the percentage growth of the Muslim population between 2001 and 2011 for England and Wales. The Office for National Statistics is responsible for the Census in England and Wales and therefore I am unable to provide comparable statistics for Scotland or Northern Ireland. However, these may be obtained by contacting National Records of Scotland

(<http://nationalrecordsofscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/census>)

and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

(<http://www.nisra.gov.uk/census/2011Census.html>).

UK Statistics Agency tables <http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/433674/original/HL4184%20table.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-02/HL4184/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Luciana Berger [19355] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

to raise awareness of female genital mutilation among mental health professionals.

Reply from Jane Ellison: As part of its £3 million national Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme, the Department is developing staff training and awareness materials on FGM focusing on the mental health and wellbeing of FGM survivors.

To increase health professionals' awareness of this complex area, the Department has commissioned Health Education England to develop specialist FGM mental health e-learning, which will be provided free to all NHS professionals. Existing mental health training materials are also being updated by Health Education England to support awareness and recognition by health professionals of the impact of FGM on mental health.

A ministerial roundtable with senior stakeholders was held on 29 October 2015 to discuss this issue. The Department is working with specialist mental health professionals and professional bodies to consider how best to support commissioners to ensure that mental health services are able to meet the needs of FGM survivors.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-09/19355/>

Early Day Motion

Jim Shannon (879) Christmas message – That this House remembers those who at this time of year, in particular, face persecution and discrimination for their religious beliefs; recognises that, despite these difficulties, the true message of Christmas will reach such people of faith no matter where they are and what difficulties they might face; and wishes them to know that, this year and every year, we will be thinking of them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/879>

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Other News

Scottish Education Awards: Parents as Partners in Learning Award

Nominations should be made by 15 February 2016

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16ii_education_awards.pdf

Trial adjourned after witness refuses to give evidence without a veil

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14145051.Trial_adjourned_after_witness_refuses_to_give_evidence_without_a_veil/

Trial halted after refusal to remove veil

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4642241.ece>

It's a work of art, with or without the offensive name

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/it-s-a-work-of-art-with-or-without-the-offensive-name-a6777456.html>

The art of being politically correct

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/article4640326.ece>

Other News (continued)

Girl, 12, targeted by online groomer encouraging her to undergo female genital mutilation
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14144930.Girl_12_targeted_by_online_groomer_encouraging_her_to_undergo_female_genital_mutilation/

Only 18 FGM protection orders issued to protect UK girls since launch
<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/19/only-18-fgm-protection-orders-issued-uk-girls-female-genital-mutilation>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Burial and Cremation Bill

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

Community Justice Bill

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

Education Bill

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

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

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

Stage 1 Report, Education and Culture Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/Reports/ECS042015R12.pdf

**** Lobbying Bill**

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

Stage 1 Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Reports/SPPAS042015R12.pdf>

Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) Bill

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

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

Asylum (Unaccompanied Children Displaced by Conflict)

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

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Immigration Bill

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

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>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0073/amend/su073-l-c.htm>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Primary care for new migrants (no closing date given)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

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

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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.

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.

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Useful Links

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

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://onescotland.org/>

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