

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Healthcare: Yarl's Wood

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160106/halltext/160106h0002.htm#16010636000005>

Refugees in Calais

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160106/halltext/160106h0001.htm#16010636000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Bill: Scotland

The following two questions both received the same answer

Chris Law [19568] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the residential tenancy provisions of the Immigration Bill would come into force in Scotland if

Private Rented Housing: Undocumented Migrants

Chris Law [19590] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Right to Rent Scheme for landlords to perform immigration checks on tenants will come into force in Scotland.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Prime Minister made clear in his immigration speech of 21 May that the Government intends to roll out the Right to Rent scheme across the whole of the UK. The roll out is being taken forward in a phased manner. Having started in a part of the West Midlands, the next phase will extend the scheme across the rest of England as of 1 February 2016. The Government intends to roll out the scheme to the rest of the UK thereafter as part of the final phase. In relation to the provisions that relate to the private rented sector in the Immigration Bill 2015-16, the Bill also enables for these provisions to be enacted across Scotland at a later date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19568/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-10/19590/>

Immigration

Andrew Rosindell [20109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to reduce net migration from Europe, other than seeking reform of provision of welfare for non-British EU citizens.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Free movement is an important principle of the EU but it is not an unqualified right and it must be grounded in the freedom to take up work in another Member State, to contribute to the economy and to integrate into society.

We have taken firm steps to restrict access to out of work benefits by EU jobseekers and we can remove them if they are not in a job within six months. We have removed access to Universal Credit and Housing Benefit for jobseekers and introduced a new test to check whether EU nationals who claim in-work benefits really have meaningful and effective employment here.

We have toughened the Habitual Residence Test, the gateway test which all migrants have to satisfy to access benefits, and we have introduced tougher checks for the payment of child benefit and child tax credit to EU nationals. To tackle abuse, we have introduced new powers so that EU nationals who don't meet the requirements for residence are removed and banned from coming back for 12 months, unless they have a valid reason to be here (for example an immediate job start).

The Prime Minister set out in his speech on 10 November and in his letter to the President of the European Council the issues we are seeking to tackle through the EU reform negotiations to restore a sense of fairness to our immigration system and to reduce the current very high level of population flows from within the EU into the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/20109/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigrants

Tulip Siddiq [19956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrants granted leave to remain in the UK did not have No Recourse to Public Funds conditions imposed on them because of exceptional circumstances in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of cases granted leave to remain in the UK who did not have No Recourse to Public Funds conditions imposed on them in each of the last five years was as follows: 2011: 12,450
2012: 7,275
2013: 13,215
2014: 12,175
2015: 8,500

These figures have been provided by the Home Office database with figures rounded to the nearest 5, interpreting 'migrants' as 'lead cases', they exclude asylum applications and figures for 2015 are available up to 30 September 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/19956/>

Immigrants

Tulip Siddiq [19957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of migrants granted leave to remain in the UK were subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds condition in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The proportion of cases granted leave to remain in the UK who were subject to the No Recourse to Public funds condition in each of the last five years was as follows:
2011: 95%
2012: 97%
2013: 94%
2014: 92%
2015*: 92%

These figures have been provided by the Home Office database with figures rounded to the nearest 5, interpreting 'migrants' as 'lead cases', they exclude asylum applications and figures for 2015 are available up to 30 September 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/19957/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Kinnock [HL4654] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide all factual evidence they have, together with their sources, that UK in-work and out-of-work benefits are a factor in encouraging immigration to the UK from other EU member states.

Reply from Lord Freud: The benefits system is one of a range of factors attracting migrants to Britain. Net migration to the UK stood at 336,000 in the year to June 2015 according to the November 2015 Migration Statistics Quarterly Report from the Office for National Statistics, and EU nationals are a significant contributor to recent increases. Meanwhile, an analysis of administrative data held by the Department for Work and Pensions showed that between 37% and 45% of all recent EU migrants were in households supported by the benefits system as of March 2013.

The Government has already introduced tough new measures to ensure that EU jobseekers will have no access to means-tested benefits whatsoever as Universal Credit is rolled out.

And now we want to ensure that the welfare system plays no part in the migration

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

decisions of any EU national. The Prime Minister is therefore pursuing further reforms to ensure that EU migrants who come to the UK for low-paid work cannot claim in-work benefits until they have lived here and contributed to our country for a minimum of four years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-16/HL4654/>

Immigration: Married People

Lord Ahmad [HL4438] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many overseas wives have joined their families in the UK between January 2014 and December 2015.

Lord Bates: From January 2014 to September 2015 there were 35,990* spousal visas issued to females. We are not able to provide figures from October to December 2015 as visa figures for this period have not yet been published.

*Figure rounded to the nearest 5.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4438/>

Visas: Married People

Jim Shannon [20087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the waiting time for spouses seeking visas to undertake English language tests.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office is not aware of any issues with regards to waiting times for Secure English Language Testing (SELT).

In the UK, customers should be able to book a test within 28 days, often within a few days. In countries where there are permanent test centres customers should again be able to book tests within 28 days. In busy periods, the centres will test more frequently.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/20087/>

Visas: Married People

Lord Ahmed [HL4534] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the rate of allegations against a spouse of domestic violence or rape by women who have entered the UK on a spousal visa in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: Allegations of rape or domestic violence are a matter for individual police forces and not recorded in statistics relating to immigration control.

Information on grants of settlement due to domestic violence after leave to remain granted as a spouse, is given in the link below, table se_04, Immigration Statistics July-September 2015) and are available from the library of the House:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2015/list-of-tables#settlement>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-14/HL4534/>

Visas: Married People

Stephen Timms [20787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 December 2015 to Question 19474, in what circumstances her Department plans to recompense spousal visa applicants whose application is not determined within the eight-week postal service standard.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Generally, the Home Office will not recompense a customer whose spousal application is not considered within the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

eight week postal service standard.

The Home Office aims to process all straightforward applications, that is those that have complied with the application process including provision of mandatory information, evidence and biometrics, within eight weeks of receipt.

There are a variety of reasons why a spousal application may take longer than the publicised service standard. As such the Home Office service standard reflects that and does not allow for all cases to be decided within that publicised standard. If the Home Office cannot make a decision within the service standard, the Home Office will write to customers to inform them of the next steps and when they are likely to receive a decision.

It is open to a customer to submit a complaint if their application is not considered within the service standard. These claims are considered on an ex-gratia basis under the complaints procedure. Any compensation would be handled based on individual customers' exceptional circumstances, and as such these are considered on a case-by-case basis.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-04/20787/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Lord Storey [HL4247] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use in auditing compliance with Tier 4 licences for non-EU students.

Reply from Lord Bates: All Tier 4 licensed sponsors are assessed against criteria set out in the published Tier 4 Guidance for Sponsors. This includes the following four documents:

- Document one – Applying for a Tier 4 licence
- Document two – Sponsorship Duties
- Document three – Tier 4 Compliance
- Appendix D - record keeping

Some of the key criteria includes:

- Ensuring that each sponsor has a genuine and lawful trading presence.
- Ensuring that each sponsor holds the appropriate education oversight with the relevant external inspection body.
- Compliance visits; where checks are undertaken to establish whether an institution's HR functions are appropriate.
- An annual basic compliance assessment (BCA); where the sponsor must meet demonstrate that their visa refusal, enrolment and course completion rates fall within the outlined requisites.

Tier 4 Guidance - 1-3 Combined

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/434128/original/Tier%204%20Guidance%2011-2015%20-%20Documents%201-3%20combined.pdf>

Appendix D

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/434128/original/Appendix%20D.pdf>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-03/HL4247/>

Refugees

Lord Hylton [HL4428] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that torture survivors who reach the UK, in particular those from Syria, have access to specialist rehabilitation; and whether they have plans to increase the number of places available via the Gateway Protection Programme for torture survivors from all states.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Asylum seekers and refugees have access to health services and if they raise torture as part of their asylum claim, they are signposted to organisations that specialise in providing support for torture survivors.

We have no current plans to increase the number of places available under the Gateway Protection programme. The responsibility for identifying and referring refugees to the UK rests with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We will continue to work closely with them to identify those in most need of protection.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-09/HL4428/>

Refugees: Children

Andy Slaughter [19785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child refugees the Government granted asylum to in each of the last 24 months; and how many were from the Calais refugee camp.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Figures on initial decisions for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_09q. The belowtable shows the total grants of asylum or some other form of protection to UASC in each quarter of the last two years.

Table: Grants of asylum or some other form of protection to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children ¹ , at initial decision ²	
Quarter	Total Grants ³
2013 Q4	140
2014 Q1	122
2014 Q2	123
2014 Q3	263
2014 Q4	398
2015 Q1	328
2015 Q2	331
2015 Q3	281

Table Notes

(1) Figures exclude dependants

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

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

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics July – September 2015 is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and the Library of the House. The Home Office does

not hold information on the route of asylum applicants into the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/19785/>

Refugees

Anne Main [20176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral contribution of 16 November 2015, Official Report, column 365, if she will bring forward proposals on a national database of communication for refugees.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: On 7 September the Prime Minister announced that 20,000 Syrian refugees would be resettled during this Parliament, and that he wanted 1,000 to arrive before Christmas. We have now achieved this, and are working closely with a range of partners to put in place the plans and structures to further expand the Syrian Vulnerable Persons scheme. It is currently up to individuals to determine how to maintain contact with other refugees in the UK; however, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) does link 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/2015-12-15/20176/>

Refugees: Syria

Diana Johnson [19923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding will be provided to local authorities for each Syrian refugee they resettle in the (a) first and (b) second year of resettlement.

Reply from Richard Harrington: Local authorities are required to provide refugees they resettle under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme with a 12 month support package which is being funded using the overseas aid budget. Many of the refugees have significant medical and social care needs, and the costs therefore vary according to their individual circumstances.

At the Spending Review, the Government committed £129 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, with £5,000 per refugee provided for their second year in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/19923/>

Syria: Refugees

Laurence Robertson [20294] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the need for special education facilities to educate young people coming to the UK as a result of the conflict in Syria; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Government is wholly committed to ensuring that Syrian refugees who are resettled in the UK receive appropriate support and have a positive experience while they remain in the UK. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is conducting detailed assessments of the needs of all Syrian refugees who are to be re-settled in the UK, including any special educational facilities required by children. These are forwarded to host local authorities prior to the families' arrival in the UK and will help to ensure that their needs are matched to the availability of local facilities. Based on the experience of the first 1000 arrivals, the government is in the process of assessing the longer term and wider requirements for specialist provision arising from the Prime Minister's pledge to re-settle 20,000 refugees during the life-time of this Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20294/>

Asylum: EU Law

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4696] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the EU directives on asylum into which they have opted, and what are those from which they have opted out.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Between 1999 and 2005, several measures harmonising common minimum standards for asylum were adopted. The six measures were the Dublin II Regulation, the EURODAC Regulation, the Temporary Protection Directive, the Reception Conditions Directive, the Qualification Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directive. The UK opted into all of these Directives.

The Reception Conditions Directive, the Qualifications Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directives were later revised but the UK did not opt into the revised versions and remains bound by the original Directives.

The Dublin II Regulation and EURODAC Regulation were also revised and the UK opted into the revised versions.

The Temporary Protection Directive has not been revised and the UK remains bound by the original Directive.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-17/HL4696/>

Asylum: Finance

Caroline Lucas [20805] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many section 95 support claims for asylum seekers have been subject to processing delays of more than 14 days in the last 12 months; and how many on-going claims are subject to delays of more than 14 days.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However we continue to meet our statutory duties to accommodate and support destitute asylum seekers. Assessment of eligibility for support remains a priority.

Since April 2015, 82% (14,112) of section 95 applications have been processed within 10 working days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-04/20805/>

Asylum: Health Services

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4354] To ask Her Majesty's Government what NHS medical support is available for (1) asylum seekers, and (2) refugees.

Reply from Lord Bates: Only those asylum seekers (and their dependants) who receive asylum support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are entitled to access NHS medical services. They are able to access free NHS prescriptions, free dental treatment, free eye sight tests, help with the cost of glasses or contact lenses, free wigs and fabric supports and help with the cost of travel to receive treatment under the care of a consultant.

The Home Office takes all reasonable steps to ensure the health and welfare of asylum seekers who receive asylum support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. At the inception of their claim, they are provided with an opportunity to undergo assessment by health officials and suitable steps are taken to provide them with access to appropriate medical treatment, this includes advice on how to register with a GP practice and how to access emergency treatment at a hospital or walk in centre.

Those qualifying asylum seekers, as outlined above, are provided with a HC2 certificate which confirms to medical practitioners that they are eligible to access appropriate medical services.

Refugees who have been granted asylum status are eligible for services from the National Health Service on the same basis as the general population.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-08/HL4354/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Children

The following four questions all received the same answer

Sarah Champion [20212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum have been referred by her Department to the Refugee Council Children's Section for advice in the last two years.

Sarah Champion [20253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of age assessments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been completed within the new timetable for upon local authorities in each month since March 2015.

Sarah Champion [20254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the rate of appeal was against age-assessments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in each month since March 2010; and what proportion of such appeals were successful.

Asylum: Albania

Sarah Champion [20256] **Sarah Champion** [20256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Albania have been returned to that country in the last year.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All unaccompanied asylum seeking children are referred to the Refugee Council's panel of advisers.

Age-assessments of unaccompanied asylum seeking children are conducted by local authorities. The guidance to local authority practitioners states that most assessments should be completed within 28 days, however the timescale for assessment should be responsive to the needs of the child or young person. The Home Office does not collect statistics on how many and what proportion are carried out within this timescale.

Statistics on the number of age disputes raised and resolved for asylum applicants for each quarter from January 2010 to September 2015 are available on GOV.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/476915/asylum3-q3-2015-tabs.ods

The Home Office does not keep a record of the number of appeals against age assessments conducted by local authorities.

Home Office policy is not to return unaccompanied asylum seeking children whose claim has been refused unless there are safe and adequate reception arrangements in place. Statistics on the number of children removed from the UK in 2014 are available on Gov.UK at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/476919/removals1-q3-2015-tabs.ods

However, these statistics include all nationalities and non-asylum cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20212/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20253/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20254/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20256/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Children

Sarah Champion [20255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been age assessed while in detention in each of the last 12 months; and how such assessments were carried out by immigration officers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of individuals who have been age assessed while in detention is not held centrally. Age assessments are carried out by the relevant local authority.

Individuals whose age is disputed will only be considered for detention where:

- there is credible and clear documentary evidence that they are 18 years of age or over
- a full "Merton-compliant" age assessment by a local authority has been carried out and is available stating that they are 18 years of age or over
- their physical appearance/demeanour very strongly suggests that they are significantly over 18 years of age and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary.

Otherwise individuals are treated as children until a full age assessment has been conducted by a local authority and all available evidence has been duly considered. This includes victims or potential victims of human trafficking and the Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a presumption about age on a statutory footing when arrangements to assist a potential victim are being carried out.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20255/>

Asylum: Children

Damian Green [20412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the responses to her letter of 24 November 2015 to all local council leaders on the the Dispersal of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There have been a number of positive responses to the letter of 24 November, including concrete offers of support for Kent through the dispersal of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. We are clear that local authorities with the capacity to support Kent should do so. The Immigration Minister and the Children's Minister chaired a round table meeting on 15 December with council leaders and directors of children's services to consider what more can be done , and longer-term options for the dispersal of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We hope the arrangements will remain voluntary and more local authorities will come forward. However, we have taken a reserve power in the Immigration Bill to underpin the voluntary power and act as a backstop power to mandate dispersal if the voluntary arrangements do not work.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-16/20412/>

Asylum: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4496] To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision is made to enable young asylum seekers to have legal support and advice on reaching the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Bates: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are placed into the care of local authorities and are provided with specialised legal advice and support. If they have an outstanding asylum claim on reaching the age of 18, legal advice will continue to be provided and their social worker will help them to access that support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4496/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Appeals

Tulip Siddiq [19826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals applying for leave to stay in the UK who successfully appealed against a rejection from UK Visas and Immigration through the First-Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) have not yet been issued with the right to stay in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office considers applications on their own merits and takes great care to get decisions right first time, recognising the difficulty that errors can cause legitimate applicants. Where applicants are granted leave to remain the UK, we take all reasonable steps to issue their visas accordingly. The requested information cannot be accurately defined on our internal systems. To provide this information a manual reconciliation of existing work in progress and appeals implementations would be required. Manual reconciliation of individual cases would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-14/19826/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton [HL4778] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the Resolution of the House of Commons of 10 September calling on them to implement the recommendations of the report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom, by the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Refugees and Migration.

Reply from Lord Bates: Detention plays a vital role in maintaining effective immigration control and there are safeguards in place to prevent unnecessary or arbitrary detention.

Turning to the principal recommendations of the APPG report, though a common misconception, we cannot detain indefinitely under immigration powers. There are significant, long standing and highly effective protections for individuals against indefinite detention in the current system. A statutory limit is therefore not necessary.

An arbitrary time limit would potentially allow criminals and non-compliant individuals to play the system knowing that if they refuse to cooperate with removal for long enough they will be released.

The Home Office is conducting detailed analysis of the use of immigration detention including looking at the checks and balances in the systems to ensure that there is a more efficient and more effective process so that people are removed more swiftly. The Home Secretary commissioned an independent review of the policies and operating procedures that have an impact on detainee welfare earlier this year. Stephen Shaw CBE, former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, undertook the review and has recently submitted his report. The report will be published by laying it before Parliament, alongside the Government's response to its recommendations, before the Lords Committee stage for the Immigration Bill.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-21/HL4778/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Blomfield [16675] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of immigration detainees who are (a) foreign national offenders convicted of immigration offences, (b) foreign national offenders convicted of non-immigration offences and (c) other detainees were held in immigration detention for (i) 28 days or fewer, (ii) over 28 days but fewer than four months and (iii) over four months in the last year.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: The below table provides details of immigration detainees detained at the end of June 2015 and is taken from quarterly published national statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2015/detention>

	Held 28 Days or Fewer	Over 28 Days But Fewer Than Four Months	Four to Six Months	Six to Twelve Months	Over Twelve Months
Foreign National Offenders	30% (263)	41% (365)	10% (84)	14% (123)	5% (49)
Other Detainees	58% (1502)	35% (899)	4% (114)	2% (62)	1% (27)

It is not possible to provide a break-down of foreign national offenders convicted of immigration offences and foreign national offenders convicted of non-immigration offences. Such data is not aggregated in national reporting systems, which would mean these questions could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-11-17/16675/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4492] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people are detained in each Immigration Detention Centre.

Reply from Lord Bates: The table below provides the latest published information for people detained in the detention estate by centre as at 30 September 2015, the latest date for which published figures are available.

People in detention as at 30 September 2015, by place of detention.	
Total	3,531
Brook House IRC	414
Campsfield House IRC	277
Colnbrook IRC	342
Dover IRC	249
Dungavel IRC	202
Harmondsworth IRC	601
Morton Hall IRC	386
The Verne IRC	509
Tinsley House IRC	112
Yarl's Wood IRC	386
Colnbrook STHF	21
Larne House STHF	6
Pennine House STHF	26
Cedars PDA	0
IRC = Immigration Removal Centre, STHF = Short Term Holding Facility, PDA = Pre Departure Accommodation.	

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration purposes, within the Immigration Statistics release. Data relating to people in detention are available in tables dt_01 to dt_13_q in Immigration Statistics: July – September 2015 on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Published figures on people detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers include those held in short term holding facilities, pre departure accommodation and immigration removal centres. Figures exclude those held in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4492/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4494] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people who entered the UK as unaccompanied immigrant children were deported last year having reached the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Bates: The records the Home Office holds relate to unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The most recent records the Home Office holds are to the end of September 2015.

Period	Number of Cases	Enforced Removal	Voluntary Removal
Oct 2014 – Sep 2015	241	122	119

This data relates to individuals who were under 18 at the time of application and aged 18 or over on the day of removal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4494/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4493] To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries unsuccessful asylum seekers were deported in each year between 2010 and 2014, and in each of those years, how many unsuccessful asylum seekers were deported to each of those countries.

Reply from Lord Bates: The data on removals and voluntary departures by type and destination are available in the latest Home Office release, Immigration Statistics: July to September 2015, in table rv.06. This publication is available from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. It is not possible to separately identify deportations from enforced removals. It is not possible within these figures to say at what stage in the asylum process individuals have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK and on persons refused entry to the United Kingdom within Immigration Statistics.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Removals and voluntary departures

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/437027/original/Immigration%20Statistics%20-%20removals%20and%20voluntary%20departures%20tables.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4493/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4497] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of how many asylum seekers facing deportation committed self harm or suicide in the past year.

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of cases where individuals facing deportation have committed self harm or suicide cannot be extracted without incurring disproportionate cost. Figures therefore cannot be provided.

The Home Office is committed to ensuring adequate safeguards are in place for those where there are concerns about self harm or suicide. Guidance has been provided to immigration case workers, and there is a requirement to share concerns with other officers involved in the case by noting such concerns on the Department's case information database (CID).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4497/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4495] To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements for care in their home countries are made for those deported on reaching the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Bates: Those who depart the UK with the additional support of an assisted package may qualify for a combination of cash and in-kind support, depending on their individual circumstances and those in the country of return. Asylum seekers may qualify for assistance equivalent to a maximum value of £1,500, and families up to £2,000 per family members.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-10/HL4495/>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mark Field [20819] To ask the Attorney General, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2015 to Question 19543, how many of those prosecutions for human trafficking resulted in a conviction.

Reply from Robert Buckland: During 2014-2015 the CPS prosecuted 187 defendants for offences connected with human trafficking. 130 of these defendants were convicted at a conviction rate of 69.5%.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-04/20819/>

UK Parliament Petition

Overseas doctors and nurses

The petition of the people of Stoke-on-Trent, Declares that we object to overseas doctors and nurses being forced to leave the UK after a six year period if their pay is below the amount stipulated by the government given that we the taxpayers have paid for additional training for these doctors and nurses and our NHS is at risk of collapse

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

through staff shortages. The petitioners therefore urge the House of Commons to reverse this policy. ...[P001543]

Observations from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire); received 22 December 2015: The Government believe that in the past it has been too easy for employers to bring in workers from overseas rather than to take the long-term decision to train our workforce here at home. The Prime Minister has said that we need to do more to change that, which includes reducing the demand for migrant labour. We do not believe that it is sensible to rely on recruiting doctors and nurses from overseas, and the long-term aim is that we train our own staff in this country.

There will be a £10 billion real terms increase in NHS funding in England between 2014-15 and 2020-21. The Department of Health will reform the funding system for health students by replacing grants with student loans and abolishing the cap on the number of student places for nursing, midwifery and allied health subjects, enabling the provision of up to 10,000 additional nursing and health professional training places this Parliament. We are also investing in return to practice programmes and improving retention of existing staff. Health Education England forecast that more than 23,000 additional nurses will be in place by 2019. By 2021 there will be an extra 5,000 doctors in general practice. As an interim measure, the Home Secretary has agreed, exceptionally, to place nurses on the shortage occupation list (SOL) pending a full review by the independent Migration Advisory Committee. This means that nurses will be prioritised for allocation of places within the annual limit of 20,700 places for non-EEA nationals admitted to the UK under Tier 2 (General)—the visa route for skilled workers.

From 2016, non-EEA workers will need to earn a salary of at least £35,000 to remain in the UK for longer than six years. However, as workers are exempt from the settlement pay threshold if they are in a role that is or has been on the shortage occupation list at any time while they have been sponsored to do that role, all nurses currently sponsored in Tier 2 will be exempt from the £35,000 threshold when they apply for settlement.

Several types of doctor, including those working in emergency medicine, are also recognised shortage occupations and will be exempt from the £35,000 settlement pay threshold. For those doctors in a role that has not been in shortage, we would expect the minimum earnings threshold to be achievable within the maximum six years' leave that they may spend in the UK on a Tier 2 (General) visa.

For the future, the Government intend that employers should only bring in workers from outside Europe where we have genuine skills shortages or require highly- specialised experts. The Migration Advisory Committee has been asked to advise on how to achieve this, but with sufficient flexibility to include high value roles and key public service workers. The Committee is looking at selection criteria such as, but not limited to, salaries, particular attributes, economic need and skills level and we await their report with interest.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160105/petntext/160105p0001.htm#16010529000038>

Press Releases

Grant for medical supplies in Lesbos

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Grant-for-medical-supplies-in-Lesbos-20bd.aspx>

Ministers welcome Syrian families ahead of their first Christmas in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ministers-welcome-syrian-families-ahead-of-their-first-christmas-in-the-uk>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Minister thanks local government representatives for helping to resettle Syrians in the UK
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-thanks-local-government-representatives-for-helping-to-resettle-syrians-in-the-uk>

Refugees and migrants fleeing to Europe in 2015 top unprecedented one million – UN
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52880#.VnrHW2R96nY>

New UN refugee chief takes over at time of record numbers and unprecedented challenges
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52934#.VoqNu2R96nY>

New Publications

House of Commons International Development Committee Report: Syrian refugee crisis
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmintdev/463/463.pdf>

Law Society practice note: Statutory defences available to asylum seekers charged with document offences
<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/advice/practice-notes/statutory-defences-available-to-asylum-seekers-charged-with-document-offences/>

Why people move: understanding the drivers and trends of migration to Europe
<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/10157.pdf>

News: Scottish Government

Scottish Government offers £75,000 to Syrian refugee aid effort
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35192528>

Holyrood announces £75,000 grant for refugees arriving on Lesbos
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3382389/Holyrood-announces-75-000-grant-refugees-arriving-Lesbos.html>

Scottish welcome for refugees in 2015 praised by minister
http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14170876.Scottish_welcome_for_refugees_in_2015_praised_by_minister/

News: UK Government and Parliament

Migrant crisis: UK government response branded 'inadequate'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35218095>

Home Office puts plans to cut interpreters' pay on hold
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/28/home-office-puts-plans-to-cut-interpreters-pay-on-hold>

Lord Bates: 'intentionally destitute' failed asylum seekers 'can and should leave UK'
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14161947.Lord_Bates_intentionally_destitute_failed_asylum_seekers_can_and_should_leave_UK/

Syria crisis: UK should take in 3,000 children, say MPs
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35225780>

Immigration and Asylum

News: UK Government and Parliament (continued)

Britain should resettle 3,000 refugee children, MPs say

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/05/britain-should-resettle-3000-refugee-children-mps-say>

Key data on migrant benefit claimants being hidden, Tom Watson says

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/08/hmrc-key-data-migrant-benefit-claimants-hidden-tom-watson-labour>

Home Office 'helping abusive partners by producing forms making it easier to threaten spouses with deportation'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-helping-abusive-partners-by-producing-forms-making-it-easier-to-threaten-spouses-with-a6802966.html>

Home Office produces new form that makes it easier for abusive partners to get their spouse deported

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3391803/Home-Office-produces-new-form-makes-easier-abusive-partners-spouse-deported.html>

UK launches new two-year visa rules for Chinese nationals

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35243763>

Government body helps asylum seekers quash convictions for illegal entry to Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12090822/Revealed-Government-body-helps-asylum-seekers-quash-convictions-for-illegal-entry-to-Britain.html>

News: Europe

Refugee and migrant arrivals in EU pass one million in 2015, says UN

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/12063736/Refugee-and-migrant-arrivals-in-EU-pass-one-million-in-2015-says-UN.html>

Over one million migrants arrived in Europe in 2015

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/over-one-million-migrants-arrived-in-europe-in-2015-1-3982824>

News: Refugee crisis comment

Scottish schools urged to give a warm welcome to refugee pupils

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14169372.Scottish_schools_urged_to_give_a_warm_welcome_to_refugee_pupils/

Syrian refugees in Scotland: cold weather but warm welcome

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/21/syrian-refugees-in-scotland-cold-weather-but-warm-welcome>

Syrian refugees: "It feels like we never left our families back in Syria because of the warm welcome we received in Scotland"

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14178741.Syrian_refugees_It_feels_like_we_never_left_our_families_back_in_Syria_because_of_the_warm_welcome_we_received_in_Scotland/

UK Asylum claims break 5,000 per month for first time

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12085561/UK-Asylum-claims-break-5000-per-month-for-first-time.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugee crisis comment (continued)

100,000 illegal migrants stopped from entering Britain over the past year

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12065701/100000-illegal-migrants-stopped-from-entering-Britain-over-the-past-year.html>

Charities urge David Cameron to do more for refugees in 2016

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2803_charities_urge_david_cameron_to_do_more_for_refugees_in_2016

Catholic head says Syrian Christians neglected in UK resettlement

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/24/catholic-head-syrian-christians-neglected-uk-resettlement>

Archbishop's new year message focuses on refugees

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35205943>

Migrant crises: Trauma takes toll on mental health

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35102320>

This migrant crisis is different from all others

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-35091772>

Child refugees 'making trip to Europe alone for better life'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/world/child-refugees-making-trip-to-europe-alone-for-better-life-1-3990320>

News: Other immigration and asylum stories and comment

David Cameron's net migration target is dead, says thinktank

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/04/david-cameron-eu-referendum-net-migration-target>

Migrant children leaving care to have support cut under new proposals

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/30/uk-immigration-bill-proposals-cut-state-support-migrant-children-leaving-care>

Visa policy 'wrong-headed', says CBI

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/economics/article4652117.ece>

Mass migration driving down wages offered to British jobseekers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12063052/Mass-migration-driving-down-wages-offered-to-British-jobseekers.html>

The rejected asylum seekers living lonely lives among us, on a pittance

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/21/the-rejected-asylum-seekers-living-lonely-lives-among-us-on-a-pittance>

More than a third of NHS doctors born abroad

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12071030/More-than-a-third-of-NHS-doctors-born-abroad.html>

Migrants allowed to settle by alleging domestic abuse

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4653213.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Other stories and comment (continued)

Migrants cheating the system by pretending to be victims of domestic abuse so they can stay in Britain permanently

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3379500/Migrants-cheating-pretending-victims-domestic-abuse-stay-Britain-permanently.html>

London clinic is a lifeline for the refugees afraid to use the NHS

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/27/doctors-of-the-world-guardian-observer-charity-appeal-2015>

Widow faces deportation from UK despite being 92 and frail

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/dec/22/widow-faces-deportation-from-uk-despite-being-92-and-frail>

A tale of two Alis

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35161798>

Scottish fishing firm in human trafficking probe as Ireland, UK unite to fight maritime slavery

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14171641.Fishing_firm_at_centre_of_Scottish_human_trafficking_probe/

Do you really know how much immigration your local area has? Check with this tool

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/how-much-immigration-does-the-uk-have-test-local-area-statistics-official-ons-a6791701.html>

Makar's poem shines light on refugees in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/makar-s-poem-shines-light-on-refugees-in-scotland-1-3996484>

Swansea's Chinese community connecting in retirement

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-35010303>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15249 Hanzala Malik: Bringing Nationalities Together—That the Parliament recognises the work done by the Daisy Street Church café in Govanhill, which it considers one of Glasgow's most multicultural communities; understands that around 90 residents of 15 nationalities have taken part in English for speakers of other languages sessions; congratulates the café on bringing together different nationalities and celebrating different cultures; believes that the café has provided local residents with valuable skills that will improve their everyday lives and provide residents with better employment opportunities, and hopes that the café continues to provide these sessions in 2016.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15249&ResultsPerPage=10>

Community Relations (continued) News

Cafe bringing Govanhill's nationalities together

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14169554.Cafe_bringing_Govanhill_s_nationalities_together/

Bishopbriggs Church reaches out to Muslim community after fire

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/bishopbriggs_church_reaches_out_to_muslim_community_after_fire_destroys_cultural_centre

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Senior Civil Servants: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL4288] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that BAME civil servants struggle more than their white counterparts to reach senior positions in Whitehall.

Reply from Lord Bridges of Headley: The Government is committed to ensuring a diverse Civil Service that is representative of Modern Britain at all levels.

In 2014, we commissioned external research undertaken by Ethnic Dimension to identify the barriers to progression experienced by talented BAME Civil Servants. The findings informed the Talent Action Plan Refresh published in March 2015 outlining clear actions to develop a greater pool of diverse talent.

Specific actions include a commitment to expand the Positive Action Pathway programme, designed to identify and develop talented BAME employees to secure promotion. We also plan to introduce Accelerate, an ambitious new talent programme to boost development of the pipeline for future leaders for key Director and Director General roles.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-07/HL4288/>

Local Government: Muslims

Jim Shannon [20118] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to increase the representation of Muslims on elected bodies.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Government believes that democratic institutions make the best decisions when they have a mix of people with different skills, backgrounds and experiences, from right across the country. The Government implemented section 106 of the Equality Act, which makes it possible to require registered political parties to publish anonymised data relating to the diversity of their candidate selection. This is a voluntary approach, which provides greater transparency over candidate selection. It is for political parties to ensure that they have a wide range of candidates to stand for elections.

We have supported and promoted mentoring schemes and internships at local and national Government level to open up political life to black, Asian and minority women and disabled people. Schemes such as the 'Be a Councillor Campaign' run by the Local Government Association encourage candidates from all walks of life to come forward and represent their local community.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20118/>

Equality (continued) New Publications

Making Progress: Scottish Ministers' Equality Duty

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00491640.pdf>

Impact of insecure accommodation and the living environment on Gypsies' and Travellers' health

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490846/NH - Gypsy and Traveller health accs.pdf

News

Core exams timetabled to accommodate Ramadan

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-35244444>

Summer exams will not be fitted around Ramadan, confirm boards

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/07/summer-exams-wont-be-fitted-around-ramadan-confirm-boards>

Sit exams early to fit in with Ramadan: Pupils taking GCSEs and A-levels face timetable shake-up to accommodate fasting Muslims

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3387163/GCSE-levels-set-rejigged-summer-Islam-s-holy-month-Ramadan-account.html>

School exams may be rearranged around Ramadan

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4658210.ece>

Exams to be taken earlier in the day to fit around Ramadan, exam boards say

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/12084785/Exams-to-be-taken-earlier-in-the-day-to-fit-around-Ramadan-exam-boards-say.html>

Ramadan and School Exams: Less Hysteria, More Context Please

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/ramadan-and-school-exams-less-hysteria-more-context-please/>

UK homelessness rising faster among minority ethnic groups, Labour says

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/24/uk-homelessness-rising-faster-among-minority-ethnic-groups-labour-says>

Scottish schools failing to attract ethnic minority teachers

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14168084.Scottish_schools_failing_to_attract_ethnic_minority_teachers/

Church of England to fast-track minority ethnic clergy into senior roles

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/25/church-of-england-fast-track-minority-ethnic-clergy-senior-roles>

Ethnic minorities 'face higher barriers in jobs market'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/28/ethnic-minority-people-face-higher-barriers-in-jobs-market>

Most UK police forces have disproportionate number of white officers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/01/most-uk-police-forces-have-disproportionate-number-of-white-officers>

Equality

News (continued)

Minorities need jobs help, says think tank

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/economics/article4650511.ece>

The racial gap in recruitment for every police force in the UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/ng-interactive/2016/jan/01/the-racial-gap-in-recruitment-for-every-police-force-in-the-uk>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Islamophobia in schools

Angus MacDonald: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle Islamophobia in schools. (S4W-28848)

Reply from Angela Constance: There is no place in Scotland for any sort of discrimination, prejudice or bullying in schools or elsewhere, and this includes Islamophobia. This government wants every child and young person in Scotland to grow up as respectful, responsible global citizens, free from discrimination, prejudice and bullying. We want young people to develop respectful, responsible and confident relationships. Discrimination, prejudice and bullying of any kind is unacceptable and must be tackled quickly, whenever it arises. This is why all young people in Scotland experience religious and moral education as part of Curriculum for Excellence. Religious and moral education enables children and young people to explore the world's major religions and approaches to living which are independent of religious belief, and to be challenged by these different beliefs and values. It supports children and young people in developing responsible attitudes to other people, their values and their capacity for moral judgement.

We have also established and funded respectme, our national anti-bullying service, and are working with a range of organisations to refresh our National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People. We are clear that all children and young people should be able to learn in schools free from discrimination. The Scottish Government is clear that the starting point for learning is a positive ethos and climate of mutual respect and trust based upon shared values across whole school communities. Schools should be peaceful and safe environments which have a positive influence on children and young people by promoting inclusion and equality and challenging discrimination.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28848&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Religious Hatred: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL4310] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Earl Howe on 2 December (HL Deb, col 1193), what actions will be criminalised from next April under the specific offence of anti-Muslim hatred, and whether the actions criminalised under that offence will include (1) criticism of the Muslim religion, and (2) statements from people who have left that religion explaining why they have done so.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Prime Minister announced in October, we have asked the police to record all existing religious based hate crimes by the faith or belief (including absence of belief) of the victim from April next year. Under existing hate crimes it is not an offence to criticise Islam or for those who have left the faith to explain why they have done so. The new recording system does not constitute a new offence of anti-Muslim hatred, but will require this to be recorded specifically.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-07/HL4310/>

Castes: Discrimination

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4547] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 1 December (HL3647), why they have not yet published the 2014 feasibility study on caste discrimination.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are currently considering the conclusions and recommendations of the caste feasibility study as part of our wider consideration of the implications of the *Tirkey v Chandok* tribunal judgments. As I said in my reply of 1 December, we will keep the House informed of further developments on this matter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-12-14/HL4547/>

Schools: Bullying

Michael Tomlinson [19061] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to tackle bullying initiated by religious intolerance in schools.

Reply from Edward Timpson: All bullying is unacceptable and every school is required to have a behaviour policy including measures to tackle all forms of bullying. They are held to account by Ofsted and inspectors will look at records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, including racist, disability, use of derogatory language and racist incidents.

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England published in November 2015 found that 30,000 fewer young people said they had been bullied in the last twelve months - a drop from 41 per cent in 2004 to 36 per cent in 2014.

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

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-08/19061/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

Tulip Siddiq (927) Commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 – That this House notes that on 27 January 2016 the UK will observe Holocaust Memorial Day, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where an estimated 1.1 million people were murdered; commemorates the six million victims of the Holocaust; further notes that the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016 is Don't Stand By; pays tribute to the commitment of Holocaust survivors who share their experiences with young people across the country; acknowledges the importance of the Holocaust Educational Trust's work in schools across the UK and in particular the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which has so far given over 28,000 students and teachers the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; also pays tribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for organising this year's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations; notes that a Book of Commitment will be placed in the corridor between the Members' Cloakroom and Members' Staircase between the hours of 14.00 and 16.00 from 18 to 20 January and 25 to 27 January; and urges all right hon. and hon. Members to sign the Book and observe the day, so that the appalling events of the Holocaust are always understood by future generations and recognising our shared commitment to challenging holocaust denial, distortion and denigration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/927>

Press Release

14 Police Forces in Data Sharing Discussions with Tell MAMA

<http://tellmamauk.org/14-police-forces-in-data-sharing-discussions-with-tell-mama/>

News

Hate crimes against Jews and Muslims soar

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4652245.ece>

Anti-Semitic attacks in London soar by 60 per cent in 2015

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/anti-semitic-attacks-soar-by-60-percent-in-2015-a6789556.html>

Yellowface and racism against Asians is just as important as other prejudice

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/dec/23/yellowface-discrimination-asians-prejudice-racism>

Twitter promises tougher stance against threats and abuse

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14173005.Twitter_promises_tougher_stance_against_threats_and_abuse/

Anti-sectarian charities facing battle for cash as vital funds to beat bigotry are cut

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/anti-sectarian-charities-facing-battle-7096031>

Polish woman wins £5000 payout after being banned from speaking Polish at work

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14193304.Polish_woman_wins_5000_payout_after_being_banned_from_speaking_Polish_at_work/

Hate crime probe launched after pigs heads dumped outside Islamic school

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14160701.Hate_crime_probe_launched_after_PIGS_HEADS_dumped_outside_Islamic_school/

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Pigs' heads dumped outside Islamic school

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/22/pigs-heads-dumped-outside-islamic-school>

Pigs' heads dumped outside Islamic school

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/12063453/Pigs-heads-dumped-Markazul-Uloom-Islamic-school-Blackburn.html>

Two pigs' heads are dumped outside Muslim school after plans to build a mosque at the site sparks protests

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3370142/Two-pigs-heads-dumped-outside-Muslim-school-plans-build-mosque-site-sparks-protests.html>

Young Muslim student 'was spat at and called a terrorist on London bus as other passengers smiled and did nothing'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3373996/Young-Muslim-student-spat-called-terrorist-London-bus-passengers-smiled-did-nothing.html>

Nazi thugs yell 'Hitler is on the way' before pelting Jewish shoppers with gas canisters

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/12086905/Nazi-thugs-yell-Hitler-is-on-the-way-before-pelting-Jewish-shoppers-with-gas-canisters.html>

Two Southampton fans given three-year bans for directing Nazi salutes and hissing 'gas chamber' noises at Tottenham game

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-3390251/Two-Southampton-fans-given-three-year-bans-directing-Nazi-salutes-hissing-gas-chamber-noises-Tottenham-game.html>

Police speak to Celtic director Lord Livingston after allegations of online racist abuse

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14161792.Police-speak-to-Celtic-director-Lord-Livingston-after-allegations-of-online-racist-abuse/>

M&S loyalty card chief fired over claim of racism

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/business/Companies/article1651593.ece>

Traveller Movement condemns Met Police inquiry into racism as 'a whitewash'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/traveller-movement-condemns-met-police-inquiry-into-racism-as-a-whitewash-a6804141.html>

Scots takeaway owner brutally beaten by racist thugs hours after Paris attacks makes 'heartbreaking' decision to give up family business

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-takeaway-owner-brutally-beaten-7150462>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

David Mundell: Devolution in Scotland – the next great debate

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-devolution-in-scotland-the-next-great-debate-speech>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-15275 Margaret McCulloch: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation—That the Parliament notes that 6 February is International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation; considers that female genital mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of women and girls, in which their genitals are injured or altered for non-medical reasons; understands that an estimated 140 million women and girls alive today have undergone some form of FGM; welcomes a growing determination around the world to eliminate FGM and support victims of this form of gender-based violence; further notes the development of a national FGM action plan in Scotland, and notes the aspiration to a world in which this extreme form of discrimination against women and girls is eradicated once and for all.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15275&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

First Minister New Year message

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/First-Minister-New-Year-message-20e7.aspx>

First Minister Christmas message

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-ministers-christmas-message/>

Make organ donation your New Year's resolution

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Make-organ-donation-your-New-Year-s-resolution-20f8.aspx>

Sewage scheme will leave charities flush

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Sewage-scheme-will-leave-charities-flush-20ca.aspx>

News

Plea for ethnic minorities to sign up as organ donors

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-35206818>

Scots urged to become organ donors to give others 'second chance at life'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/14176905.Scots_urged_to_become_organ_donors_to_give_others_second_chance_at_life/

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Luciana Berger [20443] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the Answer of 14 December 2015 to Question 19355, when specialist female genital mutilation mental health e-learning is planned to become available to NHS professionals.

Jane Ellison: As part of its £3 million national Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme, the Department commissioned Health Education England

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Question (continued)

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. We aim to launch these materials by the end of March 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-16/20443/>

Statement by the Speaker of the House of Commons

Mr Speaker: I am pleased to be able to announce to the House that, following fair and open competition, Her Majesty the Queen has graciously accepted my recommendation that Mr Mohammed Amal El-Hajji—usually known as Kamal El-Hajji—be appointed to the post of Serjeant at Arms with effect from 1 February. Mr El-Hajji has been Head of Front of House and VIP Relations at the Ministry of Justice since 2010 and has also held a number of administrative and security roles in the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the MOJ since 2001. In addition to being trained in the martial arts and a recipient of the British Empire Medal, Mr El-Hajji will be the first person of a black and minority ethnic background to hold the post of Serjeant at Arms.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160105/debtext/160105-0001.htm#16010514000001>

Press Releases

New Year 2016: Prime Minister's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-year-2016-prime-ministers-message>

Christmas 2015: Prime Minister's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-2015-prime-ministers-message>

Christmas message from Communities Secretary Greg Clark

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-message-from-communities-secretary-greg-clark>

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New Publication

Police Scotland: Information about stop and search

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/138327/306184/information-about-stop-and-search>

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Other News

FGM court orders: a quiet revolution in child protection

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/31/fgm-protection-orders-quiet-revolution-child-protection>

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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>

Stage 1 consideration of evidence, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10289&i=94656#ScotParlOR>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report: Bill at Stage 1

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/DPLRS042016R02.pdf

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>

**** Lobbying Bill**

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

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10293&i=94742#ScotParlOR>

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>

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>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/151222-0001.htm#15122250000363>

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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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.

**** Conference: Services for Ethnic Minorities in Scotland**

9 February 2016 in Perth (11.00-3.00)

PKAVS conference to launch their research report to identify existing services and gaps in provision for ethnic minority communities in Scotland, and share examples of good practice and case studies. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hve7shj> or contact Nicholas Morris nicholas.morris@pkavs.org.uk

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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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