

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

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15335 John Mason: Post Study Work Visa—That the Parliament deplores the decision taken by the UK Government that there will be no return of the post-study work visa for overseas students in Scotland; considers that such a visa would allow students who have studied in Scotland to remain and work there for a period of time, benefitting themselves and the Scottish economy; believes that there is widespread support in Scotland for the post-study work visa; understands that this decision was taken before the UK Parliament's Scottish Affairs Committee had completed its inquiry into the visa system; considers that such a system could attract more students to study at Scotland's universities in the future, and believes that the UK Government should drop its opposition to such a change in the rules.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15335&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Immigration Detention: Vulnerable Persons

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Government are committed to an immigration system that works in Britain's national interest, and commands the confidence of the British people. Coming to the United Kingdom to work, study or visit is a privilege, not an unqualified right. Accordingly, the Government expect anyone who comes to the UK to comply with their visa conditions and, if they do not, to return home voluntarily at the first opportunity.

We have put in place a robust legal framework, which prevents the abuse of appeals procedures and encourages timely and voluntary departures by denying access to services, such as bank accounts, rental property, the labour market and driving licences, to those with no right to be here. Where individuals nonetheless fail to comply with immigration law, and refuse to leave, we will take enforcement action to remove them from the UK. Where it is necessary for the purposes of removal, and taking into account any risk that an individual may abscond, this will involve a period of detention—which of course can be avoided if the individual departs voluntarily. The Government are clear that in these circumstances it is in the public interest to detain and remove such individuals, and the vast majority of those in detention are, accordingly, those who have made their way to the United Kingdom unlawfully or breached their conditions of entry, have failed to make their case for asylum, or are foreign criminals.

It is a long-established principle, however, that where an individual is detained pending removal there must be a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable time. Depriving someone of their liberty will always be subject to careful consideration and scrutiny, and will take account of individual circumstances. It is vital that the system is not only efficient and effective but also treats those within it with dignity and respect, and takes account of the vulnerability of those detained.

It is against this background that in February last year the Home Secretary asked Stephen Shaw to conduct a review of the welfare of vulnerable individuals in detention. His review is being published today (Cm 9186). It makes recommendations for operational improvements, for changes to the policy on detaining vulnerable people, and for changes to the provision of healthcare services in detention. Copies have been laid in the House. The Government are grateful to Mr Shaw for his review, welcome this important contribution to the debate about effective detention, and accept the broad thrust of his recommendations. Consistent with our policies, we will now take forward three key reforms, working across Government and the national health service and with private sector providers.

First, the Government accept Mr Shaw's recommendations to adopt a wider definition of those at risk, including victims of sexual violence, individuals with mental health issues, pregnant women, those with learning difficulties, post-traumatic stress disorder and elderly people, and to recognise the dynamic nature of vulnerabilities. It will introduce a new "adult at risk" concept into decision-making on immigration detention with a clear presumption that people who are at risk should not be detained, building on the existing legal framework. This will strengthen the approach to those whose care and support needs make it particularly likely that they would suffer disproportionate detriment from being detained, and will therefore be considered generally unsuitable for immigration detention unless there is compelling evidence that other factors which relate to immigration abuse and the integrity of the immigration system, such as matters of criminality, compliance history and the imminence of removal, are of such significance as to outweigh the vulnerability factors. Each case will be considered on its individual facts, supported by a new vulnerable persons team. We will also strengthen our processes for dealing with those cases of torture, health issues and self-harm threats that are first notified after the point of detention, including bespoke training to GPs on reporting concerns about the welfare of individuals in detention and how to identify potential

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

victims of torture.

Second, building on the transfer of healthcare commissioning in immigration removal centres to the NHS, and taking account of the concerns expressed by Mr Shaw about mental healthcare provision in detention, the Government will carry out a more detailed mental health needs assessment in immigration removal centres, using the expertise of the Centre For Mental Health. This will report in March 2016, and NHS commissioners will use that assessment to consider and revisit current provision. In the light of the review the Government will also publish a joint Department of Health, NHS and Home Office mental health action plan in April 2016.

Third, to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the detention estate, and in response to Mr Shaw's recommendation that the Home Office should examine its processes for carrying out detention reviews, the Government will implement a new approach to the case management of those detained, replacing the existing detention review process with a clear removal plan for all those in detention. A stronger focus on and momentum towards removal, combined with a more rigorous assessment of who enters detention through a new gate-keeping function, will ensure that the minimum possible time is spent in detention before people leave the country without the potential abuse of the system that arbitrary time limits would create.

The Government expect these reforms, and broader changes in legislation, policy and operational approaches, to lead to a reduction in the number of those detained, and the duration of detention before removal, in turn improving the welfare of those detained. Immigration enforcement's business plan for 2016-17 will say more about the Government's plans for the future shape and size of the detention estate.

More effective detention, complemented by increased voluntary departures and removing without detention, will safeguard the most vulnerable while helping control immigration abuse and reducing costs. [HCWS470]

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-01-14/HCWS470/>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration System

Michael Tomlinson: What steps the Government are taking to prevent abuse of the immigration system. [902904]

Chris Heaton-Harris: What steps the Government are taking to prevent abuse of the immigration system. [902905]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Immigration Act 2014 and related changes have expedited the removal of more than 2,000 foreign national offenders from this country and stopped illegal migrants from having access to services such as bank accounts, driving licences and rented accommodation. The Immigration Bill will go further, enabling the seizure of earnings from illegal workers, further penalising rogue employers and extending the deport first, appeal later principle to more cases.

Michael Tomlinson: ... what assessment has the Minister made of the Government's proposed right-to-rent scheme on those who are here illegally?

Reply from James Brokenshire: My hon. Friend is right to highlight the issues surrounding right to rent, which we intend to roll out nationally next month. It is a matter of ensuring that property is available only to those with a right to be in this country. We undertook an assessment of the first phase of the scheme in the west midlands. That found that the scheme was operating as intended, which is why we are now rolling it out further.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Chris Heaton-Harris: Can the Minister outline the steps the Government are taking to root out the problem of illegal working in economic sectors where skills shortages are pronounced, such as the construction and care industries?

Reply from James Brokenshire: We are certainly looking at several employment sectors that may face such risks, such as construction and care, to which my hon. Friend refers. I have had meetings with representatives from those industries and others to see what further steps can be taken to prevent that from happening, and making sure that employers have adequate awareness of the steps that they can take. We have doubled the maximum penalty for employing an illegal worker to £20,000, and through the new Immigration Bill we intend to tighten those restrictions even further and make it easier to prosecute rogue employers. ...

Keith Vaz: Despite measures having been taken by the Government, the number of sham marriages appears to be on the increase. In 2014, the last year for which we have figures, a total of 2,486 weddings were visited by enforcement officers. Will the Minister look at the possibility of giving registrars the power to cancel ceremonies, thus relieving the pressure on Home Office officials to crash weddings in this way?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Chair of the Home Affairs Committee and I have debated these issues in the past. Since April last year 12, 253 notices to marry have been referred to the Home Office through the new arrangements. Of these, 160 proposed marriages were considered a sham, and a further 99 marriages were prevented because couples did not follow the necessary requirements and co-operate with the investigation. This is a serious matter on which we have already taken action. Between April and September last year we arrested 528 individuals and removed more than 279 people involved in sham marriages, underlining our focus on that issue.

Nicholas Soames: Would my right hon. Friend reconsider the question of ID cards, not only in respect of immigration and the introduction of many digital services for all our individuals and citizens, but particularly in regard to national security and the protection of all our citizens from terrorism? Does he agree that this is now a matter of national security?

Reply from James Brokenshire: My right hon. Friend will be aware that one of the first steps that the coalition Government took was to respond to the Labour Government's proposals on that issue, which we continue to judge was the right thing to do. We are taking various measures to enhance the security of this country, but our judgment remains that ID cards are not the right way forward.

Frank Field: Does the Minister accept that other countries with ID cards find it much easier to identify, detain and deport illegal immigrants? Given the support now on both sides of the House, may I suggest that the Government re-open the agenda for the introduction of ID cards, which we understood they dropped under pressure from the coalition?

Reply from James Brokenshire: Many of the issues that we face in relation to deportation involve foreign nationals—obviously, by the nature of the work. We have introduced biometric residence permits, and in her speech last October to the Conservative party conference the Home Secretary referred to the further measures that we are taking so that we can remove those people who do not have authority to be in this country. We are using biometric residence permits and other means to achieve that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160111/debtext/160111-0001.htm#1601111400016>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls

David Rutley [902922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to prevent abuse of the immigration system.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Immigration Act 2014 and related changes have expedited the removal of over 2,000 foreign national offenders from this country and stopped illegal migrants having access to services such as bank accounts, driving licences and rented accommodation.

The Immigration Bill will go further, enabling the seizure of earnings from illegal workers, further penalising rogue employers, and extending the deport first, appeal later principle to more cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/902922/>

Immigration: Appeals

Tulip Siddiq [19716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appeals were heard in the First-Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) relating to immigration decisions made by her Department in each of the last five years; for how many of those cases her Department did not appoint a legal representative; and in how many of those cases where no legal representative was appointed the appeal was upheld.

James Brokenshire: The Ministry of Justice publishes data at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics> on the total number of appeals disposed at the First-Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) which includes all types of immigration appeal. Due to the way that data is recorded on Home Office systems, overseas appeals have been excluded from the data set included in the table attachment. The data also excludes paper cases at which a Home Office representative is not required.

The Home Office is usually represented at appeal hearings by a Home Office Presenting Officer acting as a Crown representative on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Home Department (SSHD) in immigration appeals pursuant to s84 (6) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Section 84 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 covers who can act as legal representatives in immigration appeals. Subsection 6 specifies that persons acting on behalf of the Crown or relevant Government Department can represent the SSHD at immigration appeals and do not need to be a legally qualified person. However in some cases barristers have also been used.

The proportion of oral appeals not represented increased between January – September 2015 in comparison to the previous 2 years. This was the result of the availability of Presenting resource in the Home Office to match court listing schedules which varied from forecasts used for planning purposes to a significant extent. Resources were put in place to ensure that representation rates increased in the final three months of the calendar year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-11/19716/>

Net Migration Figures: International Students

Virendra Sharma: What her policy is on the inclusion of international students in net migration figures. [902910]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The independent Office for National Statistics includes international students in its net migration calculations. Like other migrants, international students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

services while they are here. We continue to welcome the brightest and best to study at our world-leading institutions. There remains no limit on the number of genuine international students who can come to study in the UK.

Mr Sharma: The Minister will be aware that the UK Statistics Authority and others have expressed concern about the robustness of the international passenger survey and that, therefore, the contribution of students to net migration may be significantly lower than thought. How will he ensure that immigration policy is made on the basis of good evidence?

Reply from James Brokenshire: It is the Office for National Statistics that provides the figures. It includes international students in its net migration calculations, as does Australia, Canada and the US. We keep such issues under review all the time, but I underline to the hon. Gentleman that changing the way we measure migration would not make any difference to our policy because there is no limit on the number of genuine international students who can come here to study. We certainly remain open to attracting the brightest and the best.

Flick Drummond: In Portsmouth, there are 4,000 international students from 130 countries. Does my right hon. Friend agree not only that they help the immediate economy, but that the relationship between such foreign students and Britain should last a lifetime and helps the long-term political and economic future of Britain?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government certainly recognise the benefit that international students bring in enriching so many of our university campuses. We want to continue to attract international students to study at our world-leading universities. It is important to note that, since 2010, university visa applications from international students have increased by 17%, and by 39% for Russell Group universities.

Barry Gardiner: Is the Minister not concerned that the word has increasingly gone out to countries such as India and China that Britain is no longer as welcoming a place for international students, and that that is affecting our long-term business relationships quite seriously?

Reply from James Brokenshire: No, I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman's analysis. When we look at the students coming from China, we can see that the numbers have increased by about 9%. The way in which international markets operate can sometimes be quite complex, particularly in countries such as India, where the use of agents can be important. When I go to India later this year, I will certainly underline the clear message that the UK remains an attractive place for students to come to study.

David Nuttall: We all welcome international students, but what steps is my right hon. Friend taking to ensure that international students who overstay are removed?

Reply from James Brokenshire: My hon. Friend highlights the important point: we want to attract students to come to this country to study, but we also want to ensure that they leave at the end of their time. That was a particular problem under the previous Labour Government, but we are using exit check data to work with the university sector to see that students leave when they have completed their studies.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160111/debtext/160111-0001.htm#1601111400020>

Overseas Student Visas

Laurence Robertson: How many visas were issued to overseas students to study in the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [902913]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): Some 196,000 study visas were issued, excluding dependants, in the year ending September

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UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2015, and we continue to welcome the brightest and best to study at our world leading institutions.

Mr Robertson: Given that students who come to this country for more than a year are officially classed as immigration, and given the concern about levels of immigration into this country, would it be sensible to give a separate classification to students who come here to study? As we have already heard, those students bring a lot of money to the country, and they extend British influence abroad.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As I have already indicated, the Office for National Statistics includes international students in its net migration calculations, and like other migrants, international students who stay for longer than 12 months have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here. I underline that having those numbers there does not bear on our policy.

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh: Many businesses in Scotland, higher education institutions, wider civic society and all political parties, including the Scottish Conservatives, support the reintroduction of the post-study work visa as a means to attract foreign students to our universities and boost the economy. Will the Minister join that happy consensus in Scotland, reconsider the Government's position, and reinstate the post-study work visa?

Reply from James Brokenshire: I gave evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee before Christmas, and underlined the fact that in our judgment, there are already adequate opportunities for students who graduate in Scotland to move into employment that is commensurate with their qualification. I will look carefully at the recommendations of that Committee.

Rob Marris: How does the UK's proportion of the world market in international students last year compare with equivalent proportions in previous years?

Reply from James Brokenshire: Numbers of university applications continue to rise, and that underlines the effect of our crackdown on the abuses that we saw under the previous Labour Government, where people were coming to the country who could not speak English and who were going to bogus colleges.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160111/debtext/160111-0001.htm#16011114000023>

Immigration: Domestic Violence

John Spellar [21411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she had made of the implications for her policies of the findings on domestic violence in the report of the chief inspector of Borders and Immigration entitled, An Inspection of Settlement Casework, published in November 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office published its formal response to the Chief inspector of Borders and Immigration entitled, An Inspection of Settlement Casework, published on 19 November 2015 and this can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/responses-to-reports-by-the-independent-chief-inspector-of-borders-and-immigration>

The Home Office is revising its guidance for those who apply for Settlement because of Domestic Violence and intend to publish this as a priority. The guidance will make it clearer what weighting should be given to the evidence presented by applicants in support of their application and will be published on the Gov.UK website.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-06/21411/>

Immigration of Children

Natalie McGarry: Under what circumstances her Department permits the immigration of children to join relatives living in the UK. [902912]

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): The circumstances in which a child can come to the UK to join relatives living here are set out in the immigration rules. We keep the rules under review, but believe that they protect the rights of individuals, while ensuring that there is confidence in an immigration system that is fair.

Natalie McGarry: Save the Children estimates that up to 2,000 unaccompanied children are living in refugee camps in Calais and Dunkirk, many of whom have family in the UK. However, the family reunification process between the French Government and the UK Government can take up to 11 months, which results in many children making the dangerous decision to cross the channel. Will the Minister tell the House why the process takes so long and what steps the Government have taken to speed it up?

Reply from Karen Bradley: I do not recognise the length of time the hon. Lady suggests the process takes. We work very closely with the French authorities, but let us bear it in mind that those children are in camps in France, which is part of the European Union. It is important that they are processed properly in that sovereign state.

Tim Loughton: Some 15 years ago, Victoria Climbié came into this country from west Africa and was placed with a so-called aunt in a private fostering arrangement. The Government no longer collect figures about private fostering, so what measures are they taking to ensure that children who come to this country do not have their welfare compromised in the way that she did?

Reply from Karen Bradley: My hon. Friend has great expertise in this area, particularly given his time as a Minister. He knows that I take the welfare of children extremely seriously, as does the Home Secretary. We make sure that we have the information we need to protect those children.

Keir Starmer: I spent Friday in the camps in Calais and Dunkirk. I have seen some pretty appalling conditions in my time, including in prisons in Africa and the Caribbean, but nothing could prepare anyone for the squalor of those camps, particularly in Dunkirk. What was obvious, among other things, was that there is simply no process in place on the ground for anyone—particularly children—who is entitled to join their family in the UK. What steps are the Government taking to address that issue and to ensure that children in Calais and Dunkirk who have the right to join their families are able to do so?

Reply from Karen Bradley: The hon. and learned Gentleman knows that we work very closely with the French authorities. We are working with them to make sure that their processing is done as swiftly and efficiently as possible. I must repeat that these are camps in France. It is a sovereign country and we cannot interfere in French matters.

Stuart C. McDonald: Just after Christmas, 15-year-old Masud, an asylum seeker from Afghanistan, died in the back of a lorry trying to make it from Calais to be reunited with his sister here in the United Kingdom. The Home Office was seeking to defend his exclusion in protracted legal proceedings relating to the Dublin convention. Will the UK Government please reconsider their approach to the Dublin rules and, indeed, to their own family reunion rules to avoid similar desperate journeys ending in tragedy?

Reply from Karen Bradley: Refugees can seek asylum in the first country in which they arrive in the European Union. I cannot comment on an individual case, but it is important to make the point that people should not try to make that journey illegally. We have a relocation programme to bring 20,000 Syrian refugees to this country. I must restate that France is a sovereign country and we must not interfere in its affairs.

Stuart C. McDonald: Will the Government reconsider the stress and anxiety caused by their policies to children who have one British parent and one non-EU parent? Last week we learned about Andrew McLaughlin, who served this country in Afghanistan and now

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

has to choose between leaving Britain or leaving his wife and child, thanks to the grossly excessive financial requirements in the immigration rules. Why do the Government continue to defend the indefensible?

Reply from Karen Bradley: Our current family reunion policy is already more generous than our international obligations require, and we have no plans to widen the criteria under immigration law. We consider each individual on a case-by-case basis, but we have no plans to change the rules.

20. [902926] **Tom Brake:** The Minister will be aware that 3,500 people died last year trying to reach safety in Europe. Twenty-seven non-governmental organisations and charities wrote to the Prime Minister at the beginning of the year, asking him what the Government would do about extending safe and legal routes to the United Kingdom, and about family reunion. When does the Minister expect a response to be forthcoming, and is it likely to be positive?

Reply from Karen Bradley: I am proud of the support that this Government are giving to people in the camps and in the region, where we can support far more people for the same amount of money than if they arrived in Europe. We have a relocation policy for 20,000 Syrian refugees, but it is important that we help as many people as possible, and we can do that best in the region. We must not encourage people to get on those boats, because nearly a quarter of people do not get off at the other end and die in the process.

Stephen Twigg: Has the Minister had a chance to look at the report by the International Development Committee, which praises the work being done in the region, and urges the Government to reach a rapid decision on the proposal by Save the Children that we should take 3,000 children from Europe?

Reply from Karen Bradley: I thank the hon. Gentleman, who I know has considerable expertise in this area. As the Prime Minister said last week, we are looking at those proposals and will come back on that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160111/debtext/160111-0001.htm#16011114000022>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4863] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child refugees have been received in the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: Refugee status is conferred following a grant of asylum. An asylum seeker only becomes a refugee once asylum has been granted. Not all asylum seekers are deemed to be refugees and not all refugees claim asylum. Figures on asylum applications for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release. The attached table shows total applications of asylum for UASC from 2010 to quarter 3 2015.

Asylum applications received from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children ¹ , excluding dependants, 2010 to Q3 2015	
Year	Total applications
2010	1,515
2011	1,248
2012	1,125
2013	1,265
2014	1,945
2015 Q1 - Q3	1,963

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Table Notes: (1) An Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) is a person under 18, or who, in the absence of documentary evidence establishing age, appears to be under that age, is applying for asylum on his or her own right and has no relative or guardian in the United Kingdom.

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

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4863/>

Refugees: Children

Calum Kerr [21006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on the Save the Children proposal to relocate 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children who have arrived in Europe to the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As the Prime Minister said to Parliament in December, we are looking again at the issue of bringing Syrian children to the UK. In any consideration we must ensure that our proposals are in the best interests of those children affected and do not inadvertently put children at additional risk. Our Syrian resettlement programme has already resettled vulnerable children as part of family groups, with over 1000 refugees resettled by Christmas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/21006/>

Refugees: Children

Johnny Mercer [21268] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the proposal in December 2015 from Save the Children to relocate 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children in Europe.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As the Prime Minister said to Parliament in December, we are looking again at the issue of bringing Syrian children to the UK. In any consideration we must ensure that our proposals are in the best interests of those children affected and do not inadvertently put children at additional risk. Our Syrian resettlement programme has already resettled vulnerable children as part of family groups, with over 1000 refugees resettled by Christmas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-06/21268/>

Refugees: Syria

John Pugh [20487] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which local authorities have received how many Syrian refugees.

Reply from Richard Harrington: My rt. hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced on 16 December that we have delivered on the promise to resettle 1,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees before Christmas. We can also confirm that as of the beginning of December 2015, 55 local authorities across the UK had signed up to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and made confirmed offers of places.

In order to help protect the privacy of those arriving, we will not be giving a running commentary on location or numbers of persons resettled. Notwithstanding, the Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics. The next set of figures will be in the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

quarterly release in February 2016 and will cover the period October-December 2015. This adheres to the standard practice for the release of information about the work of the Department, ensuring statistics are published properly in a way which is open and accessible to all.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-16/20487/>

Asylum

Tulip Siddiq [21016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for how many asylum applications initially rejected by UK Visas and Immigration did applicants subsequently make further submissions which were more than 12 months old; how many such applicants submitted a request to be allowed to work in the UK; how many of those requests to work were rejected; and how long, on average, did it take for those accepted to be given documents confirming their right to work in each year since 2009-10.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office holds reportable information on the number of failed asylum seekers who submit a further submission and how long their case remained outstanding. Permission to work requests are documented on the immigration casework database, but the information is not extractable without interrogating thousands of individual records. Therefore, the information is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/21016/>

Asylum

Tulip Siddiq [21043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for how many asylum applications did it take UK Visas and Immigration longer than 12 months to make an initial decision; how many such applicants submitted a request to be allowed to work in the UK; how many of those requests to work were rejected; and how long, on average, did it take for those accepted to be given documents confirming their right to work in each year since 2009-10.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows, for each year from 2009-10, the time taken to make an initial decision, including those made within 12 months of claiming asylum.

In the year ending 31 March 2015, UKVI completed a significant exercise in clearing all straightforward asylum cases with a claim date preceding 1 April 2014.

Financial Year	Total Number of Decisions	No of Cases with a decision Over a Year	No of Cases with a decision Under a Year
2009/10	24,510	3,048	21,462
2010/11	19,818	4,010	15,808
2011/12	16,970	1,479	15,491
2012/13	17,561	1,208	16,353
2013/14	15,141	2,305	12,836
2014/15	25,992	8,281	17,711
2015/16 (Up to the 30 Sep 2015)	13,073	1,217	11,856

The Home Office holds reportable information on the number of asylum seekers who have not received a decision within twelve months. Permission to work requests are also recorded on the immigration casework database but this

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

information is not readily reportable without interrogating thousands of individual cases. Therefore, the information is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/21043/>

Asylum

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [21644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claimants have had their asylum claim rejected in each month since May 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes data on asylum initial decisions in Table as_01q (Asylum data tables Volume 1) of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April – June 2015, is available from:

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

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

Asylum refusals, at initial decision:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/443457/original/Table%2021644.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-08/21644/>

Detention Centres

Gavin Robinson [21316] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are held in each immigration holding or removal centre in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the latest available information of the number of people detained in the detention estate as at 30 September 2015, by centre.

People in detention as at 30 September 2015, by place of detention	
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
Total	3,531

IRC = Immigration Removal Centre, STHF = Short Term Holding Facility, PDA = Pre Departure Accommodation.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of people detained in the United Kingdom for immigration purposes, within the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration Statistics release on the GOV.UK website:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-06/21316/>

Detainees: Pregnancy

3. **Stuart C. McDonald:** If she will discuss with the Home Secretary the treatment of pregnant women detained for immigration purposes. [903006]

10. **Callum McCaig:** If she will discuss with the Home Secretary the treatment of pregnant women detained for immigration purposes. [903013]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary takes these matters very seriously. Last year, she commissioned Stephen Shaw, CBE, former prisons and probation ombudsman, to carry out a review of the welfare of vulnerable people in detention. Mr Shaw's report will be published today, and the Government will take appropriate action in response to his recommendations.

Stuart C. McDonald: I am grateful for that answer, and we look forward to hearing what Stephen Shaw has to say, albeit that we are slightly sceptical about the remit that he was operating under. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that Government policy of detaining only in exceptional circumstances is, at the very least, put into practice and is not fiction? It would be even better if she ensured that the detention of pregnant women came entirely to an end.

Reply from Karen Bradley: It is Government policy that pregnant women should be detained only in exceptional circumstances. In normal circumstances, they should not be detained. Where a matter affecting a pregnant woman being detained comes to light, it is looked at with the utmost urgency.

Callum McCaig: I draw the Minister's attention to the all-party parliamentary group's report of 2014 on immigration detention, which dealt with the issue of women in detention centres more widely. Many women had been subject to quite horrific violence, including sexual violence. What steps is she taking to ensure that detained women, whether pregnant or not, are safe? Does she agree with me that these centres should not be detaining women at all and that detention should very much be a last resort?

Reply from Karen Bradley: I agree with the hon. Gentleman that detention should be a very last resort. It is regrettable in many ways that we have to have detention, but as part of an immigration system that is fair to all, detention is needed in those exceptional circumstances where people refuse to leave the country when they have been ordered to do so. Women are treated with the utmost dignity, and it is important to treat all people in detention with dignity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160114/debtext/160114-0001.htm#16011449000030>

Human Trafficking

Tulip Siddiq [21107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases were referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking for domestic servitude in each year since 2009; and how many such cases had a (a) positive reasonable grounds decision and (b) positive conclusive grounds decision.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Statistics relating to the National Referral Mechanism are published quarterly by the National Crime Agency in their "Human Trafficking: National Referral Mechanism Statistics" report, which includes information on exploitation type and decision outcomes. These can be found here: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Data prior to April 2012 is held for internal use but has not been validated for publication.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/21107/>

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Henry Smith [21543] To ask the Attorney General, what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to improve the number of successful prosecutions for human trafficking offences.

Robert Buckland: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has issued guidance to strengthen prosecutions in support of the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The CPS continues to deliver joint training with the police. The increased awareness and emphasis on working with the police to build stronger cases should lead to an improvement in the number of successful prosecutions.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is hosting a summit with the Heads of the Prosecution Services in the UK and the Lord Advocate for Scotland in February 2016 to launch joint commitments to provide a more robust UK response to human trafficking and slavery.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-07/21543/>

Press Releases

Cross party concern at UK veto of post study work

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Cross-party-concern-at-UK-veto-of-post-study-work-215d.aspx>

Post study work visas ruled out without consultation

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Post-study-work-visas-ruled-out-without-consultation-213c.aspx>

New immigration and nationality fees for 2016 to 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-immigration-and-nationality-fees-for-2016-to-2017>

New Publications

Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

Family Friendly? The impact on children of the Family Migration Rules: A review of the financial requirements

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/CCO-Family-Friendly-Report-090915.pdf>

Ministerial response to the above review of family migration rules financial requirements

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Ministerial_response_to_the_Children_s_Commissioner_for_England_on_the_minimum_income_threshold_under_the_family_Immigration_Rules.pdf

Immigration and Asylum

New Publications (continued)

Building a Better Future: Scottish Refugee Council's key principles of a fair and humane system to protect and welcome refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0392/Principles_of_Protection_Jan_2016.pdf

News

Scots parties unite to condemn post-study visa decision

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35323046>

Holyrood parties unite to demand UK Government rethink on student work visas

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14206299.Holyrood_parties_unite_to_demand_UK_Government_rethink_on_student_work_visas/

Anger at visa block on skilled graduates

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4664006.ece>

SNP and Labour at loggerheads over graduate work visas as recriminations begin

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14209160.SNP_and_Labour_at_loggerheads_over_graduate_work_visas_as_recriminations_begin/

SNP tells Tories: 'Stop forcing refugees in Scotland to travel to London to lodge asylum claims'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14210117.SNP_tells_Tories_Stop_forcing_refugees_in_Scotland_to_travel_to_London_to_lodge_asylum_claims/

Theresa May urged to rethink new £35,000 earnings threshold for non-EU migrants as teachers face deportation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-urged-to-rethink-new-35000-earnings-threshold-for-non-eu-migrants-as-teachers-face-a6814841.html>

Pressure grows on Theresa May to admit 3,000 lone refugee children to UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jan/16/pressure-grows-on-theresa-may-to-admit-3000-lone-refugee-children-to-uk>

Home Office drops plans to cut interpreter wages after boycott threat

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/15/home-office-drops-plans-to-cut-interpreter-wages-after-boycott-threat>

Migrants could be banned from in-work benefits

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4667094.ece>

Scotland can be a beacon for a more fair and humane system for refugees

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2804_scotland_can_be_a_beacon_for_a_more_fair_and_humane_system_for_refugees

Scottish Refugee Council to set out protection principles

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/scottish-refugee-council-to-set-out-protection-principles-1.919729>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

How 20,000 Indians have slipped into UK on Portuguese passports...all legally!

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3403136/How-20-000-Indians-slipped-UK-Portuguese-passports-legally.html>

Good morning, welcome to London... and how long are you staying?

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/Features/article1655202.ece>

Language project hailed a success

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14194678.Language_project_hailed_a_success/

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Community Relations

News

'If you say you're a gypsy, people judge you. we want to change that'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/if-you-say-youre-gypsy-7181977>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Pupil Exclusions: Travellers

Kate Green [21520] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to address the disproportionate number of exclusions from school of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government's approach is to develop opportunities for everyone. This includes measures to improve literacy and numeracy, and the quality of teaching; targeting resource through the pupil premium to ensure every young person, regardless of birth or background, has the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Inequality in relation to exclusion is a complex and longstanding issue. Many of the issues that underlie the inequalities seen in exclusion are inseparable from those that lead to other educational inequalities, including academic attainment. Removing the barriers to children engaging with education is fundamental to attendance, academic attainment, improving behaviour and reducing the need for exclusion.

Through the pupil premium, schools receive additional funding to help them support their disadvantaged pupils, and have flexibility over how they use this to improve the progress and attainment of those pupils. In the current financial year, 59% of Gypsy and Roma pupils and 72% of Traveller pupils are eligible for the pupil premium, compared with 28% of all pupils.

In 2012, the Government funded two local authorities (Cambridgeshire and Kent) to each appoint a Virtual Head Teacher to support schools in raising the attainment of GRT pupils, to increase awareness of the common issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils and to help schools to overcome them. The

Equality UK Parliament Questions (continued)

findings of these pilots are available at

<https://www.learntogether.org.uk/Resources/Documents/Camb%20VHT%20DfE%20final%20report.doc> and

http://www.edukent.co.uk/images/uploads/misc_files/VHT_Kent_Final_report_GH.pdf.

The Department has also produced short case studies of schools that have been successful in improving the attendance and attainment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. These are available at: www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-pupils-supporting-access-to-education.

Schools have duties under the Equality Act 2010 not to discriminate against pupils, including in the exclusion process. These duties are considered as part of the inspection process and complaints processes exist to consider individual complaints.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-07/21520/>

Police: Ethnic Groups

Dawn Butler [21879] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on increasing the number of BME police officers.

SincReply from Caroline Dinenage: Since 2013, officials in the Government Equalities Office have been working with the Home Office and police representatives on how best to use provisions within the Equality Act 2010 to help increase the number of BME police officers.

The officer workforce is more representative in terms of gender and ethnicity than it has ever been. At 31 March 2015, there were 6,979 BME officers representing 5.5% of all police officers (compared with 4.6% in 2010, 3.6% in 2006 and only 2.2% in 2000).

At 31 March 2015, there were 35,738 female officers, representing 28.2% of all police officers (compared with 25.7% in 2010, and only 16.5% in 2000).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-11/21879/>

Organs: Donors

John Spellar [21358] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to encourage the take up of organ donor cards among South Asian and other minority ethnic communities.

Reply from Jane Ellison: UK Government provides NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) with around £60 million a year to support organ donation. In 2013, NHSBT launched a UK – wide organ donation and transplantation strategy Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020, setting the agenda for increasing organ donation and transplantation rates. The Department has also established the National Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Transplant Alliance with the aim of raising awareness about the need for stem cell and organ donation, and increasing the number of people from BAME communities who can benefit from either a stem cell or organ transplant.

South Asian people are more likely to need a kidney transplant than a Caucasian person but families are less likely to consent to organ donation. The result is that patients from South Asian background wait much longer for organ transplants, particularly for a kidney transplant. Therefore, to support the wider 2020 strategy, the Department funded Kidney Research UK to undertake a Peer Educator Programme within the Pakistani Muslim community in Birmingham with the aim of

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

raising awareness of the lack of donors and increasing the numbers on the bone marrow and organ donation registers. Lessons learnt will support the roll-out of the programme in other similar areas of work.

NHSBT also has a wide range of leaflets promoting organ donation that are translated into a number of different South Asian languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-06/21358/>

News

Research shows Pakistanis most likely to be hospitalised in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/research-shows-pakistanis-most-likely-to-be-hospitalised-in-scotland-1-3999484>

Shakespearean black and ethnic minority actors 'still only getting minor roles'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/shakespearean-black-and-ethnic-minority-actors-still-only-getting-minor-roles-a6816941.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Muslim Community

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure the safety of the Muslim community following the Paris attacks. (S4W-28625)

Reply from Michael Matheson: We are determined that the terrorist threat will not undermine our commitment to a diverse and open society built on a liberal democracy and shared values and the most important challenge for us all is to work towards creating cohesive and resilient communities within which the terrorist messages will not resonate. We are fully committed to working with Police Scotland and others to safeguard all communities and potentially vulnerable people and sites. There is absolutely no place for bigotry and prejudice in Scotland and this government is clear that any form of hate crime is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in 21st century Scotland. The Scottish Government is in the process of establishing an independent advisory group, chaired by Dr Duncan Morrow, which will engage with communities on the issue of hate crime, prejudice and community cohesion, with a view to presenting initial findings to ministers next year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28625&ResultsPerPage=10>

Muslim Community

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what new security measures it is taking to protect places of religious worship, including mosques and Muslim community centres, following the Paris attacks. (S4W-28627)

Reply from Michael Matheson: As indicated in my answer to question S4W-28625 on 14 January 2016, we are determined that the terrorist threat will not

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

undermine our commitment to a diverse and open society built on a liberal democracy and shared values and the most important challenge for us all is to work towards creating cohesive and resilient communities within which the terrorist messages will not resonate. We are fully committed to working with Police Scotland and others to safeguard all communities and potentially vulnerable people and sites. There is absolutely no place for bigotry and prejudice in Scotland and this government is clear that any form of hate crime is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in 21st century Scotland. The Scottish Government is in the process of establishing an independent advisory group, chaired by Dr Duncan Morrow, which will engage with communities on the issue of hate crime, prejudice and community cohesion, with a view to presenting initial findings to ministers next year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-28627&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15284 John Mason: Offensive Behaviour Act—That the Parliament believes that the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 has helped emphasise that sectarianism, anti-Catholicism and anti-Irish racism are not acceptable in modern day Scotland; considers that, as only 193 charges were reported to have been made under Section 1 of the legislation in 2014-15, this indicates that it has been enforced leniently; believes that all legislation should be subject to review and potential improvement through amendment but that repealing this would send out a message that sectarianism, anti-Catholicism and anti-Irish racism are acceptable, and is therefore firmly opposed to its repeal.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15284&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Deputy Speaker accused of 'race bias'

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/Politics/article1657317.ece>

SNP councillor Craig Melville in 'anti-Islamic texts' probe

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35334172>

SNP councillor probed over 'anti-Islamic texts'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/snp-councillor-probed-over-anti-islamic-texts-1-4002883>

Aide to SNP deputy leader Stewart Hosie accused of sending abusive texts to female Muslim party colleague

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/aide-snp-deputy-leader-stewart-7189092#XXUYDjpr2xuOikyA.97>

SNP suspends Dundee councillor at centre of anti-Islam text allegations

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/dundee/snp-suspends-dundee-councillor-at-centre-of-anti-islam-text-allegations-1.919986>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Dundee councillor probed over alleged texts to Muslim colleague

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3402462/Dundee-councillor-probed-alleged-texts-Muslim-colleague.html>

It's time to end 'the last acceptable racism' – against Gypsies and Travellers

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/15/acceptable-racism-gypsies-travellers-prejudice>

CCTV footage shows man setting Scots mosque alight

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-35301627>

BBC Sport accused of 'anti-semitism' after Kike Tweet

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/bbc-sport-accused-of-anti-semitism-after-kike-tweet-a6815296.html>

Activists vow to stop a major Nazi hate gig in Edinburgh

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/activists-plan-to-stop-nazi-hate-gig>

Scottish Football Urged to Give Fans the Vote on 'Strict Liability'

<http://nilbymouth.org/2016/scottish-football-urged-to-give-fans-the-vote-on-strict-liability/>

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Scottish Devolution

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Smith Commission Agreement: Non-legislative and additional issues for consideration

David Mundell (Secretary of State for Scotland) On 27 November 2014 the Smith Commission published its Heads of Agreement on the devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament. The Smith Commission Agreement was the first time that all five of Scotland's major political parties came together to agree the constitutional future of Scotland and was an historic achievement.

In addition to the provisions requiring legislation which are being taken forward in the Scotland Bill, the Smith Commission Agreement identified a number of areas for further consideration between the UK and Scottish Governments. In the period since the Smith Commission, the UK and Scottish Governments have held discussions on these matters. The attached table provides information on work in these areas.

The Agreement also identified a number of areas where non-legislative action was required. Discussions on the agreement of a new fiscal framework for Scotland and work to strengthen intergovernmental working are on-going. The attached table provides an update on other such areas, including the agreement of Memorandums of Understanding in relation to the BBC and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [HCWS458]

WMS - Smith Commission Agreement [http://qna.files.parliament.uk/ws-attachments/443523/original/Smith%20Commission%20Agreement%20-%20Non%20legislative%20and%20additional%20issues%20for%20consideration.docx\(2\).docx](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/ws-attachments/443523/original/Smith%20Commission%20Agreement%20-%20Non%20legislative%20and%20additional%20issues%20for%20consideration.docx(2).docx)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-01-11/HCWS458/>

Scottish Devolution Press Releases (continued)

Mundell hails dawn of Holyrood 2.0

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mundell-hails-dawn-of-holyrood-20>

David Mundell: The year of a new Scottish Parliament

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-the-year-of-a-new-scottish-parliament-speech>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Religion: Education

Jim Shannon [21018] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her policy is on religious education as a compulsory part of the school curriculum.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The government firmly believes in the importance of religious education (RE).

RE is a compulsory subject for all pupils up to the age of 18 in state funded schools. For schools without a religious character, the RE curriculum needs to reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-05/21018/>

Education: Unregistered Schools

Lord Storey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for regulating unregistered schools.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education (Lord Nash): My Lords, we are taking robust steps to tackle unregistered schools. We are working closely with Ofsted and are pleased that it has agreed to take forward prosecutions in relation to settings operating illegally as unregistered independent schools. We have also consulted on introducing a new system to regulate out-of-school education settings which teach children intensively, and we will intervene and impose sanctions where there are safety or welfare concerns.

Lord Storey: ... He will be aware of the unannounced inspection of the premises of three unregistered schools in Birmingham, where some frankly appalling practices were found, including health and safety issues, safeguarding issues, homophobic and misogynistic material et cetera. ... can the Minister indicate how we should deal with Sunday schools and communion classes, which may fall into the category of unregistered provision?

Reply from Lord Nash: ... We do not propose to regulate institutions such as Sunday schools and one-off residential settings which teach children for a short period every week. We are looking specifically at places where children receive intensive education, which we think will be defined as more than six to eight hours a week.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: My Lords, are the Government looking at madrassahs that teach fewer than 12 children? I gather that 12 is the number which means that some inspection can be done but, as the noble Lord will know, many madrassahs have fewer than 12 children.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Nash: We are not specifically looking at madrassahs but we will be covering institutions such as those to which the noble and learned Baroness referred in our call for evidence, which has just closed. We will consider all this in the legislation we propose to bring forward in relation to institutions teaching above six to eight hours a week.

Lord Elton: My Lords, my noble friend is looking for bad conduct. Does he agree that he is also seeing a good deal of very valuable instruction given to children who need to be integrated into our society and are handicapped in many ways because of their ethnic or geographic origin?

Reply from Lord Nash: We are concerned about the point my noble friend makes and about isolated communities, which is an area that Louise Casey has been asked to look at to see how we can improve integration. We are very active in our whole-school approach to making sure that children are brought up to understand enough about the different religions and beliefs in this country that they can be prepared for life in modern Britain. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160114-0001.htm#16011452000955>

Travellers

Kate Green [21518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance has been issued to police forces on monitoring and recording Gypsy and Traveller status as separate ethnic categories.

Reply from Mike Penning: The use of Census categories for ethnicity is assessed each year as part of the Home Office's process of agreeing each year's Annual Data Requirement (ADR) of mandatory collections of statistical data from the police. This process includes consideration of the need, use, burden and data quality issues for each data collection. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) have previously advised against the transition to the new Census categories due to the significant burden that this would place on forces to change IT systems and processes.

The ADR collections currently use the Census 2001 ethnicity framework, and there are no plans at present to move to the Census 2011 framework, which would add a separate category of 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller'.

The guidance given to police forces on providing data to the Home Office is based on the Census 2001 ethnicity framework. It is, however, a decision for individual forces as to how they monitor and record ethnicity data for their own purposes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-07/21518/>

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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 evidence session, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10301&i=94775#ScotParIOR>

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

Burial and Cremation Bill (continued)

Stage 1 evidence session, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10299&i=94760#ScotParlOR>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10306&i=94833#ScotParlOR>

**** Community Justice Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/95488.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/95533.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>

Scottish Government Response to the Education and Culture Committee Stage 1 Report

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20\(Scotland\)/SGHEGResponseReport20160111.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20(Scotland)/SGHEGResponseReport20160111.pdf)

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10303&i=94825#ScotParlOR>

Lobbying Bill

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

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>

Report, Select Committee on the Constitution

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldconst/75/75.pdf>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0079/amend/am079-g.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0079/amend/am079-f.htm>

Immigration Bill: Government Amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/lddelreg/83/83.pdf>

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>

Proposed amendments

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

**** Tackling migrant smuggling: is the EU legislation fit for purpose?** (closing date 6 April 2016)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting_0031_en.htm

**** Fife Third Sector Equality and Diversity Mapping Exercise** (no closing date given)

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/1b154e99301/feb61f61-2119-499f-9591-cfe96044bd63.pdf>

Hate Crime Reporting in Scotland (no closing date given)

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

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

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

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

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

Consultations (continued)

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

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

Primary care for new migrants (no closing date given)

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

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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

**** *this week***

Your Scottish Parliament: Your Voice

21 January 2016 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-12.30)

23 February 2016 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-12.30)

24 March 2016 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-12.30)

Scottish Parliament workshops providing an opportunity to learn more about how the Parliament works and how to make your voice heard. For information see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/95009.aspx> or contact

your_SP@scottish.parliament.uk

**** *this week!***

The Devil came on Horseback

24 January 2016 in Glasgow (12.15)

Interfaith Scotland documentary film showing for Holocaust Memorial Day about the genocide in Darfur, followed by a question and answer session with Professor Mukesh Kapila. Professor Kapila, former head of the UN in Sudan. For information see

http://www.glasgowfilm.org/theatre/whats_on or contact 0141 420 6982 / admin@interfaithscotland.org

Events/Consultations/Training (continued)

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

**** Against a Tide of Evil: Why does 'never again' happen again and again?**

25 January 2016 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.00)

Interfaith Scotland lecture for Holocaust Memorial Day by Professor Mukesh Kapila, former head of the UN in Sudan. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/h8bxvlt> or contact 0141 420 6982 / admin@interfaithscotland.org

**** GRAMNet film: Karski and the Lords of Humanity**

27 January 2016 in Glasgow (6.00)

Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network / BEMIS film showing for Holocaust Memorial Day of a partially animated documentary about Jan Karski, who risked his life to try to prevent the Holocaust. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/event/gramnet-film-series-jan-2016/>

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

**** The Gathering: Celebrating Charities**

17-18 February 2016 in Glasgow

Third Sector event to highlight the range of work taking place across the third sector in Scotland. For information see <http://gatherscotland.org.uk/>

**** A Human (Rights) response to refugees in Scotland**

17 February 2016 in Glasgow (1.30-2.30)

Discussion about how the Scottish Government, local government, the wider public sector and Scottish civil society respond in a practical sense to challenges of welcoming and supporting the planned 2,000 refugees coming to Scotland over the next few years. For information see <http://gatherscotland.org.uk/events/a-human-rights-response-to-refugees-in-scotland/> or contact David Fagan 07813 335 181 / david.fagan@gcu.ac.uk

**** Refugee integration and the social security system**

17 February 2016 in Glasgow (3.00-4.00)

Asylum seekers and refugees bring a wealth of talent, skills and knowledge which enriches Scottish society. However, we know from findings released by Scottish Refugee

Events/Consultations/Training (continued)

Council last year that refugees face multiple barriers to successful integration in Scotland. Scottish Refugee Council and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations discussion about what organisations need to know, and what lies ahead for refugee integration and the social security system in Scotland. For information see <http://gatherscotland.org.uk/events/refugee-integration-and-the-social-security-system/> or contact Alan Young 0141 559 5017 / allan.young@scvo.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.

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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