

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding how it could assist in accommodating 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children. (S4T-01299)

Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Humza Yousaf): Scotland has a proud history of providing refuge to vulnerable people and this group of children is especially vulnerable. The Scottish Government welcomes the interventions by organisations such as Save the Children and Citizens UK to raise awareness of the plight of the 26,000 Syrian children who are estimated to be in Europe.

We have repeatedly called on the UK Government to do more. Action must be taken promptly to avoid further tragedies of the type that we have seen in the past few months. I have raised the matter in conversation with Richard Harrington, who

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is the minister with responsibility for Syrian refugees, and it has also been discussed by the Scottish refugee task force.

Liam McArthur: I thank the minister for his response, with which I agree. As Save the Children has pointed out, making it to Europe does not mean that children are safe.

Although the UK Government's position appears to be softening, so far it has not played its full part in offering shelter. Every day that it waits, 3,000 unaccompanied orphan children sleep rough unnecessarily. Those children are vulnerable to not only deadly winter conditions and disease but trafficking and exploitation.

To demonstrate that Scotland is ready to play its part, have Scottish ministers indicated how many unaccompanied children Scotland could accommodate? Have they made it clear that those 3,000 children should be in addition to the 20,000 whom the UK Government has pledged to take from camps around Syria?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I agree with the sentiments behind Liam McArthur's question. On his specific points, we have discussed the issue with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities—in fact, I have just come off the phone to it. It is fair to say that local authorities are sympathetic, as all of us are. COSLA has made the valid point that there has to be a well-resourced package for unaccompanied children. We agree with it that this is quite a resource-intensive endeavour to undertake.

We would like the UK Government ultimately to decide to accept unaccompanied Syrian refugee children. That is a decision for it. If it decides to do that, it will be important that it has a discussion with the Scottish Government and Scottish local authorities about a well-resourced package.

I have made it known that we are willing to play a part. I have written to the Secretary of State for International Development, Justine Greening, to let her know that Scotland is willing to play her part, and I know from speaking to COSLA that it is also willing to do so. Shortly after this discussion, I am to meet Save the Children to discuss the proposal in more detail. The Scottish Government certainly will do anything that we can do, and anything that we can do to make it known to the UK Government that we are willing to play our part.

Liam McArthur: As the minister will be aware, such children would be among the most vulnerable individuals to arrive in the UK. In fleeing terror and persecution, they need protection and a future.

The minister mentioned resources and I fully accept the point that he made. He will have seen the report in the Sunday Herald at the weekend that suggested that the number of children who have been referred to the Scottish guardianship service has risen by 80 per cent since 2014. Has the Scottish Government discussed that escalation with the service? Will the Government undertake to examine how it can help to ensure that enough guardians are available and that there is sufficient access to supported accommodation and the foster care placements that are required?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I saw the report in the Sunday Herald, which the Scottish Government commented on. Through funding the Scottish guardianship service—that funding has increased—the Scottish Government has enabled separated children to learn about the welfare and immigration processes directly with information that is made relevant to their specific circumstances. Notwithstanding that, I know that the Scottish Government will continue to have discussions with local authorities, as they will be key partners in everything that we do.

The political momentum on unaccompanied refugee children is overwhelming. I know that Tim Farron has been vocal on the matter, as Jeremy Corbyn was on a recent visit, and the Scottish Government certainly has been. It is important that we ensure that, in Scotland as well as across the UK, local authorities are given

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the resources that they require for that. It is very much a decision for the UK Government.

To give credit to the UK Government, it approached the issue of refugees previously in an open manner. I hope that it will approach the issue in an open-minded manner with local authorities, should it decide to take unaccompanied children.

To answer Liam McArthur's direct previous question, which I did not, the number should be above and beyond the 20,000 people whom the UK Government has agreed to take.

Roderick Campbell: Will the minister provide any further information on how the Scottish Government assists unaccompanied refugee children in interacting with the care system?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Through our work with the refugee task force, we have worked extensively with local authorities to ensure that Syrian refugee children who have come in through the vulnerable persons relocation scheme have been made to feel settled. Different local authorities have approached the matter in different ways. Some children have been put straight into the school system, while other children have been assessed as being not quite ready, so their entry into the school system has been staggered. Throughout the Christmas period, children were given gifts, such as toys, and were made to feel welcome.

Refugee children's specific needs, including their care needs, will be worked through the care system at a local authority level, much as with Scottish children, but with the additional understanding that refugee children might have complex needs beforehand. The complex needs that any such children have are assessed pre-arrival in Scotland by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UK Government.

Patricia Ferguson: I thank all the members who have signed my motion on the issue. As the minister has acknowledged, unaccompanied children already come to Scotland. Many members would like that number to increase, as has been discussed.

In spite of our recognition of the burden that that would place on services in local areas and Scotland as a whole, I wonder whether we should demonstrate our willingness by putting in place mechanisms that would allow us to have the foster carers who will be needed to look after those young people and children and the other mechanisms that will be needed to support them. By the time such children come here, we must have in place those mechanisms, so that the children can be supported not just adequately but in an appropriate way for their complex needs, as the minister said, because they are often the most vulnerable children in the camps where they are located.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The member makes a valid point. The Scottish Government works closely with local authorities to ensure that we have in place as many foster carers as possible. She is right that there is a need to do that, particularly in the big cities, including Glasgow, which she and I represent.

My extended family are foster carers. I know that foster carers from black and minority ethnic communities will be particularly important because of the profile of the refugees who will be coming here. That is another issue that we must look at.

Although we have unaccompanied asylum seekers, they are very different from the unaccompanied refugees who will be arriving. If child refugees are to be taken, their profile and complex health needs should be known. In that way, the situation should be able to be slightly more controlled and managed.

Of course, we must work with local authorities. If the UK Government decides to accept such children, it must immediately enter into discussions, as it has done in the past, with local authorities, through COSLA or bilaterally with my Government — whatever suits it best. It must then come to an agreement on a suitable

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package, because local authorities will have to deal with the burden—if that is the right word—and with the financial costs and the implications of taking unaccompanied refugee children.

Claire Baker: It is helpful that the minister sounds positive about discussions with the UK Government. However, if the UK Government decides not to go ahead with accepting unaccompanied children, has the Scottish Government given any thought to what support it could offer to UK and European charities that are supporting such children in Europe?

Replyt from Humza Yousaf: That will be part of the discussions that I have with Save the Children later today. The member will know that the Scottish Government cannot unilaterally accept refugees; ultimately, that is a decision for the UK Government. We have given a fair amount of funding to non-governmental organisations that are working in, for example, Lesbos, where a number of unaccompanied refugee children are arriving. When I was on the island of Lesbos, a dinghy came into shore. A number of young children on it were accompanied not by their parents or even their blood aunties or uncles but by their neighbours and so on. They were in a vulnerable position indeed. If the Scottish Government can do more, we will always look to do that. That will be part of my discussions with Save the Children. As I said, the decision is for the UK Government, but the noises from it in the past few days have been positive. Let us hope that a decision is made soon, because the crisis is going on right here, right now.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10333&i=95042#ScotParlOR>

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that refugees and migrants from all cultures and backgrounds have access to existing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) support. (S4W-29384)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: Scotland has the infrastructure necessary to support refugees and migrants from all cultures and backgrounds in their language acquisition. We also have a range of SQA assessments for ESOL learners and practitioners as well as an initial assessment pack to ensure standardisation of placements within ESOL classes. It is essential that this support is maintained in order to provide the services required to assist new migrants to fully contribute to Scotland economically and socially.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-29384&ResultsPerPage=10>

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government what impact the Prime Minister's announcement of an English language tuition fund will have on support for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in Scotland. (S4W-29385)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: We have been advised that the funding announced is for England only and will have no impact on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in Scotland. The Scottish Government continues to support refugees and migrants through our New Scots 2014-2017 strategy and Scotland's ESOL Strategy 2015-2020. The strategies will ensure that refugees and migrants are able to build a new life from the day they arrive in Scotland and to realise their full potential with the support of mainstream services and where they become active members of our communities with strong social relationships.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-29385&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that English language tuition is offered in a positive manner to support migrants from all communities. (S4W-29386)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: The Scottish Government have two strategies that cover this area of work, the vision behind both the New Scots 2014-2017 Strategy and Scotland's ESOL Strategy 2015-2020 is for a Scotland where refugees and migrants are able to build a new life from the day they arrive in Scotland and to realise their full potential with the support of mainstream services and where they become active members of our communities with strong social relationships: "That all Scottish residents for whom English is not a first language have the opportunity to access high quality English language provision so that they can acquire the language skills to enable them to participate in Scottish life: in the workplace, through further study, within the family, the local community, Scottish society and the economy. These language skills are central to giving people a democratic voice and supporting them to contribute to the society in which they live." The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategy and the Scottish approach to ESOL is exemplary to the rest of the UK.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-29386&ResultsPerPage=10>

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Ken Macintosh: To ask the Scottish Government whether the UK Government's announcement of an English language tuition fund will result in increased funding for English language support in Scotland and, if so, how it will use any additional funding. (S4W-29387)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: We have been advised that the funding announced is for England only and will have no impact English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in Scotland. The Scottish Government continues to support refugees and migrants through our New Scots 2014-2017 strategy and the ESOL Strategy 2015-2020. The strategies will ensure that refugees and migrants are able to build a new life from the day they arrive in Scotland and to realise their full potential with the support of mainstream services and where they become active members of our communities with strong social relationships.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-29387&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debates

English Language Classes for Women

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160128-0002.htm#16012842000960>

Syrian Refugees: Resettlement

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160127/halltext/160127h0001.htm#16012750000003>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Written Statement

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Government have carefully considered how best to provide assistance and protection to unaccompanied refugee children from Syria, other regions of conflict, and for those in transit in Europe.

The crisis in Syria and events in the Middle East, North Africa and beyond has separated a large number of refugee children from their families. Today I can announce that the UK Government will work with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to lead a new initiative to resettle unaccompanied children from conflict regions. We have asked the UNHCR to make an assessment of the numbers and needs of unaccompanied children in conflict regions and advise on when it is in the best interests of the child to be resettled in the UK and how that process should be managed. The UNHCR has already been clear that these are likely to be exceptional cases.

This will complement the existing substantial UK aid and resettlement programmes which are already helping many thousands of children at risk in conflict zones, on transit routes within Europe and in the UK. The Home Office will host a roundtable to invite views from a range of NGOs and local authorities, including UNICEF and Save the Children, on how we can provide more support for children in the region, in transit and domestically to prevent children putting themselves at risk and making dangerous journeys on their own. The UK Government have been at the forefront of the international response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, providing more than £1.1 billion in humanitarian aid to the Syria crisis. This new initiative builds on the Government's existing commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees during this Parliament. More than 1,000 vulnerable Syrians refugees—around half of them children—have already been resettled through the scheme.

The UK Government will also commit to providing further resources to the European Asylum Support Office to help in “hotspots” such as Greece and Italy to help identify and register children at risk on first arrival in the EU. And we will, of course, continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin regulations.

The Government are committed to combating child trafficking and understand that unaccompanied children, particularly those in transit, are vulnerable to people traffickers. The Home Secretary has asked the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, to visit the hotspots in Italy and Greece to make an assessment and provide advice on what more can be done to ensure unaccompanied children and others are protected from traffickers.

The UK Government are already providing substantial funding to NGOs such as Unicef and UNHCR to provide shelter, warm clothes, hot food, and medical supplies to support vulnerable people, including children, on the move or stranded in Europe or in the Balkans. In addition, the Department for International Development is creating a new fund of up to £10 million to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children in Europe. The fund will include targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children who face additional risks. The support will include identifying children who are in need, providing safe places for at risk children to stay, data management to help trace children to their families, and services such as counselling and legal advice.

Alongside these significant efforts to assist children and the most vulnerable internationally, the Government recognise the need to provide support for children who are already in the UK and have been subject to or at risk of trafficking and exploitation. We also recognise the pressure that some local authorities who are supporting large numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children are facing. The Home Office will continue to encourage local authorities to support the dispersal of UASC from Kent and to work with NGOs, local authorities and the Department for Education to review current practice and consider how capacity could be strengthened, including through ensuring

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UK Parliament Written Statement

that there is sufficient safe accommodation and specialist support for foster placements. [HCWS497]

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-01-28/HCWS497/>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions (Commons)

Child Refugees in Europe

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Government are at the forefront of the international response to the unprecedented migration flows into and across Europe. We want to stop the perilous journeys that are being made by migrants, including children, which have had such terrible consequences.

In respect of the majority of refugees of all ages, the clear advice from experts on the ground is that protection in safe countries in their region of origin is the best way of keeping them safe and, crucially, allowing them to return home and rebuild their lives once the conflict is over. That is why we are providing more than £1.1 billion in humanitarian aid for the Syria crisis, but it is also why we have a resettlement scheme for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees—those in the most need. Some 1,000 arrived before Christmas, about half of them children. A further 19,000 will be resettled by the end of this Parliament, and many of those will be children too.

Our resettlement scheme is based on referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We already consider referrals of separated children or orphans under the Syrian resettlement scheme where the UNHCR assesses that resettlement is in the best interests of the child. The UNHCR has a clear view that it is generally better for separated children and orphans within the region to stay there, as they are more likely to be reunited with family members or to be taken into extended family networks. ...

We have heard calls for the UK to take more unaccompanied children from within the EU. The Prime Minister has committed to looking again at this issue, and it is currently under review. Such a serious issue potentially affecting the lives of so many must be considered thoroughly, and no decisions have yet been taken. The Government are clear that any action to help and assist unaccompanied minors must be in the best interests of the child, and it is right that that is our primary concern. ...

Yvette Cooper: ... The Government have said repeatedly that they are looking at the call from across parties and from Save the Children for Britain to take 3,000 lone child refugees, but there has still been no answer, and we hear rumours that they will look only at helping child refugees from camps in the region. That is not enough. ...

We should especially be helping those who have family in Britain who are desperate to care for them. ...

This week, many of us will sign the Holocaust Memorial Day book of commitment. Our colleague in the House of Lords, Lord Alf Dubs, was saved from the holocaust by the Kindertransport many generations ago. Now he is asking us, through his Lords amendment, to back Save the Children's campaign to help a new generation of vulnerable children. Please will the Government agree to this before more children disappear or die? ...

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160125/debtext/160125-0001.htm#1601254000003>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Questions (Lords)

Child Refugees

Lord Bates repeated the statement given by James Brokenshire in the House of Commons (see above) and this was followed by a lengthy question and answer session. To read this see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160125-0001.htm#1601253000886>

UK Parliament Questions

Population Increase: Migration

Lord Green of Deddington: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the projected increase in population of the United Kingdom between mid-2015 and mid-2030, if net migration were reduced to 265,000 per year, the high-migration assumption in the latest official population projections.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the projections do not attempt to predict the impact of future government policies, economic circumstances or other factors. The Government recognise that uncontrolled mass immigration can increase population pressures. That is why we remain committed to cutting net migration to sustainable levels. We continue to work across government to reduce net migration from outside the EU, and seek reform of Europe to reduce the pull factors behind EU migration.

Lord Green of Deddington: My Lords, I thank the Minister for his response and for the policy he has outlined. We all recognise the benefits of controlled immigration, but is he aware that the total population increase projected is the equivalent of the combined populations of Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow, Sheffield, Bradford, Manchester, Edinburgh and Bristol, plus eight other cities the size of Cardiff, Leicester or Aberdeen? Two-thirds of that increase will be down to future immigrants and their future children, and all that will happen in 15 years if immigration is brought down by 75,000 from present levels. Do the Government believe that a population increase on such a scale is feasible or desirable?

Reply from Lord Bates: I said in my Answer to the initial Question that we believe that immigration was too high and that it needed to be reduced to a sustainable level. We recognise that this country gets huge benefits from the people who come here to study and to work, who are very welcome. We want to make sure that our immigration system continues to attract the brightest and the best, but that we have firm controls and restrictions on those who do not come here to contribute to our society.

Lord Wallace of Saltaire: My Lords, the Government have focused on one of the pull factors—benefits—but not on what seems to many of us to be much more important, which is the skills shortages in Britain. I went round various Bradford schools last Friday, all of which, including the independent schools, said they are short of teachers and are recruiting from Australia and elsewhere. I am conscious that the National Health Service is trying to recruit 6,000 nurses from outside the EU and that there are trucking companies in the north of England directly recruiting from eastern Europe. Would not an active labour market policy and investment in skills training on a larger scale do a great deal more to reduce immigration than some of the other measures we have in place?

Reply from Lord Bates: The noble Lord is absolutely right. This is one of the reasons why we are investing in apprenticeships and in the quality of our education. A very important element of the Immigration Bill which is currently going through your Lordships' House is the application of a skills levy on people who employ from outside the EU, which will then go back into making sure that

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UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the UK-based population have the skills necessary for those jobs in future.

Lord Tebbit (Con): Does it remain the Government's policy that immigration should be brought down to tens of thousands a year?

Reply from Lord Bates: Yes, that is our policy, which we repeated in the manifesto at the 2015 election.

Lord Blunkett: Does the Minister agree that that vague objective might be at least rational, and our presentation to the public would be more rational, if we took full-time and postgraduate students out of the so-called target?

Reply from Lord Bates: In essence, it does not make any difference. The target is based on the international way in which the ONS calculates the data. There is absolutely no limit on the number of bona fide students coming to study at bona fide universities in the UK. Where there remains a problem is with people who overstay on those student visas. Last year, 123,000 people came in, but we counted out only 36,000. That leaves a gap of around 90,000 which we need to understand better. Exit controls will help that, but we do not think that changing the way we calculate the figures will necessarily make any difference to finding the correct answer.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: My Lords, how would you replace the doctors and surgeons from overseas? In north Wales, one-third of our consultants in Ysbyty Gwynedd, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and Ysbyty Maelor are from overseas. How would you replace them if you have a harsh attitude towards overseas folk?

Reply from Lord Bates: The noble Lord is absolutely right, and that is the reason why we have no intention of doing that, and why we have the tier 2 visa process, through which people with skills in shortage occupations, as judged by the Migration Advisory Committee, come to contribute to our society. We are immensely grateful that they continue to do that.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: My Lords, is the Minister aware that the High Commissioner for New Zealand made a speech deploring the fact that New Zealanders who come under the highly skilled category have to go all the way back to New Zealand to get a renewal? He thinks that is particularly hard—certainly, no one has to go further than New Zealand. A lot of these people may eventually become immigrants: I came for six months and I am still here 60 years later. Will he give thought to changing these regulations so that people do not have the great disadvantage of having to go long distances simply to renew whatever they already have?

Reply from Lord Bates: I hope that was not an admission that my noble friend is an overstayer; if so, she is a very welcome one. For most Commonwealth countries, no visa is required, and it is absolutely right to recognise the special relationship we have with them. When people come on one type of visa, it is normal in most jurisdictions around the world that once the purpose for which they were granted access has expired and they wish to change it, they go back and reapply. We are simply saying that that ought to remain the case.

Lord Rosser (Lab): The Minister referred to the Government's objective of net migration in the tens of thousands. Bearing in mind that the implementation of that objective seems to have been slightly delayed, can he tell us when it will be achieved? Since this Government like to assert that they are in control of our borders, what do they expect the net migration figure to be for 2016 and 2017?

Reply from Lord Bates: The reality is that in some ways, we are victims of our own success. We have an economy that creates more jobs in certain counties than the entire European Union has managed to achieve in all 27 countries, and we have the only universities in Europe that are in the top 10 in the world. When we have that blessed combination of circumstances, it is not surprising that so

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many people want to come here and that people who are here do not want to leave.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160128-0001.htm#16012842000951>

English Language: Education

Lord Greaves [HL5309] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the £20 million of funding for providing English tuition for speakers of other languages announced by the Prime Minister is new money, and if so, from which budget heading it will come; whether that additional provision will be available for (1) both Muslim men and women who come to the UK on spousal visas and whose English requires improvement; (2) persons of other religions, and none, who come to the UK on spousal visas; (3) persons who are living in the UK by virtue of other kinds of permissions, such as other types of visas or following applications for asylum; (4) Muslim women and other persons who have come to the UK from other countries in the EU; and (5) UK citizens, whether or not they are Muslims; and whether that additional provision will be restricted according to how long a person has lived in the UK or their age.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The £20 million community-based English language training offer is new funding which will be routed through DCLG and will form part of its Integration Programme. The detail of how the programme will be designed, targeted and delivered will be informed by the findings of Louise Casey's Review into boosting opportunity and integration amongst isolated groups and the learning from the six community projects we have funded as part of our current Integration Programme. In particular, we will work with Louise Casey to identify the most isolated communities in England to make sure this programme is targeted at those women who need it most. We are working to deliver as early a launch date as possible for the programme in 2016/17.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-21/HL5309/>

Worker Registration Scheme

Ruth Cadbury [23522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that registration on the Worker Registration Scheme between 2009 and 2011 has no bearing on any subsequent application to naturalise as a British citizen.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The requirements for naturalisation are set out in the British Nationality Act 1981. There is no power in law to naturalise a person who does not meet the statutory requirements.

There are no specific provisions in place for those who were required to register on the Worker Registration Scheme between 2009 and 2011 but failed to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23522/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Lord Sharkey [HL4870] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Migration Advisory Committee to publish the findings of the review of the Tier 2 route of the Points Based System, including their recommendations on the application of a skills levy to businesses recruiting from outside the EEA.

Reply from Lord Bates: In June last year, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on how to restrict Tier 2 to roles where there are genuine skills shortages or which require highly-specialised experts, but with sufficient flexibility to include high value roles and key public

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

service workers.

As part of that commission, the MAC was asked for advice on applying an immigration skills charge to businesses recruiting from outside the EEA. The MAC published its report on 19 January 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4870/>

Visas: Married People

Daniel Zeichner [22994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to equalise fees for spousal visas for spouses of UK citizens and such fees for spouses of EU citizens resident in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We have no plans to equalise these fees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-19/22994/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Gregory Campbell [23208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people she expects to leave the UK in April 2016 because the term of their Tier 2 visa will expire.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not made an estimate of this particular figure. Applicants may apply for settlement if they meet the qualifying criteria, or to extend their stay in Tier 2 up to a maximum of six years, or to switch into another immigration route for which they are eligible.

The Government announced in 2012 that from 6 April 2016 Tier 2 visa holders who apply for settlement in the UK will be required to meet a minimum annual salary requirement of £35,000. PhD level roles and those in shortage will be exempt from the £35,000 threshold.

The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012. This is available on the gov.uk website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-19/23208/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Julie Cooper [23669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many skilled migrant visas were issued in respect of each category of industry in (a) 2010, (b) 2011, (c) 2012, (d) 2013, (e) 2014 and (f) 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available published information relates to Certificates of Sponsorship used in Tier 2 (skilled work) visa applications and is given in the table below. Corresponding data for 2015 will be published on 25 February 2016.

Information on Certificates of Sponsorship used in visa applications is published in the Sponsorship table cs_03 in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics release.

The latest edition, Immigration Statistics: July to September 2015 is available from the Library of the House and on the GOV.UK statistics web pages at:

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

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23669/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Overseas Domestic Workers Visa

Baroness Kennedy of Cradley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to implement the recommendations of the independent review of the overseas domestic workers visa published on 17 December 2015.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the Government are considering Mr Ewins' recommendations very carefully. Our first concern is to ensure that we can both protect victims and bring perpetrators to justice. I have made it clear that we will return to this issue on Report of the Immigration Bill, with our considered views.

Baroness Kennedy of Cradley: I thank the noble Lord, Lord Bates, for his reply. To be honest, it is disappointing to hear that, despite the Government having clear recommendations for action from their own review, which they commissioned during consideration of the Modern Slavery Bill, a further process of data collection and discussion with officials is proposed now that this issue is being raised as part of the Immigration Bill. Is this extra consultation the final hoop that we need to jump through, and will it be completed in good time for a final decision to be made on Report of the Immigration Bill?

Reply from Lord Bates: The report was published on 17 December, so we have had it during consideration of the Immigration Bill, which is obviously a more sensible legislative vehicle to carry any changes. James Ewins has put forward 34 recommendations, which we are looking at very carefully, and we appreciate his work. When we debated this in the Immigration Bill Committee last week, I said that, before Report, we would have a meeting of all interested Peers—with James Ewins—and the Government would produce their response and any proposed amendments to the legislation.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, the Minister has proposed a meeting on this subject and we are grateful for that. However, what is the point of having an independent, specialist review and then delaying implementing its conclusions and recommendations? Failure to act will surely prolong and continue exploitation and misery, whereas this could easily be remedied by modifying the immigration rules.

Reply from Lord Bates: That is one route. We are on the same track as the broad thrust of what James Ewins has put forward. He identifies some gaps in the data, and we recognise that that needs to be worked on. We need to consult, across Government, about the right approaches.

However, there are some areas where we have a problem that we would like to focus on further. Our view is that the national referral mechanism is the correct vehicle for dealing with someone who is found to have been abused under the overseas domestic workers visa scheme. That ensures that the individual gets the help they need and that the National Crime Agency finds out who the perpetrator is, so that appropriate action is taken. However, we are on the same page on the broad thrust.

Baroness Barker: In light of this review, will the Minister tell us if, when an application is made, embassy or consular staff have the power to interview the person on whose behalf the application is made, outwith the presence of their employer, in the country of origin, before they reach the United Kingdom?

Reply from Lord Bates: We are trying a pilot on this in west African countries, which is not necessarily proving conclusive either way. Very importantly, we have instituted that a model contract should be in place governing the terms and conditions of employment, working hours, what holidays these workers would get and what rights they have when they are in the United Kingdom. That model contract must be in place before the visa is granted. It is also very important that people reporting abuse report it to the authorities here in the UK, so that if a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

person who has been guilty of abuse then applies for a further overseas domestic workers visa, that information will be known to the authorities.

Lord Rosser: As the Minister will know, the Conservative Minister in the Commons said before the election that the intention was that whoever was in government would implement the recommendations of the James Ewins review. Yet last Wednesday in this House, the Government said that while they took Mr Ewins' recommendations extremely seriously, the arguments are "finely balanced". Is the reality not that the Government are seriously considering the option of not implementing his recommendations and, if not, what did the Government mean in saying last Wednesday that the arguments are finely balanced?

Reply from Lord Bates: When Karen Bradley mentioned this issue before the last election, I think that she prefaced those remarks by saying that no one can actually bind future Governments. The point here is that the purpose of the inquiry is to inform the debate and discussion within government, but government must reserve the right to look at the findings of the report and reach their own judgment. I would have thought that would be quite in keeping with the standards set by the Inquiries Act. I have said that we agree with the broad thrust. However, if someone goes through the national referral mechanism and the Salvation Army, they get access to accommodation, legal aid and translation services; more importantly, we also get the right to find out who the perpetrator of the crime is, to ensure that they can be appropriately dealt with. I would have thought we could all agree with that.

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, what remedies are available to domestic workers if the abuse is perpetrated by those who enjoy diplomatic immunity?

Reply from Lord Bates: We have been very clear on this. Where someone comes in on an overseas domestic workers visa—bearing in mind that some can come in through a tier 5 diplomatic visa—and abuse is reported to the authorities through the national referral mechanism, we have said that the Foreign Secretary will waive the right to diplomatic immunity so that there can be a prosecution in this country. We have been very clear on our intention to clamp down on abuse, particularly against women and girls. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160125-0001.htm#1601253000878>

Visas: Domestic Service

Tulip Siddiq [23745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people (a) have applied for and (b) were issued with a (i) Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa and (ii) the Private Servants in a Diplomatic Household visa in each year since 2009-10; and how many of such people in each such year and for each visa category were (A) subsequently found non-compliant with terms of that visa and (B) deported.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available information is shown in the attached table.

Private Servants in Diplomatic Households entering the UK since 27 November 2008 have been considered under Tier 5 of the Points Based System, and cannot be identified separately from centrally collated statistical databases.

Information relating to the numbers of Domestic Workers in a Private Household visa subsequently found non-compliant with the terms of that visa is not available from centrally collated statistical databases and could only be produced at disproportionate cost by examination of thousands of cases

A deportation is defined as follows:

A person who is not a British citizen is liable to deportation from the United

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Kingdom if the Secretary of State deems their deportation to be conducive to the public good. A deportation order requires a person to leave the UK and prohibits them from re-entering for an indefinite period. The deportation order invalidates any leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom given before the order is made or while it is in force.

Deportations are a specific subset of published removal figures.

The table below shows the number of people who entered the UK as a domestic worker and were then deported from the UK in each of the last 5 years. These figures include both deportations and enforced removals.

Year	Number of domestic workers deported and enforced removals from the UK
2010	7
2011	11
2012	16
2013	20
2014	14

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

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

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

Entry Clearance Visa

[http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/447030/original/Table%2023745%20(1).docx)

[attachments/447030/original/Table%2023745%20\(1\).docx](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/447030/original/Table%2023745%20(1).docx)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-22/23745/>

Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4864] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they give to voluntary organisations engaged in the refugee crisis.

Reply from the Earl of Courtown: The UK has pledged over £1.1 billion to date to help alleviate the Syria Crisis, our largest ever humanitarian response. The UK is supporting a range of implementing partners working in Syria and neighbouring countries, including United Nations agencies, international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the Red Cross/Crescent and other international organisations.

In relation to the Mediterranean migration crisis, the UK is supporting host government capacity and organisations such as the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF), the International Organisation for Migration, and NGOs to provide basic care, assistance, protection, and information to vulnerable people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4864/>

Refugees

Lord Hylton [HL4990] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ask the UNHCR to select individuals and families for resettlement in the UK on grounds of family reunion with relatives, as well as of vulnerability and extreme need.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: We work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify cases that they deem in need of resettlement according to agreed vulnerability criteria for the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. One of the criteria is 'refugees with family links in resettlement countries'. The scheme was expanded in September 2015 to ensure more of those in the greatest need are resettled in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-13/HL4990/>

Refugees: Syria

Ruth Cadbury [23576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that refugees admitted to the UK from Syria are provided with the necessary support to enable them to integrate into British society.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is based on need and prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in the region. Local authorities are expected to provide refugees that they resettle with a 12 month support package which is tailored according to their individual needs. As well as accommodation and addressing any medical and social care needs, this also includes cultural integration and English language tuition. This is funded using the overseas aid budget as it is giving support to refugees that would otherwise be provided overseas.

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, tapering from £5,000 per person in their second year in the UK, to £1,000 per person in year five. There will also be a special cases fund to assist the most vulnerable refugees. This is a substantial level of funding which will enable local authorities to support these vulnerable people as they rebuild their lives in safe and secure surroundings, among supportive communities in the UK.

We are working with offers of support from community groups and individuals to see how we can best take them up to further help people settle and integrate, and, where possible, find employment in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23576/>

Refugees: Syria

Alex Cunningham [23577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the number of Syrian refugees brought to the UK under the Private Sponsorship Scheme will be in addition to the Government's commitment to take 50,000 refugees over the next five years.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Prime Minister announced on 7 September 2015 that the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme would be expanded to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. We will build on offers of support to develop a community sponsorship scheme to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23577/>

Refugees: Syria

Alex Cunningham [23578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Private Sponsorship Scheme for

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Syrian refugees; and what estimate she has made of the number of people likely to participate in that scheme.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme is based on need and prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in the region. As the refugees that are being resettled may have medical, social care or other needs, all of the arrivals to date have been placed with local authorities which are being provided with funding to ensure these needs can be addressed.

We will build on offers of support to develop a community sponsorship scheme to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly. This is why we are now working with the individuals and groups who have made offers on developing a sustainable model for helping vulnerable people settle and integrate in the UK and, where they are able, find employment.

We are consulting international partners to understand how their schemes work, and with partners in the UK to make sure we design a scheme which works well here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23578/>

Asylum

Christopher Chope [23455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 January 2016 to Questions 22594 and 22595, whether it is her Department's policy that an applicant for international protection who enters the UK from France clandestinely but had not made an application for international protection in France should be returned to France in accordance with the Dublin Regulation.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In order for the Dublin Regulation to apply an application for international protection must be lodged in one of the participating States.

A person who has arrived in the UK clandestinely from France who then claims asylum in the UK can be returned to France under the terms of the Dublin Regulation even if they have not claimed asylum in France as long as the criteria in the Regulation demonstrate that France is the responsible state. For example, asylum seekers can be returned if they have close family members in France, a visa or residence permit has been issued to them by the French authorities or if they have been in France illegally for a period of 5 months or more.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23455/>

Asylum

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4838] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applicants claimed asylum only on discovery in each of the last 10 years; how many of those applicants were granted asylum; and how many of those unsuccessful applicants were removed successfully.

Reply from Lord Bates: Over the last 10 years there have been 83,912 asylum claims made by individuals encountered by local Immigration and Enforcement Staff and the outcome of these cases is detailed below.

Year Of Claim	Grant Asylum	Grant Other	Refused	Other	No Decision	Grand Total
2005	70	224	1,636	220	-	2,150
2006	389	713	5,222	938	12	7,274
2007	712	743	5,525	1,244	-	8,224

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2008	1,136	1,102	6,010	2,438	7	10,693
2009	695	898	5,236	2,360	5	9,194
2010	965	491	4,796	1,471	2	7,725
2011	1,427	428	4,597	1,476	11	7,939
2012	1,618	288	5,200	2,011	37	9,154
2013	2,464	235	5,697	1,983	145	10,524
2014	4,416	266	4,570	1,389	394	11,035
Grand Total	13,892	5,388	48,489	15,530	613	83,912

Note: The figures quoted have been derived from internal management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The table below details the 23,264 cases that have been successfully removed from this group of cases.

Year of Claim	Number of Cases
2005	628
2006	2,461
2007	2,665
2008	2,893
2009	2,628
2010	2,372
2011	2,418
2012	2,598
2013	2,903
2014	1,698
Grand Total	23,264

Note: The figures quoted have been derived from internal management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4838/>

Asylum

Lord Green of Deddington [HL4837] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications have been made in each of the last five years by applicants who entered the UK on a student visa; what were the nationalities of each applicant; how many of those applications were refused, and how many unsuccessful applicants were subsequently removed.

Reply from Lord Bates: Over the last five years there have been 15,470 cases of individuals who have entered on a student visa and subsequently also went on to claim asylum. Details by year and nationality are below.

Unfortunately the way corresponding data is held on asylum outcome means that to obtain the numbers of cases that were granted, refused and removed could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4837/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Lord Rosser: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the requirements placed on asylum seekers in order to access food, shelter and other resources, such as the requirement for asylum seekers in Cardiff to wear coloured wristbands in order to access food.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, Clearsprings Ready Homes has announced the immediate end of the use of wristbands to access food. The Home Office has asked for an assurance from all accommodation providers that there are no further policies or practices that allow asylum seekers to be identified as such in public.

Lord Rosser: My Lords, a Government may decide to outsource the provision of temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, but it is the Government who approve who should secure these contracts and government Ministers who have a responsibility for ensuring that the contracts are appropriately delivered. Why have government Ministers failed to carry out their responsibilities? First, it was only after national newspapers exposed what was going on with red doors in Middlesbrough and wristbands to access food in Cardiff that action was taken. Secondly, the Government, as the Minister has now said, are only now busily trying to find out what is happening with the delivery of other similar contracts they have approved. Government Ministers can outsource the provision of accommodation and food for asylum seekers, but they cannot outsource their own direct responsibility and accountability for how those contracts are delivered and their failure to monitor them properly. Do the Government agree?

Reply from Lord Bates: I agree that we have an obligation to ensure that the most vulnerable people who come into this country seeking asylum are placed in positions where they are cared for and safe. It might be of interest to the noble Lord to know the circumstances surrounding this. The asylum seekers were in initial accommodation in Cardiff. In that accommodation were people whose asylum claims and financial needs had been assessed and who then receive a financial contribution for food, and there were people who had just arrived who get full board and three meals a day. The wristbands were used to identify those people who were eligible for the three meals a day. I am not asking the House to accept that that is the way it should be—the practice has stopped—but that was the explanation for it. Certainly, our position is that the safety and security of asylum seekers—and the dignity and humanity with which we treat them—should be paramount. They are inspected by the Home Office on a routine basis—indeed, they have been inspected by the National Audit Office as well—and we look forward to the reports coming back.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, Azure cards, red front doors, wristbands and now refusing to take any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Europe: when will the Government stop giving the impression that asylum seekers are a problem to be palmed off on other countries at all costs and start treating them as vulnerable people in desperate need of our help, including sanctuary in this country?

Reply from Lord Bates: We can all be proud of this country's record in offering asylum to people in need. The EU, which has a relocation scheme—it said that it would get 160,000 people out of the region into and around Europe—has so far managed to relocate 331 people under that scheme. The Prime Minister said in September that we would have 1,000 people from the region here by Christmas. We had more than 1,000 here by Christmas. The Prime Minister announced today that there will be a further review, with UNHCR, to identify unaccompanied children from conflict regions and how they can be helped further. We announced today a further £10 million to help unaccompanied children who are in Europe already. In addition, we are the second largest donor in providing aid to Syria. All

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

that package together shows that we are living up to the high expectations and strong traditions that this country has in dealing with people in need.

Lord Grocott: Will the Minister, who is characteristically sensitive and careful in his use of language when referring to vulnerable people coming to this country, have a quiet word with the Prime Minister about his language when yesterday he described these people as “a bunch of migrants”?

Reply from Lord Bates: My Lords, sometimes the other place is not quite the same civilised debating forum as we are on most occasions. However, while people choose phrases in the heat of the moment—I have done it myself—more important are the actions behind the words. Announcing today that we will take in more people from conflict areas and announcing another £10 million to keep pledges to help people from Syria are actions that speak louder than words.

Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton: Can the Minister tell the House when the Home Office inspections were undertaken? If the Home Office had been inspecting regularly, surely it would have noticed the red doors and the wristbands. It is either a fault in the conditions of the contract or it is a failure of inspection.

Reply from Lord Bates: The system of inspections means that a third of all accommodation is inspected by the Home Office each year. It is inspected every 28 days by the contractor and, because we are working in partnership with local authorities, they are also required to inspect. In this case, there had not been complaints to trigger action until the point when it became an issue, and then of course action was taken swiftly, and rightly so.

Lord Lexden: My Lords, will my noble friend tell the House about the Government’s plans to ensure that the children are well cared for once they arrive in this country?

Reply from Lord Bates: We have an obligation to children under the Children Act, which means that they are cared for. One of the issues I find of concern as regards unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is that currently only some six of our 440 local authorities are part of the voluntary scheme. It would be very good if more local authorities came forward to ensure that the burden is spread beyond places such as Middlesbrough and Kent more widely across the UK, which would be to the benefit of asylum seekers and would help social cohesion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160128-0001.htm#16012842000954>

Asylum: Children

Fiona Mactaggart [22650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support unaccompanied trafficked and asylum seeking children; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office takes its responsibility for the welfare of children very seriously and recognises the additional vulnerability of unaccompanied children. The best interests of the child are a primary consideration in every decision taken in respect of children and we work closely with local authorities, children’s services and other agencies to ensure unaccompanied trafficked and asylum seeking children receive appropriate support and care. Immigration staff are trained to identify potential victims of trafficking and to refer them to the National Referral Mechanism - a multi-agency victim identification and support process for responsible agencies to co-operate, share information and facilitate access to support. The Home Office also has dedicated asylum decision makers for children’s cases who receive additional training on specific child related issues.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-14/22650/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Syria

Diana Johnson [23163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from the Syrian conflict relocated in the UK to date are (a) adults with a vulnerable characteristic, (b) adults in a family unit, (c) adults not in a family unit or with a vulnerable characteristic, (d) children with parents and (e) unaccompanied children.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is based on need and prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is responsible for identifying people in need of resettlement based on its established vulnerability criteria, which are: women and girls at risk; survivors of violence and/or torture; refugees with legal and/or physical protection needs; refugees with medical needs or disabilities; children and adolescents at risk; persons at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity; and refugees with family links in resettlement countries.

The Home Office is committed to publishing data as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 25 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, both through the quarterly national statistics and the additional transparency data that is released, which ensure that statistics are published properly in a way which is open and accessible to all. This information will not include a breakdown of the vulnerability criteria, or the family composition of the refugees that have been resettled.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-19/23163/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Patten [HL4915] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to set a maximum limit on the length of time that an individual can be detained in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is not possible to detain someone indefinitely under immigration powers. In order to detain an individual pending removal there must be a realistic prospect of removal in a reasonable timeframe.

Each case is determined on its own merits. The introduction of an arbitrary time limit could lead to the release of foreign criminals and illegal immigrants even when their removal is imminent.

Home Office guidance is clear that detention should be used sparingly, and for the shortest period reasonably necessary to achieve its purpose. Published statistics show that, in the year to September 2015, over 90 per cent of individuals leaving detention had been detained for no longer than four months.

The Home Secretary commissioned Stephen Shaw CBE, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, to undertake an independent review of welfare in the immigration detention estate. His report and the Government's response to the report were published on 14 January by means of a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS). The Government's response includes the implementation of a new approach to the case management of those who are detained, aligned with a new "adult at risk" policy to ensure more rigorous assessment of those entering detention through a new gate-keeping function, maintaining this rigour through the new removals plans process to maintain a strong focus on, and momentum towards, removal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4915/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Repatriation

Baroness Suttie [HL5056] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current procedures for processing official documents of homeless people wishing to return to their country of origin, and whether they have plans to improve those procedures.

Reply from Lord Bates: Immigration Enforcement works closely with homeless charities conducting activity across the country often encountering EU or foreign nationals who are homeless. Any individual that wishes to return home can be assisted either by the charity or Immigration Enforcement to obtain a travel document, liaising with embassies and high commissions if necessary to obtain a document quickly. Immigration Enforcement can also issue a European Union letter if an individual wishes to travel to their home country within the EU.

In addition, the Home Office Voluntary Departures Service provides support to those with identified vulnerability who wish to make a voluntary return. The support available depends on the unique circumstances of each individual but may include help with travel, transfers, medical support and help to reintegrate in the country of return. The Department is constantly reviewing its processes to further improve its engagement with partners.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-14/HL5056/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4861] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much was paid in each of the last five years to assist failed asylum seekers who, on reaching the age of 18, were deported from the UK.

Reply from Lord Bates: Those who depart from the UK with the additional support of an assisted package may qualify for a combination of cash and in-kind support. Asylum seekers may qualify for assistance up to a maximum of £1,500, and families up to £2,000 per family member.

The approximate value of the overall returns assistance provided to people, who applied for asylum in the UK as a child and received an assisted return to support a voluntary return to their country of origin, is given in the table below.

It is not Home Office policy to deport asylum seeking children.

Year	Value of assisted voluntary return packages, provided to (former) asylum seeking children.
2011	£115,500
2012	£133,500
2013	£114,500
2014	£69,000
2015	£47,500

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

*Removal data uses Removal historical data provided to end of September 2015 in line with Published Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4861/>

Deportation: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4862] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many failed 18-year-old asylum seekers received some payment to assist in their deportation from the UK.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of people who applied for asylum in the UK as a child and later received an assisted return package as an adult to support a voluntary return to their country of origin is given in the table below. It is not Home Office policy to deport asylum seeking children.

Year	Asylum seeking children receiving an assisted voluntary return
2011	75
2012	89
2013	76
2014	46
2015 (to September)	31

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4862/>

Press Release

Unaccompanied child refugees

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Unaccompanied-child-refugees-21f2.aspx>

News: Scottish politics

SNP accuse PM of "miserly" approach to child refugees

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14238839.SNP_accuse_PM_of_quot_miserly_quot_approach_to_child_refugees/

News: UK politics

Cameron's 'bunch of migrants' jibe is callous and dehumanising, say MPs

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/27/david-cameron-bunch-of-migrants-jibe-pmqs-callous-dehumanising>

David Cameron's migrant jibe demeans office of prime minister, says Corbyn

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jan/27/david-camersons-migrant-jibe-demeans-office-of-prime-minister-says-corbyn>

For Cameron to speak of a 'bunch of migrants' is beneath him

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/27/cameron-bunch-of-migrants-calais-pmqs-holocaust-memorial-day>

PM under fire for Calais 'bunch of migrants' jibe

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4675859.ece>

David Cameron refuses to apologise for saying 'bunch of migrants' and insists he was right to highlight Jeremy Corbyn's 'open door' immigration policy

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3421209/David-Cameron-dismisses-critics-slammed-bunch-migrants-jibe-says-right-highlight-Jeremy-Corbyn-s-open-door-immigration-policy.html>

Immigration and Asylum News: UK Politics (continued)

MPs concerned asylum seekers putting a strain on resources

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/mps-concerned-asylum-seekers-putting-a-strain-on-resources-1-4011728>

News: Post-study work visa

Call to restore post-study work visa

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4676457.ece>

Post-study Visas

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4676415.ece>

Post-study work visa ban must end, Tommy Sheppard says

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/post-study-work-visa-ban-must-end-tommy-sheppard-says-1-4014488>

Foreign students shunning Scottish universities as Tory visa overhaul make UK 'unwelcoming'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14238818.Foreign_students_shunning_Scottish_universities_as_Tory_visa_overhaul_make_UK_unwelcoming/

News: Refugee crisis

Scotland increases pressure on David Cameron to admit refugee children

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/26/scotland-humza-yousaf-increases-pressure-david-cameron-admit-refugee-children>

Scotland ready to take 300 refugee children

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-ready-to-take-300-refugee-children-1-4012714>

Allowing four Syrian refugees into UK 'may set limited precedent'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/29/allowing-four-syrian-refugees-into-uk-may-set-limited-precedent>

UK to give sanctuary to unaccompanied refugee children

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35422777>

Ministers offer unaccompanied child refugees in Europe limited UK help

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/28/unaccompanied-child-refugees-limited-uk-help-syria>

Ministers urged to spell out details of UK plan to take in Syrian children

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/28/ministers-urged-to-spell-out-details-of-plan-for-uk-to-take-in-syrian-children>

Britain offers sanctuary to lone Syrian child refugees

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4676343.ece>

David Cameron rejects calls to take 3,000 orphaned child refugees from Europe

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12126267/David-Cameron-rejects-calls-to-take-3000-orphaned-child-refugees-from-Europe.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugee crisis (continued)

Eric Pickles joins calls for Government to resettle child refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eric-pickles-joins-calls-for-government-to-resettle-child-refugees-a6833536.html>

UK could take more refugee children in migrant camps, Conservative MP Justine Greening says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-could-take-more-refugee-children-in-migrant-camps-says-conservative-mp-justine-greening-a6831071.html>

Call to admit refugee children 'considered' by government

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35395464>

Moral duty: pressure mounts on David Cameron to help 3000 orphaned refugees in Europe

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14229225.Moral_duty_pressure_mounts_on_David_Cameron_to_help_3000_orphaned_refugees_in_Europe/

Influx of migrant children creates care crisis for councils

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4674534.ece>

UK must make decision on refugee relocation scheme, says European Commission

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14242328.UK_must_make_decision_on_refugee_relocation_scheme_says_European_Commission/

Cardiff asylum house removes beds after overcrowding concerns

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/30/cardiff-asylum-house-removes-beds-overcrowding>

Coloured wristbands for asylum seekers symptomatic of wider housing problem

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2810_coloured_wristbands_for_asylum_seekers_symptomatic_of_wider_housing_problem

Government contractor to replace coloured wristbands for asylum seekers with photo ID system

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/government-contractor-to-replace-asylum-seekers-coloured-wristbands-with-photo-id-a6832236.html>

Tory MP says concerns about asylum seekers being forced to wear red wristbands are 'ridiculous'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-mp-says-concerns-about-asylum-seekers-being-forced-to-wear-red-wristbands-are-ridiculous-a6834486.html>

Asylum seeker wristband policy to be dropped

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/25/government-to-be-challenged-in-commons-over-refugee-wristbands>

Asylum seekers in Cardiff had to wear wristbands for food

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-35397109>

Branding highlights broken asylum system

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/martyn-mclaughlin-branding-highlights-broken-asylum-system-1-4012379>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugee crisis (continued)

Government should do more to help vulnerable refugee children

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2811_government_should_do_more_to_help_vulnerable_refugee_children

Home Office set to deport more asylum seekers, activists say

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/26/home-office-set-to-deport-more-asylum-seekers-activists-say>

Home Office 'knew asylum seekers were put in houses with red doors'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4675304.ece>

Asylum seekers' doors repainted in Stockton and Middlesbrough

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/26/asylum-seekers-red-doors-repainted-stockton-middlesbrough>

Red doors of asylum seeker housing in Middlesbrough repainted 'range of colours' after vandalism and abuse

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/red-doors-of-asylum-seeker-housing-in-middlesbrough-repainted-range-of-colours-after-vandalism-and-a6834391.html>

'I didn't think I might never see my parents again' – refugee children share their stories

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/26/didnt-think-might-never-see-parents-again-refugee-children-share-their-stories>

Settled migrants in the UK are showing new ones how to cope with our baffling culture

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/settled-migrants-in-the-uk-are-showing-new-ones-how-to-cope-with-our-baffling-culture-a6835146.html>

Britain doesn't care about refugees anymore

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12127515/Lets-not-delude-ourselves-Britain-just-doesnt-care-about-refugees-anymore.html>

News: Other immigration and asylum

Migrant influx means British children 'forced from care homes'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12119862/British-children-forced-to-move-away-from-Kent-homes-after-influx-of-migrants-says-councillor.html>

Britain 'breaks social rights' by making migrants speak English

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4676361.ece>

Muslims in UK top 3 million for first time... with over 50% born outside Britain: Number in country doubles in a decade as immigration and birth rates soar

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3424584/Muslims-UK-3-million-time-50-born-outside-Britain-Number-country-doubles-decade-immigration-birth-rates-soar.html>

Lost Generation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4674351.ece>

Scholar in visa row free to fly home

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4676324.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

Other news (continued)

US scholar locked up for ten days in visa extension row

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4675291.ece>

American Shakespeare expert who was arrested and detained for ten days without warning as an 'illegal immigrant' after nine years in Britain to be freed today but still faces deportation

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3418704/American-academic-working-Shakespeare-s-400th-anniversary-arrested-held-cells-student-visa-lapsed.html>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Questions

Muslims: Females

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Uddin [HL5141] To ask Her Majesty's Government what formal mechanisms they have in place to consult Muslim women.

Baroness Uddin [HL5142] To ask Her Majesty's Government who are their advisers on matters related to Muslim women.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Government Ministers and officials regularly speak with a range of British Muslim women to seek their views on key issues. The Prime Minister hosted a Community Engagement Forum on 14 January with sixteen influential Muslim women, to discuss their role in Britain today and the importance of tackling issues of forced gender segregation, discrimination and isolation. In addition, four of the cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group's ten independent members are themselves Muslim women. The Group discusses a range of issues, for example, hate incidents on public transport which disproportionately affect visibly Muslim women.

My Department funds a number of projects that work with Muslim women including community based English language courses, women's empowerment initiatives and the development of leadership and networking skills. As part of this, my officials regularly engage with the project leads, associated charities and participants on relevant issues affecting Muslim women.

My rt hon Friend the Prime Minister has commissioned Louise Casey to carry out a review on how to boost opportunity and integration in our most isolated and deprived communities. She will report on her findings in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-18/HL5141/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-18/HL5142/>

News

Policies 'a danger' for Muslim women

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4673592.ece>

Community Relations

News (continued)

Boston: How a Lincolnshire town became 'the most divided place in England'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/boston-how-a-lincolnshire-town-became-the-most-divided-place-in-england-a6838041.html>

Boston most divided town in England

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4676301.ece>

Shire town that holds secret to racial harmony

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4678253.ece>

Muslim communities 'unlike others in Britain', former race equality chief Trevor Phillips says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-communities-unlike-others-in-britain-former-race-equality-chief-trevor-phillips-says-a6836301.html>

Muslims are not like us, race equality chief says

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4675392.ece>

All Together Now

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4676164.ece>

Muslims are different. We shouldn't accept that

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12124961/Yes-Muslims-are-different.-No-we-shouldnt-accept-that.html>

Tory MP calls for complete veil ban as it 'stops women from enjoying British values of smiling and saying hello'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12124345/Tory-MP-calls-for-complete-veil-ban-as-it-stops-women-from-enjoying-British-values-of-smiling-and-saying-hello.html>

Muslim women ridiculing David Cameron over comments about 'traditional submissiveness'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-women-ridiculing-david-cameron-over-comments-about-traditional-submissiveness-a6832351.html>

Please continue calling me different and trying to deport me. That will help integration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/please-continue-calling-me-different-and-trying-to-deport-me-that-will-help-integration-a6837236.html>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15488 John Mason: Removing Barriers: Race, Ethnicity, and Employment—

That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the report, *Removing Barriers: Race, Ethnicity, and Employment*, by the Equal Opportunities Committee on 27 January 2016; notes from the report that, throughout its inquiry, the committee "heard of the significant barriers facing people from ethnic minorities in gaining employment and developing a career" and that it considered this situation unacceptable; agrees with the committee that

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

"diversity in the workplace should be valued and seen as a positive goal", and looks forward to the Scottish Government's response to the report, the terms of which it considers can impact on people throughout Scotland, including in the Shettleston constituency.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15488&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Employment: Ethnic Groups

Lord Ouseley [HL4901] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the Prime Minister's commitment to tackle race inequality in the labour market, what action they propose to end the current situation identified by the Resolution Foundation that the black and minority ethnic group find it twice as hard to secure employment as their white counterparts.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Equality Act 2010 protects all individuals against racial and other forms of discrimination in the workplace. The Prime Minister has underlined the Government's commitments to increasing racial diversity in the workplace in his 2020 Vision in which he made a commitment to increase BAME employment by 20% by 2020. The Government is aware of the forthcoming report by the Resolution Foundation and will study its recommendations carefully when it is published.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-11/HL4901/>

Travellers

Baroness Whitaker [HL5133] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider the work undertaken by Thames Valley Police in their newly published review of good practice in policing local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to be innovative; and what plans they have to encourage other police forces to undertake a similar approach to policy and practice in their areas.

Reply from Lord Bates: Equality and diversity are important – people across all communities want the police to fight crime while having confidence that their needs will be understood and respected.

The Government are pleased that Thames Valley Police have undertaken this piece of work which was co-authored by one of the Executive Directors of the national Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Police Association.

The Government established the College of Police as the professional body for policing to set standards, establish an evidence base for policing and disseminate what works. It remains a matter for forces how they deal with issues to do with Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities. However, we would expect the College of Policing to make an assessment of effective policing practice and share effective and innovative practice where they find it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-18/HL5133/>

Press Releases

Race equality 'still not working', finds Holyrood Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/96082.aspx>

Equality

Press Releases (continued)

Review of racial bias and BAME representation in Criminal Justice System announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-of-racial-bias-and-bame-representation-in-criminal-justice-system-announced>

New Publications

Removing Barriers: race, ethnicity and employment

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EqualOpportunitiesCommittee/Reports/EOS042016R01.pdf

Poverty and ethnicity: key messages for Scotland

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/48826/download?token=Ov6dvehX&filetype=viewpoint>

News

Non-white Scots 'face work prejudice'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35421018>

MSPs: Ethnic minorities still face significant workplace barriers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/msps-ethnic-minorities-still-face-significant-workplace-barriers-1-4013913>

Damning report finds ethnic minorities in Scotland outperform white pupils but end up with worse jobs

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/damning-report-finds-ethnic-minorities-7259889#9YCQdW8m8kXDKSev.97>

How ethnic minority graduates lose out on jobs

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/30/ethnic-minority-graduates-earn-less-struggle-to-build-careers>

Cameron attacks race bias in courts and universities

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35452975>

David Cameron: 'Black people more likely to be in prison than at a top university'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/12131928/Labours-David-Lammy-to-lead-government-race-review.html>

David Cameron calls on David Lammy to investigate race bias in UK courts

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/jan/30/race-bias-court-system>

'A young black man is more likely to be in prison than at a top university'

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/article1662889.ece>

Doing justice to the young, gifted and black

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/leaders/article1662578.ece>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10333&i=95048#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15420 Christian Allard: 20 Years of Show Racism the Red Card—That the Parliament congratulates Show Racism the Red Card on its 20th anniversary, which is being marked in January 2016; understands that the anti-racism educational charity uses role models to present a positive message to young people and others; believes that, through producing educational films such as This Is My Home and Immigration: What's the Story?, it ensures that the voices of people who have chosen to make Scotland their home are given the chance to be heard; considers that, since it was established, Show Racism the Red Card has worked hard to debunk racist attitudes expressed toward migrant communities, and wishes it continued success.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15420&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Religious Hate Crime

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risk that Christians could be recorded as having committed an anti-Muslim hate crime from April 2016 by preaching the divinity of Christ or by reading aloud sections of the Bible in public, such as 1 John, Chapter 4, verses 1 to 3.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport and Home Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): My Lords, reading texts from the holy Bible in public or preaching the divinity of Christ is not a crime, and never will be in this country. The Government's counterextremism strategy makes it clear that we will protect free speech and the right to profess, practise and propagate any religion, or indeed none.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, I am grateful to the noble Lord for that reply. I must say that I thought it was brave of the Prime Minister to say in his Christmas message that Jesus is the only son of God, because that will not have gone down all that well with the Islamists. Will a Christian preacher be committing this new hate crime if he goes a little further and denies the supremacy of the Koran, and thus the divinity of Allah? Secondly, I assume that the Minister agrees that the serious hatred is coming from the jihadists, against non-Muslims and against those brave Muslims who oppose the jihadists' evil creed and form the large majority of the thousands whom they have slaughtered. So how can anyone be guilty of hate if they preach their own religion, even outside a mosque, and take part in much-needed debate about Islam?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, the Government are clear that anyone who preaches any kind of hate has no place here, and I believe that all of us across this House unite on that. Bigotry has no place and any kind of hate, be it based on race, sexual orientation or religion, has no place in British society. The Government, our legal system and our police will stand against that. The noble Lord made brief reference to the Prime Minister's message. My right honourable friend mentioned the holy personage of Jesus Christ, whom Muslims celebrate because, as the noble Lord well knows, Muslims also regard and revere

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the Prophet Jesus as a prophet of God.

Lord Polak: My Lords, today is Holocaust Memorial Day—a day to remember those who perished and the brave soldiers who helped to liberate the camps, and to remember and pay tribute to the depleting band of survivors who spend their days educating young people. I also commend the Prime Minister for his announcement today that a fitting memorial will be erected adjacent to this House, in Victoria Tower Gardens. Does the Minister agree that, today of all days, we should acknowledge where hate crime can lead? Does he further agree that the vital task of the Prime Minister's Holocaust foundation should be to concentrate on educating young people as, sadly, there will soon be no survivors to tell the story?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I join my noble friend in the sentiments he expressed. Indeed, I believe I speak for every Member of this House as we come together on this poignant day, when we remember those who passed away in the Holocaust—the victims of the biggest crime of genocide against humanity that we have seen in the world. We must work together, including on education. I am therefore proud that on entering my office in the Home Office, if you look to the right, the first certificate you will see is for the Anne Frank Trust UK, which does an incredible job in promoting Holocaust education. I praise the efforts of all organisations and the work of my noble friend in this respect.

The Lord Bishop of Worcester: My Lords, does the Minister agree with me that Questions phrased in this manner are not conducive to building positive relations between faith communities, in particular with Muslim communities, as we are endeavouring to do in the church at a time when Muslims are feeling unfairly stigmatised? Does he further accept that Muslims, and people of all faiths, greatly enrich our society and make a significant contribution to the common good?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I agree with the right reverend Prelate, but I also believe very strongly that adversity is an opportunity and that Questions such as this present an opportunity to all of us in this House, across the political spectrum, to speak with one voice and unite against bigotry in all its ugly guises.

...

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale: I think it is this side. Will the Minister agree with me that the idea that bigotry and hatred are confined only to the extreme elements in the Islamic religion in this country is absolute nonsense? Historically, bigotry and hatred have been inflicted on both Catholic and Protestant communities right across the United Kingdom by alternative Christian religions. Will he join me in consistently condemning all forms of religious sectarianism and bigotry? If we do that in this House, we will perhaps have a stronger message to tell the country.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I totally agree with the noble Lord. One other point I would add is that whenever we face such bigotry, the resilience of our country and our historic legacy shows that when we face those challenges, we come together as a more united nation going forward.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: My Lords, when religions claim competing exclusive truths, the end result is conflict. Is it not better to go along with the proposition that the one God of us all is not in the least bit interested in our different religious labels but in what we do to make life better for those around us?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I totally agree with the noble Lord, who speaks with great poignancy and expertise in this area. I regard religion very much as a route: we all have the same beginning and the same end, and the religion we follow is but a different path towards that end.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, can the Minister tell the House what research the Government are doing into the causes of the genuine and alarming increase in both anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic hate crime and whether the increasing anti-Muslim rhetoric in some British

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

media—and elsewhere—might be the case?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The noble Lord is quite right to point out what is being done. He will be aware from his own previous profession that the Government are working with the police and with communities to ensure that any kind of religious hate is formally recorded and that people are educated that they should report hate crime. From April this year, as the noble Lord will be aware, the Government will ensure that anti-Muslim hatred, along with other religious hate crime, is formally recorded by every police force across England and Wales.

Lord Maginnis of Drumglass: My Lords, is the Minister aware that we have already had a case in Northern Ireland, where a Christian Minister was literally persecuted for months before eventually being brought before our courts, tried and acquitted? Do we still have British law in Northern Ireland, or is that now being adjusted to suit sectarian interests in my part of the United Kingdom?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I, for one, am very proud of our justice system across the United Kingdom. Despite every challenge and diversity, there is great faith in our justice system. As we have seen previously, our justice system even stands up for those who seek to divide us or promote hate in our society.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160127-0001.htm#16012745000325>

Holocaust Educational Trust

Dan Jarvis [23266] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding her Department plans to allocate to support the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Every young person should be taught about the Holocaust and the lessons it teaches us today. In recognition of its significance, the Holocaust is compulsory within the national curriculum.

For the past ten years the Department for Education has funded the Holocaust Educational Trust's *Lessons from Auschwitz Project* which has taken more than 28,000 students to visit the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp.

The Department will continue to promote, support and fund the teaching of the Holocaust.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23266/>

Press Releases

Lessons from Auschwitz Project

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Lessons-from-Auschwitz-Project-21db.aspx>

Prime Minister: Holocaust memorial will stand beside Parliament as permanent statement of our British values

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-holocaust-memorial-will-stand-beside-parliament-as-permanent-statement-of-our-british-values>

Foreign Secretary marks Holocaust Memorial Day 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-marks-holocaust-memorial-day-2016>

Sir Eric Pickles marks Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-eric-pickles-marks-holocaust-memorial-day>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases (continued)

For the first time ever, Susie Lind talks about her rescue through the Kindertransport

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/for-the-first-time-ever-susie-lind-talks-about-her-rescue-through-the-kindertransport>

Message by President Jean-Claude Juncker to the Jewish community on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-158_en.htm?locale=en

Statement by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160127_01_en.htm

Antisemitism continues unabated across the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/antisemitism-continues-unabated-across-eu>

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, OSCE calls for increased education to counter intolerance

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/218741>

Remembering Holocaust, Ban urges all to denounce political and religious ideologies that set people against people

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53099#.VqjgPmR96nY>

Lord Advocate speaks out on hate crime

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1234-lord-advocate-speaks-out-on-hate-crime>

News

Quarter of people have witnessed hate crime, poll suggests

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35415988>

One in four in UK have seen racial hate crime this year, survey finds

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/27/one-in-four-uk-seen-racial-hate-this-year-holocaust-memorial-day-survey-finds>

Race hate crimes reported on UK railways rise 37% in five years

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jan/27/race-hate-crimes-uk-railways-rise-37-per-cent-five-years>

Bigotry is declining but 'smiley-face racism' still stops many fitting in

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1662740.ece

'Kiss Bigotry Goodbye' Tour Launched

<http://nilbymouth.org/2016/kiss-bigotry-goodbye-tour-launched/>

Football fans targeted in charity's Kiss Bigotry Goodbye tour of Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14234803.Football_fans_targeted_in_charity_s_Kiss_Bigotry_Goodbye_tour_of_Scotland/

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Ex-Celtic footballer in court over "offensive and sectarian" comments

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14237149.Ex_Celtic_footballer_in_court_over_offensive_and_sectarian_comments/

Maidstone services closed as 'Nazis' clash with anti-fascist protesters 'and draw swastika in blood on coach'

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/maidstone-services-closed-nazis-clash-7275043#xfaEFcCAcvCV7oJQ.97>

Far-right and anti-racism protesters clash in Dover

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-35450115>

The very different faces of fascism in Britain: Steely faced blonde in vintage knitwear joins tattooed skinheads at anti-migrant protest where thugs daubed swastikas in blood amid violent clashes

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3424299/Neo-Nazi-gangs-daub-swastikas-BLOOD-protest-descends-violent-clashes-police-anti-fascists.html>

How 'Christian patrol' inflames racial tension: Members of far-Right group confront Muslim women and brand Mohammed a 'false prophet' as they stage bizarre demonstration in Luton

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3424680/How-Christian-patrol-inflames-racial-tension-Members-far-Right-group-confront-Muslim-women-brand-Mohammed-false-prophet-stage-bizarre-demonstration-Luton.html>

Neo-Nazi National Front targeting Scottish schools for recruitment

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14242648.Revealed_Neo_Nazi_National_Front_targeting_Scottish_schools_for_recruitment/

Europe's Jews are 'living in fear', warns head of EU parliament

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/12125214/Europes-Jews-are-living-in-fear-warns-head-of-EU-parliament.html>

Anti-Semitism campaign in Scotland sees positive results

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/anti-semitism-campaign-in-scotland-sees-positive-results-1-4016526>

Holocaust Memorial Day: Politicians pay tribute on Twitter using hashtag #DontStandBy

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14233744.Holocaust_Memorial_Day_Politicians_pay_tribute_on_Twitter_using_hashtag_DontStandBy/

Horrors of the Holocaust remembered by pupils

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14232707.Horrors_of_the_Holocaust_remembered_by_pupils/

Do we need to rethink how we teach the Holocaust?

<http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2016/jan/27/do-we-need-to-rethink-how-we-teach-the-holocaust>

Remembering the people of the Holocaust

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2016/jan/27/remembering-the-people-of-the-holocaust>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Holocaust memorial to be built by Parliament to ensure 'darkest hour of humanity' is never forgotten

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/12126213/Holocaust-memorial-to-be-built-by-Parliament-to-ensure-darkest-hour-of-humanity-is-never-forgotten.html>

Britain to get Holocaust memorial

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4675836.ece>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-15503 Lewis Macdonald: Aberdeen Multicultural Centre Celebrates Mother Language Day—That the Parliament notes that Aberdeen Multicultural Centre will be holding its third annual International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2016 at the University of Aberdeen's Elphinstone Hall; understands that International Mother Language Day has been observed by UN member states since 2000 and marks the day in 1952 when students were killed in Dhaka while demonstrating for recognition of Bengali as one of the two national languages of Pakistan; congratulates Aberdeen Multicultural Centre on the previous years' events, which it considers have done much to promote and celebrate the diversity in Aberdeen's multicultural community through musical performances and traditional food, and looks forward to a successful event in 2016.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15503&ResultsPerPage=10>

Justice Committee

Scottish Human Rights Commission

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10338&i=95144#ScotParIOR>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Muslims: Females

Baroness Uddin [HL5140] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of language classes for Muslim women in respect of radicalisation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our new English language offer, worth £20 million over this Parliament, will help women in our most isolated communities get the training they need. This new programme will be informed by six projects we have funded as part of our current community-based English language programme. By the end of March this year the projects will have

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

provided training to 33,500 adults – the majority women, with over half from Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Somalian ethnic groups.

Community-based English language programmes can help build women's confidence in using English in daily activities such as engaging with their children's teachers, interacting with public services and playing a full part in the local community.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-18/HL5140/>

Legal Systems: Islam

Stewart Jackson [23212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she expects to publish her Department's review of Sharia courts; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Secretary has commissioned a full, independent review to enhance our understanding of any misuse of Sharia law. The review will report to the Home Secretary before the end of this year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-19/23212/>

Students: Loans

Lord Sharkey [HL5332] To ask Her Majesty's Government what help and advice is available to Muslim students who wish to progress to higher education but for whom an interest-bearing student loan would be a violation of their religious principles, and where that help and advice can be accessed.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The Government is aware that some students, whose religious beliefs may prevent the taking out of a loan that bears interest, may feel unable to take advantage of student loans. In April 2014 BIS conducted a consultation on an alternative finance product for undergraduate students. Upon review of consultation responses, the Government supported the introduction of a Takaful Alternative Finance product available to everyone. This work is ongoing and subject to Parliamentary approval, the Government hopes to introduce the system through new legislation.

All students can access advice and guidance on the financial support available to them from Student Finance England on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-21/HL5332/>

Organs: Donors

Gregory Campbell [24337] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people from BAME communities registered to become organ donors in each of the last five years; and what assessment he

Reply from Jane Ellison: Organ Donation Rate figures for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic registrations for the last five years are listed below:

Financial year	White	Asian	Black	Chinese	Mixed	Other	Not stated	Total
2011/12	161,367	8,562	2,022	537	3,203	607	911,509	1,087,807
2012/13	228,966	5,564	1,709	527	3,622	678	755,907	996,973
2013/14	212,333	6,776	1,938	577	3,663	792	820,193	1,046,272
2014/15	204,546	6,764	1,891	598	3,593	860	741,993	960,245

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2015/16 (1 April 2015 - 27 January 2016)	352,455	9,210	3,012	977	6,215	1,780	573,872	947,521
Total	1,159,667	36,876	10,572	3,216	20,296	4,717	3,803,474	50,38,818

Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020: A UK Strategy, launched in 2013, aims to achieve world class performance in organ donation and transplantation. It was developed by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the four United Kingdom Health Departments.

To achieve these aims, NHSBT has developed a behaviour change communication strategy and have a wide range of leaflets promoting organ donation that are translated into a number of different languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.

NHSBT has also promoted the need for more sign ups from black communities to the Organ Donation Register (ODR), during campaigns such as the 'Be There' initiative during Black History Month – which encouraged ODR registrations from the Black African, Black Caribbean and Black mixed race communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-26/24337/>

Travellers

Lord Black of Brentwood [HL5168] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Gypsies and Travellers in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the 2011 census, 63,500 people in the United Kingdom identified their ethnic group as Gypsy or Traveller.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-19/HL5168/>

Press Release

Statement by HM Chief Inspector on the wearing of the full veil in schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-by-hm-chief-inspector-on-the-wearing-of-the-full-veil-in-schools>

News

Ofsted can downgrade schools for Islamic veils

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-35411518>

Ofsted threatens to penalise schools where Muslim veil is worn

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/12122713/Ofsted-to-mark-down-schools-if-wearing-the-veil-hinders-learning.html>

Schools that allow face veils could fail Ofsted inspection

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4675405.ece>

Ofsted chief backs schools that restrict 'inappropriate wearing of veil'

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/26/schools-inspector-issues-veil-warning>

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Ofsted's veil threats won't help schools

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/jan/27/ofsted-veil-threats-wont-help-schools>

Ofsted head sparks race row over clampdown on Islamic face veils

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/ofsted-head-sparks-race-row-over-clampdown-on-islamic-face-veils-a6835251.html>

Ofsted to judge schools inadequate where staff or pupils wear veil

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/ofsted-to-judge-schools-inadequate-where-staff-or-pupils-wear-veil-a6834706.html>

The Tories may as well accept that new education proposals target Muslims alone

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-tories-may-as-well-accept-that-new-education-proposals-target-muslims-alone-a6832436.html>

Ofsted rules head teachers CAN ban the veil from the classroom and schools who allow it will be branded 'inadequate' if it interferes with education

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3417578/Ofsted-inspectors-ordered-mark-schools-allowing-pupils-wear-veil-harming-education.html>

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Other News

The battle for the soul of Islam in Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14242621.The_battle_for_the_soul_of_Islam_in_Scotland/

Muslims can fast later if sitting exams during Ramadan

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4673270.ece>

Authorities are more interested in being PC than stopping forced marriages, equality chief says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/12121338/Authorities-are-more-interested-in-being-PC-than-stopping-arranged-marriages-equality-chief-says.html>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Burial and Cremation Bill

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

**** Community Justice Bill**

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Justice Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10338&i=95143#ScotParlOR>

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

Community Justice Bill (continued)

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill68AS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill68AS042016.pdf)

Supplementary Financial Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill68AFMS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill68AFMS042016.pdf)

**** Education Bill**

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

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report on the Bill as amended at Stage 2

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/DPLRS042016R09.pdf

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill64AENS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill64AENS042016.pdf)

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/96065.aspx>

and

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill64AMLSupplementS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Education%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill64AMLSupplementS042016.pdf)

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>

Proposed amendments (*second Bill down*)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/96243.aspx>

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

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

Stage 1 Report, Health Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/HSS042016R03.pdf

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>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160129/debtext/160129-0002.htm#16012937000002>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

Immigration Bill

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

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

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

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Proposed amendments

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

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0073/amend/su073-II-b.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>

**** Employment opportunities for Muslims in the UK** (closing date 28 February 2016)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2015/employment-opportunities-muslims-in-uk-launch-15-16/>

**** Hate Crime in Scotland** (closing date 29 February 2016)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KDVLKYR>

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

**** National Approach to Anti-Bullying - Parents Consultation** (no closing date given)

<https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/t0tgsxgaqm/>

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

<http://fairer.scot/get-in-touch/>

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

**** closes 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!**

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.

**** this week!**

Zero Tolerance to FGM

6 February 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 3.00)

African Women in Scotland against FGM conference to explore the role of individuals

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

and communities in addressing the barriers that make change in behaviour and attitude towards FGM difficult. For information contact 07852 899 002 / 07808 055 120 / kenyanwomeninscotland@gamil.com or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16ii_fgm.pdf

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 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

Your Scottish Parliament: Your Voice

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

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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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