

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Immigration and Asylum | Other News |
| Community Relations | Bills in Progress |
| Equality | Consultations |
| Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination | Job Opportunities |
| Scottish Devolution | Events/Conferences/Training |
| Other Scottish Parliament and Government | Useful Links |
| Other UK Parliament and Government | |

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee

Evidence Session: Post-study Work Visas

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10344&i=95179#ScotParIOR>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration: Married People

Carol Monaghan [24971] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with spouses or partners with UK citizenship have been granted a visa to enter the UK in each of the last five years.

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

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Information on spouses or partners of UK citizens is not available as it is not held on centrally collated statistical databases and could only be produced at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas are published in 'Immigration Statistics, July - September 2015', available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>

Visa applications and resolutions:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/449459/original/Table%20-%2024970,%2024971%20and%2024972.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/24971/>

Migrant Workers

The following four questions all received the same answer

Ruth Cadbury [23985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect Tier 2 migration is having on the (a) pay and (b) terms and conditions of UK employees.

Ruth Cadbury [23986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that Intra Company Transfer Tier 2 visas cannot be used to replace a UK worker who has been made redundant.

Migrant Workers: ICT

Ruth Cadbury [23987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on what the average salary of a Tier 2 worker on an Intra Company Transfer visa is in the IT industry; and how this compares to the industry average.

Ruth Cadbury [23988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential for Tier 2 Intra Company Transfer visas to be used to replace UK workers with outsourced overseas workers in the IT industry.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Tier 2, the skilled worker route, is designed to fill roles which cannot be filled by a suitable resident worker. The immigration rules, and UK employment law, do not allow workers to be made redundant and directly replaced.

It is a decision for businesses whether to outsource certain functions. We are, however, mindful of concerns that use of the Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) category for third party contracting may undercut or displace resident workers.

That is why, in June last year, we commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to examine the ICT category as part of its wider review on Tier 2. The MAC published its report on 19 January and it can be found on the gov.uk website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-review-tier-2-migration>

Chapter 6 of the report sets out the MAC's findings on the ICT category, including its use for third party contracting, the salaries paid to IT workers and the impacts on the resident labour market. The MAC found that salaries for these transferees were clustered around the 25th percentile of earnings for resident workers in IT occupations (the current minimum permitted under the immigration rules).

The Government is currently considering the MAC's findings carefully and will announce any changes in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23985/>

and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23986/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23987/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23988/>

Visas: Catering

The following three questions all received the same answer

Greg Mulholland [22777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Tier 2 visas were made by people holding job offers to become chefs in each year since such visas were introduced; and how many such applications were successful.

Greg Mulholland [22778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on lowering the Tier 2 visa scheme's minimum salary threshold for chefs.

Greg Mulholland [22779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the effect of the Tier 2 visa scheme's minimum salary threshold on the ability of curry restaurants to recruit chefs from abroad.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Acquiring this information on visa applications from chefs would involve examining each individual case record held by UK Visas & Immigration for the Tier 2 category. To do so would incur a disproportionate cost. The Home Office regularly receives representations to lower the criteria (including the salary requirement) for sponsoring chefs under Tier 2, the skilled worker route. Tier 2 is, however, reserved for graduate level occupations. We continue to welcome the very top chefs who promote innovative and authentic cuisine here in the UK — and these types of skilled chefs are on the shortage occupation list. The salary threshold applied to chefs was based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

We have been clear, however, that the restaurant industry needs to move away from an unsustainable reliance on migrant workers. We want to nurture more home-grown talent and encourage young people in this country who want to pursue a skilled career. This means the restaurant sector offering training to attract and recruit resident workers to meet their staffing needs.

The industry is starting to make progress in this area, recruiting and training more chefs in the UK, and this needs to continue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-18/22777/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-18/22778/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-18/22779/>

Social Services: Migrant Workers

Paul Blomfield [24741] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of the £35,000 minimum income threshold on the numbers of migrant workers in the adult social care workforce who will be eligible to stay in the UK from April 2016 onwards.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Alistair Burt: Skills for Care, the partner in the sector skills council for social care, in England, collects information on the adult social care workforce in England. Skills for Care estimates show that between 1,500 and 2,500 migrant workers in adult social care regulated professional roles may not have an income sufficient for settlement. However, the vast majority of these roles are registered nurses who are exempt from the requirement to earn £35,000 whilst the role is or has been on the shortage occupation list.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-28/24741/>

Asylum: Scotland

Margaret Ferrier [24613] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on the screening of asylum seekers in Scotland.

Reply from David Mundell: UK and Scottish Government officials have regular discussions regarding immigration matters, including screening of asylum seekers in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-27/24613/>

Children in Care: Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stuart C. McDonald [25428] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many care leavers in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015 who were aged 19, 20 or 21 in 2013 and 2014 and housed in accommodation considered (i) suitable and (ii) unsuitable were former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by the local authority.

Children in Care

Stuart C. McDonald [25346] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many care leavers aged between 19 and 21 local authorities were in contact with in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015; and how many such care leavers were former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Edward Timpson: Information on care leavers in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015, who were aged 19, 20 and 21 in 2013 and 2014 is not available. However, the information for care leavers aged 19, 20, or 21 in 2014 and 2015 is shown in the tables below:

| Accommodation type ² | All care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 | | Of which, number that were former unaccompanied asylum seeking children ¹ | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|--|------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Suitable | 20,570 | 21,010 | 240 | 550 |
| Unsuitable | 1,660 | 1,840 | 10 | 40 |

Source: SSSDA903

| All care leavers aged 19, 20 or 21 with whom the local authority were in touch | | Of which, number that were former unaccompanied asylum seeking children ¹ | |
|--|--------|--|------|
| 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| 21,980 | 22,520 | 260 | 590 |

Source: SSSDA903

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

1. This includes young people who were unaccompanied asylum seeking children in their final period of care.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2. Suitability of accommodation is not recorded where the young person has gone abroad, been deported or where their residence is not known.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25428/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25346/>

Asylum: Finance

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5500] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long asylum seekers have to wait before they receive financial support upon arrival in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bates: Upon claiming asylum if an applicant presents as destitute they are entitled to access support services whilst a formal application for financial support is considered.

Destitute asylum seekers are usually accommodated in an Initial Accommodation facility, which is typically delivered as hostel style, full board accommodation.

The length of time someone will stay in an Initial Accommodation centre will vary from person to person according to their particular circumstances.

However, the Home Office aims to process their application for financial support and move straightforward cases to longer term dispersal accommodation in participating dispersal towns and cities within 19 days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-26/HL5500/>

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5450] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent hostels requiring asylum seekers to wear red wristbands before providing food and to stop property companies singling out the accommodation used by asylum seekers by having their doors painted red.

Reply from Lord Bates: On 20 January my Rt. Hon. Friend the Immigration Minister (James Brokenshire), in response to the articles in the press regarding asylum seeker accommodation in Middlesbrough, announced an audit of asylum accommodation as a result of the allegations made (regarding the use of a single paint colour on asylum seeker properties).

The Home Office has asked for assurance from all accommodation providers that there are no further policies or practices that allow asylum seekers to be identified as such by the public.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-26/HL5450/>

Asylum: Housing

The following four questions all received the same answer

Dan Jarvis [23356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when (a) her Department and (b) the contractor G4S became aware of concerns that asylum seekers were being housed in properties with doors that are all uniform or nearly uniform in colour.

Dan Jarvis [23357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she expects the inquiry announced by her Department on 20 January 2016 into the housing of asylum seekers in the north-east of England to report its findings.

Dan Jarvis [23358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that asylum seekers are not housed in properties that make their status as asylum seekers easily identifiable.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: North East

Dan Jarvis [23355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether contractors have housed asylum seekers in properties with doors that are all uniform or nearly uniform in colour in regions other than the North East.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Home Office officials are working closely with our housing providers to ensure that asylum seeker accommodation is not easily identifiable. I am not aware of a uniform door colour being the practice in any other region. My officials have also spoken to our housing providers to tell them that such a practice is not acceptable.

I was first made aware of this issue when The Times contacted the Home Office in mid-January. G4S has investigated correspondence and discussions on the issue of external door colour in the North East and has confirmed that it was raised in 2012 by a Middlesbrough local councillor and was considered by the G4S audit and assurance team, no complaints from asylum seekers relating to this matter were found and a response was issued.

As I said to the House on 20 January, I instructed officials to look into this issue as a matter of urgency and I expect that the audit will be concluded on the Home Office side very shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23356/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23357/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23358/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-20/23355/>

Asylum: Housing

Stephen Doughty [23911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the delivery standards and criteria her Department sets for housing providers in the provision of housing to asylum seekers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In line with government transparency commitments details of the standards required are already in the public domain.

The particular document that details the standards is titled 'COMPASS Project Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements' and is available on the Contracts Finder Archive on the Data.Gov.UK Website at <https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/487962/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23911/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C. McDonald [25466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been accommodated in hostel-type accommodation provided by Compass in each Compass region in each month since 1 April 2015; and how many such people have been held under (a) section 98, (b) section 95 and (c) section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In general, there are two types of accommodation used for asylum seekers. First, Initial Accommodation ("IA") which is mainly full board and is provided while the support application is being

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

assessed. Second, “dispersal accommodation”, generally shared flats, maisonettes and houses, is provided once the person is found to be eligible for support. The length of time someone will stay in an Initial Accommodation centre will vary from person to person according to their particular circumstances. However, the Home Office aims to process their application for financial support and move straightforward cases to longer term dispersal accommodation in participating dispersal towns and cities within 19 days. The Home Office does not centrally record the number of people housed in initial accommodation under each section of the 1999 Act. It could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25466/>

Asylum: Syria

Tulip Siddiq [25352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what further steps she is taking to ensure that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Syria can be resettled in the UK through (a) the Gateway Protection Programme, (b) the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, (c) the Mandate Refugee Scheme and (d) other schemes or programmes.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Since the launch of the expanded Syrian Resettlement Scheme last September, we have resettled more than 1000 vulnerable Syrians, around half of whom are children.

On 28th January the Government announced further initiatives to assist unaccompanied children in the region. The initiatives will complement the very significant existing aid and assistance the UK has given in response to the Syrian conflict and migration crisis; including our existing resettlement programmes.

As announced last week, the Government will work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to lead a new initiative to identify and resettle unaccompanied children in the exceptional cases where it is in the child’s best interests to do so. The UK Government is working with UNHCR to establish the numbers and specific needs of these unaccompanied children in order to establish a resettlement process which best addresses the requirements of these vulnerable children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25352/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Virendra Sharma (1043) Family and business visas for Indians – That this House notes that since 2012 immigration rules have more than tripled the amount of money required under financial (minimum income) rules; is concerned that such stringent requirements have been accompanied by a reduction in the variety of income sources which may be considered; is further concerned that such a sum is pushed to an onerously high rate when there are children to be taken care of; further notes that this rate is significantly higher than the minimum wage; worries that the UK has now been ranked as the least family-friendly country to migrate to; notes that while the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced relaxed visas for Chinese business leaders, such a proposal for Indians has not been forthcoming; notes that the long-standing relationship between the UK and India is being put in jeopardy not long after the Indian Prime Minister called the UK India’s route into the EU; and calls on UKVI and the Government to assess and reform the unfair system they have implemented.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1043>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Petition

Treatment of asylum seekers

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

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

Observations from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Immigration Bill does not affect the support provided to asylum seekers and their families, who will continue to be provided with free furnished accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs.

The Bill restricts the support available to those whose applications for asylum have been rejected, and who are therefore illegal economic migrants. Support will still be available where there is a genuine obstacle that prevents the person from leaving the United Kingdom at the point their asylum claim or any appeal is finally determined.

Detention plays a vital role in maintaining effective immigration control and the protection of our borders. Recommendations made in the all-party parliamentary group report of their inquiry into the use of immigration detention were brought to the attention of Stephen Shaw CBE, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, who was commissioned by the Home Secretary in February 2015 to undertake an independent review of policies and operating procedures that have an impact on detainee welfare. Mr Shaw's report was published on 14 January by means of a written statement, which also set out the Government's initial response to his report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160201/petntext/160201p0001.htm#16020129000033>

Press Releases

Scholarships for international students

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scholarships-for-international-students-221f.aspx>

A non-EU national having sole care and control of a minor child who is a citizen of the EU may not be expelled from a Member State or be refused a residence permit simply because he has a criminal record

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-02/cp160012en.pdf>

New Publications

Inspection of Asylum Casework March – July 2015

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/ICIBI-Asylum-Report-Feb-2016.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report: An Inspection of Asylum Casework. March – July 2015

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Formal-Response-Asylum-Final.pdf>

Syrian refugees and the UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06805/SN06805.docx>

The Minimum Income Requirement for Non-EEA Family Members in the UK

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Report%20-%20Minimum%20Family%20Income.pdf>

News

Home Office yet to be convinced over Scottish student visa scheme

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14246064.Home_Office_yet_to_be_convinced_over_Scottish_student_visa_scheme/

David Cameron pledges extra £1.2 billion for Syrian refugees as leaders gather for talks

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12139469/David-Cameron-pledges-extra-1.2-billion-for-Syrian-refugees-as-leaders-gather-for-talks.html>

David Cameron calls for billions more in international aid for Syrian refugees

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/03/david-cameron-calls-for-billions-more-in-international-aid-for-syrian-refugees>

MEPs can veto all UK migrant reforms

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4682223.ece>

We can't let migrants shop around for sanctuary

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4681032.ece>

Children seeking asylum in UK denied access to education

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/feb/02/children-seeking-asylum-in-uk-denied-access-to-education>

'Islamophobia' in Guernsey behind no refugees decision

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-guernsey-35511771>

'Islamophobic' Guernsey will turn away Syrian refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/islamophobic-guernsey-will-turn-away-syrian-refugees-a6857871.html>

High wages mean migrants will still want to come, say experts

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4681249.ece>

Foreign students must leave UK as college loses licence

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-35472768>

University of Edinburgh to provide scholarships for asylum-seekers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/university-of-edinburgh-to-provide-scholarships-for-asylum-seekers-1-4017162>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

University of Edinburgh to provide fully-funded scholarships and ‘significant reduction’ in costs to asylum-seeking students

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/university-of-edinburgh-to-provide-fully-funded-scholarships-and-significant-reduction-in-costs-to-a6850541.html>

One in nine 'EU migrant couples' on tax credits are actually half-British

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/datablog/2016/feb/05/eu-migrant-couples-receiving-tax-credits-uk-government-figures>

Experts debate human rights in the refugee crisis

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14246367.Experts_debate_human_rights_in_the_refugee_crisis/

Attitudes harden towards refugees from Syria and Libya, BBC poll suggests

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-35470723>

Immigration Health Surcharge extends to Australia and New Zealand

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-health-surcharge-extends-to-australia-and-new-zealand>

Criminals with UK children cannot be automatically deported, says EU court

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/04/theresa-may-cant-deport-moroccan-mother-with-criminal-record-eu-court>

Landlords 'don't understand right to rent immigration checks'

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/feb/01/landlords-do-not-understand-rules-immigration-checks-association>

To help real refugees, be firm with economic migrants

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/06/liberals-harsh-truths-help-refugees-syria>

From eastern Europe to Bognor Regis: 'I didn't even know I could get benefits'

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/05/eastern-europe-bognor-regis-benefits-david-cameron-immigration-poland>

“I thought I could stay for ever. I feel British. There is no way I can go home”

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/Magazine/Features/article1665141.ece>

Meet the teachers, charity workers, NHS staff and scientists Theresa May wants to kick out of Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/theresa-may-teachers-charity-workers-nhs-staff-scientists-kick-out-of-britain-stop35k-a6853891.html>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Community Relations

Lord Ouseley [HL5672] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the levels of social cohesion in towns in Britain, such as Boston in Lincolnshire.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Over generations, we in Britain have built a successful multi-racial, multi-faith democracy. According to the 2013/14 Community Life Survey, 85 per cent of people agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. But the job of building a more cohesive country is never complete and we recognise the scale of the challenge in some communities. That is why the Prime Minister has charged Louise Casey to carry out a review of how to boost opportunity and integration in these communities and bring Britain together as one nation. We will use her interim report to inform our plans for funding a new wider Cohesive Communities Programme, focusing resources on improving integration and extending opportunity in those communities that most need it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-01/HL5672/>

News

People won't be silenced — they want change

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4682436.ece>

Mosque open days to 'explain faith'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35514840>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Question

Travellers

Lord Black of Brentwood [HL5169] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they last undertook an assessment of the long-term educational and welfare needs of Travellers and Gypsies in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Both the Department for Education and Ofsted have commissioned and published a number of studies over the past six years that focus on how to improve the education of Gypsy and Traveller children. These include:

Improving the outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils: final report and literature review (Department for Education, October 2010, attached).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-outcomes-for-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-pupils-final-report>; as well as case studies of schools showing successful practice in improving the attendance and attainment of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils. These are available (attached) at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-pupils-supporting-access-to-education> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-examples-of-good-practice-in-schools#gypsy-traveller-and-roma-children>.

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

The Department for Education regularly publishes and monitors data on the educational progress and achievement of pupils from Gypsy and Irish Traveller backgrounds attending schools in England. This data includes annual statistics on the attainment of pupils from these groups in the year 1 phonics screening check; teacher assessments at the end of key stage 1 and national assessments at the end of key stages 2 and 4; and on levels of pupil attendance at, and exclusion from, school. Inspection reports published by Ofsted include commentary where appropriate on the quality of school provision for Gypsy and Traveller pupils and their progress and attainment.

The previous Government's Ministerial Working Group on Gypsy and Traveller inequalities published a report in April 2012, which included 28 commitments from across Government to help reduce the inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers. The document can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-inequalities-for-gypsies-and-travellers-progress-report>

The 28 commitments have since been taken forward by the relevant Government departments and a table setting out progress against those commitments as at October 2014 was deposited in the House of Lords library. This is available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2014-10-29/HL2504/>

Good Practice:

http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/445759/original/160125%20Good_practice_example_-_Kingsmead_Primary_School%20-%20HL5169.doc

Travellers Pupils Final Report:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/445759/original/160125%20Gypsy%20roma%20-%20traveller%20-%20pupils%20final%20report%20-%20HL5169.pdf>

Access to education:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/445759/original/160125%20Gypsy%20Roma%20and%20Travellers%20pupils%20supporting%20access%20to%20education%20-%20HL5169.pdf>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-19/HL5169/>

News

Black workers 'earning less than white colleagues'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-35441833>

Black workers with degrees earn a quarter less than white counterparts, finds TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/black-workers/labour-market/black-workers-degrees-earn-quarter-less-white>

Black workers' pay gap in UK 'widens with qualifications'

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/feb/01/pay-gap-black-white-uk-workers-widens-more-qualifications>

Race still determines success in Britain. But there is a way to break the barriers

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/04/race-class-britain-david-cameron-business-young-ethnic-minority>

Equality

News (continued)

Minding the diversity gap in UK universities

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/feb/01/minding-the-diversity-gap-in-uk-universities>

Britain's racial diversity problem goes far beyond Oxford's dreaming spires

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/01/britain-racial-diversity-problem-oxford-bame-students-david-cameron>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Racial Discrimination

Steve Rotheram [23776] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle racist and discriminating behaviour.

Reply from Marcus Jones: This Government deplores racism in all its forms and is determined to ensure everyone has the opportunity to get on in life free from harassment and fear.

50 years ago Britain introduced its first race equality legislation and in that time our country has undoubtedly become fairer. The Equality Act 2010 protects all individuals against racial and other forms of discrimination.

On 12 October 2015 a new Cross Government Hate Crime Action Plan was announced, to drive forward action against all forms of hate crime. This will be taken forward in partnership with communities to ensure we target the harm that hate crime causes. More broadly, my rt. hon. Friend, the Prime Minister has set out a series of ambitious government commitments to reduce racial inequalities by the end of the current Parliament in 2020.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-22/23776/>

Racially Aggravated Offences

Steve Rotherham [23781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of trends in the rate of race-related crimes in England and Wales over the last five years.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that there were 106,000 incidents of race hate crime a year, based on the combined data from the 2012/13 to 2014/15 surveys (the most recently available figures). There has been a clear downward trend in the number of hate crime incidents between the 2007/08 to 2008/09 and 2012/13 to 2014/15 crimes surveys, which have fallen by 28% for all hate crimes over this period. The Home Office also collects information from the police on hate crimes. This shows that were 42,930 race hate crimes recorded by the police in 2014/15, a 15% increase on the previous year. This increase is largely thought to be due to improvements in recording practices by the police over the last year rather than a real increase in race hate crime. However, it is possible in some police forces areas that recording may not be the only reason and there could be an element of real increases in certain areas.

The Government is committed to tackling all forms of hate crime, including that perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. That is why we

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

announced in October last year the intention to bring forward a new cross Government hate crime action plan. This is being developed with the communities most affected by hate crime and will be published later this year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-22/23781/>

Employment: Bullying

Charlotte Leslie [23757] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of workplace bullying.

Reply from Nick Boles: Bullying and harassment have no place in today's workplace environment and are unacceptable wherever they occur. The UK has a strong safety net of legislation to protect people from harassment in the workplace. This covers harassment on the grounds of sex, race, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation and age. In addition, harassment is a criminal offence and victims have a right to damages.

The best way to address unacceptable behaviour in the first instance is within the workplace. That's why my Department's supports the Health and Safety Executive Management Standards approach for work-related stress which includes a standard for relationships at work that covers unacceptable behaviour such as conflict, bullying and harassment. The Management Standards help organisations manage the causes of work-related stress in a simple and pragmatic way.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) also aims to support better employment relations by offering free impartial advice. Acas operates a nationwide telephone helpline for employers and employees, they can be contacted on: 0300 123 1100. Acas recently published new guidance addressing the need to conduct fair and thorough grievance and disciplinary investigations; and published new research seeking better solutions to deal with bullying.

Acas also offers training and business solutions including free eLearning and advisory booklets explaining how employers and individuals can tackle and prevent bullying, ill treatment and harassment more effectively in Britain's workplaces - raising employee motivation, attendance and productivity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-22/23757/>

Press Releases

Travellers - Time to counter deep-rooted hostility

<http://tinyurl.com/j6rg8va>

Business Secretary steps up fight to end discrimination

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-secretary-steps-up-fight-to-end-discrimination>

New Publications

Antisemitic Incident Report 2014

https://cst.org.uk/data/file/1/9/Incidents_Report_2015.1454417905.pdf

Playing the game: reporting antisemitism in football

<http://www.kickitout.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Playing-the-game-Reporting-antisemitism-in-football.pdf>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **News**

Kenny MacAskill's comment sparks row over racism

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/kenny-macaskill-s-comment-sparks-row-over-racism-1-4022941>

Dundee councillor in 'anti-Islamic texts' probe resigns

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-35504274>

Dundee SNP councillor quits over alleged Islamophobic texting row

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/dundee-snp-councillor-quits-over-alleged-islamophobic-texting-row-1-4022521>

'BME' is racist and misleading. Let's drop it

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4684324.ece>

Number of anti-Semitic incidents in Britain falls

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3430925/Number-anti-Semitic-incidents-Britain-falls.html>

[TOP](#)

Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Fiscal Framework papers will be published

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Fiscal-Framework-papers-will-be-published-2254.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Tackling-Female-Genital-Mutilation-223c.aspx>

New Publication

Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate FGM

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00493752.pdf>

News

Alex Neil launches action plan to tackle female genital mutilation

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14255193.Alex_Neil_launches_action_plan_to_tackle_female_genital_mutilation/

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News (continued)

Church welcomes action plan to tackle Female Genital Mutilation

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

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Students: Loans

Lord Starkey [HL5333] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Muslim students who have been unable to progress to higher education because their religious principles do not permit them to take out an interest-bearing student loan.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The Government consulted in April 2014 on an Alternative Finance product that could be offered to students alongside traditional loans. 20,000 responses were received with 94 per cent believing there is a demand for Alternative Finance.

The Government is working on the development of a Takaful Alternative Finance product and as part of this will be working with the Muslim community and others to understand the likely take-up of the product.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-21/HL5333/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Education in Schools

Baroness Featherstone; To ask Her Majesty's Government how many schools are now using personal, social, health and economic education classes to inform their pupils on female genital mutilation.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Lords, female genital mutilation is child abuse and a crime. An effective multiagency approach is key to safeguarding girls from FGM and schools play an important role in this, as they do in safeguarding children from all forms of abuse. Schools have the autonomy to tailor their local PSHE programme to reflect the needs of their pupils, including teaching about FGM, drawing on the resources and evidence provided by experts and organisations such as the PSHE Association.

Baroness Featherstone: I thank the Minister for that Answer, but in a way she makes my case for me, because we have a safeguarding duty to the 60,000 girls who are at risk. If we do not inform them about the risks of FGM—what to look for and who to go to—then I believe we are derelict in our duty. Does the Minister agree with me that one of the best ways to protect girls is to make teaching on FGM mandatory, whether through PSHE or other means, and will she now commit to do so?

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: My Lords, since 2014 FGM has been included in the PSHE programme of study so that is now an option for teachers, but we believe that it should be up to schools to have the autonomy to reflect the needs of their pupils. Of course teaching about FGM is one option that they can include, but we believe it is up to schools to think about the needs of their pupils and the communities that they serve, and it is for them to decide what best to cover and how best to cover it within their curriculum.

Baroness Massey of Darwen: My Lords, would the Minister agree with me that, however good schools' PSHE programmes are — and some are excellent — schools

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

cannot mop up all the ills of society? Would she further agree that this is a highly sensitive issue, which is about the law and violence against women, and therefore needs delivering to teachers and pupils in a sensitive and expert way by people such as the school nurse or a doctor? It is not a case that can be taken very lightly.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: I entirely agree with the noble Baroness, which is why we shall be shortly publishing for the first time statutory multiagency guidance for front-line professionals on FGM specifically, which will apply to schools and children services as well as police and healthcare professionals. It is essential that everybody works together to support any young women who may be in this position and make sure that, as a community, all agencies are working together to help tackle this crime.

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington: Would my noble friend please update the House on the current state of protection orders?

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As noble Lords will be aware, protection orders were fast-tracked last summer to come into place before the summer holidays, so that any girls at risk could benefit from these new orders. Eighteen FGM protection orders were issued between July and September. That is the first set of data that we have.

Lord Morris of Aberavon: My Lords, while individual prosecutions are matters for the Director of Public Prosecutions, are the Government satisfied that the law is adequate, and will they consider an investigation as to why there are so few prosecutions?

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As I said, we will shortly issue the statutory multiagency guidance, which we believe will help teachers, for instance, and other professionals to be able to identify this risk more easily and therefore to work with the police. The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a new mandatory duty on teachers, social workers and health professionals to report to the police known cases of FGM involving victims under the age of 18. Again, we believe that reports of these cases should assist the police; I have also mentioned protection orders. Therefore, we are building a framework within which professionals can work to help to tackle this crime.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: Does the noble Baroness know how much training the NHS gives to its front-line staff so that they are able to recognise this situation and deal with it?

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: As I say, we are introducing a range of statutory guidance. Since April 2015, the NHS has collected enhanced data on women and girls seen by the NHS who have been subject to FGM. The second quarter of this data from July to September 2015 reported that 17 girls under 18 had come to the attention of the NHS. Therefore, with the enhanced data collection, the guidance we are introducing and our attempt to join up the NHS with schools and the police, we are starting to see progress in helping professionals identify this issue.

Baroness Corston: The noble Baroness referred just now to the role of schools. When I represented a multicultural constituency in the other place, one of the things that used to concern me was the instance of girls being suddenly taken away for long holidays, and we tried very hard to raise this with schools to see whether they were being taken away for this purpose. It would be useful to know whether this is included in the guidance to teachers. I point out to those colleagues who have been in this House for quite a while that nobody here ever raised this issue for as long or as often as our late friend Baroness Rendell—Ruth Rendell. I suggest that we set up some initiative on FGM in Ruth's name.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: I will be very happy to take the noble Baroness's suggestion back to the department. As regards the question she raised about teachers being able to identify this, I went on to the PSHE Association website to have a look at the section on FGM, and the issue that the

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

noble Baroness raised is mentioned there, as are a number of other useful elements of guidance. As I have said, with new statutory guidance coming in and the updating of the safeguarding guidance for schools, we are attempting to get as much information to teachers as we can so that they can play their role in helping to protect young women.

Lord Storey: My Lords, can I come back to PSHE? The Minister has highlighted its importance—indeed, the Government's own website says how important it is. Will she confirm that PSHE has to be taught only in maintained schools, so that the 70% that are academies, as well as free schools, do not have to teach it? Does she not think, given the importance of PSHE and this issue, that it should be taught in all schools and that advice and guidance should be given to all schools?

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: We state clearly in the introduction to the national curriculum that we expect all schools to deliver high-quality PSHE. Of course, the noble Lord will be aware that, when inspecting, Ofsted considers how a school ensures the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of its pupils. Ofsted inspects all schools—maintained, academies and free schools—so this enables PSHE to be considered in a proportionate and integrated way as part of their inspection.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160204-0001.htm#16020441000601>

Schools: Counter-terrorism

Jim Cunningham [24479] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what representations she has received in the last year from (a) Christian, (b) Jewish and (c) Muslim faith schools on the Counter Extremism Strategy used in schools; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Edward Timpson: This Government believes all children should be educated in a safe environment, whether in a school or out of school.

Department officials have briefed representatives of faith schools, including Christian, Jewish and Muslim schools, on matters relating to the Government's Prevent and Counter-Extremism strategies. The Department received a number of queries from both faith schools and non-faith schools on how to implement the Prevent duty. The Department has issued practical advice to schools to help them understand their role under the new Prevent duty, and also launched a dedicated counter-extremism helpline in 2015 to enable front line staff, governors, and others to raise concerns directly. The Department has combined all its existing advice in the new Educate Against Hate website^[1], which was launched by the Secretary of State on 19 January.

The Department recently completed a call for evidence on proposals for the registration and inspection of out-of-school settings providing intensive education which were announced in the Counter-Extremism Strategy. Over 3,000 people, including representatives of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths, completed the response form, either online or manually. The Department received a significant number of further representations to the consultation by email and post. All responses and representations are being logged, analysed and verified.

We will be publishing a response to the consultation in due course, in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

[1] <http://educateagainsthate.com/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-27/24479/>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Release

Chinese New Year 2016: David Cameron's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chinese-new-year-2016-david-camerons-message>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Scottish charities urged to get online

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/hot-topics/scottish-charities-urged-to-get-online>

Muslim women 'stopped from becoming Labour councillors'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35504185>

Senior UN officials urge elimination of 'violent practice' of female genital mutilation by 2030

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53171#.Vrc572R94ql>

Zero tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM)

<http://tinyurl.com/jf7jxaf>

OSCE/ODIHR Director Link urges states to recognize serious harm female genital mutilation does to both women and societies at large

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/220666>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

** Burial and Cremation Bill

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

Stage 1 Report, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/LGRS042016R02.pdf

Stage 1 Report, Health and Sport Committee

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/HSS042016R05.pdf

** Community Justice Bill

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

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/S_PBill68AENS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/S_PBill68AENS042016.pdf)

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/96415.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/96513.aspx>

Bills in Progress Scottish Parliament (continued)

**** Education Bill**

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

Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10348&i=95218#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10348&i=95219#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10348&i=95221&c=1907565#ScotParlOR>

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

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

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/96327.aspx>

Lobbying Bill

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

Proposed amendments (*second item 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>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

Asylum (Unaccompanied Children Displaced by Conflict)

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

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

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

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

**** Immigration Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160201-0001.htm#1602019000478>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160201-0002.htm#1602019000332>

and

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160201-0003.htm#16020133000346>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160203-0001.htm#16020358000424>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160203-0002.htm#16020383000138>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0079/amend/ml079-IV.htm>

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-d.htm>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes 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/>

Consultations (continued)

Fife Third Sector Equality and Diversity Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)
<http://files.ctctcdn.com/1b154e99301/feb61f61-2119-499f-9591-cfe96044bd63.pdf>

Hate Crime Reporting in Scotland (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/amina-hatecrime>

Experiences and opinions about having been a volunteer (no closing date given)
<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/738838/newtest/Y/lang/en>

Experience and practice about working with young volunteers (no closing date given)
<http://survey.bupnet.de/index.php/survey/index/sid/454824/newtest/Y/lang/en>

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/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

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

** *this week!*

What can Scottish Refugee Council do for you?

13 February 2016 in Glasgow (10.00-2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event to find out about the services that they and other organisations offer, and to tell them what services you need, as well as information on how to get involved in Refugee Festival Scotland by applying for a community celebration grant. For information contact communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 07734 030 760 / or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0571/What_can_we_do_for_you_event_Feb_2016.pdf

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/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Thursday 17 March 2016 in Glasgow

Wednesday 25 May 2016 in Glasgow

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

Working with Interpreters

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

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

Facilitating events with Interpreters

Tuesday 22 March 2016 in Glasgow

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

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

Thursday 21 April 2016 in Glasgow

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

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.