

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 22 February 2016.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15593 Jim Eadie: University of Edinburgh Asylum Seeker Scholarships—That the Parliament welcomes the University of Edinburgh's announcement that it will provide fully-funded scholarships to five undergraduate asylum seeking students admitted in 2016; understands that the fees for any additional undergraduate students seeking asylum will be set at £1,820, instead of the tuition fees for international students, which are approximately nine times higher; further understands that the university will also provide financial support for postgraduate students through one full scholarship being awarded to an asylum seeker taking a taught masters degree, while the fees for asylum seekers on similar programmes will be approximately half the cost that would normally apply to overseas students; notes that the university is to continue to support Syrian refugees by providing three masters students with full scholarships in 2016, as well as covering their living costs; applauds the university for additionally setting aside £100,000

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

to provide other forms of assistance, including English language support, for new students who are asylum seekers or refugees, and commends the university for providing this package of support, without which, it understands, access to higher education for asylum seekers would not be possible.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15593&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debates

Refugees: UK Government Policy

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160210/halltext/160210h0002.htm#160210108000001>

Asylum Support Contracts

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160210/halltext/160210h0001.htm#160210107000001>

Migration into the EU

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160210/halltext/160210h0001.htm#160210107000003>

UK Parliament Questions

English Language: Education

Lord Greaves [HL5837] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 January (HL5309), what assessment they have made of whether it will be legally possible to restrict their community-based language training offer to Muslim women.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The new English language scheme will not just be restricted to Muslim women. It will reach tens of thousands of the most isolated women and will be targeted to specific communities based on Louise Casey's on-going review into integration in England.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-03/HL5837/>

Immigration Rules: EEA Nationals

Lord Green of Deddington [HL5974] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an EEA national residing in the UK who wished to bring a non-EU spouse into the country would, under the draft Decision by the European Council published on 2 February, have to meet the requirements for salary, and the spouse the conditions for language, as are required of a British citizen and set out under part 8 of the UK Immigration Rules.

Reply from Lord Bates: This is still a matter for negotiation. The European Commission has proposed bringing forward a legislative proposal to reverse the Metock judgment and prevent non-EU nationals from acquiring free movement rights simply by marrying an EU national. Instead, they will be subject to the domestic immigration controls of the first Member State they enter. In the UK, this means that they will need to meet language and income requirements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-08/HL5974/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Married People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Carol Monaghan [24970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with spouses or partners with UK citizenship have been refused entry to the UK in each of the last five years.

Carol Monaghan [24972] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with spouses or partners with UK citizenship have applied to enter the UK in each of the last five years.

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

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 table:

[http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/449458/original/Table%20-%2024970,%2024971%20and%2024972%20\(1\).xlsx](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/449458/original/Table%20-%2024970,%2024971%20and%2024972%20(1).xlsx)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/24970/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/24972/>

English Language: Education

Lord Greaves [HL5375] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether persons coming to live in the UK on spousal visas are entitled to make use of existing schemes of English language tuition provided through public funds; and on what terms.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: Funding for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) provision in England is normally restricted to people who have been resident in the UK or another EEA country for at least the previous 3 years on the first day of learning. For the 3-year residency rule not to apply to a person coming to live in the UK on a spousal visa, the spouse in the UK whom they are joining would have to have been resident in the UK for at least 3 years.

Full-funding is prioritised for people who are in receipt of certain work-related benefits and are mandated to undertake skills training to improve their English in order to find work. This is funded through a provider's Adult Skills Budget. People on other state benefits who are unemployed and where poor English skills are a barrier to finding work, may still be eligible for full funding at the discretion of the training provider. All others can be co-funded but are expected to make a contribution towards the costs of training.

Other opportunities to learn English on publicly-funded programmes include BIS supported community-ESOL programmes and DCLG community-based English language projects.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-25/HL5375/>

Visas: Students

Roger Mullin [25192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many former students have been arrested and detained for remaining in the UK beyond the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

term of their tier 4 student visa in each of the last two years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the time period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2015, 2920 students are recorded on Home Office databases as having been arrested as Section 10 Overstayers. Of that number 2100 are flagged as having been detained.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/25192/>

Visas: Students

Roger Mullin [25032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for the extension of a tier 4 student visa were declined in each of the last two years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The requested information is given in the table below:

Decisions on applications for an extension of stay : Tier 4 & pre-PBS equivalent (main applicants)

Year Grants Refusals

2013 104,668 11,544

2014 68,231 11,486

Source: Immigration Statistics July - September 2015, Home Office, table ex_01

Corresponding data for 2015 will be published on 25 February 2016.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/476907/extensions-q3-2015-tabs.ods

Information on refusals of extensions of stay for Tier 4 students is published in Extensions table ex_01 in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics release.

The latest edition, is published in Extensions table ex_01 in the Home Office's 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>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/25032/>

Private Rented Housing: Undocumented Migrants

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL5769] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to better inform all landlords of the new rules that oblige them to check new tenants' immigration status.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office has undertaken a proactive engagement and communications campaign to raise awareness about the roll out of the scheme. This has involved private rented sector engagement, media engagement and the distribution of communications materials across a range of Government and partner channels. We are continuing direct engagement with the private rented sector through a consultative panel, chaired by the Immigration Minister and Lord Best, which includes housing experts and homelessness charities. The Home Office has also undertaken a programme of engagement including training events for all local authorities and presentations at sector conferences.

The panel has helped to shape the communications strategy for the scheme and has collaborated on communications tactics and methods. The Home Office has collaborated with the panel to produce various communications materials which have been shared with the sector and published on GOV.UK. Since October 2015, there has been an increase in web traffic to Right to Rent guidance on

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

GOV.UK with over 80,000 unique views of key pages.

The Home Office will continue proactive engagement and communications activity in the months ahead to ensure landlords and tenants are aware of the materials and guidance available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-02/HL5769/>

Refugees: Unaccompanied Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to relieve the situation of unaccompanied refugee children.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Bates): My Lords, the Government are working with the UNHCR to resettle unaccompanied refugee children from conflict areas where it is in the best interests of the child to do so. These are likely to be exceptional cases: for most children, their needs are best met in the region. We are providing an additional £10 million of support for vulnerable children in Europe.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: On 2 December, the Prime Minister said that he was thinking again about our moral duty towards these children. That was 10 weeks ago. What has happened in that 10 weeks, and what is going to happen in the next 10 weeks, to those children who are spread out in so many ways? They are deserving of our compassion, and those who are showing compassion are the people—young people especially—working as volunteers in Calais, Dunkirk and other places. As a House, we should express our appreciation of everything that they are doing.

Reply from Lord Bates: I certainly endorse what the noble Lord says about the volunteers who are giving up their time to help those people in need. The noble Lord asked what has happened since 2 December. On 28 January, the Prime Minister made a Statement outlining what he had done in the interim period, and he announced four new initiatives. He said that he was going to send the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, to look at the hotspots, as they are called, or reception centres, to see what was happening to children. We announced an additional £10 million of support, particularly for children who had arrived there. He also said that we would meet the UNHCR and Save the Children, and that is happening this Thursday. However, I thought the noble Lord might have given a passing mention to the fact that, last week, the Prime Minister announced a doubling of the aid we are giving to Syria—from £1.1 billion to £2.3 billion—by the end of the Parliament, which I am sure is welcomed by everyone in the House.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: My Lords, following the statement last week by Brian Donald, the head of Europol, that 10,000 children had disappeared and an entire criminal infrastructure dedicated to exploiting migrants had been established, will the Minister tell the House what representations we have made to Europol and what discussions we are having with it about tackling this? Also, given that the 100,000 people now massing at Oucupinar, on the Turkish border with the Aleppo province, are facing an aerial bombardment campaign and the borders are closed to them—many of those refugees will be children—what action are the Government taking to ask that those borders be opened to allow the refugees safe passage across?

Reply from Lord Bates: The noble Lord is absolutely right to focus on this. Europol estimates that some 90% of people who arrive at Calais have been trafficked by criminal gangs. That is why the Prime Minister announced that we are setting up the Organised Immigration Crime Task Force, and there have been some early successes, although we need to work much harder on that. That is also why Kevin Hyland—I know the noble Lord knows him and respects his

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

work—is looking at those issues. On the situation in Turkey, that is why we have announced a further £275 million as part of the EU-Turkey agreement, to provide aid to that southern border.

Lord Lexden: My noble friend recently told the House he hoped that more local authorities would extend a warm welcome to refugee children and ensure that they are well cared for, in accordance with the traditions of our country. Has there been progress?

Reply from Lord Bates: I must admit that I wish there had been more. My noble friend is right to raise this matter. Kent is bearing an unfair share of the burden of caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children: more than 1,000 are being cared for there. The Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Education, and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote in November asking local authorities to come forward. So far we have had interest from 24—but that is out of 440. Only eight children out of 1,000 have so far been offered places. I would like to think that all Members of this House who have links to their local authorities would be encouraging them to look again and see what can be done to help Kent in its hour of need.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: My Lords, as the Minister may know, Eritrean children are fleeing from their country because of their experience of the most brutal human rights violations, often described as crimes against humanity. Will the Minister comment on the fact that, on the most recent evidence, the UK continues to reject Eritreans, including children, on the basis of a discredited Danish report, rather than using a balanced UN report?

Reply from Lord Bates: The noble Baroness asked a Question on this subject a couple of weeks ago. We still accept a large number of Eritreans who come here, because of the open-ended nature of the military service that they have to undertake. So far, we have accepted a large number of them. The UN report to which the noble Baroness refers did not have access in-country; our policy is based on in-country information from our embassy, and we will continue to keep the situation under review.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester: My Lords, as one of the bishops from Kent, may I take the Minister back to his previous answer? In fact, some 1,300 unaccompanied refugee children are housed in Kent, and the local authorities and the voluntary agencies are under very significant pressure. May I push him a little as to whether, in the light of the somewhat unencouraging response from other local authorities, Her Majesty's Government intend to do anything else to ensure a more effective national dispersal programme—given that we are talking not just about this moment, but about the likely 10 years that will be needed to get a young person from the point of arrival to full integration, with all the work in education, language and healthcare needed to go with that, and the considerable investment required? Some assurance would help my colleagues in Kent.

Reply from Lord Bates: It is absolutely right to raise that point: we have a particular problem there, and we need more local authorities to come forward. We will take some action: the Immigration Bill before your Lordships' House includes a provision that will allow the Secretary of State, where people do not step forward, to impose a settlement on local authorities—and that comes not only with the child, but with about £40,000 of funding per head. So we are not simply asking people to take additional responsibilities. If there is anything that can be done through the Diocese of Kent to exert pressure on local authorities more widely to take their fair share, we would of course all welcome that.

Lord Dubs: Is the Minister aware that all over the country, the British public are anxious to do something to help Syrian refugees, particularly children? There is an enormous surge of enthusiasm to do something. Could the Minister, and the Government, not make a more positive appeal? I hear from people who want to be foster parents: foster parents

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will be forthcoming. We cannot leave these children to fester somewhere in Europe, uncared for and vulnerable to trafficking gangs.

Reply from Lord Bates: Absolutely right—and I certainly join the noble Lord in appealing for more foster carers to come forward, to help not only children who are refugees but all children; there is a great shortage. But I also hope that the people of this country can take some pride in the fact that through their aid—through their taxes, which go through the Government—we shall be able to provide £2.3 billion-worth of aid, which is keeping 227,793 children in education and providing livelihood assistance to 600,000 families in the region, 2 million medical interventions and 15 million food rations. That is something we can be proud of.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160208-0001.htm#1602086000408>

Refugees: Children

The following three questions all received the same answer

Alex Cunningham [25520] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to assist unaccompanied child refugees in Europe.

Alex Cunningham [25521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of reports by the Chief of Staff of Europol that 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees may have disappeared in Europe in 2015.

Alex Cunningham [25522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reunite lone refugee children in mainland Europe with family members in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Unaccompanied children in other EU countries should be able to access the support needed in those countries. The European countries in which they arrive have international obligations and a duty to provide adequate protection and support to refugees within their territory.

We are working closely with UN agencies, NGOs and the Member States involved to ensure that protection is provided. We will provide further resources to the European Asylum Support Office to help in border “hotspots” in Greece and Italy to help identify and register children at risk on first arrival in the EU.

The Government remains concerned about the needs of vulnerable children on the move in Europe and the Balkans, and the needs of those who become stranded along the route. The UK has therefore increased its aid to refugees and migrants, including children, in Europe and the Balkans to £46 million, divided among the most affected countries and including specific support of £2.75 million to UNICEF, which will benefit 27,000 children. In addition, the Department for International Development (DFID) is creating a new fund of up to £10 million to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children in Europe, the Refugee Children Fund for Europe.

This will include targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children who face additional risks. The support will be delivered through a range of UN agencies and NGOs. Unaccompanied children that have a close family link to the UK and claim asylum in another EU country may be entitled to be transferred to the UK under the family unity provisions of the Dublin Regulation. We want to ensure we reunite children with any close family in the UK as quickly and as safely as possible, and we work closely with EU partners on this issue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25520/>

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and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25521/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25522/>

Visas: Syria

David Jones [24708] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications by Syrian nationals resident in Syria for UK visitor visas have been (a) received and (b) granted in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The available information is given in the table below, relating to all Syrian nationals.

Entry clearance visitor visa applications and resolutions (grants, refusals, withdrawn or lapsed): All Syrian nationals

Year	Applications	Decisions	of which		
			Granted	Refused	Withdrawn or lapsed
2010	6,181	6,157	4,349	1,724	84
2011	6,681	6,640	4,596	1,965	79
2012	5,366	5,368	2,691	2,604	73
2013	5,432	5,421	2,537	2,805	79
2014	5,370	5,477	1,495	3,910	72

Source: Immigration Statistics July - September 2015, Home Office, tables vi_01_q, vi_06_q_o and corresponding datasets.

Notes. Information is not available on centrally collated statistical databases on the country of residence of applicants. Corresponding data for the calendar year 2015 will be published on 25 February 2016. Some applications made in a particular year may be resolved (granted, refused, withdrawn or lapsed) in a subsequent year.

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>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-28/24708/>

Syrian Refugee Resettlement

13. **Karen Lumley:** What assessment he has made of the effect of the Syrian refugee resettlement programme on the resources required by local authorities. [903512]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Refugees (Richard Harrington): Resettlement costs for year one are funded by the Department for International Development through the official development assistance budget. At the spending review, we announced a further £129 million towards local authority costs in years two to five. This amount was calculated after consulting the Local Government Association and local authorities with experience in this field on the likely costs that they would incur in being part of our Syrian refugee resettlement programme.

Karen Lumley: I am working hard with my council leader, Bill Hartnett, to provide refuge for two Syrian families in Redditch. Does my hon. Friend agree with me that that is the right thing to do, and will he reassure local people that it will not be paid for by local

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

council tax, as there is some concern in my town about that?

Reply from Richard Harrington: I thank my hon. Friend and the leader of Redditch Borough Council for the part they have played in the joint bid with Worcestershire County Council. As they are aware, we work closely with local authorities to ensure that capacity is identified as suitable for that area, and I again confirm to my hon. Friend that the funding available through the spending review will go a long way towards funding the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

Keith Vaz: I commend the Minister on being the first Home Office Minister in living memory to set a target for resettlement and meet that target. However, there are still another 19,000 Syrian refugees to be resettled before the next election, and the number of other asylum seekers has risen from 9,000 to 17,000. Where are we going to find that accommodation?

Reply from Richard Harrington: ... I remind the right hon. Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz) that the refugee scheme for which I am responsible very much requires the good nature of local authorities. That, together with the asylum programme, is important to us, and I am pleased to say that the demand for places from refugees equals the supply.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160208/debtext/160208-0001.htm#1602088000005>

Asylum

Stephen Doughty [25071] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations her Department has made to its contractors for the provision of asylum support services on potential breaches of contract by those contractors.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All Home Office contracts include performance standards, which are defined in the contract. These are the primary way in which the Home Office manages service delivery of the contracts.

The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. This includes monthly contract management and quarterly strategic review meetings, as well as regular daily discussions with COMPASS providers' operational delivery managers about day to day issues. The Home Office investigates complaints it receives from service users and third parties and works with contractors to ensure that any issues raised are addressed promptly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/25071/>

Asylum

Stephen Doughty [25747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which were the top 10 countries of origin of asylum seekers accommodated in (a) Wales and (b) the UK in each of the last six years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes regional data on asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 Support (dispersed accommodation and subsistence only) by nationality in Table as_17q (Asylum data tables Volume 4) of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The top ten nationalities of asylum seekers supported in Wales and the UK as a whole, in each of the last six years, are given in the attached tables.

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

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

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Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/450422/original/Tables%20PQ%2025747.xlsx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-03/25747/>

Asylum

Stephen Doughty [25748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individual unique addresses asylum seekers were accommodated in by her Department in each constituency in the UK in each of the last six years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Accommodation for asylum seekers is provided through third party accommodation providers under the COMPASS contracts. The Government does not retain information on the number of unique addresses as there is no direct contractual relationship between the Home Office and private landlords. The Home Office publishes quarterly data on the number of asylum seekers in Section 95 dispersal accommodation, by local authority. Data regarding the precise locations of asylum applicants cannot be provided at ward or constituency level as to do so would incur disproportionate costs and be precluded by the provisions of the Data Protection Act, given that individuals could reasonably be identified by such data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-03/25748/>

Asylum

David Crausby [23654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time for a decision on an asylum application was in each of the last 10 years; and what steps her Department is taking to reduce the waiting time for such decisions.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the average time, in calendar days, from date of claim to date of decision including the number and percentage of cases that received a decision in six months. Figures for the year 2015 are not available.

Year of Application	Apps	Mean	Median	Decisions in 6 Months	As a % of Apps
2005	26,939	133.9	46	23,671	87.87%
2006	25,020	165.06	52	21,065	84.19%
2007	24,732	191.38	62	19,722	79.74%
2008	27,182	223.65	97	19,944	73.37%
2009	25,759	159.22	71	20,985	81.47%
2010	20,012	82.11	29	18,391	91.90%
2011	21,211	115.89	32	18,131	85.48%
2012	21,315	161.7	30	16,098	75.52%
2013	24,960	181.78	46	15,874	63.60%
2014	26,070	141.32	135	19,287	73.98%

The exercise in the financial year 2014-15 to clear all straightforward cases with a claim date preceding 1 April 2014 led to a rise in the average time for some of the years above most notably 2008. This required the progression of a number of cases far older than 12 months which would have influenced the average decision times on those cases.

The Home Office continues to target resources to drive down the waiting time for

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

decisions and currently strives to give decisions on all straightforward cases within 6 months, a timescale which it has been consistently meeting since April 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-21/23654/>

Asylum

Diane Abbott [26637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of establishment of safe and legal routes for asylum seekers wishing to enter the UK on the frequency of migrant deaths at sea.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Any migrant death is a tragedy and the international community must act to reduce the likelihood of more migrants losing their lives in this way or falling victim to smuggling and trafficking.

The Government believes it is better to prioritise interventions upstream in countries of origin and transit in ways that reduce the need of migrants to leave their country of origin or move on from a safe third country. The UK is at the forefront of the response to the crisis in Syria and the region. On 4 February 2016, the Prime Minister announced that the UK will more than double our total pledge to the Syria crisis from £1.12 billion to over £2.3 billion. This is our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis.

Furthermore, more than \$11 billion was pledged at the Supporting Syria Conference the UK co-hosted in London on 4th February, the largest amount raised in one day for a humanitarian crisis. The international community has pledged nearly \$6 billion for 2016; with a further \$5 billion for the coming years until 2020.

However, for those individuals who cannot be supported in the region, the UK operates three resettlement programmes: Gateway, Mandate and the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. These provide a safe and direct route to the UK for the most vulnerable UNHCR recognised refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-09/26637/>

Asylum

Jim McMahon [26661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which electoral wards in England have exceeded a one in 200 saturation level for asylum placements; and by what percentage each such ward has exceeded that level.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As part of the regional dispersal policy for asylum seekers established in 2000, the advisory cluster limit of 1 asylum seeker for every 200 of the settled population, applies to local authority area level only. Data on the numbers of asylum seekers in local authority areas is published and can be found at (Asylum Vol 4. Table 16q).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2015/asylum>

Data is not collated at ward or constituency level and to do so would incur disproportionate costs, it may also be precluded by the provisions of the Data Protection Act, given that individuals could reasonably be identified through the release of such data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-09/26661/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Children in Care: Asylum

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stuart C. McDonald [24987] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many care leavers in full or part-time higher education aged between 19 and 21 in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015 were former unaccompanied asylum seeking children looked after by the local authority.

Stuart C. McDonald [25016] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many care leavers in part or full-time training or employment aged between 19 and 21 in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015 were former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by the local authority.

Stuart C. McDonald [25017] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many care leavers in part or full-time education other than higher education aged between 19 and 21 in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015 were former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children looked after by the local authority.

Reply from Edward Timpson: The information requested is shown in the table below. This information is for England only.

Care leaver activity [2]	Number of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children [1]	
	2014	2015
Higher education	20	40
Education other than higher education	100	260
Training or employment	40	130

Source: SSDA903

Information on the activity of all care leavers in England has been published in tables F1 of the Statistical First Release on looked after children[3].

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

[2] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/24987/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/25016/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-01/25017/>

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5602] To ask Her Majesty's Government what considerations are involved when deciding whether to return non-UK citizens to countries with a different legal system that might result in them being prosecuted for actions not regarded as criminal offences in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bates: The fact that another country's laws criminalise acts which are not regarded as criminal offences in the UK would not alone justify an individual's non-return. However, we would not enforce the removal of a non-UK citizen contrary to our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-28/HL5602/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Children: Deportation

The UK Government has found a mistake in the answer to the following question that was originally published in November 2015 and appeared in MEMO 460. The answer has been corrected as below.

Louise Haigh [13206] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were removed to (a) Afghanistan, (b) Syria, (c) Libya, (d) Iraq, (e) Iran and (f) Albania in each year between 2007 and 2015; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children removed between 2007 and 31 December 2015, is shown in the following table:

Removed in Year	Removal Destination						Total
	Afghanistan	Albania	Iran	Iraq	Libya	Syria	
2007	159	378	7	56	1	-	601
2008	159	203	21	126	-	-	509
2009	232	95	12	153	-	-	492
2010	321	57	9	69	-	-	456
2011	433	36	4	57	-	1	531
2012	234	35	4	64	1	-	338
2013	269	47	3	72	1	-	392
2014	154	45	2	38	1	-	240
2015	57	106	6	22	-	-	191
Total	2018	1002	68	657	4	1	3,750

Note: This is live management information and subject to change.

Removal of former unaccompanied asylum seeking children will only take place after their asylum claim has been finally determined, including any appeal hearing, and it has been established that there is no risk of persecution, or of a breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, upon return to their Home Country. After a former unaccompanied asylum seeking child is over eighteen years of age, and found not to be at risk upon return to their home country, their removal will be managed in line with our usual arrangements for the safe and secure return of failed asylum seekers who do not leave the UK voluntarily.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-10-23/13206/>

Human Trafficking

Baroness Doocey [HL5508] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Patina Rail, the owners of Eurostar, about human trafficking and the creation of a commuter route between St Pancras and Ashford that mirrors the so-called Lille loophole.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK Government takes child trafficking extremely seriously. All Border Force officers at the Eurostar ports in the UK France and Belgium have received training in keeping children safe and all operational processes involving children comply with requirements as set out in the Children and Young Persons Act. Border Force and Eurostar have daily contact on operational matters. When passengers are identified by Border Force officers as potential victims of trafficking, immediate action is taken to safeguard the individual by following Home Office guidance on the treatment of the victims of trafficking. Border Force collects data on these cases in order to notify the Human Trafficking Centre. Contact is also made with Camden Social Services Safeguarding Team as soon as possible in order to establish safe care of the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

child. Eurostar has its own policy on unaccompanied children travelling on its services which can be found on its website.

Border Force has not provided training to French border officials on UK child trafficking patterns. All cases of suspected trafficking detected by the French border officials at St Pancras are handed to the BTP to action. In France and Belgium any concerns Border Force officers have about vulnerable children attempting to travel to the UK would be referred to the French and Belgian frontier control authorities. The Home Office has not had any discussions with Patina Rail about a proposed new routing between St Pancras and Ashford.

Eurostar Policy:

[http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/448118/original/Eurostar%20Unaccompanied%20Children%20Policy.doc)

[attachments/448118/original/Eurostar%20Unaccompanied%20Children%20Policy.doc](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/448118/original/Eurostar%20Unaccompanied%20Children%20Policy.doc)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-27/HL5508/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh (1106) Refugees welcome to Perth and Kinross – That this House highlights the work carried out by the officers and elected members of Perth and Kinross Council in successfully welcoming families who have recently fled the conflict in Syria to seek a safer life in Scotland; acknowledges the hard work and dedication of a huge range of service providers, from psychologists to teachers and social workers, whose services will be vital in providing the life-changing support needed to successfully resettle these families safely in Scotland; and congratulates the organisers of the welcome event organised for refugee families at the Salutation Hotel in Perth on 28 January 2016 and all who attended for providing a warm and welcoming reception for all these refugees to their new home in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1106>

Press Releases

UK Government should reintroduce post-study work visas, says Holyrood's Devolution Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/96715.aspx>

All Refugees in Scotland Receiving English Language Training

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/All-Refugees-in-Scotland-Receiving-English-Language-Training-225e.aspx>

Scottish Refugee Doctors Project

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scottish-Refugee-Doctors-Project-2274.aspx>

Minister hosts roundtable on unaccompanied asylum seeking children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-hosts-roundtable-on-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children>

Minister encourages further support for Syrian resettlement scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-encourages-further-support-for-syrian-resettlement-scheme>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New Publications**

Welcome to Scotland? A Report on Post-Study Work Visas

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ScotlandBillCommittee/Reports/DFPS042016R02.pdf

Audit into asylum seeker accommodation in Middlesbrough

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

Young Migrants in the UK Labour Market

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Briefing-Young%20Migrants%20Labour%20Market.pdf>

Victims and Villains: Migrant voices in the British media

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

Europe in Crisis: Facilitating Access to Protection, (Discarding) Offshore Processing and Mapping Alternatives for the Way Forward

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Europe_in_Crisis_Dr_Moreno-Lax_final.pdf

Social dimension of intra-EU mobility: Impact on public services

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/ef1546en_3_1.pdf

News

MSPs call on UK government to reinstate post-study work visa

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35561131>

Holyrood committee calls on Home Office to sanction Scottish student visa scheme

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14274527.Holyrood_committee_calls_on_Home_Office_to_sanction_Scottish_student_visa_scheme/

MSPs urge return of work visas for international students

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/msps-urge-return-of-work-visas-for-international-students-1-4029401>

MSPs urge return of post-study work visas for international students

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/msps-urge-return-of-post-study-work-visas-for-international-students-1.924118>

Wealthy towns urged to take their share of asylum seekers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4687162.ece>

Home Office reveals plan to house asylum seekers in more areas of Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12149003/Home-Office-reveals-plan-to-house-asylum-seekers-in-more-areas-of-Britain.html>

Refugees trained to work in Scottish NHS

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-35544416>

Scottish Refugee Council welcomes support for refugee medics to re-enter profession

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2817_scottish_refugee_council_welcomes_support_for_refugee_medics_to_re-enter_profession

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Refugee doctors given chance to join NHS

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4688138.ece>

Refugee doctors are a healthy boost for Scotland

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/feb/13/refugee-doctors-health-scotland-asylum>

Extending migrant charging into emergency services

<http://www.bmj.com/content/352/bmj.i685.full?ijkey=2ezqnoDIOD7UpfH&keytype=ref>

Migrant patients costing Britain four times what they pay into NHS fund through Government's new charge

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3446154/Migrant-patients-costing-Britain-four-times-pay-NHS-fund-Government-s-new-charge.html>

The Scots taking refugees into their homes and their hearts

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14275541.The_Scots_taking_refugees_into_their_homes_and_their_hearts/

Ham snack was offered to Syrian refugees

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4688980.ece>

Britain takes 'thousands of migrant children' into care

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12156044/Britain-takes-thousands-of-migrant-children-into-care.html>

Asylum seekers sent to Cardiff home in 'crazy' numbers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-35540342>

Asylum wristband row company pays chief £1m

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4685436.ece>

Cardiff council to seek partial closure of asylum seeker accommodation

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/10/cardiff-council-to-seek-partial-closure-of-asylum-seeker-accommodation>

Race warning to landlords

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1668035.ece

Migrant students 'more motivated to learn'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35492437>

Home sweet home? Not if you are a migrant

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4688110.ece>

Non-worker EU nationals not entitled to UK welfare

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/reports/article4685188.ece>

Guernsey chief minister defends anti-racism comments

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/feb/09/guernsey-jonathan-le-tocq-defends-anti-racism-comments-islamophobia>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Race Relations

Stephen Timms[25914] To ask the Prime Minister, whether it is Government policy to promote multiculturalism in the UK.

Reply from David Cameron: We have been very clear: we are proud that Britain is one of the most successful multi ethnic, multi faith democracies in the world. The Government is clear that people have full freedom here to choose and practice their faith. It is right though to challenge the view held by some that we should encourage communities to develop separately and effectively live in a segregated way. The Government is committed to boosting integration in some of our most isolated communities, and to proudly promoting the British values that we all share.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-04/25914/>

News

Thousands of Britons take part in 'Visit My Mosque' initiative

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/thousands-of-britons-take-part-in-visit-my-mosque-initiative/>

Mosques open doors to show unity 'at a tense time'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3436182/Mosques-open-doors-unity-tense-time.html>

What impact have Scots-Italians had on Scotland?

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/what-impact-have-scots-italians-had-on-scotland-1-4025475>

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Equality

New Publications

Equality:Online Webinar: EU equality legislation

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/about-us/devolved-authorities/commission-scotland/video-resources-commission-scotland/equality-online-episode-3>

Equality and Sport Research

<http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/media/1886385/Equality-and-Sport-Research-Final-Report.pdf>

News

'The lowest of the stack': why black women are struggling with mental health

<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/feb/08/black-women-mental-health-high-rates-depression-anxiety>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15634 Christina McKelvie: Tackling Workplace Racial Discrimination—That the Parliament notes with concern the recent report by the Equal Opportunities Committee, *Removing Barriers: race, ethnicity and employment*, which suggests that people from ethnic minority backgrounds in Scotland are still facing workplace prejudice and that, although they perform better academically than white Scots, they are more likely to be in low-paid work or unemployed; believes that there is a need to achieve equality in the workplace and to raise greater awareness of racial equality issues; recognises the work of anti-racism charities, such as Show Racism the Red Card, which, it understands, provides training to more than 50,000 people across the UK every year and delivers a positive message in schools and workplaces and at events in football grounds; congratulates the charity on its work over the last 20 years and wishes it well for the future; welcomes the ongoing development of a race equality framework for Scotland by the Scottish Government, and supports further action against racism, which, it believes continues to be needed to be tackled.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15634&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

SNP candidate Julie McAnulty suspended pending racism probe

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35533136>

SNP launch investigation into alleged 'racist' comments by Councillor Julie McAnulty

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14260639.SNP_councillor_probed_by_party_over_racism_allegations/?ref=mr&lp=3

SNP candidate Julie McAnulty in racism row

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-candidate-julie-mcanulty-in-racism-row-1-4024460>

Get the Pakis out of the party': SNP councillor Julie McAnulty at the centre of second race row

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/get-pakis-out-party-snp-7328646#RtQcveiBlcdgCAG0.97>

SNP suspends candidate in racism row

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4687165.ece>

SNP in fresh racism row over 'Paki' car claim

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4686273.ece>

Fife man fined after racially abusing Scottish Government minister on Facebook after Paris terror attacks

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/local/fife/fife-man-fined-after-racially-abusing-scottish-government-minister-on-facebook-after-paris-terror-attacks-1.923956>

Muslim pensioner beaten to death on the way to morning prayers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-pensioner-beaten-to-death-on-the-way-to-morning-prayers-a6863766.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Muslim, 81, beaten to death going to early morning prayers
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4686951.ece>

Muslim grandfather, 81, was 'racially abused then beaten to death yards from his home as he walked to prayers at his local mosque'
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3438908/Muslim-grandfather-beaten-death-two-drunks-accused-groomer.html>

Shocking video shows the moment a racist passenger threatens to BURN his Muslim driver in hate-filled tirade
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3442805/Shocking-video-shows-moment-racist-passenger-threatens-BURN-Muslim-driver-hate-filled-tirade.html>

Lesson in Islam triggers fresh far-right protest at primary school where parents called police after spotting group of Muslims praying in a nearby car park
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3442693/Far-right-protest-lesson-Islam-school-parents-called-police-spotting-group-Muslims-praying-nearby-car-park.html>

My son got anti-semitic abuse on a train. Why did nobody help him?
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/12137566/My-son-got-anti-semitic-abuse-on-a-train.-Why-did-nobody-stand-up-for-him.html>

There are good reasons why Europe's Jews are so worried
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3443074/There-good-reasons-Europes-Jews-worried.html>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Statement from the First Minister about devolution negotiations
<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-minister-letter-to-the-prime-minister/>

New Publications

Revising Scotland's fiscal framework
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmsscotaf/660/660.pdf>

The Future of the Union, part one: English Votes for English laws
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmpubadm/523/523.pdf>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10364&i=95358#ScotParlOR>

European and External Relations Committee

Human Rights

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10363#ScotParlOR>

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-15586 Patricia Ferguson: Saheliya's Champions of Wellbeing Programme—

That the Parliament congratulates the women who successfully completed the Champions of Wellbeing Programme; understands that the charity, Saheliya, provides specialist mental health and wellbeing support to black and minority ethnic (BME) women and girls over 12 in Scotland; notes that the Champions of Wellbeing Programme focused on supporting women to an understanding of violence against women and abusive cultural practices, and giving them the confidence to challenge such practices and other types of abuse that can cause or contribute to mental illness; further understands that the course included outings to visit other groups, such as the Glasgow Women's Library, so that the participants could see their own struggles against domestic violence, sexual abuse and harmful cultural practices as part of a broad continuum of people in Scotland working toward achieving women's rights; considers that this also has the benefit of reducing the isolation of BME women; recognises that this course also supports Saheliya's goal of helping BME women to become more employable and take an active role in their own and their families' wellbeing, and commends all the staff, volunteers and participants on their achievements.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15586&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Andy Slaughter [25438] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of prisoners were BAME in (a) 2010 and (b) the most recent year for which figures are available.

Reply from Andrew Selous: Some 21,917 prisoners (26% of the prison population) declared themselves BAME as at 31 December 2015, compared with 23,657 (28%) on 30 June 2010.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25438/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Convictions

Sarah Champion [26178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

steps the Government is taking to increase the number of convictions for carrying out female genital mutilation.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a number of measures to break down potential barriers to prosecution, including:

- a new mandatory reporting duty which requires specified professionals to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police;
- extending extra-territorial jurisdiction over offences of FGM committed abroad;
- providing lifelong anonymity for victims of FGM;
- introducing FGM Protection Orders which can be used to protect girls at risk; and
- creating a new offence of failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM.

To help ensure the police have the guidance they need to tackle FGM effectively, in March 2015 the College of Policing published Authorised Professional Practice on FGM and this was updated in September 2015. In addition, lead FGM prosecutors have been appointed for each Crown Prosecution Service area and have agreed joint FGM investigation and prosecution protocols with their local police forces.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-08/26178/>

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sarah Champion [26129] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how the Government's funding for community projects to tackle female genital mutilation has been spent.

Sarah Champion [26130] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much of the funding for tackling female genital mutilation has been allocated to prevention work.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

In 2014/15, the Government provided over £380,000 to community organisations through the Home Office's FGM Community Engagement Initiative and the Department for Communities and Local Government's FGM and forced marriage prevention projects.

The 29 projects all included prevention work with a focus on building the confidence of women and communities to speak out against these practices and raising awareness of the serious consequences they can have.

Evaluations show that over 25,000 people were reached and feedback from participants demonstrates increased awareness of the context, manifestation and harm caused by FGM and forced marriage.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-08/26129/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-08/26130/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Sarah Champion [26131] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that police forces and local authorities are making use of female genital mutilation protection orders.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Karen Bradley: Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs) were fast-tracked for implementation in July 2015, ahead of the school holidays, and are already being used protect girls at risk of FGM.

The Ministry of Justice published guidance on FGM Protection Orders for local authorities in July 2015, and in September 2015, the College of Policing updated its Authorised Professional Practice on FGM to include guidance on FGMPOs.

In addition, the Government will shortly be publishing updated FGM multi-agency guidance, which we are placing on a statutory footing for the first time. This will help increase awareness of FGM and improve compliance with good practice and will include guidance for all professionals on FGMPOs.

We will also continue to work with the police and other agencies to take forward the recommendations in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's report into 'honour-based' violence to ensure the police response to victims, including through use of FGMPOs, is as strong as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-08/26131/>

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Tonge [HL5861] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many potential female genital mutilation victims were interviewed in UK airports at the beginning and end of the school summer holidays in 2015.

Baroness Tonge [HL5862] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the outcome of potential female genital mutilation victims being interviewed in UK airports at the beginning and end of the school summer holidays in 2015.

Reply from Lord Bates: Border Force continues to prioritise safeguarding activity, with trained safeguarding teams in place across Border Force. These teams are specifically trained to identify potential victims of FGM, and work collaboratively with the police and social services to carry out targeted operations on high risk flights. Such activity is highly sensitive, and to preserve the integrity of such operations, the Home Office does not comment on individual cases or investigations, or their outcomes. Border Force is aware of specific concerns raised by Baroness Tonge last summer and will write to her addressing those concerns.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-03/HL5861/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-03/HL5862/>

Financial Services: Islam

The following three questions all received the same answer

Douglas Carswell [25403] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether the rental income generated for investors in his Department's sukuk bond scheme is equivalent to that of the coupon paid from a June 2014 Government five-year gilt.

Douglas Carswell [25405] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many buildings in London are part of his Department's sukuk bond scheme.

Douglas Carswell [25555] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department made of the merits of other potential methods of debt insurance before authorising use of government buildings in London as security for the sukuk bonds.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: In the Sukuk structure, rental payments provide the income for investors. When the Sovereign Sukuk were issued in July 2014 the

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

profit rate was set at 2.036% in line with the yield on gilts of similar maturity, making the investor return on the Sukuk broadly equivalent to that on conventional gilts of similar maturity.

Three central government properties form the underlying assets which underpin the Sukuk.

The Government was clear at the time of issuance that the Sukuk issuance was not for debt financing purposes. Instead, it was issued to deliver on the government's commitment to become the western hub for Islamic finance. The issuance showed that the UK is open for business with all parts of the world and provided high quality capital to UK-based Islamic banks.

UK based institutions that offer Islamic finance services are contributing to jobs and growth with assets totalling \$4.5bn at the end of 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25403/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25405/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-02/25555/>

Press Releases

Foreign Secretary's Lunar New Year message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-lunar-new-year-message>

Female genital mutilation prevention week of action

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/female-genital-mutilation-prevention-week-of-action>

How to report female genital mutilation: guidance for health professionals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare/how-to-report-female-genital-mutilation-guidance-for-health-professionals>

Help for victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-victims-of-forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence>

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Other News

Hundreds of new digital champions will help vulnerable people in Scotland get online

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo-news/hundreds-of-new-digital-champions-will-help-vulnerable-people-in-scotland-get-online-2/>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing on Stage 3 of the Bill

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_16-14_Community_Justice_Bill_Stage_3.pdf

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10365&i=95390#ScotParIOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10365&i=95391#ScotParIOR>

bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/S_PBill68BS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Community%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/S_PBill68BS042016.pdf)

Education Bill

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

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

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

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/rep...>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill74AS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill74AS042016.pdf)

Lobbying Bill

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

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

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

Scottish Government press release: Consultation on opt-out system

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Consultation-on-opt-out-system-225c.aspx>

Scottish Parliament Motion and amendment:

S4M-15128 Anne McTaggart: Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill—That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15128&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-15128.1 Maureen Watt: Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill—As an amendment to motion S4M-15128 in the name of Anne McTaggart (Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill), leave out from “agrees” to end and insert “does not agree to the general principles of the

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

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

Transplantation (Authorisation of Removal of Organs etc.) (Scotland) Bill because it has serious concerns about the practical impact of the specific details in the bill that relate to organ donation rates and transplants; agrees the merits of developing a workable soft opt-out system for Scotland, and calls on the Scottish Government to commence work in preparation for a detailed consultation on further methods to increase organ donations and transplants in Scotland, including soft opt-out, as an early priority in the next parliamentary session, learning from the experiences in Wales, which is currently implementing its own opt-out legislation, and to consider bringing forward legislation as appropriate.”

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15128.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10362&i=95334#ScotParIOR>

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/160209-gc0001.htm#1602102000609>

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-f.htm>

and

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

** **Unaccompanied minors in the EU** (10 March 2016)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-home-affairs-subcommittee/news-parliament-2015/unaccompanied-minors-launch/>

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>

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

**** Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund (PECF)**

closing date for applications: 16 March 2016

Scottish Government fund to support projects that work with or on behalf of, people who are disadvantaged due to their protected characteristics. The fund outcomes are:

- Discrimination against people who share protected characteristics is reduced, and multiple discrimination is addressed so that barriers to participation are reduced.
- People covered by hate crime legislation experience lower levels of hate crime.
- People and communities are supported to participate in and engage with services and civic society; their contribution is recognised and community cohesion is increased.
- Current imbalances in representation in all aspects and levels of public life, including education and employment, are addressed to better reflect our communities.

For detailed information and an application form contact equalitiesenquiries@vaf.org.uk or see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/equality-fund/>

**** Violence Against Women and Girls Fund (VAWGF)**

closing date for applications: 16 March 2016

Scottish Government fund to assist the development of measures to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls. **The fund outcomes are:**

- The harmful effects of violence and abuse against women and girls are minimised due to an increased focus on prevention.
- The harmful effects of violence and abuse against women and girls are reduced due to the provision of early interventions and appropriate, high quality services.
- The harmful effects of violence and abuse against women and girls are reduced due to services working together to maximise their effectiveness.
- The harm to women and children with protected characteristics and other vulnerabilities is reduced through increased inclusive service provision.
- Service design and delivery is improved as a result of the participation of women and children affected by violence and abuse.

For detailed information and an application form contact vawenquiries@vaf.org.uk or see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/violence-against-women/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

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/>

**** *this week!***

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** Many Cultures make Glasgow**

27 February 2016 (10.00-1.00) in Glasgow

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership celebration of Glasgow's many cultures through song, dance, music, words, and food. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z9lbnap>

**** Understanding the implications of the new Children and Young People (Scotland) Act**

9 March 2016 in Glasgow

Gathered Together / BEMIS workshop for community practitioners and parents to share their experiences and explore changes to the legislative framework around children in Scotland with a particular focus on understanding the "Getting It Right For Every Child" approach (GIRFEC). For information contact Judy Wasige judy.wasige@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/event/keeping-children-safe-healthy-and-happy/>

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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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