

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Non-EU Citizens: Income Threshold

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160307/halltext/160307h0001.htm#16030714000001>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Overseas Domestic Workers

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): I am today setting out the Government's response to the key recommendations of the independent review of the overseas domestic worker (ODW) visa, which was undertaken by James Ewins QC and published on 17 December 2015.

The Government acknowledge the vulnerability of ODWs to abuse and exploitation, and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

have already taken a number of steps both to reform entry requirements to guard against it, and put measures in place to protect the position of ODWs who experience such abuse once they are here. Mr Ewins' review was commissioned in order to improve our understanding of whether existing arrangements are effective and what more can be done to ensure that abuse can be identified; support provided to victims; and perpetrators dealt with. Such evidence remains elusive due to the difficulty of obtaining reliable data.

The first of the review's key recommendations is that the Government should relax the "employer tie", allowing ODWs to change employers and be granted an additional two years' stay for that purpose. The Government's primary aim is to ensure that where abuse and exploitation takes place, it is brought to light so that victims can be supported and action taken against perpetrators. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) has been put in place for this purpose and, as with any other victims of slavery our aim must be to be create an environment in which ODWs who are victims of abuse are encouraged to report the abuse and to access support.

The Government's concern is that if ODWs were able to change employers and significantly prolong their stay, irrespective of whether they have reported this abuse and whether there is evidence that such abuse has taken place, they may be less likely to report abuse. This may perpetuate a revolving door of abuse in which perpetrators remain unidentified and free to bring other domestic workers to the United Kingdom with impunity.

The Government do, however, acknowledge the case which has been put forward for providing ODWs with an immediate escape route from abuse. On the basis of advice from the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner we have therefore come to the view that there should be two distinct elements to our approach to the employer tie. First, we will provide those admitted as ODWs with the ability to take alternative employment as a domestic worker with a different employer during the six month period for which they are originally admitted. This ability to take alternative employment will not depend on whether or not they have been found to be the victim of abuse.

Second, we will go further and amend the provisions of the immigration rules introduced in October of last year to increase the period for which an extension of stay will be granted to an ODW who has been the subject of a positive conclusive grounds decision under the National Referral Mechanism from six months to two years. This is in addition to the existing provisions under which discretionary leave may be granted to those, for example, assisting the police with their enquiries or pursuing a compensation claim. ... [HCWS583]

To continue reading this very lengthy statement see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-03-07/HCWS583/>

Changes in Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): ... A new rule is being added to the general grounds for refusal rules (with consequential changes to armed forces, family and private life, and visitor provisions), to provide a new discretionary power to refuse applications on the basis of litigation debt. Each year, the Home Office is awarded considerable litigation costs by the immigration and asylum chamber of the tribunal and the courts. A number of applicants do not pay these costs. At present such litigation debts are not taken into account when considering applications to be granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain. The new rule provides a power to refuse such applications if the applicant has not paid a litigation debt, in order to encourage payment of such debts. It is right that people who are ordered to pay costs to the Home Office should do so.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

The threshold is also being reduced from £1,000 to £500 at which foreign nationals who incur NHS debt can be refused entry clearance or further leave to enter or remain in the UK. These changes are aimed at preventing the abuse of our valuable public services.

There are a number of changes to visitor rules, which will:

- allow Kuwaiti citizens to benefit from the electronic visa waiver and for holders of Indonesian diplomatic passports to travel visa free to the UK as a visitor
- update the permit free festival list (which allows visitors to perform at listed festivals and receive payment) for 2016-17
- remove the mandatory entry clearance refusal for holders of 'non-national' documents, which do not establish a nationality, owing to the holder's status, but which the UK is otherwise prepared to accept as they are recognised as valid for travel in all other respects
- simplify the journey for those non-EU citizens who usually do not require a visa for the UK, but whose passport has been lost or stolen and are therefore returning home on an emergency travel document.

Updates are made to the definition of 'public funds', to include payments made by local authorities and devolved Administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland which replace the discretionary social fund.

The changes insert appendix SN into the immigration rules. This specifies how notices that applications are invalid or void and the outcomes of administrative review applications will be served. The new rules set out unified provisions for service of the notice types that it covers.

The statement also makes changes to the immigration rules on skilled and highly skilled work routes, students, family and private life, and administrative review, and the changes to the rules concerning overseas domestic workers set out in my statement of 7 March 2016. [HCWS615]

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-03-11/HCWS615/>

UK Parliament Questions

EU Nationals: Social Security Benefits

Lord Green of Deddington [HL6690] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Faulks on 2 March (HL Deb, col 928), whether they now plan to make an estimate of the likely impact on migration from the rest of the EU of the restrictions to in-work benefits that were agreed in the decision of the European Council concerning a new settlement for the UK within the EU.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Decision of the European Council concerning a new settlement for the UK recognises, for the first time, that different social security systems across Member States can attract EU workers. Government figures show that around 40 per cent of recent EEA migrants are in households supported by the benefit system. On average, families with a recent EEA migrant claim almost £6,000 per year in tax credits, and of these, around 8,000 families receive more than £10,000.

We remain committed to reforms across the whole of Government to reduce net migration to sustainable levels and to reform the immigration system so that it works in the best interests of our country. We will continue to restore a sense of fairness and to reduce the current very high level of population flows into the UK - now and in the future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-03/HL6690/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

Lord Hamilton of Epsom [HL6488] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy with regard to the payment of child benefits to EU migrants (1) who have been resident in the UK for fewer than four years, and (2) whose children are also resident in the UK.

Reply from Lord O'Neill of Gatley: I refer the honourable member to the recent UK White Paper 'The Best of Both Worlds: the United Kingdom's special status in a reformed European Union', available on the gov.uk website.

The UK's settlement will mean that Child Benefit paid to EU nationals living here, but whose children live outside the UK, will no longer be paid at UK rates but be paid at a rate that reflects conditions – including the standard of living and Child Benefit paid – of the country where the children live.

Eligibility rules for Child Benefit for individuals moving to the UK can be found on the gov.uk website.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-26/HL6488/>

Immigration Controls: Criminal Records

Philip Davies [29303] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what checks are made to determine whether an individual who is not a British citizen has committed any crimes in the UK on a previous occasion at the time of their entry to the UK from another EU country.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We take the issue of preventing criminals entering the UK extremely seriously, and we continue to strengthen our borders so that we can prevent crime and protect the public. We carry out 100% checks at passport control to identify persons of interest entering the UK. All passengers are checked against police, security and immigration watchlists and where we are aware of individuals who pose a risk, Border Force officers can – and do - refuse them entry. Checks are also carried out against the vast majority of passengers before they arrive in the UK and, where we can, we stop them from travelling in the first place.

Those required to obtain a visa to enter the UK are also checked against a range of police, security and immigration databases for details of any UK or overseas criminal record. All applicants are required to provide details of their criminal history. Where they fail to declare relevant offences/convictions, their application will be refused and they will be subject to a ten-year ban from applying to enter the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29303/>

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Philip Davies [29592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what security checks are in place to verify Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa applications.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All out of country entry clearance applications are subject to an extensive range of mandatory and discretionary checks.

These include, but are not limited to, identity, travel document verification, searches against national and international police records and against previous Immigration history. Biographic and biometric checks can also be made.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-03/29592/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Philip Davies [29595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa applications have been refused in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The requested information is given in the table below: Entry clearance visa resolutions (grants, refusals, withdrawn or lapsed): Tier 2 Minister of Religion

Year	Resolved	of which Granted	Refused	Withdrawn or lapsed
2009	459	372	83	4
2010	468	365	97	6
2011	433	342	86	5
2012	365	303	61	1
2013	524	441	79	4
2014	501	398	99	4
2015	492	411	79	2

Note: Tier 2 Visas were introduced in November 2008, and replaced pre-PBS visas.

Source: Immigration Statistics Oct-Dec 2015, Home Office, table vi_01_q.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas are published in 'Immigration Statistics, October-December 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/2016-03-03/29595/>

Refugees

Royston Smith [29482] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to ensure refugees who arrive in the UK (a) are effectively integrated into local communities and (b) do not place a burden on local authorities.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The United Kingdom has a long and proud tradition of providing safe haven to those who genuinely need our protection. People granted refugee status are given access to the labour market and to benefits; in addition, an integration loan is available to help new refugees to integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

Since 2010 we have provided over £50 million to support integration projects and activities which treat people as equal British citizens and build stronger communities where everyone can live and work successfully alongside each other.

We are working with those local authorities who have agreed to receive Syrian refugees to build systems that can meet the needs of more people more quickly whilst minimising the impact on local communities. At the Spending Review the Government committed £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 of the scheme. The first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs are fully funded by central government using the overseas aid budget.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29482/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6539] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the 20,000 refugees promised to be accepted in the UK will have arrived by May.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6540] To ask Her Majesty's Government what timetable is proposed to ensure that their promise to welcome 20,000 refugees by 2020 is fulfilled.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Government is working closely with local authorities, international delivery partners and the voluntary sector, putting in place the plans and structures to deliver this and ensuring the system is scaled up in a way that protects the interests of all concerned. The number resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors. This includes the number of referrals we have received from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the number of confirmed places we have received from local authorities that are suitable for the specific needs of those who have been accepted for resettlement. Progress on resettlement will be indicated in quarterly immigration statistics - the last set were published in February 2016 and showed 1,085 people resettled between October and December 2015.

The Government remains on track to resettle 20,000 refugees by the end of the Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-29/HL6539/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-29/HL6540/>

Refugees: Children

Ivan Lewis [29533] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to announce the outcome of proposals to assist unaccompanied refugee children from conflict regions.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As announced on 28th January, the Government is working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to lead a new initiative to scope the extent of the need to resettle in the UK unaccompanied refugee children in the exceptional cases where it is in the child's best interests to do so. Discussions with UNHCR are ongoing. It is important that any proposal is considered carefully to ensure it is in the best interests of the children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29533/>

Syrian Refugees

1. Gavin Newlands: What steps [is the Secretary of state for Education] taking to provide additional educational support to young Syrian refugees resettled in the UK. [903895]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Education (Nicky Morgan): It is part of our moral responsibility to ensure that Syrian refugees who are resettled in the United Kingdom receive appropriate support, especially those young children who take refuge here. The International Organisation for Migration assesses the needs of each Syrian refugee to be resettled in the UK, including any educational support required by children. Those assessments help to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place, and that the needs of these young Syrians are met.

Gavin Newlands: The Scottish Government currently fund a guardianship service that is

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

unique to Scotland that offers specific support with welfare, education and the immigration process to local authorities and unaccompanied children. Will the UK Government follow in the Scottish Government's footsteps and increase support for young refugees in the UK?

Reply from Nicky Morgan: I think we all agree that those who are seeking refuge from war-torn areas and conflict zones where they have been in situations of immense stress and disruption need all the support they can get. We have system of appointing caseworkers who work with each family or individual who comes here to seek refuge, to identify their needs. In particular, they ensure that children with special educational needs or mental health needs get support, as well as those who have additional educational issues such as needing extra language support.

David Burrowes: Following the Government's welcome decision on 28 January to provide additional refuge for unaccompanied minors coming from conflict zones such as Syria, but also from Europe, what discussions have been held in the Department about providing additional support for those who reach these shores, and to provide them with the effective support they need?

Reply from Nicky Morgan: My hon. Friend recently visited the camp in Calais, and he will know that a cross-Government taskforce has been set up to ensure that all those who claim asylum or come to live in the United Kingdom under the resettlement programme get that support. In my previous answer I outlined the particular areas that my Department takes an interest in, and we must ensure that support is delivered for those with special educational needs, mental health needs, and those who require additional educational support such as language support.

Keith Vaz : I welcome the steps taken so far. What we have learned from previous arrivals of refugees—for example the Ugandan Asians who came to Leicester many years ago—is that the involvement of the diaspora community is extremely important to make people feel at home. What steps have been taken to ensure that the Syrian diaspora is involved in this process?

Reply from Nicky Morgan: The Government are extremely sensitive to working right the way across the United Kingdom, particularly with local authorities, and to consider the backgrounds of those coming here and their particular needs. Some will, of course, want to be near to those from their communities and the diaspora; for others there may be reasons why perhaps that is not right, given their particular needs. Great care is taken. People's needs are assessed and then they are given a guarantee that housing, education and other provision will be ready and waiting when they arrive here.

Andrew Gwynne: Given that so far the resettlement and asylum dispersal programmes have been pretty unevenly matched across the country, what extra support can be given to local authorities that are taking in a large number of people? That is often matched with challenging situations in schools, in terms of both school places and school standards, and those areas need extra support.

Reply from Nicky Morgan: We work right across the Government, and we have included powers in the Immigration Act 2014 to ensure that help is available to local authorities, particularly those that take in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Kent has taken many of those children, but they have also gone right across the country. Financial help is available through the budget of the Department for International Development, and we have committed £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years two to five of the resettlement scheme. There is additional help for children with special educational needs, and additional funding — including through the pupil premium — for those who have

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

English as an additional language. It is, of course, right to highlight the problems, but the question from the right hon. Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz), and my knowledge of the local area, show that those who come to this country can have huge success and make an enormous contribution to it. We must never forget that.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160307/debtext/160307-0001.htm#1603078000014>

Mental Health Services: Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Luciana Berger [30121] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he is taking to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers are able to access mental health services.

Luciana Berger [30122] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the proportion of refugees and asylum seekers who require mental health treatment.

Reply from Alistair Burt: No estimate has been made of the proportion of refugees and asylum seekers who require mental health treatment as this data is not routinely collected.

Both refugees and asylum seekers are offered health assessments which include consideration of mental health issues, however we do not hold data on the outcome of these.

NHS England and clinical commissioning groups are committed to ensuring fair and equitable mental health care services for all, which includes all Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, including vulnerable migrants, in particular, refugees and those seeking asylum.

NHS England recently launched the Five Year Forward View Mental Health Task Force Report which clearly outlines action to be taken nationally, regionally, and locally to help improve mental health services for BME communities in England.

The full report is available via the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf>

NHS England supported MIND to co-produce the Guidance for commissioners - 'Commissioning mental health services for vulnerable adult migrants' September 2015 launched February 2016. The Guidance aims to ensure National Health Service commissioners and providers provide timely and good quality mental health services for vulnerable migrants in particular refugees and those seeking asylum. The full report is available at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/gov/equality-hub/migrants/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30121/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30122/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Hylton [HL6595] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage families in the UK to sponsor, foster or adopt unaccompanied refugee children who reach this country.

Reply from Lord Bates: In response to the many generous offers of help, the Home Secretary has announced that we will be establishing a register of people and organisations that can provide support for the settlement of refugees.

We have asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

make an assessment of the number and needs of unaccompanied children in conflict regions and advise on when it is in the best interests of the child to be resettled in the UK. The UNHCR has already been clear that these are likely to be exceptional cases. This is because it is not uncommon in an emergency situation for children to be temporarily separated from their parents or other family members who may be looking for them. Efforts to reunite children with relatives or extended family members, who may be looking for them in the region, should be preferred to premature attempts to organise adoption. Some lone refugee children may come to the UK for temporary care, but overall our support is for them to be reunited with parents or other relatives wherever possible.

More information on what the public can do to help Syrian refugees can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/syria-refugees-what-you-can-do-to-help--2>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-01/HL6595/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL6674] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difficulties that refugee children face in accessing legal advice or paying the fee required to register their citizenship; whether legal aid is available for those purposes; what the current fee is for registering citizenship; what proportion of that fee represents profit accumulated by the Home Office; whether they have plans to increase that fee, and if so, by how much.

Reply from Lord Bates: Civil legal aid remains available for advice and representation in relation to applications and appeals for asylum. The majority of unaccompanied refugee children applying for permission to remain in the UK will be seeking asylum, and legal aid will therefore be available. For non-asylum immigration matters and citizenship applications, legal aid is generally not available, although may be provided exceptionally where required by the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government has committed to review the legal aid provisions within the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 within 3-5 years of implementation.

The current fee for a child to register as a British citizen is £749. The estimated unit cost to process this application is currently £223. For 2016/17 the fee will increase to £936 on 18th March 2016 with a rise in estimated unit cost to £272. The power to set fees that are higher than the cost of processing applications is contained within The Immigration Act 2014, which provides that the Home Office may take into account not just the cost of processing an application, but also the benefits and entitlements available to an individual if their application is successful and the cost of exercising any other function in connection with immigration or nationality. The Home Office does not provide exceptions to the requirement to pay application fees for naturalisation or registration as a British citizen. This is because the Home Office considers that citizenship is not a necessary pre-requisite to enable a person to exercise his or her rights in the UK in line with the European Convention on Human Rights.

British nationality applications are not mandatory and many individuals with Indefinite Leave to Remain decide not to apply. A person who has Indefinite Leave to Remain may continue to live in the UK and travel abroad using their existing valid passport and residence permit, visa or travel document.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-03/HL6674/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Lord Hylton [HL6741] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Lord Bates on 2 March (HL Deb, col 824), what qualifications they consider to be adequate for persons conducting the substantive interviews of asylum applicants, with authority to recommend acceptance or rejection of their claims; and what assessment they have made of whether gap-year and undergraduate students, after five weeks of training, have sufficient maturity and empathy to take such decisions.

Reply from Lord Bates: Decision makers working on asylum casework are graded at Executive Officer level except in the suspended Detained Fast Track operation where the predominate grade is Higher Executive Officer due to the requirement on some decision makers to also present appeals. The general entry requirement for direct recruitment to either grade is a minimum of 2 GCE A Level passes A-C and 5 GCSE passes including Mathematics and English. We have also employed staff on temporary contracts but have required them to have a minimum 2:2 Degree, preferably in law.

We recruit high performing students from various universities as asylum decision makers on fixed term appointments and since 2009 have employed 11 law undergraduates of whom 2 are still employed. Applicants send in their CVs, and these are used to inform an initial sift of applications. Successful candidates are then invited to a competency based interview with Home Office staff which tests their maturity and suitability to carry out the role.

At the end of the 5 week training, that all decision makers receive, there is a six month period of mentoring, continued assessment and quality analysis of newly qualified decision maker's work that identifies whether an individual is performing the role to the required quality standards. Before any individual is signed off their initial probationary period and confirmed in role they must be considered to be performing the role to the previously referenced quality standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-07/HL6741/>

Asylum: Families

Thangam Debbonaire [30010] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that refugees arriving in other EU member-states who have family in the UK are identified and supported in being reunited with their relatives.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All migrants arriving in other EU Member States who wish to seek asylum should do so in those States and provide information to the asylum authorities about any family members in the UK or other Member States so that the family unity provisions in the Dublin Regulation can be applied. We are providing further resources to the European Asylum Support Office, including help in border "hotspots" in Greece and Italy, to identify and register asylum applicants, including children at risk on first arrival in the EU.

We will consider any request made to us by other Member States to take responsibility for asylum applicants because they have close family who are legally in the UK in accordance with the terms of the Dublin Regulation.

If not claiming asylum, individuals outside the UK are entitled to apply under the Immigration Rules to join relatives in the UK by making the appropriate visa application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30010/>

Asylum: Children

Imran Hussain [30095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

steps her Department is taking to ensure the protection of minors applying for indefinite leave to remain on the settlement protection route whilst their applications are decided.

Reply from James Brokenshire: UK Visas and Immigration has taken significant steps to enhance support and protection for minors who apply for indefinite leave to remain. Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Home Office to carry out its existing functions in a way that takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK.

As part of its commitment to Section 55, all UK Visas and Immigration employees have received training in order to assist them to identify potential vulnerable minors during the consideration of indefinite leave to remain applications.

UK Visas and Immigration has also implemented a vulnerable minor, and adult, policy along with a National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of human trafficking, a web link to the internal guidance is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-trafficking-guidance-for-competent-bodies>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30095/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Murray [29429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has made to consult stakeholders in advance on the (a) designation of reception zones and (b) determination of the criteria to be included in any order designating such zones in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Home Office appointed COMPASS contractors as providers of housing for asylum seekers with the ability to procure and supply housing in a manner that meets UK housing law. The COMPASS suppliers are required to consult local government formally to ensure relevant housing licensing requirements are met. UKVI officials have engaged with local government, through Strategic Migration Partnerships to devise suitable consultation protocols so that both parties are able to consider the most suitable locations for initial accommodation. In the circumstance that contingency options are deployed, the COMPASS provider is required to inform local dispersal authorities of the intended short term use of properties in their area, as initial accommodation facilities for asylum seekers, including in hotels.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29429/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Murray [29539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (a) when, (b) where and (c) for how long the powers under section 101 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to designate reception zones have been used to date; and how many asylum seekers designated under section 95 of that Act have been so supported.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 introduced the policy of national dispersal, designed to share the impact of asylum seekers across the whole of the UK. Asylum seekers are housed across the UK under voluntary agreements between national government and local authorities that have been in place since 2000. The powers under Section 101 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have not been used to date.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29539/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas [29521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many single destitute asylum seekers were granted accommodation and support under section 4 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the last year because they were (a) unable to leave the UK due to medical reasons and (b) taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK; and how many such applications were made within 21 days of that person's appeal rights being exhausted.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Our records indicate that a total of 105 destitute asylum seekers were granted accommodation and support under section 4 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the last year (2015) due to pregnancy, medical reasons or because they were taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK.

A full breakdown of categories is given below:

(a) unable to leave the UK due to medical reasons - 42 (including 6 due to late pregnancy)

(b) taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK - 63

(c) how many of these applications were made within 21 days of that person's appeal rights being exhausted:

- Medical – 1

- Steps to Leave – 5

This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29521/>

Asylum: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6536] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many initial asylum application decisions have been overturned on appeal in the past five years.

Reply from Lord Bates: Figures on asylum appeal determinations are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release. The following table gives annual figures for asylum appeals that were allowed, from 2011 to 2015.

Asylum appeals allowed, from 2011 to 2015	
Year	Appeals Allowed
2011	2,779
2012	2,208
2013	2,078
2014	1,758
2015	3,234

Source: Table as_14, volume 4 of Asylum data tables, *Immigration Statistics* October to December 2015, Home Office

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-29/HL6536/>

Asylum: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6537] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum applications by those aged 18 to 25 have been overturned on appeal in the past five years.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: The table provided gives annual figures for the number of appeals allowed from applicants aged between 18 and 25 at the time of applying for asylum. This is a subset of published data.

Asylum appeals allowed, for applicants aged 18 to 25 at the time of asylum application, 2011 to 2015

Year	Appeals allowed, age 18 to 25 (1)
2011	804
2012	622
2013	549
2014	476
2015	949

Source: Home Office, subset of published appeals allowed figures in table as_14, volume 4 of the Asylum data tables, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015

(1) Age relates to the age at initial asylum application

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-29/HL6537/>

Detainees: Children

Tulip Siddiq [28828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many referrals her Department has made to the children's section of the Refugee Council related to detainees in immigration removal centres who her Department believed to be children in each year since 2009-10.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Since the Home Secretary announced the immediate closure of Yarl's Wood for families with children on 16 December 2010 it has not been the policy of Her Majesty's Government to detain those we believe are children whilst their asylum claims are under consideration. We do not have records for the number of referrals made in 2009-10.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-29/28828/>

Repatriation: EU Nationals

Christopher Chope [29272] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU migrants left the UK because they had been on job seeker's allowance for three months and had not found a job in the last year.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We do not hold the information requested on EU nationals who have departed. We only hold data on EU nationals who have left following immigration enforcement action.

We have been clear that EU job seekers will not be supported by UK taxpayers, and can be removed if they have not found work within six months. In addition, the new EU settlement negotiated by the Prime Minister confirms that we do not have to pay Universal Credit to EU nationals who come to the UK as job seekers.

From January 2014 to December 2015, we have served over 6,000 administrative removal papers to EEA nationals for a variety of free movement abuses, from non-exercise of Treaty Rights to participation in sham marriages, (2,635 papers were served in 2014, and 3,480 in 2015).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29272/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Deportation: EEA Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord McColl of Dulwich [HL6462] To ask Her Majesty's Government what processes are in place, and what action they have taken, to ensure that EEA nationals who have made applications for discretionary leave to remain (DLR) as confirmed victims of human trafficking are not considered for administrative removal until a decision has been made about their application for DLR.

Lord McColl of Dulwich [HL6463] To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance regarding the rights and treatment of victims of human trafficking has been issued to Home Office staff responsible for making decisions about the administrative removal of EEA nationals, and what specific guidance has been given to caseworkers about the criteria for determining whether or not the administrative removal of a confirmed victim of human trafficking who is an EEA national is proportionate.

Reply from Lord Bates: The processes and guidance in place relating to the factors to take into account in deciding whether to remove a person from the United Kingdom, including EEA nationals and potential victims of trafficking, are found within "Chapter 50: (EEA) EEA administrative removals" of the Enforcement Instructions and Guidance published on gov.uk.

The Home Office will consider exceptional and compassionate individual circumstances that may justify leave on a discretionary basis. The "Discretionary leave" Asylum Instruction on gov.uk gives guidance to Home Office staff on considering whether to grant discretionary leave (DL).

No action is taken to enforce the administrative removal of an EEA national identified as a potential victim of trafficking where their case is still being considered in accordance with the "Discretionary leave" Asylum Instruction. However, DL is not normally granted to EEA nationals (or their family members) where they have free movement rights under EU law and are exercising those treaty rights.

Guidance to immigration enforcement staff on how to identify and manage victims of trafficking is provided in "Chapter 9: identifying victims of trafficking" of Enforcement Instructions and Guidance. "Chapter 53: extenuating circumstances" gives guidance to immigration enforcement staff how to consider any extenuating circumstances. Section 4 of "Chapter 50: (EEA) EEA administrative removals" sets out the criteria that apply in considering whether it is right and reasonable to remove an EEA national and whether it is proportionate given all the circumstances of the case.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-25/HL6462/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-25/HL6463/>

Deportation: EEA Nationals

Lord McColl of Dulwich [HL6459] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EEA nationals have been administratively removed from the UK for not exercising their treaty rights in each calendar year since 2009.

Reply from Lord Bates: On 1 January 2014, The Home Office introduced a new power to remove EEA nationals for abuse of free movement rights.

The table below shows data for removals and for voluntary departures of EEA nationals from 2009 to 2015 by type.

There is no specific breakdown for non-exercise of Treaty Rights.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Removals and voluntary departures for EEA nationals by type							
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013*	2014	2015
Total EEA** enforced removals	769	968	1,299	1,809	2,353	3,134	3,767
Total EEA non-asylum refused entry at port and subsequently departed	440	478	544	641	903	1,411	1,781
Total EEA voluntary departures	24	94	74	78	280	465	716
*Croatia acceded to the EU on 1 July 2013. No data on Croatian nationals has been captured prior to Q3 2013.							

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-25/HL6459/>

Deportation: EEA Nationals

Lord McColl of Dulwich [HL6461] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many EEA nationals with ongoing applications for discretionary leave to remain as victims of human trafficking have been issued with "minded to remove" letters or administrative removal papers since 1 January 2014.

Reply from Lord Bates: Since 01 January 2014, no EEA Nationals with ongoing applications for Discretionary Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom as victims of human trafficking have been served with 'minded to remove' letters or administrative removal papers whilst their applications were being considered. In the same time period, fewer than five applicants were served with papers before they made an application for Discretionary Leave to Remain.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-02-25/HL6461/>

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz [30040] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on individuals or groups involved in smuggling people from mainland Europe to the UK; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who are engaged in such activities.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Europol holds intelligence on more than 40,000 individuals suspected of being involved in migrant smuggling. It would not be appropriate to comment further on ongoing UK operational activity to investigate groups and individuals engaged in smuggling people to the UK from mainland Europe. We will relentlessly pursue those who are engaged in people smuggling. Between 1st April 2015 and 8 March 2016, Immigration Enforcement has achieved 132 disruptions against criminals involved in organised immigration crime.

Last summer, the Prime Minister announced the creation of the Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce bringing together officers from the National Crime Agency, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and the Crown Prosecution Service to exploit every opportunity at source, in transit countries and in Europe to identify and tackle organised crime groups criminal operations. The Taskforce

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

funding was subsequently expanded in November 2015 to increase resources to 100 dedicated officers until 2020.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30040/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Caroline Lucas (1223) UNCR and pathways for admission of Syrian refugees – That this House notes that the world is currently experiencing the greatest refugee crisis since the end of the Second World War with 19.5 million refugees across the globe and another 40 million people internally displaced; further notes that Syria is the largest source of refugees in the world and that since the start of the Syrian conflict nearly 4.8 million people have fled that country due to violence; recognises that the vast majority of Syrian refugees are hosted by countries bordering Syria, including 2.6 million refugees in Turkey, 1.1 million refugees in Lebanon, and 640,000 refugees in Jordan; is concerned by the failure of European member states to work co-operatively to welcome refugees and provide adequate safe and legal routes for refugees to find safety; welcomes the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme that aims to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees in the UK by the end of the Parliament and congratulates the Government on reaching its target of resettling 1,000 Syrian refugees by Christmas 2015; further welcomes the high-level meeting on global responsibility sharing through pathways for admission for Syrian refugees organised by UNHCR that will take place on 30 March 2016 in Geneva; and calls on the Government to use the opportunity of the high-level meeting to ensure that the UK takes greater responsibility for the protection of Syrian refugees by providing safe and legal routes for refugees, including through expansion of the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme, by making it easier for refugees to reunite with family members already in the UK, and by introducing humanitarian visas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1223>

Press Releases

Early reading support for refugee families

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Early-reading-support-for-refugee-families-237a.aspx>

UN rights chief calls on EU to adopt more 'humane' measures on migration

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53412#.VuLG-mR96na>

New Publications

Report on an unannounced inspection of the short-term holding facilities at Longport freight shed, Dover Seaport and Frontier House

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/03/2015-Longport-Dover-Seaport-and-Frontier-web-2015.pdf>

Longport freight shed, Dover Seaport and Frontier House: Service improvement plan

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/03/Service-Improvement-Plan-for-Longport-Dover-and-Frontier-House-2016.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Entitlement and belonging: social restructuring and multicultural Britain

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

News: Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Cameron backs asylum seekers' housing inquiry

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4709786.ece>

G4S warns of potential £57m loss over asylum-seeker housing deal

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/09/g4s-57m-loss-if-government-extends-asylum-seeker-housing-deal>

Unsuccessful attempts to enter UK illegally more than triple in a year

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/09/unsuccessful-attempts-enter-uk-illegally-more-than-triple-year>

More than 1,000 clandestine migrants a month reached Britain last summer

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12186684/More-than-1000-clandestine-migrants-a-month-reached-Britain-last-summer.html>

Number of illegal migrants caught trying to enter Britain soars by 1,300% in three years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3482757/Number-illegal-migrants-caught-trying-enter-Britain-soars-1-300-three-years.html>

Asylum seekers travelling to UK forced to sleep on freight shed's concrete floor

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/08/asylum-seekers-travelling-to-uk-forced-to-sleep-on-freight-sheds-concrete-floor>

Refugee crisis: More than 3,500 migrants held in 'wholly unacceptable' conditions after crossing English Channel to UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-migrants-immigration-centres-unacceptable-conditions-uk-a6918211.html>

Refugees held in 'wholly unacceptable' conditions after Channel crossing

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/12187046/Refugees-held-in-wholly-unacceptable-conditions-after-Channel-crossing.html>

Syrian refugee's 'hearts and borders' plea moves Letters Live audience to tears

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14340181.Syrian_refugee_s_hearts_and_borders_plea_moves_Letters_Live_audience_to_tears/

GPs: Health needs of refugees must be recognised

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/14338162.GPs_Health_needs_of_refugees_must_be_recognised/

GPs overwhelmed by 'harrowing cases' and complex needs of asylum seekers

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/gps-overwhelmed-by-harrowing-cases-and-complex-needs-of-asylum-seekers.14968>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugees and Asylum Seekers (continued)

Middlesbrough mayor calls for fairer dispersion of asylum seekers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/09/middlesbrough-mayor-dave-budd-fairer-dispersion-asylum-seekers>

UK offers Syrian children refuge, but plans to abandon asylum-seeking children when they turn 18

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/mar/09/uk-children-refugees-abandon-18>

News: Detention and Deportation

Detaining women refugees is imprisonment, plain and simple

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/09/detaining-women-refugees-imprisonment-britain-asylum-seekers>

The non-EU workers who'll be deported for earning less than £35,000

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/mar/12/eu-workers-deported-earning-less-35000-employees-americans-australians>

Five foreign criminals leave UK jails every day . . . and stay here

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4709713.ece>

Nearly 6,000 foreign criminals freed to live freely in Britain

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12189742/Nearly-6000-foreign-criminals-freed-to-live-freely-in-Britain.html>

Five criminals a day freed in UK instead of being deported: Almost 6,000 foreign offenders are currently roaming Britain's streets before they are kicked out

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3484964/Five-criminals-day-freed-UK-instead-deported-6-000-foreign-offenders-currently-roaming-Britain-s-streets-kicked-out.html>

News: Archbishop of Canterbury

Migration fears not racist - Archbishop of Canterbury

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35781613>

Archbishop of Canterbury: it is reasonable to fear 'colossal' migration crisis

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/10/reasonable-fear-colossal-migration-crisis-justin-welby-archbishop-canterbury>

Downing Street backs archbishop over immigration comments

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/11/downing-street-backs-archbishop-over-immigration-comments>

Archbishop of Canterbury says it is not racist to fear high level of immigration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/archbishop-of-canterbury-says-it-is-not-racist-to-fear-high-level-of-immigration-a6924601.html>

Justin Welby: Archbishop of Canterbury sparks backlash online after saying it is not racist to fear immigration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/justin-welby-archbishop-of-canterbury-criticised-after-saying-it-is-not-racist-to-fear-immigration-a6925026.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Archbishop of Canterbury (continued)

Justin Welby is wrong. It is racist to blame migrants for your fears about jobs and wages

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/justin-welby-is-wrong-it-is-racist-to-blame-migrants-for-your-fears-about-jobs-and-wages-a6925106.html>

People are entitled to fear impact of 'enormous' numbers of migrants, Archbishop of Canterbury says

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12190478/People-are-entitled-to-fear-impact-of-enormous-numbers-of-migrants-Archbishop-of-Canterbury-says.html>

Justin Welby is right: It's not racist to worry about the migrant effect

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12191532/Justin-Welby-is-right-Its-not-racist-to-worry-about-the-migrant-effect.html>

Of course worrying about immigration doesn't make you racist – why's the Archbishop only just noticed?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12191010/Of-course-worrying-about-immigration-doesnt-make-you-racist-whys-the-Archbishop-only-just-noticed.html>

Welby: it is not racist to have migration fears

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4710538.ece>

It's not racist to fear migration, says the Archbishop of Canterbury: Justin Welby believes it is 'outrageous' to dismiss public's genuine concerns about housing, jobs and the NHS

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3486397/It-s-fine-fear-migrant-influx-says-Archbishop-Canterbury-Justin-Welby-believes-absolutely-outrageous-people-voice-concerns-condemned-racist.html>

Other News

Britain's migration figures to be reviewed

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/12/britains-migration-figures-to-be-reviewed>

Government rejects call to end UK tied visas for domestic workers

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/mar/07/government-rejects-call-scrap-uk-tied-visas-domestic-workers>

Government visa rules are making Britain a 'difficult and unattractive' study destination for international students

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/government-visa-rules-are-making-britain-a-difficult-and-unattractive-study-destination-for-a6925666.html>

EU plan to stop bosses exploiting migrants on short-term projects must go further, says TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/industrial-issues/eu-plan-stop-bosses-exploiting-migrants-short-term-projects-must-go-further-says>

Migrant men with legal right to be in UK 'face exclusion and hostility'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-men-with-legal-right-to-be-in-uk-face-exclusion-and-hostility-a6917611.html>

Immigration and Asylum

Other News (continued)

Polish migrants guide on how to get the most out of benefits

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/12189594/Polish-migrants-guide-on-how-to-get-the-most-out-of-benefits.html>

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Community Relations

News

Minorities must 'pass the Norman Tebbit test' – Chief Rabbi

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/12189152/Minorities-must-pass-the-Norman-Tebbit-test-Chief-Rabbi.html>

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Health Services

Luciana Berger [29749] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that (a) LGBT and (b) BAME communities are represented in literature relating to (i) sexual and (ii) mental health.

Reply from Jane Ellison: It is a matter for commissioners to assess how best to target specific communities within their populations based upon consideration of the cultural diversity and make up and their responsibilities to have regard to equality under the Equality Act 2010 and the need to reduce health inequalities under the NHS Act 2006 as applicable.

Public Health England has produced an action plan that promotes the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and recognises the interrelationship between sexual and mental health. The action plan is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/401005/PHEMSMAActionPlan.pdf

In July 2014, the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health published guidance for commissioners of mental health services for those from black and minority ethnic (BME) communities which is available at:

<http://www.icpmh.info/wp-content/uploads/icpmh-bme-guide.pdf>

The Department has been working with NHS England and commissioners to disseminate this guidance which describes what 'good' mental health services for people from BME communities look like.

The Joint Commissioning Panel also provides guidance on public mental health which highlights taking account of people at higher risk of mental health problems in their commissioning strategies, which includes people from LGBT communities:

<http://www.icpmh.info/good-services/public-mental-health-services/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-03/29749/>

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Neil Coyle [27836] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps the Government is taking to close the higher education attainment gap between BME students and other students.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The Higher Education Green Paper sets out steps the Government plans to take to improve outcomes for students, including BME students. We have consulted on how the Teaching Excellence Framework will recognise the efforts that providers make to improve the access and experience of students from all backgrounds, and the importance of this to the overall student learning experience.

Ministers have also asked Universities UK to establish an expert advisory group on social mobility and higher education to identify what more can be done to address this gap, and other issues concerning social mobility. The group will provide advice to the Minister.

In addition, new guidance from Ministers to the Director of Fair Access (DfA), published on 11 February, asks the Director to continue to address gaps in outcomes, including those for BME groups, through Access Agreements agreed with universities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-22/27836/>

Honours

Charlotte Leslie [29708] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many people of each (a) ethnicity, (b) religion and (c) occupation have received an honorary knighthood in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from James Duddridge: The following table provides the available information on all recipients of an honorary knighthood in each of the last ten years, including the range of their occupations and their nationalities.

Nominators are given the opportunity to provide information on ethnicity of the person they are nominating, but rarely do. Information on the religion of honours nominees or recipients is not collected.

Honorary Knighthood:

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/457448/original/Honorary%20Knighthoods%20-%20corrected%20version.docx>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-03/29708/>

News

Fire brigades 'need to improve ethnic diversity'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-35793572>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions

Religious Hate Crimes

Stewart Maxwell: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of recorded religious hate crimes in 2014-15 expressed as the number of incidents per 1,000 members of each religious affiliation, also broken down by incidents recorded under section (a) 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 and (b) 1 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-29827)

Reply from Paul Wheelhouse: The reports titled Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2014-15 and Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in 2014-15 were published on 12 June 2015 and presented information on the number of charges that were reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) by the police in 2014-15 under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 and section 1 and section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. The following table shows religious aggravation charges that were reported to COPFS in 2014-15 for conduct which was derogatory to each religion under the two pieces of legislation. The final column presents the number of charges per 1,000 members of each, as recorded in the 2011 census. It is important to note that reported charges only contain information about the nature of the offensive conduct and not about the religious affiliation of the victims of incidents. In 41% of charges, the victim of the conduct was a police officer (a proportional decrease from 48% in 2013-14), and in 15% of charges the victim was a worker (a proportional increase from 11% in 2013-14). The occasions when religious abuse targeted people within the 'general community', and not a particular individual, represented 36% of all charges (a proportional increase from 26% in 2013-14). This suggests that for many of the charges it is unlikely the accused knew the religious affiliation/belief of the victim at the time of incident, and that the attacks were more arbitrary in nature.

Table: Religious aggravation and offensive behaviour at football charges derogatory to religions in Scotland in 2014-15 per 1,000 members.

Religious aggravation charges in 2014-15 ¹	Offensive behaviour at football charges in 2014-15					
The religion that the conduct was derogatory towards ⁵	Number of charges ²	Number of members ³	Charges per 1,000 members	Number of charges ²	Number of members ³	Charges per 1,000 members
Christianity ^{4, 5}	479	2,850,199	0.17	48	2,850,199	0.02
of which: Roman Catholicism	328	841,053	0.39	42	841,053	0.05
of which: Protestantism	145	1,717,871	0.08	6	1,717,871	0
Judaism	25	5,887	4.25	1	5,887	0.17
Islam	71	76,737	0.93	1	76,737	0.01
Unknown	9	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Other	1	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Table notes:

1. Information on religious aggravations is taken from Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2014-15 and information on offensive behaviour at football charges is taken from Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in 2014-15, published on the Scottish Government website on 12 June 2015.

2. The number of charges refers to the religion that the conduct was derogatory towards and not the number of charges where victims had the relevant affiliation. Information about victims' religious affiliations is not recorded by the police.

3. Religious group membership information data for this parliamentary question and in 2013-14 (S4W- 24173 on 9 February 2015) were taken from the 2011 census. These were published in census release 2A, on 26 September 2013. Previous calculations of the number of incidents per 1,000 members for 2011-12 and 2012-13, presented in response to previous parliamentary questions (S4W- 15809 on 7 July 2013 and S4W-11536 on 12 December 2012), were based on membership data as presented in the 2001 census:

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release2a/StatsBulletin2A.pdf>

4. There are six charges in the Christianity total for religious aggravations charges that referred to conduct which was offensive to Christianity in general and were not directed towards Protestantism or Roman Catholicism.

5. Religious group membership data is based on self-reported affiliation in the 2011 census. Christian denominations are presented in the census under three categories: 'Roman Catholic', 'Church of Scotland' and 'other Christian.' For the purpose of this table only 'Church of Scotland' membership has been attributed as 'Protestant' because 'other Christian' may include a mixture of Protestant and non-Protestant denominations. As a consequence this may lead to an under-reporting of the 'charges per 1,000 members' in the Protestant category. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-29827&ResultsPerPage=10>

Tackling sectarianism

James Kelly: To ask the Scottish Government what projects have received funding through its tackling sectarianism initiatives in 2015-16, also broken down by the (a) amount awarded and (b) date the award was made.(S4W-30156)

Reply from Paul Wheelhouse: This government has provided more funding for work to tackle sectarianism than any administration before us. Our funding has supported 38 projects and a small grant programme to tackle sectarianism in 2015-16. Confirmation of awards was made on 15 January 2015 with all grants beginning on 1 April 2015.

The detailed breakdown requested for funded projects is set out in the following link:

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/Multimedia-Library/Tackling-Sectarianism-funding-2015-16-e59.aspx>

Additionally, on 12 June 2015, we confirmed that we would provide an additional £66,883 of funding for the national community justice voluntary organisation, SACRO (Safeguarding Communities – Reducing Offending) to develop its Diversion from Prosecution Service as a National Service for people who are

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

charged under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communication (Scotland) Act 2012.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30156&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Question

Police: Training

Fiona Mactaggart [29319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training front line officers will receive to ensure they record all forms of religiously motivated hate crime.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The police have made great strides in responding to hate crime in recent years. New hate crime guidance, which includes information on dealing with and recording all forms of hate crime was issued to all police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the College of Policing in May 2014.

The Government is working closely with the police on the development of the new requirement to record data on religiously motivated hate crime by faith. The National Policing Lead for hate crime will provide guidance and support to forces to ensure there is consistent data collection for religious hate crimes from 1 April this year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29319/>

News

Sajid Javid to head anti-racism taskforce

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/mar/08/sajid-javid-head-anti-racism-taskforce>

Muslim student's 'niqab veil ripped off' in attack at King's College London

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-students-veil-ripped-off-in-attack-at-kings-college-london-a6920886.html>

Clean for the Queen campaign accused of using racist term

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/06/clean-for-queen-campaign-accused-using-racist-term-spic>

Top Tory councillor facing quit calls after retweeting Islamophobic slurs

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14335126.Top_Tory_councillor_facing_quit_calls_after_retweeting_Islamophobic_slurs/

Ex-archbishop attacks university anti-semites

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Education/article1678027.ece

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Holyrood should give its legislative consent to the Scotland Bill, says Devolution Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/97425.aspx>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Devolution (Further Powers) Committee Report: New Powers for Scotland: Final Report on the Scotland Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Reports/DFPS042016R03.pdf>

News

Devolution committee recommends Scotland Bill approval

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35773321>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

European and External Relations Committee

Human Rights

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10416&i=95872#ScotParlOR>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Tulip Siddiq [28933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how the Government plans to enforce the reporting duties for female genital mutilation for professionals under Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, as amended.

Tulip Siddiq [28934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the female genital mutilation reporting duties under Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 apply to professionals who (a) are members of any of the professional bodies on the Accredited Voluntary Register and (b) work in sectors where there is no statutory requirement to be members of a professional body and who themselves are not members of professional bodies.

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

The new FGM mandatory reporting duty requires specified professionals to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police. It applies to teachers and health and social care professionals regulated by a body which is overseen by the

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (with the exception of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland) in England and Wales.

The duty does not apply to non-regulated professionals. This includes non-regulated professionals who are members of bodies on the Accredited Voluntary Register. However, our guidance on the duty is clear that such professionals also have a responsibility to take appropriate action in relation to any identified or suspected case of FGM, in line with wider safeguarding frameworks and guidance, including the multi-agency guidance on FGM which we are putting on a statutory footing. Where professionals fail to comply with the duty, this should be dealt with in accordance with professional bodies' existing disciplinary procedures.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-29/28933/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-29/28934/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Tulip Siddiq [29018] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many medical professionals have completed each of Health Education England's e-learning training sessions on female genital mutilation in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15 and (c) 2015-16 to date; and which e-learning training packages are currently available for medical professionals to access.

Reply from Ben Gummer: Health Education England's Healthcare Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) e-learning programme was launched on 19 March 2015 and has been available for 11 months to date. We are therefore unable to provide statistics for the periods 2013-14 and 2014-15.

For the period 19 March 2015 to date, the numbers of professionals who have completed each of the e-learning modules are:

- Introduction to FGM – 4,325 times completed by users;
- communication Skills for FGM Consultations – 3,432 times completed;
- legal and Safeguarding Issues Regarding FGM in the United Kingdom – 3,198 times completed;
- FGM: Issues, Presentation and Management in Children and Young Women – 3,116 times completed; and
- FGM: Issues, Presentation and Management in Women and Around Pregnancy – 3,008 times completed.

All five of the above e-learning packages are currently available to healthcare professionals including school nurses, practice nurses, health visitors and general practitioners, via the e-learning for healthcare training platform.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-29/29018/>

Forced Marriage: Convictions

Tulip Siddiq [29180] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many convictions there have been for breach of forced marriage protection orders in each month since section 120 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into force.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: This information is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428937/outcomes-by-offence-tables.xlsx

The next available annual statistics will be published in May 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29180/>

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Forced Marriage

The following two questions both received the same answer

Tulip Siddiq [29181] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many forced marriage protection orders (a) applied for and (b) issued have been emergency orders in each quarter since the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force; and what proportion of such orders applied for have been issued in each of those quarters.

Tulip Siddiq [29184] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of applications for forced marriage protection orders have led to the issuing of an Order in each quarter since the Force Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 came into force.

Reply from Caroline Dinenege: Statistics on Forced Marriage Protection Orders are publicly available as part of the Family Courts Statistics Quarterly series at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-court-statistics-quarterly>. Under this series, the document "Family court tables" provides statistics on the number of applications and orders made in each quarter since 2009. The next publication of Family Court Statistics Quarterly is due on 31 March 2016. This will provide data up to the end of December 2015.

Specific data on the proportion of applications which have led to the issue of a Forced Marriage Protection order are set out in Table 1. The available data on "emergency protection orders" relates to ex parte applications for Forced Marriage Protection Orders and is set out in Tables 2a and 2b.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29181/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-01/29184/>

Domestic Violence: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Champion [29983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much the Government has spent on specialist BAME domestic violence services in (a) 2014-15 and (b) 2015-16 to date.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government is committed to tackling domestic violence in all its forms and is determined to ensure all victims, including those from black and minority ethnic communities, have access to appropriate support. The previous Government provided £40 million of dedicated funding for domestic and sexual violence services between 2011 and 2015 equating to £10 million per year. This funding was extended until April 2016, supplemented by an additional £10 million for refuges, and a £3.5 million fund to boost the provision of domestic violence services including refuges. This funding supported all victims of domestic abuse, including victims from black and minority ethnic communities.

A new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy published on 8 March 2016 sets out how the Government will support local authorities in implementing tailored services for victims who experience different forms of discrimination or additional barriers to accessing support. This includes women from black and minority ethnic communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/29983/>

New Publications

Female Genital Mutilation – Oct to Dec 2015, Enhanced Dataset

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/fgmdec15>

Other UK Parliament and Government New Publications (continued)

Forced Marriage Unit - Statistics 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/505827/Forced_Marriage_Unit_statistics_2015.pdf

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New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Guidance for charity trustees on the European Union referendum

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2146/v10_guidance-on-eu-referendum_web-copy.pdf

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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>

Consideration of amendments, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10419&i=95897#ScotParlOR>

Consideration of amendments, Local Government and Regeneration Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10423&i=95948#ScotParlOR>

**** Education Bill**

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

Royal Assent

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/97347.aspx>

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

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

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10417&i=95890#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10417&i=95891#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10417&i=95894&c=1919510#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill74BS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Higher%20Education%20Governance%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill74BS042016.pdf)

Bills in Progress

Scottish Parliament (continued)

**** Lobbying Bill**

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

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10425&i=96008#ScotParIOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10425&i=96009#ScotParIOR>

Bill passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10425&i=96013#ScotParIOR>

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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0096/amend/ml096-l-Rev.htm>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160309-0001.htm#16030940000606>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

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

Scotland Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Tackling migrant smuggling: is the EU legislation fit for purpose? (closing date 6 April 2016)
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2015/consulting_0031_en.htm

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

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

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

Creating A Fairer Scotland: What Matters To You? (no closing date given)
<http://fairer.scot/get-in-touch/>

Primary care for new migrants (no closing date given)
<https://newmigrantsinprimarycare.wordpress.com/survey/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** closes this week!**

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:

Funding Opportunities (continued)

- 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/>

Creative Communities Fund – Refugee Festival Scotland

closing date for applications: 21 March 2016

Scottish Refugee Council fund to assist community groups that are planning to hold an event during Refugee Festival Scotland (14-26 June 2016). The theme of this year's festival is "Solidarity". For detailed information see contact 0141 248 9799 / festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/gwjyu5e>. Application forms can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/zq3ngsp>

New Beginnings Fund

closing date for applications: 29 March 2016

Foundation Scotland grants to recognise and support local groups working to integrate refugees and asylum seekers into local communities to help dispel tensions and prevent misconceptions on both sides. For detailed information and application forms see <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/new-beginnings/>

Volunteering Support Grant

closing date for applications: 31 March 2016

Voluntary Action Fund grants to support third sector organisations to create new volunteering projects to increase the diversity of their volunteers (especially those experiencing disadvantage); and improve opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering. For detailed information and an application form contact VSFenquiries@vaf.org.uk / 01383 620780 or see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

17 March 2016 in Glasgow

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Shaping a Better Future with Refugees in Scotland - What Next?

17 March 2016 in Glasgow (9.30-2.30)

Scottish Refugee Council workshops to discuss support and services in Scotland for refugees, asylum seekers and their children, policy influencing, and work with communities. For information contact events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://bit.ly/1njmxY6>

**** Multicultural Family Fun Day**

19 March 2016 in Stirling (11.00-3.00)

Central Scotland Regional Equality Council event in partnership with Action in Mind with free activities for all, information sessions on mental health and wellbeing, and an information marketplace. For information contact admin@csrec.org.uk / 01324 610 950

Race Equality Framework for Scotland Launch

21 March 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Scottish Government launch of the new Race Equality Framework for Scotland that will guide the Scottish Government's work on race equality from 2016 to 2030. For information and to book a place see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/race-equality-framework-for-scotland-launch-event-tickets-22538201367>

Working with Interpreters

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

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.

Your Scottish Parliament: Your Voice

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

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

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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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