

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Support for Asylum Seekers

Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government what support it can provide to asylum seekers in Scotland with children who have been unsuccessful in their application for residence and who are facing destitution, in light of reported concerns about the potential impact of the proposals in the Immigration Bill 2015-16. (S4W-30270)

Reply from Alex Neil: Immigration legislation prevents the Scottish Government from offering support to asylum seekers with children, whose applications have been refused, and who have no recourse to public funds.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30270&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Support for Asylum Seekers

Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government what support it can provide to asylum seekers in Scotland to ensure that they can access the justice system, in light of reported concerns about the potential impact of the proposals in the Immigration Bill 2015-16. (S4W-30273)

Reply from Paul Wheelhouse: As outlined in the answer to S4W-30268 on 15 March 2016 from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights, Scottish Ministers have expressed our concern to the UK Government about the impact on asylum seekers of proposals contained in their Immigration Bill. In Scotland, asylum seekers are able to apply for publicly funded legal assistance under the same eligibility criteria as any applicant facing legal proceedings and their legal status is not a barrier. In general terms, residency is not considered when applying for legal aid in Scotland. Where it is available under the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986, a person can apply for and be granted legal assistance subject to the statutory tests. For asylum cases at the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal, asylum seekers can access 'assistance by way of representation'. In most cases only a means test is applied and all of these applications will be passed on merits.

In addition to the general availability of publicly funded legal assistance, the Scottish Government has provided £100,000 of funding in 2015-16 for a specific project run by the Legal Services Agency which works with women and children in Scotland who have an unsettled asylum/immigration position and who have experienced gender-based violence in their country of origin and/or the UK. This project can provide advice, assistance and representation on claiming asylum in the UK and immigration status. 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-30273&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration Bill

Jim Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government whether it has made representations to (a) the UK Government, (b) non-governmental organisations and (c) children's charities regarding the impact of the proposals in the Immigration Bill 2015-16 on the welfare and status of asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. (S4W-30268)

Reply from Alex Neil: I have written to the Immigration Minister four times (on 13 August, 10 September, 8 December and 16 December 2015) to express the Scottish Government's concerns about the impact on asylum seekers of proposals contained in the Immigration Bill relating to asylum. The Scottish Government has not made representations to non-governmental organisations or children's charities about the Immigration Bill, although ministers and officials are in regular contact with organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers, including on this issue.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30268&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debate

UNHCR: Admission Pathways for Syrian Refugees

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160316/halltext/160316h0001.htm#1603163100001>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Tommy Sheppard [30682] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of immigration cases were designated as complex in (a) 2015, (b) 2014 and (c) 2013.

Tommy Sheppard [30683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time was for immigration cases designated as complex in (a) 2015, (b) 2014 and (c) 2013.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Following feedback from customers and partners UKV&I introduced new service standards in January 2014. As such statistical information for 2013 is not available.

The table below shows the number and proportion of immigration cases designated as complex in 2014 and 2015

	Complex Case	Total Apps Received	% of Complex Cases
2014 (01/04/2014 - 31/12/2014)	87,219	412,337	21%
2015	84,435	513,475	16%

Following feedback from customers and partners UKV&I introduced new service standards in January 2014. As such statistical information for 2013 is not available. Our records indicate the average waiting time (days) for immigration cases that are designated as complex is as follows.

	Average Waiting Time
2014 (01/04/2014 - 31/12/2014)	122
2015	163
Overall Average	147

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30682/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30683/>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6862] To ask Her Majesty's Government in immigration cases, who decides whether a case is "exceptional".

Reply from Lord Bates: The decision as to whether a case is "exceptional", according to the type of application and the circumstances of the case, will be made by an Immigration Officer, an Entry Clearance Officer, an official acting on behalf of the Secretary of State or a Minister.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-09/HL6862/>

Immigration

Andrew Smith [29518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied to have their circumstances changed to give them recourse to public funds in the last quarter; and what proportion of such applications were successful in (a) the first quarter of 2016 and (b) the second quarter of 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Data for Q1 2016 is not yet available. However, in the last quarter for which statistics are publicly available (October - December

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2015), 765 people applied to have their circumstances changed to give them recourse to public funds and of these 3.9% were successful, however a significant proportion of these cases are pending their final decision and as such the final proportion may be higher.

In Q2 2015 (April – June 2015), 750 people applied to have their circumstances changed to give them recourse to public funds. 735 of those applications had been concluded by the end of the publicly available statistics and 270 had been successful, which equates to a proportion of 36.7%.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-02/29518/>

Arts: Migrant Workers

Lord Stevenson of Balmacara [HL6845] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to permit exemptions to the proposed immigration skills charge for companies in the creative industries where such companies contribute through voluntary levies to the Creative Skillset Skills Investment Fund, or to the collective arrangements to fund training that are currently in force.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The Government is considering carefully the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations on the rate and scope of the Immigration Skills Charge. This includes considering the impact on sectors with other skills levies or charges in place. In advance of finalising the regulations that will introduce the charge from April 2017, we will take account of evidence about the likely impact on different types of organisation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-08/HL6845/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anne Main [30748] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many nationals of other EU member states who were (a) originally born outside of the EU and (b) originally born outside of the EU and became a citizen of that EU member state entered the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Rob Wilson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

The number of nationals of other EU member states who were originally born outside of the EU and entered the UK in each of the last five years, are shown in the table below. The latest data available are for 2014. Please note that these estimates are for inflows of long-term international migrants for each reference period. Those who arrived prior to 2014 may no longer be resident within the UK. Long-term immigration to the United Kingdom of EU citizens who were born outside the EU, 2010 to 2014

	Estimate	Confidence Interval (+/-)
2010	7,000	3,000
2011	8,000	3,000
2012	9,000	4,000
2013	10,000	3,000
2014	11,000	4,000
2010-2014	44,000	8,000

Source: International Passenger Survey (IPS) Note: A Long-term international migrant is someone who changes their country of residence for a period of 12 months or more (UN definition)

Please note that the above table provides estimates of non-EU born immigrants to the UK who have EU citizenship. It is not an estimate of the number of non-EU

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

born who have acquired EU citizenship since arriving to the EU. For example, some of the immigrants included within these estimates may have been EU citizens since birth despite being born outside of the EU (for example, those born abroad to parents who are armed forces personnel).

Estimates are based on results of the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and are subject to a margin of uncertainty. For example, with our estimate of those arriving between 2010 and 2014 (44,000 with a confidence interval of +/- 8,000) we expect the true number of migrants to be within the range 36,000 to 52,000 in 19 out of 20 possible samples drawn.

Further details on the IPS and confidence intervals can be found at

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/methodologies/longterminternationalmigrationfrequentlyaskedquestionsandbackgroundnotes>

In regards to part b of your query on how many nationals of other EU member states who were originally born outside of the EU and then subsequently became a citizen of that EU member state, entered the UK in each of the last five years; these data are not collected by ONS.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30748/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anne Main [30750] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people from other EU member states have (a) entered the UK in each year since 2006 and (b) are living in the UK; and under what heading those people are classified in the provisions of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006.

Reply from Rob Wilson: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

With regards to part (a), estimates of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) to and from the UK are produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) primarily based on data from the International Passenger Survey, with adjustments made for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency data on migration to and from Northern Ireland, based on GP registrations. LTIM estimates are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant, that is, someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of one year or more.

Table 1, below, shows LTIM estimates of the number of people from other EU member states who have entered the UK in each year since 2006 (please note that calendar year 2014 is the latest data available).

Estimates of LTIM are subject to a margin of uncertainty. For example, with our estimate of those arriving from another EU country in 2006 (210,000 with a confidence interval of +/- 30,000), we expect the true number of migrants to be within the range 180,000 to 240,000 in 19 out of 20 possible samples drawn.

Table 1 – LTIM estimates of immigration from EU countries¹, 2006 to 2014

Year of Arrival	Estimate	Confidence Interval
2006	210,000	+/-30,000
2007	220,000	+/-31,000
2008	224,000	+/-30,000
2009	198,000	+/-21,000
2010	208,000	+/-24,000
2011	203,000	+/-20,000

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2012	182,000	+/-20,000
2013	220,000	+/-22,000
2014 ²	287,000	+/-27,000

Source: *Long-Term International Migration*

¹ Estimates are for migrants resident in EU countries immediately prior to migration. These estimates do not take account of nationality (for example, migrants to the UK that have arrived from an EU country of residence will include British nationals returning to the UK and non-EU nationals migrating from an EU country).

With regards to part (b), ONS collects data on the country of birth and nationality of the UK population from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The APS is the Labour Force Survey plus various sample boosts. It is a household survey and so does not include people living in most types of communal establishment.

Table 2, below, shows the number of people who were resident in the UK in 2014 with EU nationality, whose year of arrival was between 2006 to 2014 (please note that calendar year 2014 is the latest data available). These data are unable to be broken down further by country of previous residence, since the APS does not collect this information.

Estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty, and confidence intervals are provided alongside the estimates.

Table 2 – Estimated population of the UK in 2014 with EU nationality by year of arrival (2006 to 2014)

Year of Arrival	EU Nationals	
	Estimate	Confidence Interval
2006	216,000	+/-21,000
2007	204,000	+/-20,000
2008	159,000	+/-18,000
2009	150,000	+/-17,000
2010	181,000	+/-19,000
2011	172,000	+/-18,000
2012	219,000	+/-21,000
2013	222,000	+/-21,000
2014 ²	92,000	+/-13,000

Source: *Annual Population Survey*

² Estimates for those who arrived in 2014 will only include those people who arrived in the UK during 2014 and were then subsequently interviewed by the APS before the end of the year. It will therefore not be comparable with earlier years. British citizens are not included within the table above.

Table 1 refers to flows to and from the UK and table 2 refers to stocks, i.e. the population living in the UK. It can be seen that the estimates provided differ between the two tables, and in particular, in some years, the estimates in Table 2 are higher than the estimates in Table 1. Although this appears inconsistent at first glance, there are a number of reasons why this may be the case, primarily:

- Table 1 shows estimates by country of last residence and not by nationality, as described in footnote 1 on Table 1. Table 2 shows estimates by nationality, and therefore one would expect slight differences between the two estimates
- There is a level of uncertainty around these estimates (for which confidence intervals are provided)
- The data come from different sources and are not directly comparable (differing samples and coverage).

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Information classifying EEA migrants entering the UK, or classifying EEA migrants living in the UK, using headings of the Immigration (European Economic Area) regulations 2006 is not collected.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30750/>

Visas: Students

Rushanara Ali [29894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of visa arrangements for international students on the number of those students coming to study in the UK.

James Brokenshire: The student migration system we inherited was too weak, and open to wide-spread abuse, damaging the UK's reputation as a provider of world-class education. The National Audit Office reported that in 2009/10 up to 50,000 students may have come to work, not study.

We have clamped down on immigration abuse from poor quality institutions selling immigration rather than education, and since 2010 we have struck off more than 920 bogus colleges. Visa applications for the further education sector, where abuse has been most prevalent over recent years, are down 75 per cent compared with 2010.

At the same time, we have maintained a highly competitive offer for international students who would like to study at our world-class institutions. This is borne out by the figures: visa applications from international students to study at British universities are up by 16 per cent since 2010, whilst visa applications to our world-leading Russell Group institutions are up by 39 per cent since 2010.

We will continue to reform the student visa system to tackle abuse and deliver an effective immigration system that works in the national interest.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/29894/>

Refugees

Baroness Berridge [HL6675] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the light of the ongoing problems faced by the Yazidi community and children affected by the conflict in Iraq and Syria, they will reassess the criteria for eligibility for the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme and other UK resettlement schemes.

Reply from Lord Bates: Under the current scheme, only UNHCR registered Syrian refugees are eligible under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme, which has been expanded to resettle up to 20,000 during this Parliament. We work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify cases that they deem in need of resettlement according to seven agreed vulnerability criteria for the Syrian Resettlement Scheme.

The Syrian Resettlement Scheme is operated in addition to our global resettlement schemes: Gateway and Mandate, which are not nationality specific.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-03/HL6675/>

Scholarships: Refugees

Ben Howlett [30498] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, how many university scholarships have been taken up by Syrian refugees in the last five years.

Joseph Johnson: This information is not held by the department or its agencies. The sector led Supporting Professionalism in Admissions Programme (SPA) has published good practice guidance on admissions for refugees and asylum

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seekers.

Through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Government is working closely with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify those most at risk and bring them to the UK.

The UK has been at the forefront of the international response to the Syrian crisis. On 4 February 2016, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced that the UK will more than double our total pledge to the Syria crisis from £1.12 billion to over £2.3 billion. This is our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis and means that the UK is one of the largest donors to the Syria crisis.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-09/30498/>

Refugees: Syria

Thangam Debbonaire [30008] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what access to higher education Syrian refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme will have.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: Syrian refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme will have access to home fee status and student support in England for higher education. Those granted humanitarian protection will be able, like UK citizens, to secure access to support after three years' lawful ordinary residency in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-07/30008/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Steve McCabe [30647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) unaccompanied children and (b) partners of refugees who had already been granted asylum in the UK (i) applied for and (ii) were granted asylum in the UK in each of the last three years.

Steve McCabe [30648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) unaccompanied children and (b) partners of refugees who had already been granted asylum in the UK have a pending application for asylum in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on asylum claims from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the Immigration Statistics release. This includes information on applications received, decisions made by sex, age and country of nationality.

The Home Office does not centrally record the number of people that apply for asylum who have a partner in the UK who has already been granted. This could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30647/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30648/>

Asylum

Steve McCabe [30649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to review the policy limiting the reuniting of refugee families to children under the age of 18 and partners of refugees who have been granted asylum in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Our refugee family reunion policy allows immediate family members of a person in the UK with refugee leave or

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humanitarian protection status - that is a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18, who formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country of origin - to reunite with them in the UK. We have no plans to widen these criteria, which are fully compliant with our international obligations and enable thousands of people each year to be reunited with their families in the UK.

However, where a family reunion application fails under the Immigration Rules, the Entry Clearance Officer must also consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting a visa outside the Rules. This caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances.

We are currently reviewing our process for dealing with family reunion applications in consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. As part of that review we are working closely with the British Red Cross. We have committed to improving our guidance to caseworkers and redesigning the application form to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-10/30649/>

Asylum: Scotland

Ian Murray [30428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to exercise her powers under section 101(3) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 only with the agreement of Ministers of the Scottish Government, as set out under section 101(7) of that Act.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Asylum seekers are housed across the UK under voluntary agreements between national government and local authorities that have been in place since 2000. The Home Office maintains an active partnership with local governments across the UK, including those in Scotland, and funds Strategic Migration Partnerships to plan for the most appropriate dispersal of asylum seekers. The partnerships consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments to dispersal patterns can be made where appropriate.

Local authorities are consulted before asylum seekers are placed in their area, so that the potential impact on communities and local services is fully considered. We continue to work closely with a wide range of local authorities, including those in Scotland, to increase the number of areas that voluntarily accommodate and support people seeking asylum and protection – every local authority is encouraged to contribute.

There are powers in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to designate areas of the country as “reception zones” if it is believed that a local authority covering the particular area has suitable housing that can be used to accommodate destitute asylum seekers. The Home Office has not used these powers, but would consult fully with local authorities and Ministers of the Scottish Government if they were minded to use them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-09/30428/>

Asylum: Housing

Ian Murray [30429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to investigate complaints about outsourced asylum accommodation centres; and whether she has received complaints on the operation in Glasgow of her Department's outsourced asylum accommodation contract with Serco and its sub-contractor Orchard and Shipman.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: All accommodation providers are monitored closely to ensure accommodation meets contractual standards; this includes measures to ensure issues and complaints are quickly addressed. Failure of accommodation providers to resolve issues within strict time limits may result in the application of service credits.

Asylum seekers are encouraged to report issues about their accommodation to their accommodation provider for them to resolve. The Department also provides information to all asylum seekers, including direct telephone numbers to local and national UKVI staff where they can raise issues about the condition of their accommodation. As a result of recent improvements to the Home Office inspection regime the Contract Compliance Team measures service delivery via a short questionnaire to assess the level of contact, welcome briefing and support from the provider.

We are taking further steps to ensure asylum seekers' voices are heard so that they feel confident to report complaints about their accommodation or any concerns they are having about their safety. To help achieve this, an advisory Board has been established which will enable the Home Office to discuss accommodation related issues with key NGO stakeholders, including those that pertain to issues raised regarding accommodation in Glasgow.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-09/30429/>

Asylum

Hilary Benn [30536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from (a) Syria, (b) Afghanistan, (c) Iraq, (d) Kosovo, (e) Albania, (f) Pakistan, (g) Eritrea, (h) Nigeria and (i) Iran have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The question has been interpreted to mean asylum applications and initial decisions made in 2015. The number of applications for asylum, initial decisions and total grants in each quarter of 2015 from nationals of (a) Syria, (b) Afghanistan, (c) Iraq, (d) Kosovo, (e) Albania, (f) Pakistan, (g) Eritrea, (h) Nigeria and (i) Iran is in the table below.

Asylum applications, initial decisions and grants for main applicants in each quarter of 2015, from nationals of: Afghanistan, Albania, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria				
Quarter	Country of nationality	Total applications	Total initial decisions (1)	Of which: total grants (2)
2015 Q1	Afghanistan	283	458	184
2015 Q1	Albania	362	476	107
2015 Q1	Eritrea	698	703	543
2015 Q1	Iran	435	980	586
2015 Q1	Iraq	211	242	82
2015 Q1	Kosovo	6	9	0
2015 Q1	Nigeria	214	330	45
2015 Q1	Pakistan	535	1,019	235
2015 Q1	Syria	524	385	293
2015 Q2	Afghanistan	414	220	76
2015 Q2	Albania	354	322	99
2015 Q2	Eritrea	759	902	303
2015 Q2	Iran	484	688	408

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2015 Q2	Iraq	231	189	41
2015 Q2	Kosovo	7	4	0
2015 Q2	Nigeria	188	180	28
2015 Q2	Pakistan	483	447	91
2015 Q2	Syria	384	707	625
2015 Q3	Afghanistan	749	379	128
2015 Q3	Albania	382	260	50
2015 Q3	Eritrea	1,385	953	373
2015 Q3	Iran	863	619	309
2015 Q3	Iraq	632	273	48
2015 Q3	Kosovo	6	7	0
2015 Q3	Nigeria	222	203	33
2015 Q3	Pakistan	746	385	69
2015 Q3	Syria	790	607	533
2015 Q4	Afghanistan	794	395	124
2015 Q4	Albania	406	383	90
2015 Q4	Eritrea	887	658	312
2015 Q4	Iran	1,466	560	228
2015 Q4	Iraq	1,111	390	45
2015 Q4	Kosovo	5	6	0
2015 Q4	Nigeria	250	217	29
2015 Q4	Pakistan	677	519	94
2015 Q4	Syria	911	408	344

Source: table as_01q, *Immigration statistics* October to December 2015, Home Office

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

(2) Figures for 'Total grants' include: grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave and other grants. 'Other grants' include: grants under family and private life rules, which relate to the introduction of a new approach to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, from 9 July 2012; Leave Outside the Rules, which was introduced for those refused asylum from 1 April 2013; and UASC leave, which was introduced for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children refused asylum but eligible for temporary leave from 1 April 2013.

(3) These data are provisional and subject to change.

The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on asylum applications and initial decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. 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/Commons/2016-03-09/30536/>

Asylum: Nigeria

The following four questions all received the same answer

John Mann [30349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children arrived in the UK from Nigeria in 2015.

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Asylum: Uganda

John Mann [30350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children arrived in the UK from Uganda in 2015.

Asylum: Albania

John Mann [30351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children arrived in the UK from Albania in 2015.

Asylum: Eritrea

John Mann [30352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children arrived in the UK from Eritrea in 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The questions have been interpreted as referring to unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the UK.

Figures on asylum applications for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release.

The following table shows applications for asylum from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, for nationals of Nigeria, Uganda, Albania and Eritrea during 2015.

Asylum applications received from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, from nationals of Nigeria, Uganda, Albania and Eritrea during 2015	
Nationality	Total applications
Nigeria	14
Uganda	0
Albania	456
Eritrea	694

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

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics 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/Commons/2016-03-08/30349/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-08/30350/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-08/30351/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-08/30352/>

Asylum: Children

Liam Byrne [30423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to improve the speed and effectiveness of asylum processes for reuniting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in France with either parents or alleged parents in the UK.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: The UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015 committed the UK to providing £3.6 million (or €5 million) per year for two years to help support a range of work to address the migrant situation in Calais. This includes increasing the frequency of communications campaigns involving British officials, French authorities and NGOs speaking to migrants in Calais to inform them of their rights to claim asylum in France and other matters such as family reunion.

The Joint Declaration also committed the two governments to establishing a permanent official contact group focused on ensuring that the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively, including the provisions on family unity. As a result a Home Office official has recently been seconded to the Interior Ministry's Dublin Unit in Paris in part to assist with the identification of potential requests for the UK to take charge of an asylum seeking child in France and to bring them into the Dublin Regulation procedure without delay.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-09/30423/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Catherine West [30353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to address the issues raised in the Independent Investigation into conditions at Yarl's Wood in January 2016; and what additional steps she will take to address concerns around (a) staffing arrangements including capacity and training and (b) an inadequate proportion of female officers to care for women at the centre.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Serco commissioned an independent investigation by Kate Lampard into the culture and staffing at Yarl's Wood. The report was published in January 2016. Serco has responded quickly to the recommendations in the report and has agreed or completed 32 of the 35 recommendations. These include an increase in staffing levels and introducing changes to policies to ensure that all detainees are treated in a safe and dignified manner. As of 9 March 2016, 55% of Serco's operational staff at Yarl's Wood are women.

The Government is addressing the issue of welfare in detention through its response to Stephen Shaw's review set out in the Written Ministerial Statement laid before the House on 14 January. This includes a new adults at risk policy and a mental health action plan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-08/30353/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Catherine West [30235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees have been held in the Kingfisher Isolation Unit in Yarl's Wood in each year since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The accommodation in Kingfisher Unit is used for individuals removed from general association in accordance with Rules 40 (removed from association) and 42 (temporary confinement) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001.

Rule 40 states that an individual may be removed from association where it appears necessary in the interests of security or safety that they should not associate with other detained persons, either generally or for particular purposes.

Rule 42 states that a violent or refractory individual may be confined temporarily in special accommodation, but not as a punishment, or after he/she has ceased to be refractory or violent.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Management information held by the service provider, Serco, for Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre is only available for the number of instances that the accommodation was used for these purposes and cannot be provided for the numbers of individuals except at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-08/30235/>

Asylum: Deportation

Emma Reynolds [20287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many removals from the UK under the Dublin Regulation there were in each year since 2005; and what information the Government holds on the number of such removals from other EU countries in each of those years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of people transferred under the Dublin Convention and the later Dublin II and Dublin III Regulations, is shown in the following table:

Year of Return											
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
1890	1670	1170	1280	1,030	1150	980	740	800	520	530	11760

The UK Government does not centrally hold the number of Dublin removals from other EU countries as the data is collected by Eurostat and is available at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

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

This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-12-15/20287/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

John Cryer (1267) Visa agencies – That this House notes with concern that unscrupulous agencies have been coaxing international students to apply for employment, and providing the promise of visas in exchange for large lump sums of cash; further notes that visas are consequently refused by the Home Office on grounds of deception; notes that some students face lengthy bans from the UK and receive no retribution for the sums paid by them to these agencies; notes that this is a growing problem which is significantly impacting the lives of international students and their families; and calls on the Home Secretary to review this situation, and implement stricter measures to stop such agencies from engaging in similar acts of deception which at the same time protecting innocent victims from such calculated organised criminals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1267>

Roger Mullin (1246) Fife Migrants Forum – That this House congratulates Fife Migrants Forum (FMF) on having reached its fifth anniversary in March 2016; notes that, over these last five years, the charity has played a pivotal role in welcoming refugees to Fife and supporting them in their transition to life in the UK; commends the charity on its commitment to the integration of migrants and to improving education and tolerance of other cultures and races; recognises that FMF was at the forefront of the recent effort to welcome refugees to Fife who had been displaced from their home in Syria through its Fife Welcomes Refugees project; further notes that the charity has strived to promote a positive image of refugees and their integration into life in the UK through programmes

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Early Day Motions (continued)

including its Bloody Foreigners initiative, which aims to increase the number of blood donations from both migrants and those already residing in the UK; and looks forward to many more years of FMF improving community cohesion in Fife and enhancing awareness and tolerance of the rich tapestry of cultures and races in both Fife and all of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1246>

Press Releases

MEPs propose a centralised EU system for asylum claims with national quotas

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160315IPR19462/MEPs-propose-a-centralised-EU-system-for-asylum-claims-with-national-quotas>

The Dublin III Regulation allows Member States to send an applicant for international protection to a safe third country, irrespective of whether it is the Member State responsible for processing the application or another Member State

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-03/cp160032en.pdf>

New Publications

GRETA: Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Gen_Report/GRETA_2016_1_Web_en.pdf

Boys Don't Cry Improving identification and disclosure of sexual exploitation among boys and young men trafficked to the UK

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/boys-and-trafficking-report-lowres-pcr059.pdf>

EESC fact-finding missions on the situation of refugees, as seen by civil society organisations

http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/16_59_migration_synthesis-report_def_en.pdf

Right to Rent: Tenant's Guide to the Landlord Immigration Checks

https://www.jcwi.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016_03_03_INT%20JCWI%20RTR%20tenant%20full%20guide.pdf

Right to Rent flow chart

https://www.jcwi.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016_03_02_PUB%20JCWI%20right%20to%20rent%20flowchart.pdf

News

Migration 'is needed to balance the books'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4715384.ece>

Budget surplus hopes rely on 'high level of net migration to UK'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/16/budget-surplus-hopes-rely-on-high-level-of-net-migration-to-uk>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Government defeated in Lords over immigration detention time limit

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35818169>

MPs to probe claims of asylum seekers locked out of homes

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-35848080>

We'll fess up to mistakes, says boss in row over alleged mistreatment of asylum seekers in Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14352090.We_II_fess_up_to_mistakes_says_bo_ss_in_row_over_alleged_mistreatment_of_asylum_seekers_in_Glasgow/

MP says he had to buy asylum seeker a light bulb while investigating mistreatment allegations in Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14370176.MP_says_he_had_to_buy_asylum_seek_er_a_light_bulb_while_investigating_mistreatment_allegations_in_Glasgow/

Keith Vaz: Asylum seeker homes 'horrific'

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4717097.ece?acs_cjd=true

Red Cross warns of humanitarian crisis as destitute refugee women forced into prostitution

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14371141.Red_Cross_warns_of_huma_nitarian_crisis_as_destitute_refugee_women_forced_into_prostitution/

Old migrants are wary of the new wave

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4714130.ece>

EU immigrants responsible for 1 in 10 births

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4715080.ece>

Our kids can't match the migrant work ethic

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4716812.ece>

Deportation girl, 9, 'faces mutilation'

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1680123.ece?acs_cjd=true

Haulage firms to sue Home Office over migrant fines

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/15/haulage-firms-to-sue-home-office-over-migrant-fines>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15972 Anne McTaggart: Congratulations to Amina, the Muslim Women's Resource Centre in Glasgow—That the Parliament congratulates Amina, the Muslim Women's Resource Centre in Glasgow, on being one of three winners of The People's Projects competition in STV West; understands that Amina will receive £50,000 to extend the performance of "The Women Next Door" project to other parts of Scotland; believes

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

that it will entail 10 full-length performances and deliver a minimum of 10 self-care and storytelling workshops, as well as partner with women's aid organisations to create a module for a train a trainer programme to upskill community workers across Scotland; notes that The People's Projects is a partnership between the Big Lottery Fund, ITV and the National Lottery, which gives the public the chance to decide on how £3 million of funding could make a difference in their local area; considers that the project makes a fantastic contribution to communities, and hopes that it will continue to improve the lives of people across the UK.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15972&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Question

Poverty

Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take to support people from black and minority ethnic communities who are disproportionately affected by inwork poverty or employed in low pay sectors. (S4W-30775)

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government fully recognises that poverty rates for minority ethnic groups are significantly higher than those for the white British population in Scotland. We are taking a long term approach to tackling the drivers of poverty and inequality, as part of our focus on inclusive economic growth. This commitment is made clear in the 2015 Programme for Government. Our 'Race Equality Framework', to be published on 21 March 2016, will set out clear goals to support minority ethnic communities across a range of areas. These include employability, employment and income, which are a key theme in the framework.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30775&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Motion

S4M-15976 Sandra White: Funding Success for Positive Action in Housing Ltd— That the Parliament congratulates Positive Action in Housing Ltd on its recent award of £48,269 from the Big Lottery Fund's Young Start programme; understands that this will be used to establish a programme in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency that will be dedicated each year to increasing the soft and hard employment skills of 20 deprived and marginalised 18 to 24-year-olds from the city's Roma community, and notes that this will include one-to-one job coaching, employment workshops, training in job seeking skills and familiarisation with the jobs' market.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15976&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Religious Education

Angus MacDonald: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to provide guidance to teachers of religious, moral and philosophical studies on Islam and Islamophobia. (S4O-5673)

Reply from Alasdair Allan: Through Education Scotland we provide support materials and resources which offer guidance to teachers on Islam and many other religions. These are available on the Education Scotland website. For example, Education Scotland has worked with the Muslim Council of Scotland support professional learning around Islam and to run 'Glow meets' for children, young people and practitioners which have allowed participants to engage with Muslims to learn more about their culture and beliefs directly. We also take very seriously the need to support schools to tackle Islamophobia. We are currently developing a new framework for Scotland, which will set out the Government's approach to promoting race equality and tackling racism and inequality. The Scottish Government is leading this work which of course will be highly relevant to schools.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-05673&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-15910 Kevin Stewart: Allegations of Racial Profiling by the Border Force— That the Parliament condemns the UK Border Force for, it understands, refusing to answer queries from MSPs on the instruction of the Home Secretary; believes that its stance is disrespectful and undemocratic; expresses concern that it is unwilling to answer questions about allegations of racial profiling taking place in Scotland by the UK Border Force, particularly at Aberdeen Airport, and calls on the Home Secretary to instruct the UK Border Force to answer queries from MSPs and to mount an immediate investigation into allegations of racial profiling at Aberdeen Airport.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-15910&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Antisemitism

Baroness Deech [HL6686] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported rise in anti-Semitism in the UK, in particular at universities, and what action they plan to take to tackle anti-Semitism in the light of that assessment.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: There is no place in our society, including higher education, for bigotry, hatred and any form of racism such as anti-Semitism. We expect universities to act swiftly to investigate and address any anti-Semitic incidents reported to them.

Responsibility for ensuring students do not face harassment, abuse or violence rests with individual institutions, as a clear part of their duties under the 2010 Equality Act.

The higher education sector is committed to tackling discrimination and challenging intolerance on campus. Bodies such as Universities UK (UUK), Guild HE and the Equality Challenge Unit provide support to institutions to help discharge their responsibilities through the provision of practical guidance,

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

discussion and networking events to help share best practice across the sector. In addition, at the request of the Government, UUK have set up a task force to consider what more can be done to address harassment on campus, including on the basis of religion and belief. The Union of Jewish Students are part of the wider advisory group.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-03/HL6686/>

Higher Education: Antisemitism

Bob Blackman [28093] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking with university vice chancellors to encourage action to prevent threats of physical violence against Jewish students and connected parties.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: There is no place in our society, including higher education, for bigotry, hatred and any form of racism such as anti-Semitism. We expect universities to act swiftly to investigate and address any anti-Semitic incidents reported to them.

Responsibility for ensuring students do not face harassment, abuse or violence rests with individual institutions, as a clear part of their duties under the 2010 Equality Act.

The higher education sector is committed to tackling discrimination and challenging intolerance on campus. Bodies such as Universities UK (UUK), Guild HE and the Equality Challenge Unit provide support to institutions to help discharge their responsibilities through the provision of practical guidance, discussion and networking events to help share best practice across the sector.

In addition, at the request of the Government, UUK have set up a task force to consider what more can be done to address harassment on campus, including on the basis of religion and belief. The Union of Jewish Students are part of the wider advisory group.

It was extremely disappointing that a recent event organised by the Kings College Israel Society was disrupted by aggression and violent scenes. Kings College have undertaken a review of what happened and have implemented some changes to their procedures as a result. It is completely unacceptable for legitimate free speech to be shut down on our universities campuses through intimidation and harassment and we will continue to fully support university leaders who take a strong stance on this.

I recently wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford to raise my concerns about reports of anti-Semitic behaviour by members of the Oxford University Labour Club and to reiterate that universities have a clear responsibility to ensure the safety of all their students and to seek her reassurance that the allegations are being fully investigated.

The Prevent Duty, introduced in September 2015, requires institutions to risk assess events and speakers and put in place whatever mitigation is required to ensure that events are protected from those trying to prevent free speech. It is important that universities protect the core values of freedom of speech and academic enquiry but also take seriously the risks associated with any form of extremism at universities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-02-23/28093/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **Press Release**

**“Very little progress in tackling racism and xenophobia around the world”
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Monday 21 March 2016**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17242&LangID=E>

New Publication

Toolkit for ENAR’s ‘activism’ campaign on Afrophobia in Europe
http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Toolkit_for_members_-_shadow_report_Afrophobia_final.pdf

News

Labour Party 'to extend scope of anti-Semitism inquiry'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-35798268>

Labour suspends activist accused of anti-Semitic messages
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35810636>

Labour suspends activist Vicki Kirby amid 'anti-Semitism' controversy
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14344970.Labour_suspends_activist_amid_anti_Semitism_controversy/

Labour suspends activist Vicki Kirby over antisemitism claims
<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/mar/15/labour-suspends-activist-vicki-kirby-over-antisemitism-claims>

Labour and the left have an antisemitism problem
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/18/labour-antisemitism-jews-jeremy-corbyn>

Antisemitism is a poison – the left must take leadership against it
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/15/antisemitism-israel-policies-labour-activist-vicki-kirby>

Labour suspend activist who tweeted Jews have 'big noses' after MPs criticise inaction
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/Jeremy_Corbyn/12194594/Labour-suspended-activist-who-tweeted-Jews-have-big-noses-after-MPs-criticise-inaction.html

Jeremy Corbyn 'impotent' as he fails to halt Labour's anti-Semitism, warns Jewish leader
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/labour/12195914/Jeremy-Corbyn-impotent-as-he-fails-to-halt-Labours-anti-Semitism-warns-Jewish-leader.html>

The Labour Party is increasingly anti-Semitic
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/Jeremy_Corbyn/12193925/The-Labour-Party-is-increasingly-anti-Semitic.html

Labour suspends member Vicki Kirby over 'anti-Semitic' tweets
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-suspends-member-vicki-kirby-over-anti-semitic-tweets-row-a6932146.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Labour activist who said 'Jews have big noses' suspended by party

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4713810.ece>

Corbyn must face up to Labour's antisemitism

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4713176.ece>

Campaigners take to the streets of Glasgow to condemn racism and support refugees across Europe

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/campaigners-take-streets-glasgow-condemn-7590872#0XToPG07MrEkyWYs.97>

Thousands attend Glasgow anti-racism march and rally

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35852724>

Campaigners condemn racism and voice support for refugees

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14370870.Campaigners_condemn_racism_and_voice_support_for_refugees/

A message to my racist neighbours

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/columnists/14370137.Catriona_Stewart_A_message_to_my_racist_neighbours/

'Resume whitening' doubles callbacks for minority job candidates, study finds

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/17/jobs-search-hiring-racial-discrimination-resume-whitening-callbacks>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Scotland Bill

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scotland-Bill-23ff.aspx>

New Publications

Independent Report: The agreement between the Scottish Government and the United Kingdom Government on the Scottish Government's fiscal framework

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/503481/fiscal_framework_agreement_25_feb_16_2.pdf

Independent Report: The agreement between the Scottish Government and the United Kingdom Government on the Scottish Government's fiscal framework – Annex C: Operation and Governance of the Scottish Government's Fiscal Framework

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508102/Fiscal_Framework_-_Text_-_Annex_to_the_fiscal_framework_-_15th_March_201....pdf

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Justice Committee

Post-legislative Scrutiny of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_JusticeCommittee/Reports/JS042016R06.pdf

Press Release

Wholesale review of family law legislation may be needed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/97605.aspx>

New Publications

Creating a Fairer Scotland - What Matters to You: A Summary of the Discussion So Far

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00496638.pdf>

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2014/15 Main Findings

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00496532.pdf>

News

Voters urged to register for 5 May Holyrood poll

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35797716>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Financial Services: Islam

Lord Greaves [HL6665] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide an update on their policy on Islamic finance in the UK.

Reply from Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government remains committed to developing the UK as a global centre for Islamic Finance. This work includes issuing sovereign Sukuk of £200 million in 2014; adapting the tax regime to remove the major tax barriers to Islamic finance transactions; and UK Export Finance issuing its first ever Sharia-compliant export credit guarantee for a 10-year US\$913 million Sukuk that was issued by Emirates Airlines in March 2015. This was used to finance the acquisition of 4 Airbus A380 aircraft.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-02/HL6665/>

Financial Services: Islam

Lord Greaves [HL6666] To ask Her Majesty's Government what submissions they have made to the Bank of England's consultation *Establishing Shari'ah compliant central bank liquidity facilities*.

Reply from Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Government has not made any submissions to the Bank of England's consultation: *Establishing Shari'ah compliant central bank liquidity facilities*.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-02/HL6666/>

Financial Services: Islam

Lord Greaves [HL6667] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether Parliament will be involved in the scrutiny of any proposals for changes to systems of Islamic finance in the UK following the outcome of the Bank of England's consultation.

Reply from Lord O'Neill of Gatley: The Bank of England will decide whether or not to establish a Shari'ah compliant liquidity facility in light of feedback to its consultation from the market and other relevant stakeholders. None of the proposals in the consultation are expected to require a change to primary legislation. Once the Bank of England has concluded, the Government will consider whether there is a need for Parliament to review legislation in relation to Islamic Finance in the UK more widely.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-02/HL6667/>

Press Releases

Nowruz 2016: Prime Minister's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nowruz-2016-prime-ministers-message>

Foreign Secretary's Nowruz message 2016 (1395)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-nowruz-message-2016-1395>

Review into racial bias in the criminal justice system begins

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-into-racial-bias-in-the-criminal-justice-system-begins>

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New Publication

Reporting Notifiable Events to the Scottish Charity Regulator

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2155/2016-03-15_guidance-for-notifiable-events_web-version.pdf

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Other News

Scottish Charity Regulator: Things are changing

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/blog/2016/march/15/things-are-changing>

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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>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/97510.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/intranet/97561.aspx> (starts halfway down the page)

After Stage 2 consideration, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10439&i=96093#ScotParIOR>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10443&i=96148#ScotParIOR>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Burial%20and%20Cremation%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill80AENS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Burial%20and%20Cremation%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill80AENS042016.pdf)

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: Bill at Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-70_Burial_and_Cremation_Scotland_Bill.pdf

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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160315-0001.htm#16031556000351>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160315-0003.htm#16031576000643>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

** Scotland Bill

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

Scottish Parliament debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10440&i=96103#ScotParlOR>

Motion agreed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10440&i=96126&c=1922573#ScotParlOR>

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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!**

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 <http://tinyurl.com/gwjyu5e> or contact

Funding Opportunities (continued)

festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799. Application forms can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/zq3nqsp>

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!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

Ask the First Minister session for young people

21 March 2016 in Edinburgh (10.45-12.30)

The Ask the First Minister event is part of the Scottish Government's on-going work to ensure that children and young people are at the heart of decisions which affect them and their education. It will provide an opportunity for young people aged between 16-17 to hear the First Minister speak, followed by an open question and answer session. For information and to book a place see <http://tinyurl.com/z4r7v3j> or contact Fiona MacDonald fiona.macdonald3@gov.scot / 0131 244 0023 or Stephanie Walsh 0131 244 0230

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

Your Scottish Parliament: Your Voice

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

Scottish Parliament workshops providing an opportunity to learn more about how the Parliament works and how to make your voice heard. For information see <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/95009.aspx> or contact your_SP@scottish.parliament.uk

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.

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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