

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is now in dissolution before the elections that will take place on 5 May 2016. The new Parliament will sit for the first time on 12 May when new MSPs will be sworn in, and the formal opening of the Parliament, in the presence of the Queen, will take place on 2 July.

The UK Parliament is in recess until 11 April 2016.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government whether it has the power under section 101(7) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to halt widening of asylum dispersal in Scotland and whether it has any power in relation to companies alleged to be involved in mistreating asylum seekers in Scotland. (S4W-30572)

Reply from Alex Neil: Asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government. The Scottish Government does not have powers in relation to companies holding Home Office contracts to provide services to asylum seekers in Scotland. The

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Scottish Government is aware that the Home Office is exploring the widening of asylum dispersal in Scotland. As discussions are still at an early stage, the application of section 101(7) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 has not yet been tested.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30572&ResultsPerPage=10>

Asylum seekers

Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what (a) correspondence and (b) discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the reported provision of inappropriate accommodation for asylum seekers in Scotland and whether it will publish any such correspondence. (S4W-30573)

Reply from Alex Neil: The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights wrote to the Home Secretary about allegations of inappropriate accommodation provision for asylum seekers on 10 February and 8 March 2016. The UK Immigration Minister responded to the first of these letters on 11 March 2016. The Scottish Government has not had any discussions with the UK Government on this subject.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30573&ResultsPerPage=10>

Syrian refugees

Tavish Scott: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-05277 by Humza Yousaf on 20 January 2016 (Official Report, c. 12), what discussions it has had with (a) Shetland Islands Council and (b) other local authorities regarding accepting refugees from Syria. (S4W-30512)

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has not had discussions with Shetland Islands Council about accepting refugees from Syria. Local authorities currently liaise directly with the Home Office about acceptance of refugees. The Scottish Government is in regular dialogue with COSLA, which represents and supports local authorities considering participation in the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-30512&ResultsPerPage=10>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S4M-16004 Patrick Harvie: Stop the Deportation of Glasgow Student, Lord Elias Mensah Apetsi—That the Parliament expresses the most urgent concern for the University of Strathclyde student and NUS Scotland Asylum and Refugee Officer, Lord Elias Mensah Apetsi, who is currently being held in a detention centre following a deportation order, which appears to be the result of human error; understands that Mr Apetsi's previous appeal was successful, but that a recent application for leave to remain was submitted late through no fault on his part; recognises what it considers Mr Apetsi's significant contribution to student life through the student societies that he has established and other voluntary work; further expresses concern for his family, who are now separated from him and fearful for his safety, and urges the UK Government to immediately halt moves to deport him, accept the application for leave to remain and return him to his friends, family and colleagues.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-16004&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

S4M-16001 Hanzala Malik: University of Strathclyde Student Faces Deportation—

That the Parliament understands with concern that Lord Elias Mensah Apetsi, who is an award-winning student at the University of Strathclyde, is facing deportation to Ghana; notes reports that he was detained on 11 March 2016 after he reported to the Border and Immigration Agency as his application for leave to remain was not submitted on time because of human error; understands that he is being held at Gatwick and will be forced onto a plane on 22 March; believes that Lord, who fled Ghana 10 years ago, is in fear of his life and is scared about what will happen when he returns; considers it wrong that his life can be turned upside down in this manner and that he might be separated from his child, and urges the Home Office to reverse its decision and allow him to return immediately to his life and family in Glasgow.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-16001&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Jim Cunningham [31493] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of immigration on the level of economic productivity over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Greg Hands: As noted in the 2012 report by the Migration Advisory Committee the empirical literature suggests that the impact of migration on productivity may be mixed and heavily dependent on the type of migrant coming to the UK. Migrants may increase productivity either through a simple 'batting average' effect if they work in higher productivity roles relative to the average for non-migrants, or through increasing the productivity of UK workers through greater specialisation and knowledge transfer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31493/>

Immigration

Jim Cunningham [31494] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the effect of immigration on the UK's GDP in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Greg Hands: Analysis undertaken by the independent Migration Advisory Committee in 2012 shows that higher levels of net migration will, all else equal, increase the growth rate of the potential labour supply and therefore the rate of growth of overall GDP.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31494/>

Immigration

Lord Renwick of Clifton [HL6922] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any discrepancy between the net migration numbers and the number of EU citizens registering for the first time for National Insurance in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bridges of Headley: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has issued a briefing note entitled Sources of Migration Statistics – Differences between International Passenger Survey and National Insurance Number statistics (as shown in the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report). This can be accessed at

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/methodologies/differencesbetweeninternationalpassengersurveyandnationalinsurancenumbersstatisticsasshowninthemigrationstatisticsquarterlyreport>

ONS will be publishing a background note on this work on 26 May 2016 as part of the Migration Statistics Quarterly Report, incorporating the latest available short term migration data published in that month, to help explain further why the two datasets may be showing different trends.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-10/HL6922/>

Migrant Workers

Rupa Juq [31467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrant workers have entered the UK on a non-EU Tier 2 migrant visa since 2010 (a) in total and (b) to work in each sector.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The latest available published data show 225,040 passengers were given leave to enter the United Kingdom under Tier 2 in the period January 2010 to June 2015 (excluding dependants).

The available published information regarding Tier 2 by industry type relates to Certificates of Sponsorship used in Tier 2 (Skilled work) visa applications. These data will differ from passengers given leave to enter because applicants may be unsuccessful or decide not to travel. The table below shows the total number of Tier 2 Certificates of Sponsorship used in visa applications, by industry type, in the period January 2010 to June 2015.

Applicants for visas for skilled work (Tier 2) using sponsorship certificates, by industry type	
Industry	January 2010 to June 2015
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	285
Mining and Quarrying	4,393
Manufacturing	13,141
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	761
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management etc.	160
Construction of buildings	2,409
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Vehicle Repairs	3,341
Transportation and Storage	1,870
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	4,523
Information and Communication	106,539
Financial and Insurance Activities	32,335
Real estate activities	354
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	45,437
Administrative and Support Activities	2,495
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	551
Education	11,450
Human Health and Social Work Activities	12,937
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,592
Other Service Activities	5,447
Activities of households as employers etc.	33
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	53
Total	252,106

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Source: Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, Home Office, table cs_03_q.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/502033/sponsorship-q4-2015-tabs.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31467/>

Undocumented Migrants: Offenders

Anne Main [31327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in immigration detention of each nationality have been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As of December 2015 there were 1,274 foreign national offenders in immigration detention.

The Home Office does not provide nationality specific data. The data is withheld where disclosure would be likely to prejudice diplomatic relations between the UK and a foreign government and where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the operation of immigration control.

Caveats

(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information from the Home Office databases and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(2) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case on the Home Office's Case Information Database, and may include individuals with asylum cases.

(3) Figures relate to main applicants only and are a snapshot of cases as at the end of December 2015 taken from the Case Information Database (CID).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31327/>

Refugees: Syria

Baroness Sheehan [HL6967] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have been brought to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons scheme; how many of those refugees were children; and where within the UK those refugees have been dispersed.

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 26 May 2016 and will cover the period January – March 2016. Latest statistics published on 25 February 2016 confirms in 2015, a total of 1,194 people were resettled the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) including 1,085 who arrived in the last quarter of 2015. Of those resettled under the scheme in 2015, 605 were under 18 years old. Resettlement under the Syrian VPRS by local authorities is voluntary. It is a matter for each local authority to decide whether they want to publish the fact of their participation and the numbers of refugees they take.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-14/HL6967/>

Asylum: Deportation [*correction to answer given in October 2015*]

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL2297] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were deported from the United Kingdom in (1) 1990, (2) 2000, (3) 2010, and (4) 2014, on reaching the age of 18.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: The Home Office does not keep electronic records on removals going as far back as 2000. Records of removals on the Immigration Database only go back to 2006. In 2010, 778 failed asylum seekers were removed after reaching the age of 18. In 2014, 445 failed asylum seekers were removed after reaching the age of 18.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-09-16/HL2297/>

Asylum

Simon Danczuk [904227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's arrangements with local authorities for the settlement of asylum seekers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office maintains an active partnership with local governments across the UK and funds Strategic Migration Partnerships to plan for the most appropriate voluntary agreements for the dispersal of asylum seekers, and the integration of Syrian refugees.

We continue to work closely with a wide range of local authorities to increase the number of areas that accommodate and support people seeking asylum and protection – every local authority is encouraged to contribute to ensure a reasonable spread across the whole of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-15/904227/>

Asylum

Lord Lansley [HL6961] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of asylum claims resolved after six months were found to be well-founded in the latest period for which the statistics are available.

Reply from Lord Bates: In 2015 there were a total of 10,199 asylum claims which were concluded six months or more after their initial application date. Of these, 4,620 claims were found to be entitled to a grant of asylum based on a well-founded fear of persecution.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-14/HL6961/>

Asylum

Lord Green of Deddington [HL5572] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers have been transferred from the UK to other EU member states under the Dublin Regulations owing to (1) family reasons (Articles 8, 9 and 10), and (2) irregular entry (Article 13.1), in each of the years

Reply from Lord Bates: Data is available from 2007. In those years there have been no transfers to other EU member states under the Dublin Regulations owing to family reasons (Articles 8, 9 and 10). The table below indicates those years and numbers where we have transferred cases for reasons of Irregular Entry (Article 13.1)

Year of Return	Returns
2014	20
2015	75

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-01-28/HL5572/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Charlotte Leslie [31773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2016 to Question 27389, what assessment her Department has made of the ability of failed asylum seekers to fund travel to their country of origin.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Migrants in the UK without permission, including those who have failed in a claim for asylum, are expected to leave the UK promptly and voluntarily. Those who need help purchasing a ticket or organising their travel can contact the Voluntary Return Service that came into effect on 1 January, who can provide assistance as appropriate. Subject to the bespoke needs of the individual or family, reintegration support in the country of origin may also be provided. Those individuals who do not leave voluntarily will be forcibly removed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-18/31773/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Anne Main [31330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of other EU members states have won appeals to prevent their deportation in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below shows the number of EEA foreign national offenders who have won their appeal against deportation over the last 10 years.

Calendar Year	No of Appeals allowed
2006	69
2007	40
2008	35
2009	49
2010	110
2011	121
2012	152
2013	130
2014	83
2015	59
Total	852

(1) All 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.

(2) A foreign national offender (FNO) is someone who is not a British citizen and has been remanded in custody, convicted, and given a custodial sentence in the United Kingdom for any offence. An FNO can be convicted and have served their sentence while on remand, so may not have been sent to prison.

(3) Figures relate to main applicants only and exclude dependants.

(4) Figures relate to appeals lodged between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2015. Appeal outcomes may have been reached in the same or in subsequent years.

(5) Appeal Allowed figures only show the final appeal outcome and do not include any previous appeal outcomes for that individual case. They include those determined in both the Lower and Upper Tiers.

The table below shows the total number of EEA foreign national offenders removed over last the 10 years.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Calendar Year	EEA FNO Removals
2006	480
2007	523
2008	633
2009	748
2010	933
2011	1,147
2012	1,653
2013	2,121
2014	2,962
2015	3,310

(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information from the Home Office databases and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(2) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case on the Home Office's Case Information Database, and may include individuals with asylum cases.

(3) Total EEA FNO removals figures relate to those cases that have been deported, administratively removed or voluntarily departed from UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31330/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Anne Main [31329] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of other EU member states are awaiting deportation from the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The removal of foreign national offenders (FNOs) has been increasing year on year since 2010. In 2015, 5,602 FNOs were removed, the highest number in a year since records began in 2009.

As of December 2015, there were 4,217 EEA foreign national offenders awaiting deportation.

(1) The figures quoted have been derived from management information from the Home Office databases and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(2) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID) and may include individuals with asylum cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31329/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Anne Main [31404] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has instructed the deportation of any nationals of other EU member states on public protection grounds in each of the last five years.

Anne Main [31475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of other EU member states who have served custodial sentences have been deported back to their country of nationality at the end of their sentence.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office seeks to deport EEA nationals or their family members on grounds of public policy or public security where that person's conduct represents a genuine, present and sufficiently serious threat affecting one of the fundamental interests of society.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The table below shows the number of EEA nationals deported on the basis of a criminal conviction, where their presence in the UK is not considered conducive to the public good.

Year	EEA FNO Removals (1)(2)(3)
2011/12	1,275
2012/13	1,727
2013/14	2,306
2014/15	3,026
2015/16 (up to end of Q3)	2,584

(1) A Foreign National Offender (FNO) is defined as an individual with a criminal case on the Home Office's Case Information Database, and may include individuals with asylum cases.

(2) Quarterly Foreign National Offender (FNO) removals are published as National Statistics and available in table 7 of latest the published "Immigration Statistics release"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015>

(3) Total FNO removals figures relate to those cases that have been deported, administratively removed or voluntarily departed from UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31404/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31475/>

Human Trafficking

Kate Osamor [31363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to tackle human trafficking into the UK at source.

Reply from Karen Bradley: We are committed to tackling all forms of modern slavery, including human trafficking. The Government has secured commitment from other governments and institutions, including the UN, the Commonwealth and the EU, to tackle modern slavery. We have successfully lobbied for the establishment of the first ever UN Sustainable Development Goal to end modern slavery. We are also working bilaterally with priority countries to deepen law enforcement cooperation.

The Work in Freedom programme is helping to prevent trafficking of girls and women from South Asia. We have also supported the work of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, who has visited source countries and identified further opportunities for prevention activity. Our world-leading Transparency in Supply Chains provision in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 will encourage business to eradicate slavery from global supply chains.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31363/>

Human Trafficking: Females

Diana Johnson [31595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women referred to the National Referral Mechanism for trafficking victims were subsequently removed from the UK in each year since 2012.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire:

Year Referred	Total	Subsequently Removed
2012	626	45
2013	839	48
2014	1,095	44
2015	1,338	14

Data refreshed 09 March 2016

- Data shows number of women referrals recorded on the Case Immigration Database since Jan 2012, broken down by year of referral at the reasonable grounds stage.
- Removed subsequently shows the people removed after their referral, the removal might have occurred in subsequent years.
- Voluntary returns consist of Assisted Voluntary Returns, Notified Voluntary Departures, and Confirmed Voluntary Departures.
- The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
- This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-17/31595/>

Human Trafficking

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [31872] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what training is provided to HM Revenue and Customs national minimum wage inspectors on identification and investigation of cases of human trafficking.

Slavery

Paul Blomfield [31878] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many (a) enforcement actions have been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) involving victims of modern slavery and (b) victims of modern slavery HMRC recovered national minimum wage arrears for in each of the last five years; and how much in national minimum wage arrears HMRC has recovered for victims of modern slavery in that period.

Reply from David Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has developed a specific training package targeting Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which is mandatory for all visiting officers. This training advises officers on the indicators to look for and the responses to take where exploitation is suspected. HMRC participates in multi-agency investigations into cases of Modern Slavery where there are potential tax or National Minimum Wage (NMW) offences. Since February 2015, HMRC has opened 73 tax investigations in cases where Modern Slavery is suspected. HMRC does not collate specific data on any NMW arrears identified in cases involving Modern Slavery.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-21/31872/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-21/31878/>

Human Trafficking

Sarah Champion [31936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to strengthen its data collection strategy to help combat human trafficking.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Karen Bradley: We are strengthening data collection on human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery in several ways. In the Modern Slavery Act we introduced a duty on named public authorities to notify the Home Office every time they have reasonable grounds to believe they have encountered a victim of modern slavery.

These notifications can be anonymous so that data is collected even if the potential victim does not want to engage with the authorities. We are reviewing the National Referral Mechanism form, so that it better captures key data about potential victims and perpetrators. Polaris and Unseen UK are working with other NGOs and law enforcement to launch an enhanced modern slavery helpline later this year which will capture more data and help to shine a light on the scale and nature of this appalling crime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-21/31936/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh (1290) Journeys to Europe Report – That this House welcomes the report of the Overseas Development Institute, Journeys to Europe: the role of policy in migrant decision-making, published in February 2016, which recommends three key policies to lead to a better management of and response to the migration crisis in Europe; notes that these policies are to make journeys safer, to create a faster, fairer EU asylum system and, most importantly, to make the most of migration; calls on the Government to do all it can to publicly communicate the social and economic benefits of migration, to encourage circular migration and to invest in economic integration programmes for new arrivals; and further calls on the Government to work with the UK's friends in the EU to help make journeys to Europe safer, rather than to pursue its isolationist agenda in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1290>

Press Releases

Migration Advisory Committee reviews of Tier 2

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-reviews-of-tier-2>

Attacks against refugees, asylum seekers and migrants are unacceptable, say heads of European human rights institutions

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/213_2016_03_21_JointStatement_en.pdf

New Publications

New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities: Year 2: Implementation Progress Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497690.pdf>

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) partial review: shortage occupation list and nursing

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510630/Partial_review_of_the_shortage_occupation_list_-_review_of_nursing.pdf

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

A Short Notice Inspection of the Tier 4 Curtailment Process July – September 2015

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/ICIBI-report-on-Student-Curtailment-Final.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

Building a better future for refugees in Scotland Scottish Refugee Council Manifesto Scottish Parliament Elections 2016

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0736/Scottish_Refugee_Council_Manifesto_-_Scottish_Parliament_Elections_2016.pdf

Access to the labour market as a ‘pull factor’ for asylum seekers: What the research shows

https://asylumwelfarework.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/labour-market-access-for-asylum-seekers_extended2.pdf

News

Theresa May faces parliamentary investigation over flimsy basis for student deportations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-faces-parliamentary-investigation-over-flimsy-basis-for-student-deportations-a6948796.html>

Theresa May: I have never visited asylum seeker accommodation

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14376625.Theresa_May_I_have_never_visited_asylum_seeker_accommodation/?ref=mr&lp=3

Peers defeat government to allow 3,000 child refugees in UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35865508>

UK Government to take in 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees from Europe

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2832_uk_government_to_take_in_3_000_unaccompanied_child_refugees_from_europe

UK MPs demand urgent help for unaccompanied children at Calais camp

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/21/uk-mps-demand-urgent-help-for-unaccompanied-children-at-calais-camp>

House of Lords votes to let lone child refugees come to Britain

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/21/house-of-lords-votes-to-let-lone-child-refugees-come-to-britain>

People who come to UK as refugees more likely to identify themselves as British, study finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-more-likely-to-identify-themselves-as-british-study-finds-a6944531.html>

Don't call them 'illegal immigrants', says Europe human rights commissioner

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12202522/Dont-call-them-illegal-immigrants-says-Europe-human-rights-commissioner.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Don't call foreigners who sneak into Britain illegal immigrants, says Euro human rights chief - who says they should be called 'irregular' instead

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3507012/Don-t-call-foreigners-sneak-Britain-illegal-immigrants-says-Euro-human-rights-chief-Latvian-activist-says-known-irregular-blasts-ministers-alarmist-rhetoric.html>

Trucks full of migrants enter Britain unchecked

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4720359.ece>

40% of planned illegal immigrant deportations cancelled

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35888188>

40% of migrant removals cancelled

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4721090.ece>

Four out of ten foreign criminals evade deportation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4720536.ece>

34,000 flight tickets for UK deportations are cancelled

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/24/flight-tickets-deport-criminal-immigrant-removals-cancelled-chief-inspector>

EU migrants 'less likely to claim out-of-work benefits'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/14383520.EU_migrants_less_likely_to_claim_out_of_work_benefits/

Our treatment of asylum seekers leaves much to be desired

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/columnists/14374230.Agenda_Our_treatment_of_asylum_seekers_leaves_much_to_be_desired/

MPs to investigate outsourcing of asylum seeker housing

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2830_mps_to_investigate_outsourcing_of_asylum_seeker_housing

Glasgow father of 2 facing deportation over 'admin error'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/glasgow-father-of-2-facing-deportation-over-admin-error-1-4078490>

Strathclyde University student facing deportation for "human error" is in fear of his life

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14373263.Strathclyde_University_student_facing_deportation_for_human_error_is_in_fear_of_his_life/

Pope's Easter message condemns failure to help migrants

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35907274>

Our immigrants need to read British fiction

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4718523.ece>

24 migrants found packed into lorries stopped by Kent police are already on fast track to win asylum... just days after this picture was taken

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3508794/24-migrants-packed-lorries-stopped-Kent-police-fast-track-win-asylum-just-days-picture-taken.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Companies providing asylum seekers housing putting profits ahead of wellbeing, says study

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/companies-providing-asylum-seekers-housing-putting-profits-ahead-of-wellbeing-says-study-a6948566.html>

Raped, pregnant, homeless: the grim reality of life as an asylum seeker

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/mar/24/raped-pregnant-homeless-asylum-seeker-home-office>

Glasgow warmly welcomes Refuweegee project

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/features/refuweegee>

Brian Bilston's 'Refugee' Poem Moves Thousands With Brilliant Hidden Message

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/brian-bilstons-refugee-poem-moves-thousands-with-hidden-message_uk_56f3cf1ee4b04aee1b700c11?utm_hp_ref=migration-crisis

Cap number of foreign nurses coming to Britain, say official advisers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/12203170/Cap-number-of-foreign-nurses-coming-to-Britain-say-official-advisers.html>

NHS signs up more foreign nurses: Bosses accused of using cheap labour to 'undercut' British staff over plans to recruit 14,000 medics over the next four years

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3508810/NHS-signs-foreign-nurses-Bosses-accused-using-cheap-labour-undercut-British-staff-plans-recruit-14-000-medics-four-years.html>

'Train tracks or traffickers': how government policy is forcing child refugees to risk their lives rejoining families in the UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/trafficking-government-calais-child-refugees-family-minors-a6943866.html>

Scotland and Poland - a 500 year relationship

<http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/scotland-and-poland-a-500-year-relationship-1-4081795>

Scottish Refugee Council launches Scottish Parliament elections manifesto

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2831_scottish_refugee_council_launches_scottish_parliament_elections_manifesto

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Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Higher Education: Ethnic Groups

Danny Kinahan [31196] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, if he will take steps to tackle the lower expected offer rate to Asian, Black, Mixed and Other ethnic groups higher education applicants.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has set a goal of increasing by 20% the number of BME students in higher education by 2020. Entry rates for 18 year olds in each ethnic group increased in 2015,

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

reaching the highest recorded values for each group. Between 2009 and 2015, the entry rate for young people in the Black ethnic group increased by over 40 percent proportionally. The Government has introduced a number of policies, including those set out below, to achieve my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's goal.

We recently announced that universities would be required to publish admissions and retention rate by gender, ethnic background and disadvantage. Greater transparency will expose where offer rates for students from the poorest and black and minority backgrounds are particularly low and help to encourage universities to take further action.

In addition, UCAS are consulting on making applications to university name-blind from 2017 to make sure that everyone, no matter what their background, is treated equally.

I have asked Universities UK to establish an expert advisory group on social mobility to provide further advice in this area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-15/31196/>

Equality

Kate Osamor [31182] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he is taking to tackle economic inequality among black and minority ethnic communities.

Reply from Nick Boles: Ensuring people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds can find work and progress through the labour market is an important step in tackling economic inequality. The Government has embarked on an ambitious programme to increase opportunity in the labour market for all those from BME backgrounds. This includes increasing employment rates, improving access to universities and ensuring more people from BME backgrounds start an apprenticeship.

As part of this, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills is chairing a new Inter-Ministerial Group tasked with improving opportunity and progression in the labour market for those from BME backgrounds. The Government has also asked Baroness Ruby McGregor-Smith to undertake a review into the obstacles faced by BME groups in the labour market, from recruitment through to the executive level. This will complement Sir John Parker's review considering BME representation at the very highest levels of business.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-15/31182/>

Press Release

Race equality

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Race-equality-2443.aspx>

New Publications

Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497601.pdf>

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Ethnic Inequalities in London Capital For All

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/images/London%20Inequality%20report%20v3.pdf>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-16000 Hanzala Malik: Glasgow Anti-racism March and Rally—That the Parliament understands that, on 19 March 2016, thousands of campaigners took to the streets of Glasgow to condemn racism and voice their support for refugees; notes that the march and rally coincided with others to mark UN Anti-racism Day; believes that this outpouring of compassion demonstrated that the people of Scotland consider refugees to be welcome; further believes that the country is a beacon for the rest of the UK and Europe, where there has been increasingly negative rhetoric, and welcomes moves to protect people in need and fleeing for their lives.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-16000&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (1324) UNESCO efforts to tackle discrimination – That this House notes the efforts of UNESCO to educate against racism and discrimination and specifically to combat anti-Semitism; congratulates UNESCO and its Director-General Irina Bokova for the two reports published in 2015 which add to efforts to combat racism in sport and online; and calls for continued support and enhanced cooperation on a European and International level to tackle anti-Semitism and all forms of racial hatred.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1324>

Press Releases

First Minister Speaks At "Scotland – No Place For Prejudice Conference"

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/Speeches-Briefings/First-Minister-speaks-at-Scotland-no-place-for-prejudice-conference-247d.aspx>

Scotland – No Place for Prejudice

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1272-scotland-no-place-for-prejudice>

Letter from Police Scotland about the murder of Asad Shah

<http://www.mcscotland.org/media/3432/asad%20shah%20-%20letter%20to%20communit%20-%20police%20scotland%20 .pdf>

Sir Eric Pickles speech at the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism Conference

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/sir-eric-pickles-speech-at-the-inter-parliamentary-coalition-for-combating-antisemitism-conference>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases (continued)

States should sanction the use of hate speech, while safeguarding freedom of expression, says Council of Europe anti-racism commission

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/212_2016_03_21_GPR15_en.asp

'Assault on one minority community is attack on all,' Ban says on Day to eliminate racism

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53501#.VvFXQ2R94qI>

News

Ministers launch drive to stamp out racism by 2030 with expansion in positive discrimination

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14374236.Ministers_launch_drive_to_stamp_out_racism_by_2030_with_expansion_in_positive_discrimination/

Sturgeon: Muslims face a 'double burden' after terror attacks

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/referendumnews/14375408.Sturgeon_Muslims_face_a_double_burden_after_terror_attacks/

Scottish Muslims, Jews braced for racist backlash after Brussels

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14376632.Scottish_Muslims_Jews_braced_for_racist_backlash_after_Brussels/?ref=mr&lp=9

Asad Shah death: Appeal for calm after shopkeeper attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-35904406>

Asad Shah death: Man arrested for 'religiously prejudiced' killing

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/asad-shah-death-man-arrested-for-religiously-prejudiced-killing-1-4082325>

Hundreds in vigil to shopkeeper stabbed to death in Shawlands, Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14385426.Hundreds_in_vigil_for_Muslim_shopkeeper_stabbed_to_death/

Man arrested over death of Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah was another Muslim: Police say the attack was religiously motivated

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/man-arrested-over-death-glasgow-7628936#S8l5mZZRxrowcfxR.97>

Tributes pour in for Glasgow shopkeeper killed outside his shop

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/26/asad-shah-killing-tributes-arrest>

Muslim shopkeeper murdered in suspected 'religiously prejudiced' attack after posting on Facebook of love for Christians

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/12204357/Muslim-shopkeeper-murdered-in-suspected-religiously-prejudiced-attack-after-posting-on-Facebook-of-love-for-Christians.html>

Asad Shah: Fundraising page for Muslim shopkeeper killed in 'racially prejudiced' murder receives £22,000 in donations

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/fundraising-page-for-muslim-shopkeeper-killed-in-attack-raises-22000-a6954031.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Hundreds mourn Muslim stabbed after Easter greeting

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1682301.ece

Shopkeeper's death was 'religiously prejudiced'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4722157.ece>

Murder of a man of peace: Muslim shopkeeper who wished his 'beloved Christian nation' a Happy Easter is stabbed 30 times by a fellow Muslim who sat laughing on his dying victim's chest

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3509367/Muslim-shopkeeper-stabbed-death-hours-posted-happy-Easter-message.html>

Man who 'confronted Muslim woman' over Brussels criticises 'foolish' police after arrest

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/man-who-confronted-muslim-woman-over-brussels-criticises-foolish-police-after-arrest-a6954521.html>

'I confronted a Muslim' tweet suspect no longer charge with race-hate offence

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/12204130/I-confronted-a-Muslim-tweet-suspect-no-longer-charge-with-race-hate-offence.html>

Prosecutors drop race-hate charge against tweeter

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4721927.ece>

Croydon Tweeter who confronted Muslim woman arrested for racial hatred

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4721080.ece>

Humiliation for the Met Police as the CPS tells them they had no right to charge talent agency boss with inciting racial hatred over Brussels tweet and he will not now appear in court today

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3510358/Humiliation-Met-Police-CPS-tells-NO-right-charge-talent-agency-boss-inciting-racial-hatred-Brussels-tweet-NOT-appear-court-today.html>

Student captures shocking Islamophobic tirade on the Tube as passenger rants 'All Muslims are terrorists'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3510595/Student-captures-shocking-Islamophobic-tirade-Tube-passenger-rants-Muslims-terrorists.html>

Tube passenger filmed saying 'all Muslims are terrorists' in London Underground rant

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/london-underground-passenger-says-all-muslims-are-terrorists-a6954941.html>

Labour 'doesn't tolerate anti-Semitism', says Jeremy Corbyn

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35865500>

Archbishop warns of campus anti-semites

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/article1682345.ece

An Easter message about intolerance

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/leaders/article1682121.ece>

Driving while black is not a crime, May warns police

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4721886.ece>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

School children work together for play that aims to show sectarianism the red card
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14371893.School_children_work_together_for_play_that_aims_to_show_sectarianism_the_red_card/

Football club condemns "racist" refugee chants directed at Dunfermline FC striker
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14376416.VIDEO_Football_club_condemns_racist_refugee_chants_directed_at_Dunfermline_FC_striker/

Tay, Microsoft's AI chatbot, gets a crash course in racism from Twitter
<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/mar/24/tay-microsofts-ai-chatbot-gets-a-crash-course-in-racism-from-twitter>

Artificial intelligence fails to beat real stupidity
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article4721272.ece>

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Scottish Devolution

Press Release

Scotland Act 2016 receives Royal Assent
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-bill-completes-its-passage-through-parliament>

News

Scotland Act clears final hurdle at Westminster
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-35887258>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Elections

In order to vote in the elections that will take place on 5 May, you must be registered by 18 April 2016. To register see <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

If you are not sure whether or not you are already registered, you should ask at your local electoral registration office. For contact details see <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/registering-to-vote-and-the-electoral-register>

If you prefer to vote by post rather than at a polling station, your application must be received by 19 April 2016. The application form can be downloaded from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/410338/Postal_vote_application_form.pdf

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Elections (continued)

If you prefer to vote by proxy – to allow someone you trust to vote on your behalf – your application must be received by 26 April 2016. However, in a case of emergency, if you are unexpectedly prevented from voting, you can apply up to 5pm on the day of the election. For more information, and to download an application form, see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy>

Electoral Commission Voting Guide

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/197193/May_Election-2016_leaflet-6pp_SCOTTISH_Final_WEB.PDF

Press Releases

Her Majesty The Queen to address new session

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/97735.aspx>

Ask the First Minister

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/ask-first-minister/>

Lord Advocate steps down

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Lord-Advocate-steps-down-249b.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Early Day Motion

Stephen Gethins (1302) Retirement of Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

– That this House notes that the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Tricia Marwick MSP, will be standing down from her role at the forthcoming Holyrood elections, the first woman to hold that post; congratulates the Rt hon. Member for Fife on her successful tenure over the last five years, and in particular, for her work during Scotland's independence referendum; expresses gratitude to her on her service to the people of her constituency since the Scottish Parliament was reconvened in 1999; wishes her well in her well-deserved retirement; and hopes that she will continue to put her knowledge and expertise to good use in the future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2015-16/1302>

Press Releases

David Mundell: A new era in Scottish politics is upon us

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-a-new-era-in-scottish-politics-is-upon-us>

Easter 2016: David Cameron's message

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

Easter message from Communities Secretary Greg Clark

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/easter-message-from-communities-secretary-greg-clark>

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Other News

Kirk to work with Islamic Finance Council on ethical financial services

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

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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>

Stage 3

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10445&i=96169#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10445&i=96170#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Burial%20and%20Cremation%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill80BS042016.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Burial%20and%20Cremation%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill80BS042016.pdf)

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

Asylum (Unaccompanied Children Displaced by Conflict)

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

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

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

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/160321-0001.htm#16032110000508>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160321-0002.htm#16032127000026>

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2015-2016/0109/16109.pdf>

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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160321-0001.htm#16032110000507>

House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/153/hcb153.1-6.html>

Explanatory Notes on House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/153/en/16153Scotland.pdf>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160323/debtext/160323-0004.htm#16032342000001>

Bill returned to the House of Lords from the House of Commons with the amendments agreed to.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldhansrd/text/160323-0004.htm#1603241000533>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmhansrd/cm160323/debtext/160323-0004.htm#16032347000010>

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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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** closes this week!**

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

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

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.

**** Gender Based Violence and BME Women, Children, and Young People**

27 April (9.30-4.30) & 28 April 2016 (9.30-4.30)

17 May (9.30-4.30) & 18 May (9.30-4.30)

31 May (9.30-4.30) & 1 June 2016 (9.30-4.30)

Shakti Women's Aid awareness-raising training for any practitioner or interested individual. For information see <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/events-training/> or contact 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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