

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.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions

Children: Nationality

Charlotte Leslie [33217] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many third generation children living in Britain are not British citizens.

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

Unfortunately the data necessary to answer these questions are not available from existing data sources. Estimates of the number of children resident in the UK who do not have British citizenship could be provided from the Annual Population

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Survey, but these would not identify whether these children are third generation migrants. ONS produces data on the immigration and emigration of migrants by age and sex and country of last residence. These data can be found in Table 4.01 here:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/ipscitizenshipgroupbysexbyagebycountryoflastornextresidence>

Population stocks data (showing those resident in the UK by country of birth and nationality) can also be found at the following link, though these data are not published by age and sex:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationalityunderlyingdatasheets>

These data show that in 2014, the latest year for which data are available, there were 49,000 (+/- 10,000) people living in the UK with Jamaican nationality. Please note that these data include all people living in the UK with Jamaican nationality, not just third generation migrants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33217/>

Immigrants: EEA Nationals

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [32897] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many nationals of other EEA member states migrated to the UK with dependants of school age in the last 12 months; and how many school-aged dependants of nationals of other EEA member states live in the UK.

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

Migration statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are based on the estimated number of individuals who have migrated to and from the UK and are not available for groups of migrants such as families. Therefore ONS does not hold information on the number of nationals from other EEA member states who have migrated to the UK with dependents of school age. However, ONS are able to provide an estimate of the number of school-aged children (aged 5 to 18) who migrated to the UK in 2014, which is the most recent data available. International Passenger Survey figures show that there were an estimated 25,000 school-aged children with EEA nationality immigrating in 2014, with a corresponding margin of error of +/- 9,000. The margin of error refers to the 95 per cent confidence interval and is a measure of the uncertainty associated with making inferences from a sample survey. Therefore, we would expect the estimate of school-aged children aged 5 to 18 immigrating to the UK in 2014 to be within the range 16,000 to 34,000 in 19 out of 20 possible samples drawn. With regards to the second part of your question, ONS collects data on the country of birth and nationality of the UK population from the Annual Population Survey (APS). It is a household survey and so does not include people living in most types of communal establishment. An estimated 699,000 school-aged dependents, aged 5 to 18, lived in the UK in 2015 (the latest data available) with at least one parent who held EEA nationality.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32897/>

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Immigration Officers: Surveillance

The following two questions both received the same answer

Andy Slaughter [32566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2016 to Question 31078, on immigration officers, whether (a) her Department, (b) the Interception of Communications Commissioner and (c) any other body has reviewed the use of the power of immigration officers to carry out property interference since 2013.

Andy Slaughter [32567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2016 to Question 31078, on immigration officers, what policy, guidance or code of practice is provided to immigration officers carrying out equipment interference.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OSC) provides independent oversight of the use of property interference powers by law enforcement, including immigration officers. The Police Act 1997 was amended in 2013 to enable immigration officers to carry out property interference. The OSC regularly inspects law enforcement use of the power and scrutinises all individual property interference authorisations. A statutory code of practice for covert surveillance and property interference which can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/384975/Covert_Surveillance_Property_Interference_web_2_.pdf applies to all agencies with property interference powers.

The Investigatory Powers Bill will provide enhanced safeguards for the use of equipment interference, including the requirement that equipment interference warrants are subject to the double-lock authorisation safeguard. The Bill will also create a new and more powerful Investigatory Powers Commissioner who will keep the use of this important power under close and regular review. A new Equipment Interference Code of Practice was published in draft alongside the Investigatory Powers Bill. This Code will provide further guidance on the use of equipment interference powers to all relevant agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32566/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32567/>

Visas

Ruth Smeeth [32350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 March 2016 to Question 31677, what checks are undertaken to ensure that the terms of a Tier 2 (ICT) visa Certificate of Sponsorship are adhered to.

Reply from Mike Penning: A variety of checks are undertaken on sponsor licence holders and the migrants they assign certificates of sponsorship to. Compliance visits are undertaken during the licensing process and post-licensing audits are undertaken to verify the duties performed by the sponsored workers adhere to those set out by the sponsor in the certificate of sponsorship. Officers can request payslips, work contracts and evidence of duties performed by the sponsored worker during compliance visits. In some cases, other regulatory requirements are verified with other government departments or regulatory bodies during investigations of possible non-compliance. Officers can interview both sponsors and sponsored workers during compliance visits to seek assurances and gather information and evidence of compliance with the duties of sponsorship. Overseas we can undertake checks in to the credibility of the international presence of an ICT sponsor licence holder where there is concern to do so.

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All roles are assessed to confirm the duties and salary meet the requirements set out in the standard occupation classification codes. The sponsored worker may also be called for interview during the visa consideration process to check their credibility and test the individual meets the requirements of sponsorship under Tier 2 (ICT).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32350/>

Visas

Ruth Smeeth [32351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 March 2016 to Question 31677, what the penalties are for an employer who has issued a Certificate of Sponsorship but does not adhere to the stated job description and salary.

Reply from Mike Penning: Guidance for sponsors specifies that UKVI will revoke the licence of a sponsor who has issued a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) but has not adhered to the specified job description and/or salary. However, prior to the consideration of revocation action, UKVI will suspend the licence and allow the sponsor the opportunity to make representations against the matter(s) identified. UKVI does have residual discretion to apply a lesser sanctions depending on the severity of the matter(s) and the mitigating circumstances presented by the sponsor; these sanctions include downgrading the licence rating and issuing a time limited action plan or reducing the sponsor's CoS allocation or setting the allocation to zero.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32351/>

Immigration: Applications

Catherine West [32232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many leave to remain applications have been refused as a result of the good character test in each year for which information is available.

Reply from Mike Penning: We are unable to supply the information requested, as Leave to Remain (LTR) applications are not assessed or refused on the basis of 'the good character test'. LTR applications are assessed against a range of criteria, including on the basis of the applicants suitability – which may be their character, convictions, associations or other reasons which may mean that their being in the UK is not 'conducive to the public good'.

The specific refusal reasons entered onto the Home Office IT system during the assessment of a case, consist of a free-form text field, which can only be accessed on a case-by-case basis and therefore a wider Management Information report is not available for this question.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32232/>

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West [32233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been refused as a result of the good character test in each year for which information is available.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Guidance on the good character requirement is published at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406368/Chapter18AnnexDv02.pdf

It is a requirement that applies to anybody over the age of ten who applies for

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naturalisation or registration and therefore plays no part in the assessment of asylum applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32233/>

Immigration: Appeals

Stephen Timms [32528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to how many appeal hearings her Department did not send a representative at (a) First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) and (b) Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) in (i) 2012-13 (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government publishes the percentage of appeal hearings at which the Secretary of State for the Home Department was represented on a quarterly basis. Below is a table covering the 2012-2015 period.

Appeal Representation Rates

Quarters	All hearings (%)	First Tier (%) ³	Upper Tier (%) ³	Deportation (%) ²
2012 Q1	83%	80%	100%	100%
2012 Q2	83%	80%	100%	100%
2012 Q3	87%	85%	100%	100%
2012 Q4	94%	93%	100%	100%
2013 Q1	95%	94%	100%	100%
2013 Q2	98%	97%	100%	100%
2013 Q3	98%	98%	100%	100%
2013 Q4	99%	99%	100%	100%
2014 Q1	99%	98%	100%	100%
2014 Q2	99%	99%	100%	100%
2014 Q3	99%	99%	100%	100%
2014 Q4	99%	99%	100%	100%
2015 Q1	97%	97%	100%	100%
2015 Q2	86%	83%	100%	100%
2015 Q3	85%	82%	100%	100%
2015 Q4	98%	97%	100%	100%

Appeal Representation Rates

1	The percentage of appeal hearings at first tier/upper tier/deportation where the Home Office was represented.
2	Deportation appeals show both first tier and upper tier representation rates.
3	The first tier/upper tier information excludes entry clearance appeals and deportation appeals.
4	All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
5	This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.
6	Data refers ONLY to those cases recorded on the Casework Immigration Database.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32528/>

Immigration: Appeals

Stephen Timms [32540] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many appeal

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hearings at the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) were (a) withdrawn and (b) adjourned because the Home Office did not send a representative in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: The First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) is administered by HM Courts & Tribunals Service.

There are no available data relating to numbers of appeals withdrawn where the Home Office representative did not attend the hearing.

The number of appeal hearings adjourned because the Home Office did not send a representative in (i) 2012-13 was 64 (ii) 2013-14 was 61 and (iii) 2014-15 was 68. For comparison, the figure in 2009/10 was 94.

Data provided are internal Management Information and not subject to the same quality checks as Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32540/>

Immigrants: English Language

Stuart McDonald [33039] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has issued to caseworkers on handling applications from international students to study at UK colleges and universities in a way that ensures the applicants are not disadvantaged by accusation of fraud in English language tests made by ETS.

Reply from James Brokenshire: UK Visas and Immigration caseworkers were issued with guidance on how to handle applications made by international students who had taken ETS English language tests in February 2014. This guidance has been updated as required. This is part of the reasonable and proportionate action we have taken in response to the clear evidence provided by ETS to identify those who had sought to profit from abuse of the English language testing system. The guidance does not disadvantage students who obtained an ETS test certificate properly, but ensures that due scrutiny is being applied by caseworkers where individuals have been identified as having obtained invalid test certificates.

We received the determination in the case of Qadir and SM from the Upper Tribunal on 8 April, providing full reasons for the summary decision handed down on 23 March. Although the Upper Tribunal found that the Home Office did discharge the evidential burden on it in establishing fraud at ETS test centres and that each appellant would need to establish an innocent explanation, it went on to allow the appeals. We are disappointed by the decision and we are currently reviewing it with a view to challenging before the Court of Appeal. Given this, there are no current plans to issue further updated guidance to caseworkers following the recent Upper Tribunal determination.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33039/>

Immigrants: English Language

Stuart McDonald [32574] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will estimate the number of people affected by the decision of 23 March 2016 of the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in the case Qadir v Secretary of State; and what steps she plans to take to (a) notify those people affected and (b) support appeals of previous immigration decisions by those people affected.

Reply from Mike Penning: We are disappointed by the decision in Qadir and SM and, once we have the full determination, we will consider challenging it. Until we

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have the full determination, we cannot make an assessment of the number of persons affected.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32574/>

Immigrants: English Language

Stuart Blair Donaldson [32586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many colleges and universities have had (a) sponsorship licences revoked and (b) faced other restrictions related to allegations of English Language Test fraud; and what steps she plans to take to reconsider those revocations and restrictions.

Reply from Mike Penning: This data is published on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2016>

As this is linked to ongoing litigation, it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32586/>

Immigrants: English Language

Stuart McDonald [32636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission an independent inquiry into the role of (a) her Department and (b) ETS related to allegations of English Language Test fraud.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The investigation into the abuse of English language testing in 2014 revealed extremely serious, large scale, organised fraud and it is right that the Home Office took decisive action in respect of those against whom there was evidence of cheating. We are disappointed by the decision of the Upper Tribunal and, once we have the full determination, we will consider our next steps carefully, including an appeal of this decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32636/>

Employment: Overseas Students

Alison Thewliss [32270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of reductions in international student numbers on employment.

Reply from Mike Penning: Such an assessment has not been made because the Government is delivering a strong labour market which has seen the employment rate for UK nationals grow to 74.6% in Q4 2015 – an increase of 0.8 percentage points compared to the previous year and the highest since records began.

The student migration system we inherited was too weak, and open to widespread 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-

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leading Russell Group institutions are up by 39 per cent since 2010. There remains no limit on the number of genuine international students who can study in the UK.

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/2016-03-23/32270/>

Recruitment (Overseas Workers)

Mike Gapes: What discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on the effect of changes to immigration rules on recruitment of overseas workers. [904381]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Home Office works closely, at ministerial and official levels, with interested Departments on all significant changes to migration policy. The reforms we have announced have been collectively agreed. May I too welcome the hon. Gentleman to his place?

Mike Gapes: Will the Minister explain how it is that his Department is proposing a £35,000 salary threshold, which will have a detrimental impact in many areas where we have shortage occupations? Can he explain why the initial priority list of jobs did not include NHS nurses? I was treated by nurses from all over the world, including some from European Union countries, and I know that in London there will be a major recruitment problem. Already, we cannot provide enough nurses for our NHS and, if we take away recruitment opportunities from NHS trusts in London and elsewhere, we will have major shortages.

Reply from James Brokenshire: ... In essence, the £35,000 threshold applies to gaining settlement, allowing people to extend their time in the UK. We took considered advice from the Migration Advisory Committee at the time it was set, back in 2011, and employers have had five years to prepare for the change. Occupations on the shortage occupation list, including nursing and other shortage skills, are excluded from the requirement. We have carefully considered the independent advice from the MAC on that important matter.

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh: Has the Home Office assessed the impact of the changes on the Scottish economy? Is it not the case that the new arbitrary target, combined with the abolition of the post-study work visa, prevents Scotland from attracting and retaining the brightest and best the world has to offer? Why have this Government prioritised narrow political interests over measures to grow our economy?

Reply from James Brokenshire: I am afraid that the hon. Lady has got it completely wrong. The Government have made it clear that the UK remains open for business. I would gently say to her that we take advice from the expert Migration Advisory Committee, which has advised against different salary thresholds in UK countries and regions. Our thresholds are based on UK-wide data, and salaries in Scotland are slightly higher than the UK average. Advancing the point that she makes might lead to higher salary thresholds in Scotland.

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/160411100015/Recruitment\(OverseasWorkers\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/160411100015/Recruitment(OverseasWorkers))

Immigration: Afghanistan

Baroness Coussins [HL7266] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Afghan interpreters, and (2) members of their immediate families, have been relocated to the UK under (a) the ex-gratia redundancy scheme, and (b) the intimidation policy.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: Up to the end of February, 262 Afghan locally engaged civilians along with 356 members of their families have been relocated to

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the UK under the ex gratia redundancy scheme.

No locally engaged civilians have been relocated to the UK under the current intimidation policy. One former staff member has been relocated to the UK under a previous version of the policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-22/HL7266/>

Immigrants: Private Rented Housing

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL7365] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the letter from Lord Bates on 21 March following the Report Stage of the Immigration Bill, which states that "migrants who do not understand whether they may qualify for permission to rent may contact the Home Office to establish whether this is the case", whether they will provide a reference to guidance on how migrants can contact the Home Office department or team who will deal with such requests, including requests to confirm that a "right to rent" exists in cases where documents are with the Home Office.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: Under the Right to Rent scheme, landlords must check the immigration status of those renting, to ensure they are here legally. Where a migrant's documents are with the Home Office, landlords can confirm the right to rent through the Landlords Checking Service using the migrant's case reference number.

In some limited circumstances, such as where there are genuine obstacles to them leaving, migrants here without leave may be afforded permission to rent although disqualified from renting. Where a migrant is unsure as to whether they qualify for permission to rent, they may contact the caseowner or team that is dealing with their case or ask when they attend the Home Office in compliance with reporting conditions.

Guidance on right to rent and when permission to rent may apply is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/landlords-right-to-rent-checks-guide. As I wrote recently, the Government is reviewing the guidance that has already been published and this will provide further detail on how migrants may make these enquiries.

A short guide for landlords on right to rent

[http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/484860/original/landlords_on_right_to_rent_civil_penalties_guidance_v1.pdf)

[attachments/484860/original/landlords_on_right_to_rent_civil_penalties_guidance_v1.pdf](http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/484860/original/landlords_on_right_to_rent_civil_penalties_guidance_v1.pdf)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-23/HL7365/>

Refugees: Lebanon

Mary Creagh [32176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to encourage LGBTI refugees in Lebanon to apply for resettlement in the UK.

Reply from Richard Harrington: We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the VPR scheme the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria. These include persons at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

We are working with UNHCR and other partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register for fear of stigma/discrimination and unaware of the safe space and options available to them. This includes all religious minorities, LGBTI, people with disabilities, survivors of torture and sexual violence and others.

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32176/>

Refugees: Syria

The following two questions both received the same answer

Mary Creagh [32177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many LGBTI Syrian refugees she estimates will be resettled in the UK by 2020.

Mary Creagh [32175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will estimate the proportion of Syrian refugees settled in the UK by 2020 who will be LGBTI.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR's) vulnerability criteria for identifying refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme include persons at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity, and LGBTI refugees are identified through their normal screening procedures.

We are working with UNHCR and other partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register for fear of stigma/discrimination and unaware of the safe space and options available to them. This includes all religious minorities, LGBT, people with disabilities, survivors of torture and sexual violence and others.

The scheme is based on need and supports those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin, we cannot therefore provide long term forecasts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32177/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32175/>

Refugees: Syria

Jim Cunningham [32410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the total cost of resettling refugees from Syria in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The first 12 months of each refugee's resettlement costs under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme will be funded using Official Development Assistance. At the Spending Review the Government committed £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years 2-5 of the scheme.

The total estimated cost of the scheme in each of the next five years is: £99 million in 2016-2017, £129 million in 2017-2018, £149 million in 2018-2019 and £83 million in 2020-2021.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32410/>

Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL7328] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the 19,000 remaining refugees to enter the UK by the end of this Parliament have been already identified by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We work closely with The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify cases that they deem in need of resettlement according to agreed vulnerability criteria for the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. The scheme is based on need and supports those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin.

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We cannot therefore provide long term forecasts but have agreed a timetable of referrals. This remains subject to change due to a number of operational factors.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-22/HL7328/>

Refugees

Neil Gray: What plans [the Home Secretary] has to relocate or offer asylum in the UK to refugees in mainland Europe. [904376]

Chris Law: What plans [the Home Secretary] has to relocate or offer asylum in the UK to refugees in mainland Europe. [904379]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Refugees (Richard Harrington): The Government are opposed to EU relocation proposals, which do nothing to address the underlying issues the EU is facing and simply move the problem around Europe. Our focus should be on securing the external border, returning those with no right to be in the EU and addressing the underlying issues in source and transit countries, so that people no longer feel that they have no choice but to travel to Europe.

Neil Gray: At the weekend, it was reported that the Children's Commissioner had written to the French Government urging action to speed up asylum claims to help lone children in the Calais refugee camps to reach relatives in the UK. These children must be absolutely petrified and feeling completely isolated and vulnerable—a situation that we would not countenance for our own loved ones. What discussions has the Home Secretary had with her French counterparts in order to stress the critical need to get these poor children safely reunited with their families in the UK?

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Home Secretary and her colleagues have had regular discussions with their French counterparts precisely on this matter in order to speed up the process. Indeed, I can report that there has been a significant improvement over the last few weeks in the time it takes to process these applications.

Chris Law: Charity workers at Calais have deep concerns about the 129 missing children, following the dismantling of parts of the jungle. Does the Home Secretary agree that the authorities must do more, and will she make representations to the French authorities urgently to seek these children out and, in particular, to determine with haste which of these children are eligible to come to Scotland and the rest of the UK?

Reply from Richard Harrington: I am pleased to report again that there are regular discussions between the Home Secretary and her French colleagues on this matter. The Department for International Development recently announced the provision of a further £10 million-worth of special funding precisely to help unaccompanied children in Europe. Details about how the money will be allocated will be announced shortly.

Andrew Bridgen: Does the Minister agree that, far from lagging behind the European Union on this issue, the UK is actually doing far more than any other country in Europe through its massive support for the camps and the refugees in the region, while also resettling the most vulnerable refugees from the camps to the UK?

Reply from Richard Harrington: My hon. Friend makes an extremely good point. The Government believe that relocating children around Europe is not the answer. Under our scheme to relocate the most vulnerable people from Syria and the countries around it, 51% of the people being brought over here are children. I hope that Members on both sides of the House would accept that this is a well measured and well carried-out scheme, which has led to significant improvement in many children's lives.

Ann Clwyd: Nevertheless, thousands of children are still waiting to be resettled. We

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have been having this debate for weeks and months. I am ashamed when I listen to debates in the European Parliament about this issue and hear concern and compassion—something that seems to be singularly lacking in this place.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The right hon. Lady will be aware, I am sure, that under our resettlement scheme many children have been resettled—more than 50% of those coming here are children, as I have said. I remind her and other Members that the policy of UNHCR is to keep children in the areas around Syria, and it has been very successful in identifying children with the greater families to make sure that they have a good chance of a better life in the future.

Tom Brake: Will the Government expand the current definition of the family unit to include de facto family members and simplify the system so that vulnerable children can come here much more quickly than is currently the case? [904398]

Reply from Richard Harrington: As the right hon. Gentleman will know, the Government are currently looking at reports from the UNHCR on precisely the issue of unaccompanied children, and I hope he will agree that lots of efforts are under way to ensure that that happens.

Callum McCaig: The Government have rightly made a big deal of the Syria donor conference in London, but the UNHCR has said that financial solidarity is not enough. Why will the United Kingdom Government not listen, and why did they not step up to their responsibilities at the Geneva conference and do more to help Syrian refugees? [904397]

Reply from Richard Harrington: I was at the Geneva conference on behalf of the Government, and I wish to place on the record that the British Government were congratulated by many other Governments on the work that they have done in relocating Syrian refugees. Our programme for resettling them has been significantly greater than those of all the other countries in the European Union put together.

Joanna Cherry: At Easter, along with three other SNP Members, I spent several days visiting the camps at Calais and Dunkirk. During our visit, we met many refugees with strong ties to the United Kingdom. Why is the Government's record on "take charge" requests under the Dublin convention for those with strong ties to the UK so poor, and what exactly will the Government do to ensure that there is greater awareness of, and a faster process for, such requests?

Reply from Richard Harrington: The hon. and learned Lady has rightly mentioned the Dublin convention and its effect. It is our Government's policy to ensure that the convention works properly. With that in mind, we have seconded officials not just to France, including Calais, but to other parts of Europe—Athens, Rome and Germany—to ensure that what she has asked for happens and that the process is speeded up significantly.

Joanna Charry: I am afraid that the Minister's answer is not good enough. There was no evidence of any Home Office presence in any of those camps, and what is happening to children in the camps is utterly disgraceful. In the Grande-Synthe camp—

Andrew Turner: It is up to the French.

Joanna Cherry: ... This is not a laughing matter, and it is not "up to the French" when those children have connections with the United Kingdom. That is my point.

In the Grande-Synthe camp, I met a 16-year-old girl who was working hard for exams in a pop-up school in a tent. She had made the journey to northern France on her own. Her father is in the United Kingdom, but owing to the absence of guidance from the French authorities and the failure of our Government to act, she was stuck in limbo and uncertain about her future. Children like her are very vulnerable in the camps. It is time for the Home Secretary to show leadership. Will she give us a commitment that her Department will ensure that those with a legal right to join their families in the United Kingdom are

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granted that right as a matter of urgency?

Reply from Richard Harrington: I shall try to avoid repeating what the chunterers were saying earlier, because the hon. and learned Lady has made a serious point. However, I must reiterate that those children are in France and are predominantly the responsibility of the French Government, with whom we are working very closely by placing officials with them.

The children in question have a clear path. They should claim asylum under the Dublin convention, which they are perfectly allowed to do. It is then the responsibility of the Home Office—the British Government—to ensure that their asylum claims are processed speedily and effectively. If they do have the relationships with families in the United Kingdom that the hon. and learned Lady has been told that they have, I can assure her that the process is very much speedier and more efficient than it used to be.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/1604111000011/Refugees>

Asylum (Unaccompanied Children)

Tom Pursglove: What support [the Home Secretary's] Department is providing for local authority provision for unaccompanied children seeking asylum. [904380]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): The Home Office provides financial support to local authorities by meeting reasonable additional costs for those local authorities taking on responsibility for the care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The Immigration Bill will underpin arrangements to secure more equitable dispersal between local authorities.

Tom Pursglove: I thank the Minister for that answer, but given the number of cases where people over the age of 18 are pretending to be children, what can local authorities do to ensure that their limited resources are being best directed to very vulnerable children?

Reply from James Brokenshire: I thank my hon. Friend for his question. I also thank those in Northamptonshire for the work they are doing to deal with the pressures they have experienced and for the way in which they have approached this through the discussions and round-table meetings that have taken place. Clear age-assessment tests are undertaken to ensure that support is provided to those who require it and not to those who do not. Let me add that I will be writing to all local authorities this week with an update on progress on the national transfer scheme to aid the more equitable dispersal.

Jim Cunningham: Can the Minister say how much money from the overseas budget has been used to help local authorities to resettle asylum seekers? [904395]

Reply from James Brokenshire: The hon. Gentleman is asking not about unaccompanied asylum-seeking children but a broader question about the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme. We have set out the different funding mechanisms available to those who are resettled and some of that is fundable through overseas development aid. That is how we are ensuring that appropriate support and welcome are given to the people arriving.

Alison McGovern: I think the Minister would agree that we can perform our duty as a country only if all areas take up their responsibility, so it is good to hear his answer. May I ask him about education support? Vulnerable children should not lose their chance of a future, so how will local authorities with experience of helping asylum-seeker children support those with less experience of educating those children?

Reply from James Brokenshire: We have had discussions with the Department for Education and the Local Government Association about the voluntary dispersal arrangements we want to see, underpinned by the Immigration Bill currently in the other place. We are continuing the dialogue on precisely how

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elements of that are implemented and on how we can learn from the expertise of authorities that have had greater involvement in these matters.

Alan Brown: During the recess, Scottish National party MPs visited the Calais and Dunkirk refugee camps and witnessed unaccompanied children being forced to share bed space with unrelated adults. That is clearly a troubling and serious matter. Does the Minister think the Government are doing enough to support those children? Surely it is time to step up to the plate and do more. [904399]

Reply from James Brokenshire: We are working closely with the French Government. As my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Refugees said in answer to a previous question, we have had a secondee working in the Ministry of the Interior in France to speed up the process in relation to children identified as having links to family here in the UK. Equally, the French Government are putting greater support in through a charity to raise awareness and identify children better to give them the help they require.

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/1604111000014/Asylum\(UnaccompaniedChildren\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/1604111000014/Asylum(UnaccompaniedChildren))

Unaccompanied Child Migrants

Fiona Mactaggart: What recent assessment [has the Home Secretary] made of the risks of trafficking or exploitation to unaccompanied child migrants in France who intend to seek asylum in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [904385]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Karen Bradley): The French and UK Governments have put in place a programme, run by the non-governmental organisation France terre d'asile, to identify and help potential victims of trafficking in the camps around Calais. As has been said in previous answers, unaccompanied refugee children in France should claim asylum there. That is the best way to ensure that they receive the protection and support they need. It also provides a legal and safe route to the UK for those with close family in the UK.

Fiona Mactaggart: But as we know from the earlier questions to which the Minister referred, there are 129 missing children, who are obviously those most at risk of such exploitation. I had a very welcome letter recently from her colleague, the Immigration Minister, about the situation of children in the camps. He said that these cases are being given priority so that the children can "receive the protection and support they need and are reunited as soon as possible with any close family members in the UK." How many have been reunited?

Reply from Karen Bradley: The right hon. Lady knows that we are not giving a running commentary on numbers, but I can assure her that the work is taking place and that any unaccompanied asylum-seeking child in France should claim asylum there with the support of the NGOs, and if they have family in the UK, we will reunite them.

Fiona Bruce: In view of the clear link between trafficking and forced prostitution, and following the French Government's change last week to their prostitution laws, criminalising sex buyers but not the vulnerable women involved, and similar changes in Sweden and Norway years ago which reduced trafficking substantially, do Ministers agree that that should be considered in this country?

Reply from Karen Bradley: I know that my hon. Friend takes a keen interest in this issue and we have discussed the point outside the Chamber. I am aware also of the Home Affairs Committee's current inquiry into the matter, and I look forward to seeing the evidence.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-11/debates/1604111000017/UnaccompaniedChildMigrants>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Steve McCabe [32719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answers of 15 March 2016 to Questions 30647 and 30649, what the evidential basis is for the statement that her Department's policy enables thousands of people each year to be reunited with their families in the UK; and how many extended family members seeking family reunion have been granted asylum in exceptional circumstances by the Entry Clearance Officer in each of the last three years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In the last three years, over 13,000 family reunion visas have been granted under the Immigration Rules. This information is available in the quarterly statistics published by the Home Office and available on Gov.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015/list-of-tables#visas>

A further 65 visas have been granted outside the Rules due to exceptional circumstances.

We have committed to making clearer in revised guidance the kinds of cases which may benefit from leave outside the Immigration Rules due to exceptional circumstances. The guidance will be updated by the end of April.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32719/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Mike Kane [32107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities are properly informed and involved in decisions to distribute asylum seekers.

Mike Kane [32194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities have appropriate resources to support and deal with increased demand for their services by asylum seekers.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office maintains active partnerships with the local authorities that have volunteered to become dispersal areas across the UK and funds regional Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) to plan the dispersal of asylum seekers across the region. The partnerships consider the impact on communities and local services so that adjustments can be made where appropriate. This ensures that community cohesion, social welfare and safety issues are properly considered.

SMPs act as a focal point allowing the sharing of expertise and vital information between the Home Office, its asylum accommodation providers, local government, health, education and the police, ensuring coordinated planning and leadership on asylum dispersion. They also consider other funded objectives such as initiatives in support of visa policy; modern slavery; immigration sanctions and improvement; vulnerable children (including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) and adults; No Recourse to Public Funds policies of local government; EU migration and integration.

The Home Office, our housing contractors and the SMPs work closely with local authorities to ensure we can accommodate asylum seekers in appropriate accommodation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32107/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32194/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Applications

Mike Kane [32286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms her Department has in place to determine the geographic distribution of asylum seekers awaiting decisions on asylum applications.

Reply from Mike Penning: The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 introduced the policy of national dispersal, designed to share the impact of asylum seekers across the whole of the UK. Asylum seekers are housed across the UK under voluntary agreements between national government and local authorities that have been in place since 2000.

We work to a maximum agreed dispersal ratio of 1:200 asylum seekers per head of total population. We are proactively engaging with all areas that to date have not participated in asylum dispersal with a view to negotiating voluntary agreements to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32286/>

Asylum: Families

Steve McCabe [32506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 March 2016 to Question 30648, what details of family members her Department records in respect of refugees who are granted asylum in the UK.

Reply from Mike Penning: Asylum claims may include one or more family members who are accepted as dependant on the principal claimant's asylum claim. Information on family members is requested at the screening and substantive interviews and, where given, this includes name, date of birth, nationality, gender and method of entry into the country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32506/>

Asylum: Families

Steve McCabe p32505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 March 2016 to Question 30649, when she plans to publish the outcomes of the review of the process of dealing with family reunion applications.

Reply from Mike Penning: Following consultation with partners, we are currently in the process of finalising revised guidance on dealing with family reunion applications. We intend to publish updated guidance in April 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/32505/>

Asylum: Young People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL7327] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have forecast how many of the 20,000 asylum seekers to enter the UK by the end of this Parliament will be under 18.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We work closely with The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify cases that they deem in need of resettlement according to agreed vulnerability criteria for the Syrian Resettlement Scheme.

The scheme is based on need and supports those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin.

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. Latest statistics published on 25 February 2016 confirms in

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-22/HL7327/>

Asylum: Housing

Mike Kane [32195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the level of hotel use to house asylum seekers is in each local authority area.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Under the COMPASS contracts, providers are allowed to use contingency accommodation to cope with unanticipated increase in demand, but we have made clear to providers that this is only ever acceptable in exceptional situations and asylum seekers must be moved to appropriate longer term accommodation as soon as possible. Providers will inform local authorities about short term contingency accommodation prior to its use.

Our records indicate that there are currently 22 hotels in use across 10 local authorities. This is provisional management information that is subject to daily change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32195/>

Asylum: Housing

Mike Kane [32287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of asylum seekers placed in hotels while awaiting decisions on asylum applications.

Reply from Mike Penning: We have continued to make clear to our providers that the use of hotels is only acceptable as a short-term contingency arrangement and we are supporting all measures being pursued by providers to increase procurement to provide sufficient accommodation as a matter of urgency.

With the support of local authorities we, and our housing providers, are engaging with areas that to date have not participated in asylum dispersal with a view to negotiating voluntary agreements to do so. We are also working through a range of other options for accommodating asylum seekers safely and securely.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-23/32287/>

Asylum: Turkey

Tim Farron [33219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been received from Turkish nationals in each year since 2006.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of asylum applications received from Turkish nationals (main applicants) in each year from 2006 to 2015, is detailed in the table below.

Asylum applications received from Turkish nationals, for main applicants, 2006 to 2015	
Year	Total applications
2006	426
2007	208
2008	193
2009	187
2010	155
2011	170

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

2012	190
2013	250
2014	271
2015 (1)	230

Source: table as_01, Immigration Statistics, October to December 2015, Home Office.

(1) 2015 figures are provisional and subject to revision.

The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on asylum applications by nationality 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/2016-04-08/33219/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Tebbit [HL7356] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people held in Immigration Control Centres are not free to leave to go to other jurisdictions.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: There are no countries to which, as a matter of immigration policy, the Home Office does not return people if they wish to return voluntarily.

There may be a small number of people who might be detained for immigration purposes who are not free to leave the jurisdiction of the UK because, for example, of ongoing criminal proceedings but this is not centrally recorded.

For those being detained with a view to removal, detention may continue lawfully only for as long as there is a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable period of time. Home Office guidance is clear that detention must be used sparingly and for the shortest period reasonably necessary to achieve its purpose.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-23/HL7356/>

Repatriation: EEA Nationals

Christopher Chope [32223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2016 to Question 30132, on repatriation: EEA Nationals, how many of those people who were served with administrative removal papers in 2014 are still in the UK; and how many of those people who were forcibly removed have since returned to the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold data on the number of people who are still in the UK having been served administrative removal papers in 2014. After an EEA national has been served with administrative removal papers, they have 30 days to leave the country. This period is set out in the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. All those served with administrative removal papers are given a 12-month re-entry ban. Currently, this re-entry ban can only be lifted if the EEA national can provide evidence that their re-admission will not lead to a further abuse of free movement rights and/or that they will be immediately exercising Treaty Rights upon their return. Of the 1,019 individuals who were forcibly removed in 2014, 163 sought re-entry and only 19 were granted re-admission to the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32223/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL7353] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of non-EU citizens who face being deported after 6 April because they earn less than £35,000.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: No migrant workers will be deported from April 2016 as a result of the £35,000 settlement threshold.

The threshold only applies to those who entered Tier 2 (General), the skilled work route, from 6 April 2011. Tier 2 workers sponsored in shortage or PhD-level occupations are exempt. Skilled workers may remain in Tier 2 (General) for up to six years in total, after which they are expected to meet the settlement criteria or leave. For those who entered in April 2011, the six year maximum period of stay will expire in April 2017.

Those who are paid below the threshold may apply to switch into any other routes for which they are eligible. Those workers who cannot extend their stay will be expected to leave the UK voluntarily when their visa expires. The Home Office published a full impact assessment on the changes to Tier 2 settlement rules when they were laid before Parliament on 15 March 2012. This is available on the gov.uk website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117957/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf

Impact Assessment - Tier 2

<http://qna.files.parliament.uk/qna-attachments/484847/original/impact-assessment-tier2.pdf>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-03-23/HL7353/>

People Trafficking

James Cartlidge [904392] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to tackle people trafficking.

Reply from Karen Bradley: This Government is committed to stamping out Modern Slavery, including human trafficking. Our Modern slavery Act gives law enforcement agencies the tools they need to tackle this heinous crime, places a duty on large businesses to report on their steps to prevent modern slavery in their global supply chains, and ensures that perpetrators can receive suitably severe sentences of up to life imprisonment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-24/904392/>

Press Release

Parliament advocates a centralised EU asylum system and legal ways to migrate

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160407IPR21773/Parliament-advocates-a-centralised-EU-asylum-system-and-legal-ways-to-migrate>

New Publication

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report: An Inspection of Border Force Operations at Manchester Airport

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/516364/Foormal_Response_to_ICI_Manchester_Inspection.pdf

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Research into women's experiences of the asylum appeals process

Information for organisations

<http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/infoorgs.docx>

Information for women interested in taking part

<http://www.edf.org.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/infowomen.doc>

Resettling Syrian refugees in the UK 'to cost more than half a billion pounds'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36036922>

Home Office looks to Scottish councils to take on more asylum seekers

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14419982.Home_Office_looks_to_Scottish_councils_to_take_on_more_asylum_seekers/

Scottish councils could be made to house asylum seekers

http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-11/scotland/scottish-councils-could-be-made-to-house-asylum-seekers-xj55qq6s2?acs_cjd=true

Government must face scrutiny over hacking of migrants' phones by UK border guards

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/government-must-face-scrutiny-over-hacking-of-migrants-phones-by-uk-border-guards-a6977776.html>

Home Office's treatment of international students to be investigated in formal inquiry

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/home-office-s-treatment-of-international-students-to-be-investigated-in-formal-inquiry-a6981396.html>

House of Lords backs ban for detention of pregnant women in immigration centres

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2838_house_of_lords_backs_ban_for_detention_of_pregnant_women_in_immigration_centres

Theresa May to put 72-hour limit on detention of pregnant asylum seekers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/17/pregnant-asylum-seekers-detention>

Unaccompanied children as young as six arriving at British ports

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/13/unaccompanied-children-as-young-as-six-arriving-at-british-ports>

Six-year-olds arrive alone in Britain to claim asylum

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/six-year-olds-arrive-alone-in-britain-to-claim-asylum-npw0vns09>

Illegal migrants smuggled into Britain aboard inflatable boats

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4732015.ece>

Resettlement of 20,000 Syrian refugees estimated to cost half a billion pounds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/13/resettlement-of-20000-syrian-refugees-estimated-to-cost-half-a-b/>

EU migrants mostly from six nations

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-13/news/eu-migrants-mostly-from-six-nations-rd6dh3vc9>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Home Office subjects asylum seeker to 407-mile detour across UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/13/home-office-asylum-seeker-407-mile-detour-liverpool-london>

Aid agencies call on the UK Government to do more to help vulnerable refugees and migrants

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2837_aid_agencies_call_on_the_uk_government_to_do_more_to_help_vulnerable_refugees_and_migrants

Dear Home Office, please don't deport me to my death

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/14/home-office-please-dont-deport-death-lugman-onikosi-nigeria>

'Refugees have a right to asylum – not bias and barbed wire,' Ban says in Washington

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53696#.VxPAUJN96nY>

The lawyer who takes the cases no one wants

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/2016/apr/14/the-lawyer-who-takes-the-cases-no-one-wants>

Pope Francis takes refugees to Rome after Lesbos visit

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/16/pope-francis-flies-to-lesbos-to-highlight-humanitarian-crisis-in-europe>

Pope Francis brings back 12 Muslim refugees from Lesbos to the Vatican

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/muslim-refugees-to-be-rehoused-in-vatican-after-pope-francis-visit-shm5w57jm>

Pope Francis transforms lives of 12 Syrian refugees plucked from Lesbos - but thousands left behind in Greece

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/16/pope-visits-lesbos-to-highlight-ordeal-of-refugees/>

The lucky few: Twelve Syrian refugees board the Pope's jet as Francis gives them a new life in Rome after visit to Lesbos camp where he slammed 'unscrupulous thugs' who traffic desperate migrants

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3543076/Pope-Francis-visits-refugee-camp-Lesbos-plans-TEN-migrants-Rome-leaves.html>

Human trafficking report: Victims reveal devastating impact of abuse with 80 per cent suffering mental health problems

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/human-trafficking-mental-health-kings-college-london-ptsd-prostitution-modern-slavery-london-school-a6984456.html>

Trafficked women rescued in Glasgow

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-15/scotland/trafficked-women-rescued-in-glasgow-ghvlj3c3f>

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Community Relations

New Publication

What Muslims really think

<http://www.icmunlimited.com/data/media/pdf/Mulims-full-suite-data-plus-topline.pdf>

News

Survey reveals chasm between Muslim values and rest of UK

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-11/news/survey-reveals-chasm-between-muslim-values-and-rest-of-uk-d30hl55lk>

Parallel Lives

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4731281.ece>

Why the ICM poll of British Muslims shows we need to defend our values more than ever

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/04/12/why-the-icm-poll-of-british-muslims-shows-we-need-to-defend-our/>

Well done Channel 4 - you've just made British Muslims feel even more isolated

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/13/Channel-4-just-made-British-Muslims-feel-even-more-isolated/>

Our survey of Muslims was as thorough as can be

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/apr/12/our-survey-of-muslims-was-as-thorough-as-can-be>

What do Muslims really think? This skewed poll certainly won't tell us

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/12/what-do-muslims-think-skewed-poll-wont-tell-us>

Half of all British Muslims think homosexuality should be illegal, poll finds

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/11/british-muslims-strong-sense-of-belonging-poll-homosexuality-sharia-law>

What British Muslims really think about Channel 4's show

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/14/what-british-muslims-really-think-about-channel-4s-show>

Trevor Phillips' research on British Muslims is dangerous and wrong. No wonder Islamophobia is on the rise

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/trevor-phillips-research-on-british-muslims-is-dangerous-and-wrong-no-wonder-islamophobia-is-on-the-a6980331.html>

What British Muslims really think about poll that asked: 'What do British Muslims really think?'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-big-problem-with-that-poll-of-british-muslims-a6980411.html>

Poll finds more than half of British Muslims believe homosexuality should be illegal

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/poll-finds-more-than-half-of-british-muslims-believe-homosexuality-should-be-illegal-a6978091.html>

Community Relations

News (continued)

Muslims are more progressive than Tories and the Church on issues such as a gay rights, insists Warsi as she hits out at claims some do not integrate into British life
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3538896/Muslims-progressive-Tories-says-Baroness-Warsi.html>

Yes, we Muslims must be braver and do more to integrate says Labour MP after former equalities chief's call provokes furious backlash
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3535000/Yes-Muslims-braver-integrate-says-Labour-MP-former-equalities-chief-s-call-provokes-furious-backlash.html>

This life and death struggle: In a stark analysis, former equalities chief reveals how extremist ideas have been allowed to flourish
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3533161/This-life-death-struggle-stark-analysis-former-equalities-chief-reveals-extremist-ideas-allowed-flourish.html>

Why the latest poll won't tell us what all British Muslims actually think
<http://tellmamauk.org/why-the-latest-poll-wont-tell-us-what-all-british-muslims-actually-think/>

What's it like 'being BROWN GIRL'? One girl has crafted the perfect letter to let you know
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14430357.What_s_it_like_being_BROWN_GIRL_One_girl_has_crafted_the_perfect_letter_to_let_you_know/

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Equality

UK Parliament Debate

BBC: Diversity
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-14/debates/16041436000002/BBCDiversity>

UK Parliament Question

Cabinet Office: Equality

David Mackintosh [31422] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps he is taking to improve the diversity of (a) public appointments and (b) staffing in his Department.

Reply from Matthew Hancock: All public appointments are made on merit following a fair and open competition in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments's Code of Practice. The Government is committed to increasing the diversity of public appointments. The Centre for Public Appointments in the Cabinet Office supports departments on all issues relating to the diversity of public appointments. Steps we are taking to increase diversity include streamlining the application process, placing an emphasis on ability over previous experience and increasing awareness of opportunities by using a central website, social media and engaging with a variety of diversity networks and groups.

The Cabinet Office recruits staff in line with the Civil Service Commissioners Principles which ensures that candidates are selected based on fair and open

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

competition and on merit. To reduce bias in selection, the Cabinet Office will be implementing name-blind recruitment methods from 1st April. In addition, recruitment and selection training, which has a core focus on raising awareness of unconscious bias, is also offered to all Chairs of recruitment panels.

On 24 March, we published our 2016 Talent Action Plan for the Civil Service. It provides a progress update on initiatives to increase diversity in the Civil Service, including cross-Government talent programmes aimed at under-represented groups. It also sets out how we will increase social mobility in the Civil Service. The 2016 Talent Action Plan is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/talent-action-plan-2016-removing-the-barriers-to-success>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-16/31422/>

Press Release

BME employment reaches record high

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bme-employment-reaches-record-high>

News

Cabinet Office has least diverse workforce of all ministerial departments, new report reveals

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/cabinet-office-is-least-diverse-of-all-ministerial-departments-new-report-reveals-a6979671.html>

BAME workers with degrees two and half times more likely to be unemployed, finds TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/black-workers/labour-market/bame-workers-degrees-two-and-half-times-more-likely-be>

BAME graduates '2.5 times more likely to be jobless than white peers'

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/apr/15/bame-graduates-25-times-more-likely-to-be-jobless-than-white-peers>

Black and Asian graduates more than twice as likely to be unemployed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/black-and-asian-graduates-more-than-twice-as-likely-to-be-unemployed-a6984926.html>

BBC urged to include targets for BAME staff levels in next royal charter

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/apr/13/bbc-urged-to-include-targets-for-bame-staff-levels-in-next-royal-charter>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

David Lammy to visit court as part of racial bias review

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-lammy-to-visit-court-as-part-of-racial-bias-review>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) News

Asad Shah: Call for Commons debate following killing of Glasgow shopkeeper

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14427501.Asad_Shah_Call_for_Commons_debate_following_killing_of_Glasgow_shopkeeper/

Labour suspends councillor over 'Hitler was great' tweet

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-11/news/labour-suspends-councillor-over-hitler-was-great-tweet-7b8g0hbqz>

Kent police officer wins racial discrimination case against force

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/14/kent-police-officer-angus-bowler-wins-racial-discrimination-case>

Inter-Muslim faith hate is a small issue compared to the widespread intolerance of Muslims in Britain

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/inter-muslim-faith-hate-is-a-small-issue-compared-to-the-widespread-intolerance-of-muslims-in-a6979376.html>

Scotland's football clubs stand accused of 'doing nothing' to tackle bigotry

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotlands-football-clubs-stand-accused-7759683#Bgi06S8gM9evkkS1.97>

This is how it feels to be racially profiled while travelling

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/12/racially-profiled-while-travelling-discrimination-passengers-security>

Disciplinary action for imposing religious views was not discriminatory

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1114094154090&ca=0254e12c-caa0-4611-be59-a03f1f9b032a>

BBC sitcom Citizen Khan 'Islamophobic', says MP

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36048059>

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Scottish Parliament Elections

New Publications

Conservative Party manifesto

http://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Scottish-Conservative-Manifesto_2016-DIGITAL-SINGLE-PAGES.pdf

LibDem manifesto

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/no2nuisancecalls/pages/1979/attachments/original/1460714587/Manifesto_-_Be_The_Best_Again_-_Scottish_Liberal_Democrats_2016.pdf?1460714587

Green Party manifesto

https://greens.scot/sites/default/files/Scottish%20Greens%20Manifesto_Online.pdf

MEMO+ Scottish Parliament Elections: Registering to Vote

http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2016/16iv_sp_elections_register.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Ethnic Groups

Sarah Champion [32146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what definition her Department uses for BAME.

Reply from Mike Penning: The Government has traditionally used a mix of terms to describe the groups we are working with on race equality: Black and Minority Ethnic (BME); Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), also ethnic minority and minority ethnic.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32146/>

Crimes of Violence: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Champion [32150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will bring forward policies to tackle violence against women and girls in the BAME communities.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government published a new Violence Against Women and Girls strategy on 8 March committing £80 million between 2016 and 2020 to protect women and girls from violence and abuse. The increased funding will help to deliver our goal to work with local commissioners to ensure a secure future for rape support centres, refuges and the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage Units, whilst driving a major change across all services which promote early intervention and prevention.

The strategy sets out how we will support local areas in implementing tailored services for victims who experience different forms of discrimination or additional barriers to accessing support. This includes the launch of a Service Transformation Fund from 2017 which will help to meet the needs of women and girls experiencing multiple disadvantage including victims from black and minority ethnic communities. We continue to challenge the cultural attitudes that may underpin practices of FGM and forced marriage. We have criminalised forced marriage, set up a specialist FGM Unit, created a mandatory duty for frontline professionals to report FGM to the police, and will publish multi-agency FGM guidance for front-line professionals which we will put on a statutory footing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-22/32150/>

Marriage: Children

Douglas Carswell [33257] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on the prosecution of husbands of child brides resident in the UK, who married that bride outside of the UK.

Reply from Karen Bradley: We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK. The offence relates to where a UK resident or national forces a child into marriage overseas as well as in the UK. Our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leads efforts to combat forced marriage both at home and abroad. Where cases involve a minor in the UK, the FMU work with the relevant statutory agencies to provide advice and expertise to ensure that appropriate safeguarding measures are taken. Where a case involves a minor overseas, the FMU work with consular officers overseas and statutory agencies in the UK to ensure safeguarding obligations are fulfilled and appropriate action is taken where necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-11/33257/>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Releases

Vaisakhi 2016: David Cameron's message

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

Aluth Avurudda and Puthandu 2016: David Cameron's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aluth-avurudda-and-puthandu-2016-david-camerons-message>

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Other News

Scotland set to lead the way internationally

<http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/2016/04/13/scotland-set-to-lead-the-way-internationally/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-04-12/debates/16041242000803/ImmigrationBill>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2015-2016/0159/16159.1-5.html>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Fife Third Sector Equality and Diversity Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/1b154e99301/feb61f61-2119-499f-9591-cfe96044bd63.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

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>

Primary care for new migrants (no closing date given)

<https://newmigrantsinprimarycare.wordpress.com/survey/>

Police Scotland: local policing (consultation open for the whole year)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

**** The rise of anti-Semitism** (closing date not yet announced)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/inquiry2/>

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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

Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund

Deadline for applications 20 May 2016

Scottish Government funding to tackle social isolation and loneliness among Scotland's most vulnerable people. For information and application form see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/social-isolation-and-loneliness-fund/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** 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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Universal Periodic Review**

27 April 2016 in Inverness (10.15)

28 April 2016 in Edinburgh (10.15)

British Institute of Human Rights consultation events to provide civil society organisations with an opportunity to find out about the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), review the UK's progress on recommendations made at the last UPR (in 2012); and identify key new human rights issues in the UK which the UN should review. For information and to book contact 0207 882 5850 or see <https://www.bihhr.org.uk/Event/UPRinverness2016> (Inverness) or <https://www.bihhr.org.uk/Event/UPRedinburgh2016> (Edinburgh).

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/>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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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