

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.*

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Immigration and Asylum | Other News |
| Community Relations | Bills in Progress |
| Equality | Consultations |
| Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination | Job Opportunities |
| Scottish Parliament Elections | Funding Opportunities |
| Other Scottish Parliament and Government | Events/Conferences/Training |
| Other UK Parliament and Government | Useful Links |

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

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 Debate

Draft Modern Slavery Act 2015 (Code of Practice) regulations 2016

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-18/debates/7cbb639e-71d6-42cf-9347-b7efb8770bf2/DraftModernSlaveryAct2015\(CodeOfPractice\)Regulations2016](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-18/debates/7cbb639e-71d6-42cf-9347-b7efb8770bf2/DraftModernSlaveryAct2015(CodeOfPractice)Regulations2016)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Refugees and Resettlement

The Minister for Immigration (James Brokenshire): Following my statement on the 28

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

January, the Government has continued to work to provide support to refugee children. We have always been clear that in order to provide the best help to the greatest number of those in need, we need to support the majority of refugees to stay safely in their home region.

That is why we recently doubled our aid for the Syrian crisis to £2.3 billion, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. This support has reached hundreds of thousands of people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt. To galvanise international efforts we co-hosted the “Supporting Syria and the Region” conference in London on 4 February, securing pledges of more than \$11 billion, the largest amount ever raised in one day for a humanitarian crisis. These commitments will create an estimated 1.1 million jobs for refugees and host country citizens by 2018. By the end of the 2016/17 school year, 1.7 million refugee and vulnerable children will be in quality education with equal access for girls and boys.

Today I am able to announce the results of work with UNHCR and informed by a roundtable with NGOs, local authorities and devolved administrations to provide a resettlement route to the UK, specifically designed for ‘Children at Risk’ from the Middle East and North Africa region. On the UNHCR’s recommendation the scheme will not target unaccompanied children alone, but will be extended to all ‘Children at Risk’ as defined by the UNHCR. This broad category encompasses unaccompanied children and separated children (those separated from their parents and/or other family members) as well as other vulnerable children such as child carers and those facing the risk of child labour, child marriage or other forms of neglect, abuse or exploitation.

Through this category we will resettle the most vulnerable children, accompanied by their families, where the UNHCR deems resettlement is in the best interests of the child. We will commit to resettling several hundred individuals in the first year with a view to resettling up to 3000 individuals over the lifetime of this Parliament, the majority of whom will be children. We will also review the scheme at the two year mark. This unique initiative will be the largest resettlement effort that focuses on children at risk from the MENA region and will be over and above the commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees under the Syrian Resettlement Scheme. It will be open to all at risk groups and nationalities within the region, with the best interests of the child at the heart of the scheme. The UNHCR are fully supportive of the launch of this new initiative and the UK’s commitment to assist vulnerable refugee children at risk through further resettlement efforts which uphold the principles of child protection.

The Government is committed to making a full contribution to the global refugee crisis, in particular by helping children at risk. We firmly believe that we can make the biggest difference and add most value by supporting children and their families in the conflict region whilst providing a route to the UK for the minority of vulnerable or at risk cases where resettlement is judged by the UNHCR to be in the child’s best interests.

At the same time we need to shut down the illegal migration routes to Europe, exploited by human traffickers who encourage people to risk their lives to make perilous journeys. The success of the EU-Turkey migration agreement is a vital opportunity to end the misery and lethal risk that smugglers and organised criminals are causing on a daily basis.

Following discussion with the European Commission and the Greek Government I can today announce that the UK will be offering 75 expert personnel to help with processing and administration of migrants in reception centres, act as interpreters, provide medical support and bolster our existing team assisting the Commission to ensure effective and efficient co-ordination. We will also provide vital equipment and medical supplies. This is in addition to the UK maritime contribution, with three Border Force vessels assisting the Hellenic Coastguard to conduct search and rescue missions, and a Royal Navy vessel as part of the NATO mission in the Aegean.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

The teams we send to Greece will include experts in supporting vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied children and those trained to tackle people trafficking. This will help ensure that vulnerable people, including children, are identified and can access asylum procedures as quickly as possible. This is in addition to the work undertaken by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland, to visit hotspots and assess what more can be done to ensure unaccompanied children are protected from traffickers.

To increase support to refugees in Turkey the Government is contributing £250 million to the initial €3 billion Turkey Refugee Facility. This is expected to provide immediate humanitarian support as well as funding for schools, hospitals and housing. We are also working with the Turkish government to identify what expert support would best assist their immigration and asylum services in handling migrants returned under the EU-Turkey agreement.

We continue to take action within Europe to assist vulnerable migrant children. The UK is the largest bilateral contributor to the humanitarian response to the crisis in Europe and the Balkans with a total contribution of £65m. This includes nearly £46 million to provide life-saving aid to migrants and refugees including food, water, hygiene kits and infant packs, and protection for the most vulnerable, as well as support to organisations helping governments build their capacity to manage arrivals in Greece and the Balkans. The efforts of the partners we fund are targeted to reach the most vulnerable - including children.

It also includes the £10m Refugee Children Fund the Department for International Development (DFID) has created to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children specifically in Europe. The fund will support three specialist and mandated organisations UNHCR, Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to work with host authorities to care for and assist unaccompanied or separated children in Europe and the Balkans. This includes identifying vulnerable children, providing for their immediate support, referral to specialist care, and helping find solutions such as family reunification.

It is important to use the tools available to help children reunite with family wherever possible. The government is committed to meeting our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. We have seconded additional resource into the European Asylum Support Office totalling over 1000 days of expert support to Italy and Greece to implement and streamline the Dublin process, including to quickly identify children who qualify for family reunion. And we continue to work with the French authorities to address the situation in Calais, including through a permanent bi-lateral standing committee to improve co-operation on Dublin transfers, particularly family reunion.

The recent secondment of a senior asylum expert to the French Interior Ministry to improve the process for family cases has already resulted in a significant increase in the number of children being reunited with family in the UK. In the last six weeks 24 cases have been accepted for transfer to the UK from France under family unity provisions, more than half of whom have already arrived in the UK. Once an asylum claim has been lodged in another Member State we have demonstrated that transfers can take place within weeks.

We will do all we can to ensure that children in Europe with a right to be reunited with their family in the UK are supported to do so. However, the government remains of the view that relocation schemes within Europe risk creating unintended consequences or perverse incentives for people to put their lives into the hands of traffickers. Instead we are committed to providing safe and legal routes for the most vulnerable refugees from Syria to resettle to the UK. Under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme we are committed to resettling 20,000 vulnerable refugees by 2020. In the last quarter of 2015 we resettled 1085 Syrian refugees under this scheme over half of whom were children.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-04-21/HCWS687/>

Immigration detention

Theresa May (The Secretary of State for the Home Department): The Government plans to end the routine detention of pregnant women. Similar to the arrangements put in place as part of the ending routine detention for families with children in 2014, the Government will table an amendment to the Immigration Bill, when it returns to this House shortly, placing a seventy-two hour time limit on the detention of pregnant women. This will be extendable to up to a week with Ministerial authorisation.

We have already made progress on this and the Government is clear that pregnant women should be detained only in exceptional circumstances. This is a difficult issue - we need to balance the welfare of pregnant women with the need to maintain a robust and workable immigration system and ensure that those with no right to be here leave the UK.

We expect people who do not have the right to stay here to leave voluntarily. As with the family returns process, we will be able to offer support to those who choose to leave voluntarily to ensure that individuals are able to exercise control over their departure.

However, we need to ensure that we are able to effectively manage returns for those who do not depart voluntarily. This new safeguard will ensure that detention for pregnant women will be used as a last resort and for very short periods – for example: immediately prior to a managed return; to prevent illegal entry at the border where a return can be arranged quickly, or if a pregnant woman presents a public risk.

Wider changes are underway to improve the welfare of all vulnerable people in detention through a series of reforms, including a new policy on “adults at risk.” The Immigration Minister set out details of these reforms in a Written Ministerial Statement on 14 January in response to the recommendations in Stephen Shaw’s report on the welfare of vulnerable people in detention.

The Government has listened carefully to concerns expressed in Parliament and by others and believes that the proposed amendment, combined with the wider reforms, strikes the right balance between protecting vulnerable women and maintaining effective and proportionate immigration control.

In due course the Government also intends to invite Stephen Shaw to carry out a short review in order to assess progress against the key actions from his previous report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-04-18/HCWS679/>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Bill

Lord Hylton [HL7424] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what estimates they have made of the impact on levels of both homelessness and destitution of the enactment of the Immigration Bill.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We expect migrants with no lawful basis to remain to leave the UK. The Immigration Bill will provide the means by which accommodation and other support can be made available in appropriate circumstances prior to their departure.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-11/HL7424/>

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration

Jim Cunningham [33797] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate his Department has made of the level of immigration in each of the next five years to inform its economic forecasts; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from David Gauke: The data can be found in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook charts and tables – March 2016, under Chapter 5, Chart 5.6: Past and projected net migration to the UK, available here:

<http://budgetresponsibility.org.uk/efo/economic-fiscal-outlook-march-2016/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-13/33797/>

Immigration

Jim Cunningham [33799] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 23 March 2016 to Question 31494, what information his Department holds on the potential percentage change in GDP which would result from estimated levels of immigration in the next 10 years.

Reply from David Gauke: The Treasury has not made any formal assessment of the effect of immigration on GDP in the next 10 years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-13/33799/>

British Nationality

Baroness Buscombe [HL7592] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their rationale for continuing to offer British Citizenship to EU migrants.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The requirements for naturalisation are set out in the British Nationality Act 1981 and include a period of lawful residence, settled status, good character, and knowledge of language and life in the United Kingdom. These apply equally to EEA and non-EEA nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-12/HL7592/>

Taxation: Migrant Workers

Nicholas Soames: [30843] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what work his Department is undertaking on establishing the amount of income tax and national insurance that is paid by people who were non-UK nationals at the time of issue of their national insurance number; if his Department will undertake that analysis by nationality; and what plans his Department has to publish the outcome of such work.

Reply from David Gauke: The Government is committed to providing data on active National Insurance numbers used by people from other EU countries.

HMRC is currently compiling this information and is working closely with the ONS, which is currently reconciling the four main sources of international migration data.

The data on active National Insurance numbers will be published as part of or alongside the ONS' publication. It's up to that independent statistics authority as to when they are ready to make the information public.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-03-11/30843/>

Health Services: Immigrants

The following six questions all received the same answer

David Lammy [33194] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many adults were

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

refused NHS treatment on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016 to date.

NHS: Migrant Workers

David Lammy [32955] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people working in the NHS were refused NHS treatment on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016.

Abortion: Immigrants

David Lammy [32956] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people were refused pregnancy termination on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016.

Cancer: Immigrants

David Lammy [32957] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many adults were refused chemotherapy on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016.

David Lammy [32958] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many children were refused chemotherapy on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016.

Health Services: Immigrants

David Lammy [33193] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many children were refused NHS treatment on the basis of their immigration status in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015 and (d) 2016 to date.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The Department does not hold this information.

National Health Service hospital treatment is free to those people who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, or those exempt from charge under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended. Anyone else should present a European Health Insurance Card, S1 or S2 form or pay direct for their NHS care. Those who need care and treatment urgently will still receive it even if they are chargeable and cannot pay straight away.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33194/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32955/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32956/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32957/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32958/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33193/>

New Businesses: Visas

Alison Thewliss [33391] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the financial requirements for tier 1 Entrepreneur visas.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In March 2015, the Government commissioned the Independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to assess the economic benefit of the UK's provisions for non-EEA entrepreneurs. The MAC made a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

number of recommendations for reform of the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) route. On financial requirements they recommended that:

- the Government consider setting the lower investment threshold in the range of £40,000 to £50,000; and
- the higher investment threshold of £200,000 should apply to each applicant (currently, two applicants can share the funding i.e. £100,000 each), and that there may be a case for an inflationary uplift.

The Government is currently considering the MAC's advice, and will announce its response in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-11/33391/>

Teachers: Migrant Workers

Dawn Butler [33766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the Shortage Occupation List to ensure that the £35,000 earnings threshold for tier 2 visa holders does not lead to the loss of highly skilled teachers of subjects other than mathematics and science.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Shortage Occupation List is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) and is reviewed regularly. The MAC's recommendations are evidence-based and the list comprises skilled jobs where there is an identified national shortage which is sensible to fill, at least in part, through immigration. The Government is currently considering the MAC's future work programme, including commissioning a review of the Shortage Occupation List.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-13/33766/>

Immigrants: English Language

Stuart McDonald [32974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on reconsidering the cases of people who had their leave to remain wrongly cancelled, or who were wrongly detained or removed, on the basis of allegations of fraud in English language tests made by ETS in response to the Upper Tribunal ruling in Qadir v Secretary of State, 23 March 2016.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We received the determination in the case of Qadir and SM from Upper Tribunal on 8 April which provides the full reasons for the decision which were not included in the summary 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 reconsider earlier decisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32974/>

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [33006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2016 to Question 31313, on immigration controls: EU nationals, what monitoring is in place to prevent people refused entry from entering the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The UK operates a secure border which involves carrying out 100% checks on arriving passengers from Continental

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Europe in order to identify people of concern seeking to enter the country. All passengers are checked against police, security and immigration watchlists and where we are aware of individuals who pose a risk, Border Force officers can – and do - refuse them entry. Checks are also carried out against the vast majority of passengers before they arrive in the UK and, where we can, we stop them from travelling in the first place.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33006/>

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Anne Main [32931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many nationals of non-EU member states have been refused entry to the UK in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The table below provides the total number of nationals of non-EU member states that have been initially refused entry to the UK in each of the last 10 years.

| Non- EU passengers initially refused entry to the UK, 2006 to 2015 | |
|--|----------------|
| Year | Total refusals |
| 2006 | 29,436 |
| 2007 | 27,420 |
| 2008 | 26,037 |
| 2009 | 22,055 |
| 2010 | 18,478 |
| 2011 | 16,615 |
| 2012 | 14,855 |
| 2013 | 15,272 |
| 2014 | 16,283 |
| 2015 | 15,351 |

Notes:

- 1) Passengers initially refused entry relates to non-asylum cases dealt with at ports of entry.
- 2) Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007.
- 3) Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013.

Figures for 2014 and 2015 are provisional.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of passengers initially refused entry by country of nationality within Immigration Statistics. The data are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: October to December 2015, table ad.04 from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32931/>

Entry Clearances: EEA Nationals

Bernard Jenkin [33431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EEA family permits were issued overseas in each of the last five calendar years.

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

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

| Entry clearance visa grants: EEA Family Permits | |
|---|---------|
| Year | Granted |
| 2011 | 19,885 |
| 2012 | 19,238 |
| 2013 | 22,893 |
| 2014 | 24,985 |
| 2015 | 30,309 |

Source: Immigration Statistics Oct-Dec 2015, Home Office, tables vi_06_q_o.

The latest quarterly Home Office immigration statistics on entry clearance visas issued outside the UK, including EEA Family permits are published in 'Immigration Statistics, October-December 2015', Visas volume 3 table vi_06_q_o, latest edition available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office website at:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-11/33431/>

Entry Clearances: Syria

Charlotte Leslie [33400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provision exists for the Syrian spouses of British nationals to come to the UK to join their families.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There are several refugee schemes in operation under which a Syrian national may be able to qualify to come to the UK, including the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Mandate - which resettles those recognised as refugees and judged to be in need of resettlement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and who have a close family member in the UK who is willing to support them.

In addition, a Syrian national can apply to join their British citizen spouse or partner in the UK under the Family Immigration Rules. If the requirements of the rules are not met, the entry clearance officer will consider whether there are exceptional or compassionate circumstances which may warrant a grant of entry clearance outside the rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-11/33400/>

Refugees

Margaret Ritchie [33628] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to extend the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme to (a) Iraqi victims of Daesh and (b) members of the Yazidi community.

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

There are no current plans to widen the Syrian Resettlement Scheme but it is operated in addition to our global resettlement schemes: Gateway and Mandate, which are not nationality specific.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-12/33628/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Europe

Lord Hylton [HL7425] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they agree with the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) call for Europe to resettle 108,000 refugees each year for the next five years; and whether they accept the arguments in the IRC's situation briefing dated 24 March.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government considers the resettlement of targeted groups of refugees, particularly the most vulnerable, to be a vital part of the international response to the current migration crisis. However, we do not support the setting of binding quotas or targets by any organisation, either at European or international level. In our view national resettlement schemes, run and co-ordinated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other partners, is the best way for each country to make its own contribution.

We have committed to resettling 20,000 vulnerable Syrians over the lifetime of this Parliament and we saw the first 1,000 arrive before Christmas 2015. This is in addition to the other resettlement schemes that we operate, including Gateway, under which 750 refugees from all over the world are resettled each year.

Resettlement is only one strand of the Government's efforts. It complements our significant humanitarian aid programme, including £2.3 billion to the Syria region, and diplomatic efforts to end the conflict in Syria. The Government is clear that this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries surrounding Syria.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-11/HL7425/>

Refugees: Females

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead [HL7658] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of claims that women refugees who are in the UK (1) are not guaranteed female interviewers and interpreters who have been trained in sexual violence and trauma, (2) are not always provided with childcare during interviews, and (3) are not given adequate information about their rights.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: When an application for asylum is lodged, all asylum seekers are provided with information, in a range of languages, about the asylum process including appeal rights and other rights and responsibilities. In addition this leaflet, entitled 'Information about your asylum application', also includes details of where asylum seekers can obtain information about local legal advisers and local and national voluntary sector organisations who can provide assistance. For instance Asylum Help (part of Migrant Help), is funded by the Home Office and have a presence at many of the initial accommodation sites across the UK as well as providing a multi lingual website and freephone service offering confidential and impartial advice and guidance to adult asylum seekers and their dependants.

Since April 2015, female asylum seekers are guaranteed a female interviewer at their substantive asylum interview. In addition we also provide female interpreters where operationally possible. All asylum interview officers and decision makers receive training on gender issues during their initial training, this includes information about dealing sensitively with sexual trauma and violence.

Childcare facilities are currently provided in our Cardiff, Leeds and Solihull interview suites, with similar provisions soon to be made available in Glasgow and Liverpool. We are working towards tendering a national childcare contract to enable facilities to be made available in all our asylum casework hubs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-13/HL7658/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Calais

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL7557] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in the light of the report by Help Refugees in March that 129 unaccompanied children are unaccounted for in the Calais refugee camp.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is working closely with the French Government to ensure that unaccompanied children in Calais and Dunkirk quickly receive the support and protection they need.

The UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015 committed the two governments to establishing a permanent official contact group focused on ensuring that the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively, including the provisions on family unity.

As a result a Home Office official has recently been seconded to the Interior Ministry's Dublin Unit in Paris in part to assist with the identification of potential requests for the UK to take charge of asylum seeking children in France and to bring them into the Dublin Regulation procedure without delay.

In order to receive the proper support they need and to be eligible under Dublin, children must first make an asylum for application in France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-12/HL7557/>

Asylum

Charlotte Leslie [33339] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to increase the number of people removed from the UK under (a) the assisted voluntary return scheme and (b) enforced removals.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office works across government and beyond to reduce the size of the illegal population by ensuring that there is a consequence for every individual and organisation that is benefiting from immigration abuse. That includes ensuring that people who have no right to be here leave the UK, voluntarily or through an enforced return.

The support available under the assisted voluntary return scheme is now integrated into the Home Office Voluntary Returns Service where a range of help and support is available to those here illegally who are seeking to return.

Creating the single service as a clear point of contact for those seeking to return, working with key voluntary sector stakeholders, local authorities, increasing the work we do directly with community and faith groups and improving our understanding of the best ways to reach out to those here illegally - are all key parts of the work the Home Office is doing to help people return home.

Encouraging voluntary returns allows us to focus our detention and enforcement resource on criminal cases and those that represent the biggest threat. Where someone refuses to leave the UK voluntarily we will take steps to enforce their swift removal and prevent them returning for up to 10 years.

In terms of enforced removals the 2014 Immigration Act reformed the deportation process. More than 3,200 foreign national offenders have been removed under the new deport first, appeal later powers since they came into force in July 2014, with many more going through the system.

We are also using biometrics to match identities and speed up the process of gaining emergency travel documents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-11/33339/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Nationality

The following three questions all received the same answer

Dawn Butler [33195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of language analysis testing of asylum applicants; and if she will carry out a review of her Department's policy on such testing.

Asylum: Middle East

Dawn Butler [33137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Equality (Language Analysis - Palestinian, Syrian and Kuwaiti Testing) Authorisation (No. 2) 2013, whether the Government plans to revise the existing three exceptions.

Dawn Butler [33138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Equality (Language Analysis - Palestinian, Syrian and Kuwaiti Testing) Authorisation (No. 2) 2013, whether any further nationalities have been added to the list of exceptions.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government has no current plans to revise the existing Equality Act exemptions relating to language analysis testing.

No further nationalities have been added to the Equality Act exemption authorisation since it was introduced in 2013.

A review on language analysis use was undertaken in 2011 and published in 2012.

(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257177/language-analysis.pdf)

No further such review is presently planned. However, we do monitor the use of language analysis regularly to ensure it is used as effectively as possible and to identify new trends in nationality swapping.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33195/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33137/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33138/>

Immigration: Appeals

Charlotte Leslie [32993] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps the Government is taking to (a) shorten the immigration appeals process and (b) reduce the number of immigration appeals.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: Immigration appeals are determined by the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) which are administered by HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS).

HMCTS works with the Home Office and others to monitor and continuously improve appeal processes and timeliness.

The Immigration Act 2014 simplified the appeals system, reducing the number of decisions that can be appealed. For the quarter October to December 2015, 18,368 appeals were received – a 29% reduction when compared with the same quarter in 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32993/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Syria

The following is a Ministerial correction to the answer originally published on 11 April
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: At the Spending Review, the Chancellor announced an estimated £460m over the spending review period to cover the first 12 months' costs for each of the 20,000 refugees being resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

He also announced an estimated £129m to assist with local authority costs for years two to five of each refugee's stay in the UK.

The cost of the scheme since inception is subject to audit by the National Audit Office as part of the finalisation of the 2015-16 Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, which are expected to be published this summer.

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

Asylum

Charlotte Leslie [32994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse of the assisted voluntary return scheme was in each year since 2004.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Up until January 1st 2016 the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) scheme has been outsourced but is now part of the Home Office Voluntary Return Service (VRS).

The cost of the outsourced scheme in the years 2006 to 2015 is set out below. Data for 2004 to 2006 is incomplete and has therefore been omitted.

| Years | £m |
|---------|-------|
| 2006-7 | 22.2 |
| 2007-8 | 21.7 |
| 2008-09 | 10.8 |
| 2009-10 | 20.4 |
| 2010-11 | 17.3 |
| 2011-12 | 7.5 |
| 2012-13 | 8.77 |
| 2013-14 | 8.84 |
| 2014/15 | 10.86 |

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32994/>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Baroness Hamwee [HL7420] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce the outcome of their review of their policy of returning to Afghanistan Afghan military interpreters who have sought asylum in the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The policy on considering asylum claims is not under review. We carefully consider all asylum claims made in the UK, including those made by former interpreters with our armed forces in Afghanistan, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention. Those who demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution are normally granted protection and are not expected to return to their country.

Those who are found not to be in need of international protection are refused but have a right of appeal to the independent courts. Once all appeal rights are

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

exhausted, they are required to leave the UK, failing which their removal will be enforced.

Separate schemes have existed since 2013 to assist interpreters previously employed by the UK Armed Forces. These apply only to those who have remained in Afghanistan and, in recognition of their unique and exceptional service or the danger interpreters may face because of their work, can lead to relocation to the UK if certain criteria are met.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-11/HL7420/>

Asylum: Afghanistan

David Warburton [33774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on ensuring that Afghan interpreters who have assisted British troops are able to claim asylum in the UK; and whether her Department plans to review that policy.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government accepts that we have a responsibility to those who have worked for the British forces in conflict zones. Many have served with distinction and at great personal risk. Separate schemes have existed since 2013 to assist interpreters previously employed by our forces in Afghanistan. These apply only to those who have remained in Afghanistan and, in recognition of their unique and exceptional service or the danger interpreters may face because of their work, can lead to relocation to the UK if certain criteria are met.

There is no change to the way in which asylum claims by former interpreters with British forces in Afghanistan are considered. All claims made in the UK are individually considered on their merits in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention. Those who we accept have a well-founded fear of persecution are normally granted asylum. Those who are found not to be in need of international protection have a right of appeal to the independent courts. If all appeal rights are exhausted, they are then required to leave the UK.

Government policy is however very clear that we only consider asylum claims lodged in the UK. We have no obligation to extend the asylum process to those outside the UK and cannot undertake to consider claims by individuals or groups in other countries or facilitate their journey to the UK. People who need international protection should seek protection in the first available safe country – that is the fastest route to safety.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-13/33774/>

Immigration: Appeals

Charlotte Leslie [32995] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of immigration appeals have been successful in each year since 2004.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: Published statistics detailing the total number of appeals disposed of by the tribunals, and the percentage of these which have been allowed and dismissed by the First-tier Tribunal from 2007/08 and the Upper Tribunal from 2010/11, can be viewed on the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-and-gender-recognition-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32995/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Appeals

Kirsty Blackman [33986] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what monitoring his Department undertakes of waiting times for immigration appeal hearings.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: HMCTS regularly monitors waiting times for immigration and asylum appeal hearings across the UK. They are considered monthly by the HMCTS Board and the Ministry of Justice Executive Committee. Tribunal Statistics, including average waiting times for appeals, are published quarterly by the Ministry of Justice. These can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/33986/>

Immigration: Appeals

Kirsty Blackman [33987] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average waiting time was for an immigration appeal hearing in HM Courts and Tribunal service in each of the last five years.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: The average waiting time (in weeks) from receipt of an appeal to first hearing for all case types in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in each of the last five calendar years was:

- 14 in 2011;
- 14 in 2012;
- 20 in 2013;
- 25 in 2014; and
- 24 in 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/33987/>

Asylum: Nationality

The following two questions both received the same answer

Dawn Butler [34030] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received from professional linguists on the effectiveness of language analysis testing.

Dawn Butler [34029] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures and checks her Department has put in place to ensure that the new supplier of language analysis testing are fully qualified to conduct those tests.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Language analysis assists us in determining whether asylum seekers are of the nationality or national origin they claim. It is one of the tools used by asylum decision makers to help resolve fairly issues of doubtful nationality or national origin and to ensure that those claiming asylum in a false identity are detected quickly. It does not replace the requirement during substantive interview to fully probe and investigate doubted nationality/national origin cases.

Professional linguists have communicated with the Home Office regarding their particular preference for the different models available for language analysis testing. As part of the contract competition undertaken in 2014, language analysis companies provided strong evidence of the quality of the services offered. There are dedicated formal arrangements in place to monitor our suppliers' compliance with the contract terms.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34030/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34029/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Families

Steve McCabe [34026] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 April 2016 to Question 32506, how many (a) unaccompanied children and (b) partners of refugees who had already been granted asylum in the UK were granted asylum in the UK in each year since 2010.

Reply from James Brokenshire: I refer the Rt Hon Member to the answer I gave on 15 March 2015 to his question 30648.

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

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34026/>

Asylum: Housing

The following six questions all received the same answer

Stuart McDonald [32851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with Serco for the region of Scotland and Northern Ireland, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in the years 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Stuart McDonald [32852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with Serco for the region of North West England, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such faults were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Stuart McDonald [32853] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with Clearsprings Ready Home Limited for the region of London and South East England, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such faults were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Stuart McDonald [32854] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with Clearsprings Ready Home Limited for the region of Wales and South West England, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such faults were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Stuart McDonald [32855] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with G4S for the region of Midlands and East England, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such faults were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Stuart McDonald [32856] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Compass asylum accommodation contract with G4S for the region of North East England and Yorkshire and Humber, how many faults were reported or identified from Compass inspections for each contractual pay period in 2014-15 and 2015-16; and how many such faults were not resolved within the agreed contractual timescales.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from James Brokenshire: Providers are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with the Housing Act 2004 and the Decent Homes Standard. Providers are monitored closely to ensure accommodation meets these standards and the contracts include measures to ensure any issues are quickly addressed. These performance standards are defined in the contract and are managed using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including those which measure whether an individual property is compliant with contractual obligations following an inspection and also the number of service users effected if a fault is not repaired within the contract timescales.

The Home Office does not centrally record the number of individual faults reported or identified during accommodation inspections, or the number of individual faults not resolved within the agreed timescales. The requested information could therefore only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32851/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32852/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32853/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32854/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32855/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/32856/>

Asylum: Yemen

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alison Thewlis [33993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims from people from Yemen were granted in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015.

Alison Thewlis [34043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims for asylum from people from Yemen were refused in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There were 9 and 50 grants of asylum or an alternative form of protection, at initial decision, to Yemeni nationals in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

There were 34 and 43 refusals of asylum or an alternative form of protection, at initial decision, to Yemeni nationals in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The Home Office publishes figures on asylum initial decisions by nationality in the quarterly 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/2016-04-14/33993/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34043/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Yemen

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alison Thewlis [33994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Yemen claimed asylum in the UK in 2015.

Alison Thewlis [34044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Yemen claimed asylum in the UK in 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There were 66 and 111 asylum applications from Yemeni nationals in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

The Home Office publishes figures on asylum applications by nationality in the quarterly 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/2016-04-14/33994/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34044/>

Asylum: Yemen

Alison Thewlis [33996] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims from people from Yemen were pending for the duration of (a) 2014 and (b) 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As at the end of 2014 and 2015 respectively, 66 and 73 asylum applications were pending a decision (initial decision, appeal or further review).

The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on asylum applications pending a decision in table as_01_q of the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, is available from:

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

Pending cases are those asylum applications, including fresh claims, lodged since 1 April 2006 which are still under consideration at the end of the reference period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/33996/>

Deportation: Yemen

Alison Thewlis [34016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on which dates in 2014 enforced removals of people from Yemen who had unsuccessfully claimed asylum took place.

Reply from James Brokenshire: In 2014, there were 3 enforced removals of nationals of Yemen who had claimed asylum at some point; 1 in April to June 2014, 1 in July to September 2014 and 1 in October to December 2014.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: October to December 2015, table rv.03 from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34016/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Deportation: Yemen

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alison Thewlis [33995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which companies were contracted to facilitate enforced returns to Yemen for failed asylum seekers from that country in 2014.

Alison Thewlis [34015] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times on which dates in 2014 specialist contractors were used to facilitate the enforced return to Yemen of people from that country who had unsuccessfully claimed asylum in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: All escorting services to facilitate enforced returns are provided by the Home Office's main contractor, Tascor. In 2014, detainee custody officers from the Pilgrims Group, who are sub-contracted by Tascor were used on one occasion on 23rd July to facilitate the enforced return of an individual to Yemen.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/33995/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/34015/>

Deportation: Yemen

Alison Thewliss [33999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people claiming asylum from Yemen have had that claim refused and have subsequently been removed from the UK in each of the last five years; and to which country each of those people have been removed.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The attached table shows the number of enforced and voluntary departures for nationals of Yemen, who had claimed asylum at some point, in each of the last five years and their destination.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures by destination are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: October to December 2015, table rv.06 from GOV.UK on the statistics web pages at:

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-14/33999/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tim Loughton [33789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much compensation her Department paid for the unlawful detention of individuals under immigration powers in each of the last three financial years; for what categories of reason compensation was so paid; and how many such payments were made for each such category of reason.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Our records indicate that over the past 3 financial years (covering 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15), that a total of £13.8 million has been paid out to 573 claimants, as per the below table. All of whom were paid compensation following a period of unlawful detention.

| | Total Unlawful Detention Compensation payments (£ million) | Number of claimants for the last 3 financial years |
|------------|--|--|
| FY 2012-13 | £ 5.0 | 195 |
| FY 2013-14 | £ 4.8 | 199 |

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

| | | |
|------------|-------|-----|
| FY 2014-15 | £ 4.0 | 179 |
|------------|-------|-----|

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-13/33789/>

Deportation: EEA Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [33096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 March 2016 to Question 31329, on deportation: EU nationals, how many EEA foreign national offenders awaiting deportation have been waiting (a) less than one month, (b) one to three months, (c) three to six months, (d) six to nine months, (e) nine to 12 months, (f) one to two years and (g) more than two years.
33099

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [33099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 March 2016 to Question 31329, on deportation: EU nationals, how many of the EEA foreign national offenders awaiting deportation are (a) in immigration removal centres, (b) in custody or other form of detention, (c) on bail and (d) living in the community.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Removals have been increasing year on year since 2010. In 2015, we removed 5,602 FNOs and over 29,000 foreign national offenders have been removed since 2010.

Our records indicate that as of December 2015, there were 4,217 EEA foreign national offenders awaiting deportation.

Of which:

2,748 are still serving a custodial sentence

A total of 302 are time served detained in immigration removal centres (IRC) and prisons. (242 in IRCs and 60 in prison)

1,167 are living in the community.

Of the above, for those detained and living in the community (1,469), the time since the end of their custodial sentence is as follows:

Less than one month 50

One to three months 84

Three to six months 58

Six to nine months 60

Nine to 12 months 49

One to two years 132

More than two years 80

No UK conviction or sentence end date not recorded 956

Total 1,469

(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) FNOs living in the community include those released by an Immigration Judge, those released by the Secretary of State and those with overseas convictions who may not have received a custodial sentence in the UK.

(3) The data provided is up to December 2015. This is not routinely published data. General protocol is that the figures should not breach the National Statistics, so we are not able to disclose figures that are for a later period than those that we have published. Published figures are available up to 31 December 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33096/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33099/>

Deportation: EEA Nationals

Anne-Marie Trevelyan [33098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 March 2016 to Question 31329, on deportation: EU nationals, how many EEA foreign national offenders were awaiting deportation in December of each of the last 10 years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Removals have been increasing year on year since 2010. In 2015, we removed 5,602 FNOs and over 29,000 foreign national offenders have been removed since 2010. Our records indicate that as of December 2015, there were 4,217 EEA foreign national offenders awaiting deportation. Please find table below with the number of EEA foreign national offenders who were awaiting deportation in December since 2010.

| | Dec-10 | Dec-11 | Dec-12 | Dec-13 | Dec-14 | Dec-15 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total EEA FNO Stock | 2,715 | 2,955 | 3,130 | 3,212 | 3,795 | 4,217 |

(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) The data provided is up to December 2015. This is not routinely published data. General protocol is that the figures should not breach the National Statistics, so we are not able to disclose figures that are for a later period than those that we have published. Published figures are available up to 31 December 2015. (3) 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. (4) Due to changes in reporting, comparable data is not available prior to 2010. (5) EEA national figures inclusive of Irish nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-08/33098/>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL7558] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the correction by Lord Bates on 24 March to his Written Answer on 19 October 2015 (HL2297), why they gave incorrect figures for the number of young asylum seekers deported on reaching their 18th birthday in their initial answer, and why it took them five months to correct those figures.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The incorrect figures given in the original response to Question HL2297 resulted from the use of an incorrect definition which excluded former Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children who now had linked dependants and cases made prior to October 2006. This error was identified following the correction of PQ 13206 in February 2016, which prompted a review of other related answers resulting in correction of this and five related House of Commons answers.

Such mistakes are rare and when they occur they are taken very seriously. It is regrettable that human error caused the original response to be incorrect. Improvements have been put in place to ensure that such mistakes will not be made in future. The appropriate definition has been reviewed, confirmed and made clear to the officials involved.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-04-12/HL7558/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Press Releases

EU Member States granted protection to more than 330 000 asylum seekers in 2015

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7233417/3-20042016-AP-EN.pdf/34c4f5af-eb93-4ecd-984c-577a5271c8c5>

MEPs discuss fate of 10,000 refugee children that have gone missing

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160419STO23927/MEPs-discuss-fate-of-10000-refugee-children-that-have-gone-missing>

Addressing the migration healthcare challenge

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/addressing-migration-healthcare-challenge>

New Publication

Citizenship removal resulting in statelessness

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/518120/David_Anderson_QC_-_CITIZENSHIP_REMOVAL_web_.pdf

News

How EU asylum offers increased by 72 per cent between 2014 and 2015

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/20/how-eu-asylum-offers-increased-by-72-per-cent-between-2014-and-2/>

Big increases proposed to immigration appeal fees

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14444345.Big_increases_proposed_to_immigration_appeal_fees/

Asylum and immigration court fees set to rise by over 500%

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/21/asylum-and-immigration-court-fees-set-to-rise-by-over-500>

Government plan for 500% increase in immigration and asylum fee sparks anger

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-plan-for-500-increase-in-immigration-and-asylum-fee-sparks-anger-a6995501.html>

Immigrants face huge rise in appeal fees

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4737190.ece>

Home Office deports three times more teenagers to war-torn countries than previously admitted

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-deports-three-times-more-teenagers-to-war-torn-countries-than-previously-admitted-a6988191.html>

UK to take thousands of child refugees

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36102709>

UK to provide protection to 3,000 child refugees at risk

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2841_uk_to_provide_protection_to_3_000_child_refugees_at_risk

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

UK should take in 3,000 child refugees from Europe - Tim Farron

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36123497>

Britain to take 3,000 refugee children, but government accused of repeating announcement

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/britain-to-take-3-000-refugee-children-but-government-accused-of-repeating-announcement-1-4107302>

Children with UK links at Calais camp a 'national embarrassment'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/children-with-uk-links-at-calais-camp-a-national-embarrassment-1-4108512>

UK Government move to take in 3000 child refugees "not good enough" say critics as it does not include those already stranded in Europe

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14445236.UK_Government_move_to_take_in_3000_child_refugees_quot_not_good_enough_quot_say_critics_as_it_does_not_include_those_already_stranded_in_Europe/

Unaccompanied child refugees to be dispersed across UK

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/20/unaccompanied-child-refugees-to-be-dispersed-through-uk>

Up to 3,000 child refugees to be resettled in UK in next four years

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/21/up-to-3000-child-refugees-resettled-uk-syrian-next-four-years>

Britain accepts further 3,000 refugees under new scheme

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-21/news/britain-accepts-further-3-000-refugees-under-new-scheme-ctxtl22dm>

Britain will take 3,000 MORE refugees from the Middle East as ministers admit previous promises did not go far enough

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3551641/Britain-3-000-refugees-Middle-East-ministers-admit-previous-promises-did-not-go-far-enough.html>

157 children living alone in Calais camp have families in UK, charities claim

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3554749/National-embarrassment-children-UK-links-stuck-Calais-camp.html>

Refugee crisis scale massively underestimated by UK public, report finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-scale-is-underestimated-by-uk-public-report-finds-a6996911.html>

Kindertransport survivor calls for British government to do more to help refugees

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/kindertransport-survivor-calls-for-british-government-to-do-more-to-help-refugees-a6998071.html>

Home Office 'shamefully' used new refugee law to deport 700 secretly

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/23/home-office-shamefully-used-new-refugee-law-to-deport-700-people-secretly>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Curtailed of 30,000 student visas each year sparks row

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-36054748>

Migrants blamed for crisis at primaries

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-18/news/migrants-blamed-for-crisis-at-primaries-72r83hrzt>

Curry restaurants in crisis as immigration rules keep out chefs

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/22/curry-restaurants-crisis-immigration-rules-chefs>

Third of curry houses could close as tough immigration rules block chefs coming to UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/third-of-curry-houses-could-close-as-tough-immigration-rules-block-chefs-coming-to-uk-a6997831.html>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

News

Ahmadiyya Muslims launch peace campaign in Glasgow

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-36072051>

Asad Shah murder: Faith groups launch anti-extremism drive after Glasgow shopkeeper's death

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/asad-shah-murder-faith-groups-7780577#PIe8L5dr2FwpgPI1.97>

Faith groups stand together in wake of Asad Shah's death

<http://www.scotsman.com/regions/glasgow-strathclyde/faith-groups-stand-together-in-wake-of-asad-shah-s-death-1-4104013>

Campaign against religious hatred launched following Shah murder

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-19/scotland/campaign-against-religious-hatred-launched-following-shah-murder-9vprhvdjd>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Questions

Armed Forces: Recruitment

The following two questions both received the same answer

Dan Jarvis [33496] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to encourage enlistment from people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Dan Jarvis [33630] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what proportion of (a) Royal Navy, (b) British Army excluding Gurkhas and (c) Royal Air Force personnel are from an ethnic minority background.

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: The Ministry of Defence is committed to achieving a more diverse workforce and is developing plans to meet the Government's commitment to increase the number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) recruits into the Armed Forces to 10% by 2020 and have allocated resources for this purpose.

Planning is ongoing to ensure that new activity is evidence-based and resources are allocated in the best way to deliver the step change that is required.

Whilst this plan is being finalised, examples of steps already taken include increased engagement with ethnic minority communities, using communications to improve understanding on careers in the Armed Forces and offering support throughout the application process where it is needed.

The Armed Forces recently won two awards in October 2015 at the Race for Opportunity Awards. The Armed Forces Muslim Association won the Public Sector Employee Network Award and the Royal Air Force won the Future Workforce Award for their Employability Skills Programme. The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force have also been recognised as two of the Top 10 public sector organisations for race diversity and inclusion by Race for Opportunity.

Statistics on the diversity declaration and representation of minority groups of Service Personnel employed by the Ministry of Defence are published biannually.

The most recent data can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-12/33496/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-04-12/33630/>

Press Release

Project SEARCH training and education leading to employment for people with disabilities

Project SEARCH runs in partnership with the University of Strathclyde and is specifically for young people on the autistic spectrum who want to increase their employment prospects. The course is run for one year and, on completion students will be able to demonstrate they have the skills and experience required to increase their chances of gaining employment. For information and details of how to apply see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/16iv_project_search.pdf

News

Race review MP criticises the absence of black police chiefs

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-18/news/race-review-mp-criticises-the-absence-of-black-police-chiefs-r8259bq0c>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Prime Minister's Questions: Murder of Asad Shah

Angus Robertson: It is believed that the recent murder of Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah was religiously motivated. This week, Christian, Jewish, Sikh and Ahmadiyya Muslim faith leaders launched a campaign across Scotland entitled United against Extremism. Will the Prime Minister join me and colleagues from all parties in supporting the aims of that campaign to support and foster understanding and stand up to extremism?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I will certainly join the right hon. Gentleman. This was an absolutely shocking murder. What it demonstrates, and what his question hints at, is that we need to stand up not only against acts of appalling violence such as this, but against the extremist mindset that sometimes tries to justify such events and other such outrages.

Angus Robertson: I am in total agreement with the Prime Minister. The murder of Asad Shah is just the most recent example of sectarian extremism targeting the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in the UK, including reports of Ahmadiyya being refused employment, businesses being boycotted, schoolchildren being bullied and shunned, and people such as Aamer Anwar who have worked to bring faith leaders together facing death threats. Does the Prime Minister agree that such extremism is totally unacceptable in a country where we believe in free speech and religious tolerance? The time has come for all community and all faith leaders of all religions to stand up against extremism.

Reply from the Prime Minister: I certainly agree that faith leaders can play a huge role in standing up against extremism and I welcome what they do, but we need to be very clear about what we are facing. The attack on Ahmadiyya Muslims by other Muslims demonstrates once again that what we face is not some clash of civilisations between Islam and Christianity or Islam and Buddhism. What we are seeing is a small minority within one of the great religions of our world, Islam, believing that there is only one way—a violent, extremist way—of professing their faith. This is a battle within Islam, and we have to be on the side of the moderate majority and make sure that they win it. We have to really understand what is happening, otherwise we will take the wrong path.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-04-20/debates/16042034000018/Engagements#contribution-16042034000118>

Crime: Religiously Motivated Crime

Baroness Berridge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of religiously motivated crime and violence in the United Kingdom in the light of the murder of Asad Shah.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport and Home Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): My Lords, first, I believe that I speak for us all in your Lordships' House in saying that we share the shock at the appalling death of Mr Shah. Our prayers and thoughts go out to his family and the wider community at this most difficult time. There were 3,254 religious hate crimes recorded in England and Wales last year, representing an increase of 43%. We are clear that hatred against people because of their religion has no place in our society or country. We will do everything we can to stop those who promote hatred and intolerance in our communities.

Baroness Berridge: I thank my noble friend the Minister for his Answer and express our condolences to his own community at this sad time. Over the last 18 months Tell MAMA, an anti-Islamophobia organisation, has reported an increased amount of anti-Ahmadiyya hate crime on the internet. Flyers were allegedly found in a south London mosque stating that Ahmadis should face death if they refuse to convert to so-called mainstream Islam.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Will my noble friend please outline what action Her Majesty's Government are taking to identify and shut down social media and other internet sites that incite and glorify violence towards the Ahmadis, which is in fact a crime here in the United Kingdom?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, let me be absolutely clear that the Government—and, I believe, all in this House and beyond—share the sentiment that people are free to live their lives free from interference and attack simply because of who they are or their religious beliefs. My noble friend is quite right to point out the increased attacks that we have seen on the internet, not just on the Ahmadi Muslim community but on other communities as well. The Government are taking steps on this and my colleague at the Home Office, my noble friend Lady Shields, is leading on internet safety and security. We are building alliances not just with the communities in the United Kingdom but beyond to ensure that wherever we find hate, whatever its cause and whoever the perpetrator and victim, we send a clear message: such hate will not be tolerated.

Lord Paddick: My Lords, I associate these Benches with the Minister's remarks about the tragic death of Asad Shah. Religiously motivated sectarian violence has been prevalent in Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom for many years. The tragic death of Asad Shah is another example, albeit involving a different religion. What training is being given to police officers, and what advice is being given to victims, to help them differentiate between race-hate crime and religiously motivated hate crime?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The noble Lord is quite right to raise the growing and worrying tide of sectarian differences within different communities and the rising tide of hate crime. In that regard, I am pleased to tell the House that as of 1 April this year, as the noble Lord may well be aware, for the first time all police forces across England and Wales specifically record religious hate crime by religion and not just in its general sense. That is an important step forward. In Scotland, as the noble Lord will know, there are devolved powers, but we are working very closely with the Scottish Government. Indeed, I will shortly visit Scotland—both Edinburgh and Glasgow—to discuss the issue of the growing tide of religious hate.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, how do the Government react to the National Police Chiefs' Council's recent finding that only 8.6% of tip-offs to the Prevent programme have come from the Muslim community? How do they plan to encourage very much more collaboration from our Muslim friends and their leaders in exposing potential extremists?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: First, let me put on record that every religious community, including the Muslim community, was appalled by the events we saw in Scotland. This is exactly what is required: for the whole country, no matter what your religion or if you are of no faith, to come together to condemn and then unify against extremism in all its ugly guises. I assure the noble Lord that we are speaking extensively to all faith communities, including Muslim communities. There are initiatives such as the Prime Minister's direct community round tables, on which the Home Secretary is leading. I am talking directly to all faith communities. Most recently I have met other and wider Muslim organisations, including the Bradford Council for Mosques, and earlier this week the Lancashire Council of Mosques and the Bolton Council of Mosques, to discuss the rising tide not just of the challenges we are facing but of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred as well.

Lord Woolf: My Lords, I disclose my interest as a patron of the Woolf Institute for interfaith relations. Does the Minister agree that an important antidote to race hate is education and that we should support all means of educating the public at large in the way that faiths can interrelate?

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I totally agree with the noble and learned Lord's sentiments.

Lord Tomlinson: My Lords, does the noble Lord agree that the Prime Minister in the House of Commons yesterday was getting dangerously close to encouraging race hatred by making allegations against Mr Sadiq Khan, the Labour candidate for Mayor of London, concerning his association with somebody who had been visiting Tooting to work for the Conservative Party and recruit members to it?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Let me put on record and make absolutely clear that at no time did the Prime Minister or any other member of the Conservative Party allege that the right honourable Member for Tooting is an extremist. We need to ensure in the current climate that we take a very responsible view on all the circumstances and the environment in which we find ourselves—and, more importantly, build and strengthen the partnerships that we are investing in. I pay tribute to all across the House who are doing just that, to ensure that wherever we find bigotry and hatred, be it based on race, religion or any other cause, we unify against it and build and strengthen our partnerships across the UK to face up to it.

Lord Cormack: My Lords, while echoing everything that my noble friend has just said, may I ask him to make it abundantly plain, in the wake of the question of the noble and learned Lord, Lord Woolf, that there is an enormous difference between race hatred and hate crime and freedom of speech? Many of us are extremely concerned by the erosion of freedom of speech, particularly in our universities.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: One of the things that I would say to my noble friend is that the Government's view, particularly in my Home Office brief of countering extremism, is that we must ensure that we face up to hate and bigotry but, at the same time, protect the very freedoms that we battle so hard to achieve, which include the freedom of expression and belief.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-04-21/debates/16042147000334/CrimeReligiouslyMotivatedCrime>

News

Police chief visits Mosque to pledge protection after Asad Shah death

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14447204.Police_chief_visits_Mosque_to_pledge_protection_after_Asad_Shah_death/

Police chief visits Mosque to pledge protection after Asad Shah death

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14447214.Police_chief_visits_Mosque_to_pledge_protection_after_Asad_Shah_death/

David Cameron backs campaign against extremism after death of Glasgow shopkeeper Asad Shah

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/157864/david-cameron-backs-campaign-against-extremism-after-death-of-glasgow-shopkeeper-asad-shah/>

'An absolutely shocking murder': David Cameron backs campaign against extremism after Asad Shah killing

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/an-absolutely-shocking-murder-david-7794912#Tm0YTxHLrdu0lJbz.97>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Top cop vows to protect Islamic community after murder of Scottish shopkeeper Asad Shah

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/top-cop-vows-protect-islamic-7815396#S3Z1qvUip1mPw0V7.97>

Scotland Yard warns Muslims against sectarian feuds after Glasgow murder

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/23/asad-shah-stabbed-ahmadiyya-muslim-glasgow>

Scottish Muslim groups fail to attend Ahmadi anti-extremism event

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/apr/18/scottish-muslim-groups-ahmadi-anti-extremism-campaign-launch-glasgow>

Fury as swastika symbols are sprayed on Inverness buildings in overnight vandalism spree

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/fury-swastika-symbols-sprayed-inverness-7789667#RI5IXjt0sPV4PRCA.97>

Jewish leaders condemn Scots internet prankster who 'turned girlfriend's dog into Nazi'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14438121.Video_Jewish_leaders_condemn_Scots_internet_prankster_who_turned_girlfriend_s_dog_into_Nazi_/?ref=mr&lp=13

Jewish groups condemn 'prankster' who posted vile video of his girlfriend's pet pug 'giving Nazi salute and responding to racist slogans'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3549568/Prankster-posted-video-pug-giving-Nazi-salute-responding-racist-slogans.html>

'Most British Muslims have come across people with odious views'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-23/news/most-british-muslims-have-come-across-people-with-odious-views-d885xdwsg>

The two Scottish neo-Nazi sisters at forefront of anti-Muslim race-hate campaign - including one who served time for throwing bacon at a mosque

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3545374/Blonde-neo-Nazi-sisters-forefront-race-hate-campaign-one-served-time-throwing-bacon-mosque.html>

Giant mural unveiled to tackle sectarianism

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/giant-mural-unveiled-to-tackle-sectarianism>

Rooting out racism from criminal justice

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-04-21/law/rooting-out-racism-from-criminal-justice-7jdbl5fds>

Forced marriage still happens in the UK because police are scared of being called racist for fighting honour abuse

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/forced-marriage-happens-in-the-uk-because-police-are-scared-of-being-labelled-racist-a6998296.html>

[TOP](#)

Scottish Parliament Elections

New Publication

SNP manifesto

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/thesnp/pages/5409/attachments/original/1461145824/SNP_Manifesto2016-web.pdf?1461145824

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Her-Majesty-The-Queen-s-90th-birthday-24b0.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday: Prime Minister's Humble Address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/her-majesty-the-queens-90th-birthday-prime-ministers-humble-address>

Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday: David Cameron's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/her-majesty-the-queens-90th-birthday-david-camerons-message>

Troops wish The Queen a happy 90th birthday

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/troops-wish-the-queen-a-happy-90th-birthday>

St George's Day 2016: David Cameron's message

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

Passover 2016: David Cameron's message

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

Foreign Secretary's 2016 Passover message

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

[TOP](#)

Other News

Muslim pupils taking exams should be told they can be exempt from Ramadan fasting, head teachers' union says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/muslim-pupils-exams-ramadan-fasting-exempt-head-teachers-union-association-school-college-leaders-a6991721.html>

Other News (continued)

Teachers told to advise Muslim exam pupils not to fast during Ramadan if it is likely to affect their grades

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3548885/Teachers-told-advise-Muslim-exam-pupils-not-fast-Ramadan-likely-affect-grades.html>

[TOP](#)

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>

Scotland Act 1998 (Amendment) Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Proposals to amend Immigration and Asylum Chamber fees** (closing date 3 June 2016)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/first-tier-tribunal-and-upper-tribunal-fees>

Police Scotland: local policing (consultation open during 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/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

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/>

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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.bih.org.uk/Event/UPRinverness2016> (Inverness) or <https://www.bih.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.

[TOP](#)

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

[TOP](#)



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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.