

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	New Publications
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job 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 UK Parliament is in recess until 6 June 2016.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kate Forbes (SM5-00199) Don't Deport the Brains – That the Parliament understands that Gregg, Kathryn and Lachlan Brain are due to be deported from their home in Scotland in under a week; urgently calls on the UK Government to grant leave to stay, together with the right to accept employment, as a necessary step until the family can be in a position to find suitable long-term employment that is compliant with the requirements for a tier 2 visa that will secure their permanent right to remain in Scotland; recognises the contribution that Gregg and Kathryn Brain, with their seven-year-old son, Lachlan, have made since they moved from Australia to the Highlands five years ago, reversing the trend of depopulation from the Highlands, and calls on the UK Government to reinstate the post study work visa for students studying in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00199&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

EU Immigration

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL59] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of proposals by the European Commission to fine EU member states €250,000 for every refugee they decline to allow into their country.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: This is related to the European Commission's proposal on a revised Dublin Regulation, which was published on 4 May 2016. Given the recent publication of this proposal and the significant amount of detail to consider, we are not in a position to give a clear view on this yet. An Explanatory Memorandum is due to be laid in Parliament in the week commencing 23 May which will include more detail of the government's initial views. In any case the proposal is subject the UK's opt-in protocol and we will only opt-in if it is in our national interest to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL59/>

Prime Minister's Questions: Brain family

(answered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne)

Angus Robertson: Lachlan Brain is seven years old and attends the Gaelic medium primary school in Dingwall in the Scottish highlands. Next week, the Home Office—I see the Home Secretary briefing the Chancellor—plans to deport him and his family, despite the fact that he arrived as part of a Scottish Government initiative backed by the Home Office to attract people to live and work in the region. The case has been front-page news in Scotland and raised repeatedly in the House. What does he have to say to the Brain family and the community, which wants them to stay?

Reply from George Osborne: As I understand it, the family do not meet the immigration criteria, but the Home Secretary says she is very happy to write to the right hon. Gentleman on the details of the case.

Angus Robertson: I am sorry but this has been going on for weeks and that answer frankly is not good enough. Appeals have been made to the Home Secretary by the Scottish First Minister, the local MP, the local Member of the Scottish Parliament and the community, and it is wall to wall across the media of Scotland, yet the Chancellor of the Exchequer clearly knew nothing about it. The problem in the highlands of Scotland is not immigration but emigration. Even at this late stage, will the Chancellor, who knows nothing about it, speak to the Home Secretary and Prime Minister and get this sorted out?

Reply from George Osborne: As I said, the Home Secretary will write to the right hon. Gentleman with the details of the case, but may I make a suggestion to the Scottish National party? It now has substantial tax and enterprise powers, so if it wants to attract people to the highlands of Scotland, why does it not create an entrepreneurial Scotland that people want to move to from the rest of the UK in order to grow a business and have a successful life?

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-05-25/debates/16052517000018/Engagements#contribution-16052517000135>

Brain Family: Deportation

Ian Blackford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the impending deportation of the Brain family from Dingwall.

Reply from James Brokenshire: By convention, Ministers do not usually comment on individual immigration cases on the Floor of the House. However, I am happy to waive that convention today to properly address the question raised by the hon. Member for Ross, Skye and Lochaber (Ian Blackford).

Kathryn Brain came to the UK in 2011 on a tier 4 visa, which expired in May last

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

year, with her husband and son listed as her dependants. On 25 May last year, Kathryn Brain applied for leave to remain under tier 4 of the points-based system, again with Mr Brain and her son listed as dependants. In June, this was granted to December last year. In December, an application was made for leave to remain under article 8 of the European convention on human rights—the right to a family life—which in March was refused with an out-of-country right of appeal.

In this time it has of course been open to the family to make a tier 2 skilled work application under the points-based system. On 12 April, I exceptionally extended the 28-day grace period after their leave expired, during which a valid tier 2 application could be made, to 11 May. Upon hearing that Mr Brain had submitted a job application with an appropriate employer, I subsequently extended the grace period further on 28 April to the end of this month. We have not yet received an application from the Brain family for leave to remain under the points-based system, but we will consider any application that they make. I am meeting the hon. Member for Ross, Skye and Lochaber again this afternoon, but he can be assured that the family does not face an imminent risk of immediate deportation.

More broadly, it is important to recognise the UK's excellent post-study offer. There is no limit on the number of international graduates who can remain in the UK to take up graduate-level work, provided that they secure a graduate job paying an appropriate salary. Since 2010, visa applications from international students to study at Scottish universities are up 9%. I look forward to meeting the hon. Gentleman again later today to discuss the matter further.

Ian Blackford: I am grateful to the Minister for his response, although I must say that the question was to the Home Secretary. After all, it was the Home Secretary who briefed the Chancellor when he responded to my right hon. Friend the Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) at Prime Minister's questions yesterday.

The family came to this country under the fresh talent initiative that was put in place by the previous Labour Administration in Edinburgh, with the support of the Home Office, for students studying at Scottish universities, who would then qualify for the post-study work visa. That was the commitment that this Government made to those coming to Scotland in 2011. In this case, the Government have taken retrospective action to deny the rights that this family would have been granted under that legislation. It is a breach of trust and of faith from this Government.

I want to help the Minister. The number of people who came under the fresh talent initiative has now dwindled to virtually zero. We are asking the Government to recognise the commitment that the family has made to the highlands and to Scotland. I look specifically to seven-year-old Lachlan, who is in Gaelic medium education in the highlands. He reads and writes in Gaelic, not English. He speaks English, but it is a different thing to be able to be educated in a different language. The thought of deporting that young boy back to Australia, where he will be two years behind his peer group, is shameful. That is where the human rights aspect comes in.

I can tell the Minister today that Kathryn Brain has now been offered a job at the new GlenWyvis distillery in Dingwall. It is a start-up business that will offer a job and prosperity not only to Kathryn, but to others. We need to recognise that the family should be given the right to stay today. Give them the time to qualify for the tier 2 visa. Show some compassion and humanity. All of us should be judged on our actions. For goodness' sake, Minister, do the right thing today.

Reply from James Brokenshire: I have met the hon. Gentleman to discuss this case previously. He says that I should show compassion and humanity, but he will know that I have already exercised discretion not once but twice in this case on the basis of representations he has made on the family's behalf. I obviously listened carefully to what he said, and I look forward to meeting him later to hear

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

more about the details that he has relayed to the House this morning and to reflect further on his representations.

I want to correct slightly some of the facts that the hon. Gentleman has presented. He said that the family came here under the fresh talent scheme, which closed in 2008 and was replaced by the post-study work scheme under tier 1. The latter scheme was closed by the coalition Government and that announcement was made on 21 March 2011. From the information that I have, the Brain family arrived in the UK on 14 June 2011. There are clear issues to consider about post-study work opportunities and moving from the tier 4 study route into tier 2. I was pleased to note in the latest figures that I have seen that around 6,000 people did that in the last year for which information is available.

It is important that the Scottish Government continue to play their part in creating an enterprise economy, using their powers to create jobs and opportunities for the hon. Gentleman's constituents and to provide a route for people who study at our universities to get graduate-level employment. The previous arrangements simply did not work. They allowed abuse to take place and resulted in people moving into low-skilled employment, not reflecting the education that they obtained. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-05-26/debates/16052622000002/BrainFamilyDeportation>

Refugees: Children

Lord Chidgey [HL15] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 12 February (HL5949), based on the UNHCR assessment of the number and needs of unaccompanied children in conflict regions, what is their estimate of (1) the number, and (2) the needs, of unaccompanied children from Sudan and South Sudan.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government is not in a position to comment on the number or needs of unaccompanied children in particular countries. All asylum seeking children who arrive in the UK and are unaccompanied are referred to a local authority. Those local authorities hold responsibility for assessing their needs and providing services based on the outcome of the assessment. The Government is clear about our moral responsibility to assist those who are suffering as a result of conflict and recognises that those fleeing persecution have a legal entitlement to protection. We worked with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to design and launch the 'Children at Risk' resettlement scheme. 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 who are in the Middle East and North Africa. We have committed to resettling several hundred individuals in the first year with a view to resettling up to 3,000 individuals over the lifetime of this Parliament, the majority of whom will be children.

As stated above, we cannot comment on the number of children in other countries. However, figures on asylum applications for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in the UK are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics October to December 2015, is available from:

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

There were 142 applications for asylum from UASCs, excluding dependants, for nationals of Sudan during 2015. No such applications were received from nationals of South Sudan in 2015. UNHCR have published statistics on estimated

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

numbers of children in countries, including South Sudan. These can be found at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/SouthSudan/regional.php>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL15/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL45] To ask Her Majesty's Government with whom refugee children will be required to register in order to be admitted into the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As announced on 4 May we are looking to admit children who were already present in the EU before 20 March 2016. This is the date the EU-Turkey deal came into force.

We are working with the relevant Member States, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other Non-Governmental Organisations and local authorities to establish the best way to implement the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 for the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK.

We will be flexible in our interpretation of what 'registered' means. We are not seeking to impose an overly burdensome legalistic requirement on children to prove they have formally 'registered' but we would expect clear evidence that they were present in Europe before 20 March

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL45/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL46] To ask Her Majesty's Government what national measures are in place to ensure that clothing and shoes are available for refugee children on arrival in the UK.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL47] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they are having with voluntary organisations to ensure the successful reception of unaccompanied child refugees on arrival in the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Any unaccompanied child who arrives in the UK receives clothing packs. All unaccompanied children present in the UK, regardless of their immigration status, are afforded the same level of care and support as British children. Unaccompanied refugee children brought to the UK through provisions in the Immigration Act 2016 will be given the appropriate support and care required. We continue to consult with local authorities on the best way to implement this legislation. Last year the UK received 3,043 asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children. We have robust measures in place to receive and safeguard them. In addition we have committed to section 67 in the Immigration Act 2016 to receive unaccompanied children from Europe where it is in their best interests. We are consulting with relevant non-governmental organisations, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), local authorities and relevant Member States on the best way to implement the Immigration Act 2016 provisions for the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK. We will ensure we have the right support for unaccompanied refugee children who arrive in the UK from Europe whilst ensuring we fulfil our obligations to children who are already in UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL46/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL47/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Children

The Earl of Sandwich [HL49] To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have offered places to unaccompanied refugee children from (1) Europe, and (2) Syria, and which councils other than Kent County Council have already filled their quota.

Lord Empey [HL112] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the arrival of unaccompanied children from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe, on waiting lists for mental and other health services.

Lord Empey [HL113] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many additional staff are being recruited to attend to and treat unaccompanied children coming to the UK from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As the Prime Minister announced on 4 May and as set out in the new Immigration Act 2016, we will work to admit unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK. The very nature of this legislation means we must take the time to consult others before bringing final proposals on how to implement this scheme.

We will consult local authorities to establish how best to implement this commitment and the recently announced Children at Risk resettlement scheme, which is the only other resettlement to include unaccompanied children, as part of our wider discussion with them about the transfer of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have arrived spontaneously, which is designed to relieve the pressure on authorities such as Kent. We are not proposing to ask local authorities to distinguish between which unaccompanied children they accept.

We are determined to ensure that no local authority is asked to take more than the local structures are able to cope with. That is why we are talking to local authorities and other partners including non-governmental organisations to ensure that capacity can be identified and the impact can be managed in a fair and controlled way.

Work has already begun and we are committed to act as quickly as we can but it is important we take the necessary time to ensure we have the capacity to resettle and support those who are resettled. We must also ensure that we fulfil our obligations to children who are already in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL49/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Empey [HL111] To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional financial resources and staff are being made available to assist unaccompanied children coming to the UK from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our Syrian resettlement programme is working well and local authorities across the country have been closely involved in this. Alongside this programme we will consult local authorities on how best to implement the resettlement scheme for children at risk announced on 21 April and the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 for the admission to the UK of unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in the EU. This will be done as part of our wider discussion with local authorities and other partners, including non-governmental organisations, about unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and claim asylum here and about the implementation of new arrangements to relieve the pressure on particular local authorities by transferring these children to the care of other local authorities. The Home Office funds local authority care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and funding arrangements form part of the ongoing discussion with local authorities. We are determined to ensure that no local authority is asked to take more unaccompanied children than local services

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

are able to deal with and that impacts are managed in a fair and controlled way.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL111/>

Health Services: Refugees

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Empey [HL110] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the mental and other health services that will be needed to assist the unaccompanied children who will be brought to the UK from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe.

Lord Empey [HL112] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the arrival of unaccompanied children from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe, on waiting lists for mental and other health services.

Lord Empey [HL113] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many additional staff are being recruited to attend to and treat unaccompanied children coming to the UK from refugee camps (1) in Europe, and (2) outside Europe.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: The United Kingdom has been operating resettlement schemes for many years and we already have established and effective networks to accommodate and support resettled people. The increase in numbers will require an expansion of current networks and the impact on local communities and infrastructure will need to be managed carefully. That is why we are working with a wide range of partners to ensure that people are integrated sensitively into local communities and that we have the right support in place for unaccompanied refugee children who arrive in the UK from Europe whilst ensuring we fulfil our obligations to children who are already in the UK.

The guidance, *Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children*, sets out the health duties for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and NHS England. The guidance sets out that local authorities and the National Health Service should take account any particular needs of the child, including if they are unaccompanied asylum seekers. This guidance is attached.

Whilst there are a range of health care professionals, for example youth workers and teachers, who deliver interventions and support for children and young people with mental health conditions, clinical need should be determined by a specialist initial assessment in line with guidance produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Local areas have published Local Transformation Plans that set out how mental health services will be delivered for their population. As part of their plans, local areas were asked to set out how they planned to meet the needs of more vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied refugee and asylum seeking children (UASC).

NHS England ensures that all commissioners of health services have appropriate arrangements and resources in place to meet the physical, emotional and mental health needs of looked-after children, including UASC. They will work with local commissioners to raise awareness of the Resettlement Programme and highlight the additional numbers of children who will require their attention and support.

Decisions about the resources needed to meet the mental health and other health needs of all children and young people, including UASC, are taken at a local level by CCGs. This may include decisions to recruit additional staff where necessary.

[Statutory Guidance Promoting Health Children](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL110/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL112/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL113/>

Asylum: EU Law

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Judd [HL72] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to move more UK officials to Calais and Northern France to work full-time on identifying, screening and processing potential transfers under the Dublin III regulations, and to make special provision for cases where further evidence of family links is needed.

Lord Judd [HL73] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to work together with the French government to ensure that unaccompanied children have access to high quality legal assistance to submit claims for family reunion in the UK, and to fund improved measures for identification of, and support for, unaccompanied minors in Calais and Northern France.

Asylum: Children

Lord Judd [HL74] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that unaccompanied children in Northern France have information about the process for reuniting with their families in the UK under the Dublin III Regulations, that this is presented in a form and language that the children can understand, and that it includes information about the process for asylum transfers, the likely timeframes involved, and the criteria on which decisions are based.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Under the UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015, the UK and France have committed to ensuring that the provisions of the Dublin III Regulation are used efficiently and effectively. To assist the handling of such cases the two governments have established a permanent official contact group, agreed single points of contact within respective Dublin Units and the UK seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process of identifying, protecting and transferring relevant cases to the UK. The Home Office will review the existing arrangements as part of the work to implement the relevant provisions of the Immigration Act 2016.

To assist with the identification of potential victims of trafficking and exploitation (including unaccompanied children) in Calais the UK has funded a project run by a French non-governmental organisation which aims to identify and direct these vulnerable people to the appropriate support services in France.

The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which informs individuals (including unaccompanied children) of their rights to claim asylum in France and gives them information on family reunification. The frequency of these campaigns has been increased in line with the Joint Declaration signed in August 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL72/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL73/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL74/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: EU Law

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Judd [HL123] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish guidance on the handling of family reunion cases under the Dublin III Regulations including clarifying responsibilities, procedures for unaccompanied children in Calais prior to any transfer, and ensuring that local authorities have sufficient funding and capacity to conduct assessments.

Lord Judd [HL124] To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements they have made to use their discretionary powers under the Dublin III Regulations to take charge of the asylum applications of any mothers or fathers with children who are seeking to reunite with family members in the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Dublin III Regulation sets out the criteria for determining responsibility for asylum cases and using discretionary powers. The procedures for dealing with an asylum seeker in Calais, including an unaccompanied child, are for the French authorities to determine, in line with their obligations under the Regulation. We are committed to making the Dublin Regulation work effectively and are in ongoing discussions with France, Italy and Greece to ensure that the right processes and resources are in place to enable this. We are also working with other EU Member States, the UNHCR and other non-governmental organisations and local authorities in the UK to establish the best way to implement the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 for the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from elsewhere in the EU to the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL123/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL124/>

Asylum: EU Law

Lord Judd [HL125] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, in Calais and throughout Europe, to enhance the processes for identifying children with rights to family reunion in the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK and France are running regular joint communication campaigns in northern France which inform unaccompanied children and others of their right to claim asylum in France and of the family reunion process. The frequency of these campaigns has been increased in line with the Joint Declaration signed in August 2015. Since February 2016 more than 20 children have been transferred to the UK from France and there are many other cases in train.

75 UK personnel will be deployed to Greece to support implementation of the EU-Turkey Migration Agreement. Supporting the operation of the Greek asylum system is a fundamental part of our approach to identifying individuals in need of protection at the earliest opportunity, including those who may be eligible for family reunification under the Dublin Regulation. We are also providing bilateral support to the Dublin Unit in Italy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL125/>

Asylum: EU Law

Lord Judd [HL126] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether improving the accessibility and clarity of the rules covering family reunion, and ensuring that those rules were more flexibility applied, would prevent perilous journeys

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

being undertaken by children seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our family reunion policy is intended to allow immediate family members, who formed part of a family unit before the refugee fled their country, to reunite in the UK with the refugee and rebuild their lives together. Those family members can apply from the country in which they are resident.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL126/>

Refugees: EU Law

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Green of Deddington [HL157] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is still bound by the provisions of Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status despite having not opted in to the recast Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection.

Asylum: EU Law

Lord Green of Deddington [HL158] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK is still bound by the provisions of Directive 2004/83/EC on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted, despite having not opted in to the recast Directive 2011/95/EU on standards for the qualification of third country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK remains bound by the provisions of the Procedures Directive 2005/85/EC and the Qualification Directive 2004/83/EC and not the recast Directives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL157/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-19/HL158/>

Asylum: Sudan

The Earl of Sandwich [HL50] To ask Her Majesty's Government how, and through what channels, they plan to ensure that asylum seekers from Sudan attend English language classes and counselling sessions, so that they can be fully prepared for their asylum application hearing.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: All asylum seekers have access to publicly-funded legal advice and an interpreter to assist in presenting an accurate account of the reasons for their claim if English is not their first language.

Asylum seekers are provided with information on how to access legal advice and signposts specialist organisations where they can find additional help, support, counselling and language provision.

The Home Office funds Migrant Help to provide confidential and impartial advice and guidance to adult asylum seekers and their dependants in a language they understand. Their services include face-to-face advice for newly arrived asylum seekers in initial accommodation and a helpline and website providing information in 15 languages.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL50/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Detention of Pregnant Women

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will make it their policy routinely to publish statistical information on the detention of pregnant women under the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Keen of Elie): The detention of pregnant women under Immigration Act powers occurs in only very limited circumstances, either where there is a clear prospect of early removal or in very exceptional circumstances. Very few pregnant women are detained. With the implementation of the Immigration Act 2016, the Government are considering options for the collection of data on detained women who have disclosed their pregnancy to the Home Office.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb: I thank the Minister for that reply, and it is welcome news. Is there any timetable on this? Can we be sure that it is going to happen within the next few months? It seems incredible to me that it is beyond the wit of the Home Office to count the number of pregnant women who are held in detention.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: At present there are management data from diverse sources, including medical data, border data and detention data. The Government are considering how best to collate the information and whether it will be necessary to actually publish it. I ask the noble Baroness to bear in mind that our intention is to minimise the number of pregnant women in detention, and that will dictate how we proceed.

The Lord Bishop of Southwark: My Lords, I would be grateful if the Minister would detail the criteria and give examples of the exceptional circumstances that justify the detention of pregnant women under the Act.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We have made it perfectly clear that detention in all cases is the exception and not the rule. In the cases of vulnerable adults, including pregnant women, it will be wholly exceptional for them to be detained. In general it is anticipated that detention will be required only in circumstances where someone arrives at the border without any right to be in the United Kingdom and can be more or less immediately returned to their country of origin.

Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws: My Lords, is the Minister prepared to say that, as a matter of principle, pregnant women should not be held in detention? That should be the starting point. It is what this House wants to hear and what this House voted for.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: There is a clear and unambiguous presumption against the detention of pregnant women.

Baroness Gardner of Parkes: Can the Minister assure us that these pregnant women will have adequate access to full medical care at any time that it is needed?

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: It is intended that even before a pregnant woman is detained, her welfare will be taken into consideration. Consideration of her welfare will include the question of whether adequate facilities are available to that woman if she is detained. In the event of detention in an immigration centre such as Yarl's Wood, there are adequate facilities to deal with pregnant women.

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-05-25/debates/16052530000465/ImmigrationDetentionOfPregnantWomen>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb [HL108] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many pregnant women are currently held in detention under the Immigration Act 2014.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Home Office will not necessarily be aware that a woman is pregnant unless she chooses to make this known to us and a woman may not know herself that she is pregnant when she is detained. It

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed.

As of 19 May 2016 there were no pregnant women detained under Immigration Act powers in an immigration removal centre or residential short-term holding facility, subject to these conditions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL108/>

Human Trafficking

The following two questions both received the same answer

Helen Grant [37239] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police raids in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland resulted in potential victims of human trafficking being taken by the police to reception centres in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement.

Helen Grant [37240] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many potential victims of human trafficking were taken by the police to reception centres following police raids in the last year; what proportion of such potential victims volunteered to enter the National Referral Mechanism; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The number of potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism by police is published by the National Crime Agency on an annual basis and can be found in a number of tables which can be accessed here: <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

Information on the numbers of potential victims taken to reception centres following police raids, and whether they subsequently entered the NRM, is recorded on an individual case level but is not held centrally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-18/37239/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-18/37240/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Fiona Mactaggart (66) Independent advocates for trafficked children – That this House notes the independent evaluation of the Child Trafficking Advocates pilot project, provided by Barnados and funded by the Home Office, which concluded that advocates assisted in keeping trafficked children safely visible once they started working with them, made relationships of trust and credibility with the children and other stakeholders, shared developing expertise in trafficking and case-specific information in purposeful ways, helped the children to orientate and navigate their ways through complex circumstances, spoke up for the children when necessary, maintained a momentum in a case that was suitable to the child's needs, including planning for a sustainable future and improved the quality of decision making; and urges the Home Office to act swiftly to build on these foundations, making sure that all trafficked children have access to the support of an independent advocate, recognising that if the scheme needs to be developed further then this should be done in the context of implementing the provision in Clause 48 of the Modern Slavery Act to provide an independent advocate to every trafficked child and the quality of the service should be improved while it is being rolled out.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/66>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: May 2016

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/may2016>

Asylum transparency data: May 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525732/asylum_transparency_data-q1_2016.ods

User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525107/user-guide-immigration-statistics.pdf

An inspection of the Administrative Review processes introduced following the 2014 Immigration Act

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ICIBI-report-on-Administrative-Reviews-May-2016.pdf>

Draft Policy: Adults at risk in immigration detention

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/526263/Adults_at_risk_policy_26_May_2016.pdf

Bar Standards Board: Immigration Thematic Review Report

https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/media/1760828/immigration_thematic_review_report_may_2016.pdf

Refugees Welcome Survey 2016

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/05/refugees-welcome-survey-results-2016/>

Refugees Work: a humanitarian investment that yields economic dividends

<http://tinyurl.com/zhsdj8s>

Who are the EU migrants in England and Wales?

http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_briefing_papers/pdf/BP33_Who_are_EU_migrants.pdf

Expense turns to investment: How the welfare state supports EU migrants' economic achievements

http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_briefing_papers/pdf/BP34_Expense_turns_to_investment.pdf

Mapping Where Immigrants Settle

<http://maps.cdrc.ac.uk/#/metrics/countryofbirth/default/BTTTTFTT/10/-0.1500/51.5198/>

News

Scotland has taken in more refugees than any other part of UK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-has-taken-in-more-refugees-than-any-other-part-of-uk-1-4139966>

Scotland has taken in more than a third of all UK's Syrian refugees

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/27/scotland-welcomes-third-of-uk-syrian-refugees-resettlement>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Net migration to UK rises to 333,000 - second highest on record

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36382199>

Net migration to UK hit 333,000 in 2015

https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/uk-world/179932/1-politics-immigration-lead_6955/

Net immigration to UK nears peak as fewer Britons emigrate

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/26/net-migration-to-uk-nears-peak-fewer-britons-emigrate>

Net migration to UK rises to 333,000, new figures reveal

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-referendum-net-migration-to-uk-rises-to-333000-new-figures-reveal-a7049521.html>

Population to surge by four million due to mass immigration that will 'change the face of England forever'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/25/population-surge-to-change-the-face-of-england-forever/>

Mapped: how much immigration your area will see by 2024 – and six things you should know about it

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/26/mapped-how-much-immigration-your-area-will-see-by-2024--and-six/>

London population predicted to near 10 million within a decade as England continues to grow

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/population-of-london-predicted-to-near-10-million-in-a-decade-as-england-continues-to-grow-a7048531.html>

Cameron finally admits migration running at 333,000 a year is 'disappointing' – but blames the figure on strength of our economy!

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3612121/Cameron-admits-migration-running-333-000-year-disappointing-blames-strength-economy.html>

Interactive map shows what every borough in England will look like after eight more years of mass immigration... an influx which will see the nation's population rise by 4 million

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3608546/London-Megacity-capital-s-population-hit-nearly-10m-2024-high-birth-rate-migration-abroad-offsets-exodus-regions.html>

Highland deportation family win last-minute reprieve

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/highland-deportation-family-win-last-minute-reprieve-1-4139481>

Highlands town rallies round as family awaits Home Office visa verdict

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/27/highlands-town-rallies-round-gregg-kathryn-lachlan-brain-home-office-visa-dingwall>

SNP urge Osborne to stop deportation of Gaelic-speaking boy

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/snp-urge-osborne-to-stop-deportation-of-gaelic-speaking-boy-1-4137973>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Brain family get last ditch chance to try to stay in Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14516324.Brain_family_get_last_ditch_chance_to_try_to_stay_in_Scotland/?ref=mr&lp=3

Final push to stop Australian family being deported from Scotland

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/may/26/australian-family-deportation-from-scotland-not-imminent>

Mother's job offer could save son from being deported

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mothers-job-offer-could-save-son-from-being-deported-7nm5vnwqj>

Family hope 'common sense will prevail' as they fight deportation

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3611667/Family-hope-common-sense-prevail-fight-deportation.html>

Brain family deportation case shows Scotland is losing out after Home Office cancels graduate work visas

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14523236.Scotland_losing_out_under_UK_Government_visa_rules_on_minimum_salary/?ref=mr&lp=5

Scots families lament UK visa nightmare

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scots-families-lament-uk-visa-nightmare-38b8t7dt7>

No right to stay in UK for same-sex partners

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-26/law/no-right-to-stay-in-uk-for-same-sex-partners-sbv0xhs9g>

Police Scotland mobilises first Polish officers

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14511567.Police_Scotland_mobilises_first_Polish_officers/?ref=mr&lp=13

Parents' anger at refugee welcoming prompts council apology

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/25/parents-anger-welcoming-syrian-refugees-school-redcar-cleveland-council-apology>

Dungavel refugee reveals nightmare four months in Iranian torture cell before being threatened with UK deportation

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/dungavel-refugee-reveals-nightmare-four-8025583#1hT04irEzI8FvLv.97>

Deportation overrides human rights

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-26/news/deportation-overrides-human-rights-9fg27dmgx>

There's only one group benefitting from the refugee crisis – human traffickers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/theres-only-one-group-benefitting-from-the-refugee-crisis-human-traffickers-a7048436.html>

A slave in Scotland: 'I fell into a trap – and I couldn't get out'

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/may/28/slavery-human-trafficking-hotel-workers-bangladesh-scotland>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Islander ranted online at Syrian refugees on Bute

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/islander-ranted-online-at-syrian-refugees-on-bute-mdf9wc8wv>

Scotland and Italy unite for concert in support of refugees

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14511582.Scotland_and_Italy_unite_for_concert_in_support_of_refugees/

The tragic but brutal truth: They are not REAL refugees! Despite drowning tragedy thousands of economic migrants are still trying to reach Europe

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3613603/The-tragic-brutal-truth-not-REAL-refugees-Despite-drowning-tragedy-thousands-economic-migrants-trying-reach-Europe.html>

Groups of migrants awaiting deportation at Gatwick centre scuffle over how spicy the food should be

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3615039/Groups-migrants-awaiting-deportation-Gatwick-centre-scuffle-SPICY-food-be.html>

Equality and Human Rights Commission welcomes court ruling in domestic violence case

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/commission-welcomes-court-ruling-domestic-violence-case>

Refugee is Children's Word of the Year

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-36376999>

Here's how to solve the immigration problem

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/heres-how-to-solve-the-immigration-problem-9p0rh5zdq>

Say my name, say my name: why the 'correct' pronunciation is whatever I decide

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/23/name-pronunciation-second-generation-immigrant>

Viking, Punjabi or Gaelic: why are we obsessed with where we come from?

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/14523206.Viking_Punjabi_or_Gaelic_why_are_we_obsessed_with_where_we_come_from/

Govanhill raisers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/govanhill-raisers-k9gc89xlk>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

News

One in three Muslims do not feel 'part of British culture'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/26/one-in-three-muslims-do-not-feel-part-of-british-culture/>

Community Relations

News (continued)

Britain becoming more segregated than 15 years ago, says race expert

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/23/britain-more-segregated-15-years-race-expert-riots-ted-cantle>

We have failed to stop segregation in Britain. Time to try again

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/may/23/segregation-britain-oldham-riots-communities>

[TOP](#)

Equality

UK Parliament Question

Education: Muslims

Gavin Shuker [37159] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps the Government is taking to improve access to further and higher education for young Muslims.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: We have recently introduced the Higher Education and Research Bill which, subject to the will of Parliament, will permit the introduction of a non-interest bearing alternative to student loans. This would be available to students of all faiths and none and will result in no financial advantage or disadvantage relative to the equivalent loan.

The Government is committed to increasing the number of BME students in higher education by 20% by 2020 and the proportion of apprenticeship starts by people from BME backgrounds by 20% by 2020.

We have also recently announced our intention to introduce a Transparency Duty on higher education institutions to publish more statistical information on the number of students who apply for places, receive offers and drop out from higher education institutions by ethnicity, gender and social background.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-18/37159/>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions

Universities: Antisemitism

Andrew Percy [37996] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, what steps he has taken to tackle anti-Semitism in English universities.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: There is no place in our society, including higher education, for anti-Semitism or any other form of bigotry, hatred and racism. We expect universities to act swiftly to investigate and address any anti-Semitic incidents reported to them. Responsibilities for ensuring students do not face harassment, abuse or violence rests with individual institutions, as a clear part of their duties under the 2010 Equality Act.

At the request of the Government, Universities UK have set up a taskforce to consider what more can be done to address harassment on campus, including on

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

the basis of religion and belief. The taskforce has had meetings with or received evidence from a wide range of organisations which include the Union of Jewish Students, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Community Security Trust. The taskforce is expected to report its findings in the autumn but has already identified the need for an improved data collection of incidents by institutions, to ensure universities are recording incidents effectively; the importance of complaints procedures that protect the identity of students who may be fearful of coming forward; and the need for better training for staff to respond to instances of harassment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-23/37996/>

Universities: Antisemitism

Lord Patten [HL40] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the comments by the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, quoted in The Sunday Times on 8 May, that "the Zionist bashing" at universities "has gone unchallenged".

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The Government is clear that there is absolutely no place in higher education or anywhere else in society for bigotry, hatred or any form of racism such as anti-Semitism.

Recent reports of anti-Semitism are extremely concerning and must be met with a decisive response. We expect all universities and all bodies with a role in English higher education to be absolutely clear in their opposition to racism in all its forms, and to have robust policies in place to tackle such hatred and support victims.

At the Government's request, Universities UK has set up a taskforce to examine what more can be done to tackle harassment and hate crime on campus, and this includes anti-Semitism within its remit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL40/>

Universities: Hate Crime

Lord Patten [HL41] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Evans of Bowes Park on 4 May (HL8001), whether they have requested that the taskforce set up by Universities UK includes members of those minorities subject to harassment and hate crime, representatives of the relevant law and order agencies, and independent members with no direct university involvement.

Reply from Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: The taskforce, established by Universities UK, is looking at all forms of violence and harassment affecting students. Its task is to bring together students, university experts and external organisations to consider the current evidence and what universities are currently doing to address issues of harassment and hate crime, including anti-Semitism, and what more needs to be done.

The taskforce have had meetings with or received evidence from a wide range of organisations which includes the Union of Jewish Students, Rape Crisis, Tell Mama and Stonewall. In regards to anti-Semitism, the Taskforce has also received evidence from the Jewish Leadership Council, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Community Security Trust. In terms of law and order agencies, evidence has been received from a number of lawyers and from the police via PAHELO (Police Association of Higher Education Liaison Officers).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-05-18/HL41/>

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

Growing anti-immigrant sentiment and Islamophobia were among key trends in 2015, says Council of Europe anti-racism body

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/217-26_05_2016_AnnualReport2015_en.asp

New Publications

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Annual Report

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20report%202015.pdf

Forgotten Women: the impact of Islamophobia on Muslim women

http://enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/20095_forgottenwomenpublication_v5_1_.pdf

Forgotten Women: the impact of Islamophobia on Muslim women in the United Kingdom

<http://enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/factsheet-uk-final.pdf>

News

SNP's Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh speaks out on sexist and racist abuse she receives as MP

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14523411.SNP_s_Tasmina_Ahmed_Sheikh_speak_s_on_sexist_and_racist_abuse_she_receives_as_MP/?ref=mr&lp=8

British Muslim women face 'double bind' of gender and religious discrimination, report warns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-muslim-women-face-double-bind-of-gender-and-religious-discrimination-report-warns-a7049031.html>

BBC is accused of racism over documentary

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-26/news/bbc-is-accused-of-racism-over-documentary-5nvg35778>

Channel 4 Muslims documentary cleared after Islamophobia risk claims

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/may/23/channel-4-muslims-documentary-cleared-after-islamophobia-risk-claims>

Storm over 'racist UK' poster: Referendum ad to boost black votes portrays Brexit supporter as a snarling skinhead (and yes, the organisation behind it takes handouts from the taxpayer)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3609357/Operation-Black-Vote-unveils-controversial-referendum-poster-comparing-Asian-woman-angry-white-thug-Nigel-Farage-claims-goes-far.html>

'White yob' referendum poster is disgusting, says Farage

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-26/news/white-yob-referendum-poster-is-disgusting-says-farage-ch0jj0n0h>

Nadiya Hussain recounts Islamophobic abuse and claims it gets worse after terrorist attacks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/nadiya-hussain-recounts-islamophobic-abuse-and-claims-it-gets-worse-after-terrorist-attacks-a7053931.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

I've been abused for being a Muslim, says Bake Off star

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-05-28/news/i-ve-been-abused-for-being-a-muslim-says-bake-off-star-rpbzrldct>

Police investigate 'hate crime' after bag of pork sausages was thrown over fence into a mosque

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3614927/Police-investigate-hate-crime-bag-pork-sausages-thrown-fence-mosque.html>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

First Minister's Statement

Taking Scotland Forward

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10452&i=96275#ScotParlOR>

Debate

Taking Scotland Forward

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10452&i=96276#ScotParlOR>

and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10453&i=96282#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

New powers to 'make a difference'

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-powers-to-make-a-difference-24df.aspx>

First meeting of new Cabinet

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/First-meeting-of-new-Cabinet-24f2.aspx>

A precious opportunity

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/A-precious-opportunity-24f7.aspx>

First Minister's Priorities Speech - Taking Scotland Forward

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/Speeches-Briefings/Priorities-speech-Taking-Scotland-Forward-24f8.aspx>

MSPs launch search for Scotland's Local Heroes

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/99637.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sarah Champion [37281] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that all frontline professionals receive adequate training to pursue the steps outlined in multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation.

Sarah Champion [37282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that when a girl is identified as being at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), frontline professionals are taking the steps outlined in the multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government is clear that tackling FGM needs a coordinated response from a range of professionals, including teachers, health professionals, social workers and police which is why on 1 April we published updated multi-agency guidance on FGM which we have put on a statutory footing to support compliance. To support professionals to take the steps outlined in the guidance, including receiving adequate training, we have made available free FGM e-learning for all professionals. To date, the course has been completed by over 30,000 people. Our FGM Unit is providing outreach support to local areas and working to raise awareness of resources available to professionals, including training, best practice examples and information on legislation and policy.

In addition, the Department of Health's £3 million FGM Prevention Programme is focused on improving the response of NHS to FGM, and through its Innovation programme, the Department for Education is funding the Local Government Association and Barnardo's to develop a centre of excellence and outreach to support local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-18/37281/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-18/37282/>

New Publications

Crescent Moon Visibility for Ramadan & Eid al-Fitr 2016

http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/nao/miscellanea/ramadan_2016/

The Union and devolution

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldconst/149/149.pdf>

The Union and devolution: written and oral evidence

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/constitution/union-and-devolution/FINAL-Evidence-volume-UDE.pdf>

Government Response to Communities and Local Government Select Committee Report: "Devolution: the next five years and beyond"

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525867/CM9291-Select_Committee_Response.pdf_-_web_.pdf

Other UK Parliament and Government New Publications (continued)

Updated Guidance; How to report female genital mutilation: guidance for health professionals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare/how-to-report-female-genital-mutilation-guidance-for-health-professionals>

News

Theresa May launches sharia law review

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/may/26/theresa-may-launches-sharia-law-review>

Sharia courts in UK face Government inquiry over treatment of women

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sharia-courts-in-uk-face-government-probe-over-treatment-of-women-a7049826.html>

Theresa May hails 'benefits' of Sharia as inquiry set up into 'misuse' of Islamic law

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/05/26/may-hails-benefits-of-sharia-as-inquiry-set-up-into-misuse-of-is/>

Inquiry will be held into Sharia courts

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/inquiry-will-be-held-into-sharia-courts-86sghdxs9>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

EU Referendum voting guide

English

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/203410/EU-Referendum-voting-guide_England-and-Scotland.pdf

Arabic

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/204880/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Arabic.pdf

Bengali

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/204881/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Bengali.pdf

Chinese

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/204882/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Chinese.pdf

French

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/205613/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-French.pdf

Gaelic

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/204883/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Gaelic.pdf

Gujarati

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/204884/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Gujarati.pdf

New Publications (continued)

Hindi

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/204885/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Hindi.pdf

Punjabi

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/204886/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Punjabi.pdf

Scots

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/204887/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Scots.pdf

Urdu

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/204888/EU-Referendum-Public-Awareness-Booklet-Alternative-Languages-Urdu.pdf

Protecting human rights in Scotland in a changing relationship with Europe

http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/16_05_26_EUReferendumStatement2.docx

The Human Rights Implications of the European Union referendum

http://scottishhumanrights.com/application/resources/documents/16_05_26_Lock_EUReferendum.docx

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

** Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-05-23/debates/1605234000420/ModernSlavery\(TransparencyInSupplyChains\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-05-23/debates/1605234000420/ModernSlavery(TransparencyInSupplyChains)Bill(HL))

** Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/studentsupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2016-2017/0023/17023.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-05-26/debates/16052638000531/StudentSupport\(Non-Interest-BearingFinance\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-05-26/debates/16052638000531/StudentSupport(Non-Interest-BearingFinance)Bill(HL))

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Racism and religious discrimination (closing date 31 May 2016)

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/offices/commons/media-relations-group/news/youth-select-committee-tackles-racism-and-religious-discrimination/>

**** closes 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>

**** Shami Chakrabarti Inquiry into antisemitism and other forms of racism, including islamophobia, within the Labour Party** (closing date 10 June 2016)

<http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php/chakrabarti>

Draft Code of Practice for Stop and Search (closing date 15 July 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/organised-crime-and-police-powers-unit/stop-and-search>

Police Powers to Search Children and Young People for Alcohol (closing date 15 July 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/organised-crime-and-police-powers-unit/under18search>

Developing black and minority ethnic talent: issues faced by businesses (closing date 22 August 2016)

<https://bisgovuk.citizenspace.com/lm/baroness-mcgregor-smith-review>

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 listed)

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

Suicide and BME Communities in North East Glasgow (closing date not listed)

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BME_suicide_NorthEastGlasgow

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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

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

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Refugee Festival Scotland

14-26 June throughout Scotland

Refugee Festival Scotland is an annual Scotland-wide programme of arts, cultural, educational, heritage and sports events, coordinated by Scottish Refugee Council. For detailed information about events see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_festival_scotland

Child Refugees, Past and Present - Practitioners Event

14 June 2016 in Glasgow (9.30-2.30)

GRAMNet knowledge-exchange workshop for practitioners working with child refugees, and academic researchers, especially historians. For information see or contact David Wright David.Wright@glasgow.ac.uk

Child Refugees, Past and Present - Public Event

14 June 2016 in Glasgow (3.00-5.00)

GRAMNet talk on child refugees in history. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/h2kfmxn> or contact David Wright David.Wright@glasgow.ac.uk

Make sectarianism a history lesson

14 June 2016 in Glasgow

X-change Scotland training day to support and inspire practitioners and group leaders to challenge sectarianism while promoting empathy within groups. For more information contact sos@xchangescotland.org / 0141 237 2430

How the UK Parliament Works

15 June 2016 in Glasgow (2pm)

GramNet and UK Houses of Parliament Outreach and Engagement Service event to find out how the UK Parliament works, and how to raise issues that you want heard by policy makers at Westminster. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jfg9u55>

Immigrants to Scotland: 1945 to the Present

16 June 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.45)

ESRC conference to explore the cultural diversity of Scotland's refugee and migrant groups since 1945. For information and to book see <http://tinyurl.com/jg36dvb>

Celebrating Solidarity' – Refugee Festival Scotland Launch

18 June 2016 in Glasgow (12.00-4.00)

Show solidarity with refugees across Scotland at a gathering for all the family to launch Refugee Festival Scotland 2016, featuring live music, dance, arts and crafts, sports and games, face painting and free food. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zr2qfxl> or contact festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Being Roma in Glasgow

18 June 2016 in Glasgow (6pm)

Glasgow Anew discussion on the Roma experience in Glasgow. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hknmn2o>

Who Cares in Dundee?

20 June 2016 in Dundee (12.00-6.00)

Opportunity to view the work done by national and local agencies and ask questions about their work. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hw4q695> or contact John Clark john_d_clark@btinternet.com

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

GRAMnet Research Open Day 2016

21 June 2016 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

GRAMNet event for postgraduate research students with an interest in issues around refugees, asylum and migration. For information and to book see <http://tinyurl.com/ha9vmjn>

Working Together in Faith Refugee information and advocacy

21 June 2016 in Edinburgh (10.30-3.30)

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees conference to provide information about the current humanitarian refugee catastrophe and explores practical ways in which local faith groups can make an effective difference. For information and to register see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/working-together-in-faith-registration-25160800632> or contact Sabine Chalmers schalmers@churchofscotland.org.uk or David Bradwell dbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Immigration Bill 2015/16: impact on asylum seekers and migrants, and consequences for Scottish services

22 June 2016 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

GRAMnet and Scottish Detainee Visitors event to explore immigration legislation that will make changes to support for asylum seekers, and which has major implications for human rights and discrimination law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j8t9m48>

'Meet the Artists' of Transit Zone

23 June 2016 in Glasgow (5.30-6.30)

Scottish Refugee Council open discussion with photographer Iman Tajik and cinematographer Frederik Subei about their exhibition and film Transit Zone which gives an insight into what life is like for refugees in the makeshift camps of Calais. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jxrgebc>

Are open borders the way to deal with the 'migration crisis'?

23 June 2016 in Glasgow (6.00-7.30)

GRAMNet and Open Borders Scotland discussion about ways of responding to the 'migration crisis' in Europe today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zhl3dwr>

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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.