

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The UK Parliament will be in recess until 27 June 2016.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Post-study Work Visas (Rural Communities)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10472&i=96485#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-00479 Christina McKelvie: Human Rights Violations at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre—That the Parliament notes with strong concern reports in The Independent of claims that the Home Office is withholding information relating to the number of detainees who have been sexually assaulted or raped in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre; understands that this is due to concerns regarding the commercial interests of the operators of the centre; is disappointed that the Home Office appears to have more concern for a company than that of the victims of these crimes; further notes

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

claims by the UN's Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Rashida Manjoo, that she had been denied access to the centre by the UK Government; believes that the refusal to make this information public shows a complete lack of consideration toward these victims and to the human rights that should be the first priority of any nation and raises questions as to whether the UK Government has something to hide, and calls on those in power in the UK Government to look at this urgently to ensure that horrific crimes are not swept under the carpet to benefit the commercial interests of any company.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00479&ResultsPerPage=10>

S5M-00453 Tavish Scott: Refugee Festival Scotland—That the Parliament recognises Refugee Festival Scotland; understands that the festival is being coordinated by the Scottish Refugee Council; notes that a variety of arts, cultural and sporting events will run from 14 to 26 June 2016; further notes that a special performance event will be held at Lerwick Baptist Church on 17 June to highlight the struggle faced by many refugees escaping war, and wishes all participants involved in the festival both in Shetland and across Scotland the best of luck.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00453&ResultsPerPage=10>

S5M-00450 Christina McKelvie: Scotland's History of Solidarity and Welcome—That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the landmark documentary film and visual art exhibition, Lest We Forget: First World War – Refugees Then and Now, on 14 June 2016 at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow; notes that the project, which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was coordinated by the Scottish Refugee Council and involved a diverse group of refugees and asylum seekers from many countries, including Eritrea, North Sudan, South Sudan, Iran and Syria, who worked with Scottish colleagues to document the heritage and experiences of the 19,000 Belgian people who were welcomed to Scotland after being displaced because of the war; acknowledges what it sees as the persistent truth that then, as now, war and human rights abuse are often at the root as to why people become refugees and that the ongoing crisis situations in the Middle East and north Africa today are tragic reminders of this; considers the humanitarianism of the people of Scotland through the years in welcoming people seeking a better life or fleeing poverty or persecution to be inspiring; notes that this includes people from Italy at the start of the 20th century, Jewish people escaping the Nazis, Chilean people in the 1970s, Bosnians and Kosovars in the 1990s and the women, men and children from all over the world who, on what it believes is an unprecedented scale, are being presently forced from their homeland but who are being welcomed across the country's villages, towns and cities to become new Scots; believes, however, that such humanitarianism cannot survive on history alone but requires visible, proud and active solidarity, which is the theme of Refugee Festival Scotland 2016, and believes that maintaining this solidarity will allow Scotland to continue to welcome refugees.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00450&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Migration: EU Countries

William Wragg [38706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the potential number of short-term EU migrants who are

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

expected to enter the UK to live and work in each of the next five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: It has been the practice of this Government not to make such forecasts. There are numerous different factors that can affect migration flows. Projections of UK's population are published by the independent Office for National Statistics.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections>

As projections, these do not take account of the potential impact of Government policies or economic conditions. ONS produce estimates of short term migration for England and Wales

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/shorttermmigrationestimatesforenglandandwales/mid2014estimates>

The majority of those coming as 'short term migrants' were for the reason "other" (which includes activities such as: holidays and travelling; visiting family and friends; and working holidays).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-26/38706/>

Immigration Rules

Carol Monaghan [905362] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the Immigration Rules on facilitating family reunification.

Reply from Richard Harrington: The Immigration Rules support the principle of family unity and allow the spouse or partner and children of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK to reunite with them here, if they were part of the family unit before their sponsor fled their country. Under this policy we have reunited around 22,000 refugees with their immediate family over the past five years and will continue to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/905362/>

Immigration Rules: Families

Philippa Whitford [39422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of (a) immigration rules in general and (b) income requirements on the eligibility of British citizens with non-EU partners to return to the UK and the incidence of family separation.

Reply from James Brokenshire: New family Immigration Rules, including a minimum income threshold for British citizens sponsoring a non-EU partner, were implemented on 9 July 2012 to prevent burdens on the taxpayer, promote integration and tackle abuse.

We have continued to keep the new Rules under review and to make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. We have also taken into account the findings of the courts, including the July 2014 Court of Appeal judgment upholding the lawfulness of the minimum income threshold.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-06/39422/>

Immigrants: Employment

Ian Blackford [905363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons people who have leave to remain in the UK while seeking permanent residence do not have the right to work.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Those with temporary leave to remain keep the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

conditions of that leave, including any associated work rights, until a new application is decided.

Those whose leave to remain has already expired do not have permission to work and must normally make an application to regularise their stay within 28 days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/905363/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Tulip Siddiq [38689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 3 March 2016 to Question 28999, how many (a) credibility interviews were conducted and (b) students did not undergo such interviews in each year from 2009-10 to 2015-16.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of point of application credibility interviews of Tier 4 applicants conducted by UK Visas and Immigration during the time periods requested can be found in the table below.

Financial Year	Number of Tier 4 credibility interviews conducted*
2013-2014	112357
2014-2015	123749
2015-2016	60131

*This data is taken from unpublished local management information that is not subject to national statistics protocols and is therefore subject to change.

All of these interviews were conducted via video conference by staff based in the UK. Additional interviews may be conducted overseas as part of the application process.

The difference in the number of interviews conducted can primarily be explained by a shift towards more in-depth interviewing of higher risk cases. This more selective approach to interviewing follows a number of reforms we have introduced to the student migration system to clamp down on abuse while continuing to attract the brightest and best to our world-class institutions. These reforms have had an impact both on the volume and genuineness of the student visa applications we now receive.

The Home Office does not hold the specific data requested in a format that would allow us to state how many students did not undergo such interviews. To obtain this information would involve reviewing individual case records, incurring disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-26/38689/>

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

The following two questions both received the same answer

Andrew Rosindell [39648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people not granted entry clearance or temporary admission were permitted to live in private accommodation before being deported in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015.

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

Andrew Rosindell [39649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who were not granted entry clearance or temporary admission and were permitted to live in private accommodation absconded in (a) 2014 and (b) 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not record the number of persons who have been deported or who have absconded having been permitted to live in private accommodation.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Right to Rent scheme denies illegal migrants access to the private rented sector. It has been in operation in parts of the West Midlands since 1st December 2014, and across England since 1st February 2016. The scheme requires landlords to carry out checks on prospective tenants before they rent property to them, and to refuse a tenancy to anyone who cannot show that they have the right to rent. The scheme is not retrospective, and does not apply to tenancies which were in place before the scheme came into effect in the relevant area. Therefore, in order to keep the scheme light touch and in line with the Right to Work scheme, landlords (like employers) are not required to tell the Home Office when they have completed right to rent checks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39648/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39649/>

Undocumented Migrants

Nigel Dodds [39697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the security arrangements under the Common Travel Agreement in preventing illegal immigration into the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government is working with all members of the Common Travel Area (CTA) to prevent illegal immigration and maintain the security of the external CTA border. Home Office Ministers and Officials have regular contact with all CTA members and there continues to be excellent government and operational level co-operation on a joint programme of work which includes: investment in border procedures; increased data sharing to inform immigration and border security decisions; interoperable passenger data systems, including the collection and processing of Advance Passenger Information (API) on intra and extra CTA routes, and; harmonised visa policy and processes. In addition to this, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force conduct intelligence-led operations to identify and take action against individuals who are seeking to or have abused this travel arrangement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39697/>

Undocumented Migrants

Gareth Thomas [39757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many prosecutions there have been of applicants for asylum who have arrived without documents and concealed their identity to frustrate removal in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The number of individuals prosecuted for arriving without documents and concealing their identity is 50. The figures are illustrated below.

1st April 2014 - 31 March 2015 26

1st April 2015 – 31 March 2016 22

This information was not held centrally prior to 2014.

The Home Office works closely with the NCA and other law enforcement agencies, and prosecuting authorities in the UK and abroad, to ensure criminal investigations are robustly progressed in accordance with Criminal Justice standards.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39757/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Undocumented Migrants

Gareth Thomas [39779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the programme managed by Capita to identify and remove overstayers; when the contract with Capita for that programme is due for renewal; whether she plans to make any amendments to the terms of that contract; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Capita was appointed to progress cases in the Migration Refusal Pool (MRP), which consists of those people who have received a negative decision on their cases, but have not left the country. The purpose of these arrangements is to contact manage cases and encourage voluntary departure and compliance. Capita does not remove anyone from the UK.

Capita's work on the Migration Refusal Pool has enabled a substantial reduction in the size of the MRP during the lifetime of the contract and has included the assessment of 659,400 cases and the identification of 143,400 departures. More statistics on the contract can be found in the Immigration Enforcement transparency data, available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-may-2016>

The contract was signed in 2012 to run for four years and is due to expire this October.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39779/>

Undocumented Migrants

Tom Pursglove [905364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of General Policy Recommendation No.16, by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, adopted on 16 March 2016, that doctors, teachers, landlords and other social service providers should not be obliged to report illegal immigrants.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Access to social services, benefits, social housing, NHS secondary care services, employment and private rented accommodation is subject to eligibility rules and immigration status checks by providers. The Government would not accept or support any recommendation which would bar public officials or private service providers from reporting illegal immigrants to the Home Office.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/905364/>

Refugees: Unaccompanied Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to fulfil their decision to welcome unaccompanied child refugees into the United Kingdom.

Reply from the he Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport and Home Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): My Lords, we are working closely with local authorities, as set out in the Immigration Act 2016, and consulting non-government organisations, the UNHCR, UNICEF and relevant member states to establish the suitable processes to implement our commitment to transfer unaccompanied refugee children to the UK from Europe and resettle children at risk from the Middle East and north Africa region.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: The Minister might be aware of UNICEF's comment even today that we are "moving far too slowly" in this matter of bringing over unaccompanied refugee children. Is it not time that we worked with other voluntary organisations and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

other individuals who are eager to welcome these children and to be part of their resettlement in the United Kingdom? Would it be possible for the Minister to give us a timetable of exactly what we are doing and when, with a view to resettling not only these children but the 20,000 refugees whom we have said we will resettle during the course of this Parliament?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As I am sure the noble Lord is aware, we are working with international organisations, NGOs such as Save the Children and the UNHCR. Specifically on the question he raised about settlement, we are consulting and working directly with France, Italy and Greece and are working with NGOs in this respect. I emphasise that ultimately it is important to get this right for those children's sake. It is not a question of delaying or dragging our feet; it is about ensuring that the best interests of children are put first.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, is the difficulty in identifying unaccompanied child refugees in France, Greece and Italy, or is it that there are not enough local authorities which are co-operating in finding foster parents?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I commend the noble Lord's work in this respect and his consistent efforts on this issue. There is an issue about identifying the children who require such assistance. That is why we are working very closely with the French Government and my right honourable friend the Minister for Immigration visited Greece in May to discuss this issue. I assure the noble Lord that we are also working very closely with local authorities to ensure that the support they provide is effective and that we do not put undue burdens on them.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-06-13/debates/1606136000236/RefugeesUnaccompaniedChildren>

Refugees: Children

The following six questions all received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL509] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to co-operate with voluntary organisations in bringing unaccompanied minors to the UK from refugee camps in Europe.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL510] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a timetable has been established for bringing unaccompanied minors to the UK from refugee camps in Europe; and if so, how many children are anticipated to arrive during each stage.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL511] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to ensure the proper provision of safe housing for unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL512] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to establish social services and psychosocial support for unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL513] To ask Her Majesty's Government what process they plan to follow to identify eligible unaccompanied minors and bring them to the UK from refugee camps in Europe.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL514] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the unaccompanied minors brought to the UK from refugee camps in Europe will be assigned to families through the usual system of allocation to foster carers.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: As announced by the Prime Minister on 4 May and now reflected in the Immigration Act 2016, we will work to admit unaccompanied refugee children to the UK from elsewhere in the EU, where this is considered to be in the child's best interests.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The legislation is clear that consultation with local authorities is needed before any figure is set. We are working closely with local authorities and consulting NGOs, the UNHCR, UNICEF and relevant Member States to establish suitable processes to implement this initiative.

We are committed to act as quickly as we can but we must 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. We will be working closely with local authorities to find suitable placements within the UK. Statutory agencies at a local level are best placed to understand and meet the needs of all children and will continue to make decisions about the right accommodation and support services for those who are looked after. Unaccompanied children will be eligible for foster care if it is considered that that this placement type will provide appropriate support and best meet their individual needs.

The UK has well-established and effective safeguarding procedures to ensure the safety of children who come to the UK. All children brought to the UK will be given the care, support and education they require.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL509/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL510/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL511/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL512/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL513/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL514/>

Refugees: LGBT People

Lord Storey [HL433] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBTIQ people applied for refugee status in the UK on the basis of homophobic, biphobic or transphobic laws in their home countries in the last five years, and what was the percentage success rate of those applications.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Further to the response provided to Lord Scriven on 25 March 2015, (HL5725) the process of quality assuring the data held on the Home Office's Case Information Database, relating to sexuality based asylum claims is currently being undertaken by Home Office officials.

As such, the Home Office has not yet reached a point where it can provide an accurate picture of the number of asylum claims based on sexuality and no statistical data on this subject has hitherto been published.

Information where the detail of the asylum claim basis relates to gender identity issues is not routinely recorded on Home Office databases in a way that can be easily aggregated. No published data exists relating to gender identity based asylum claims.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-06/HL433/>

Refugees: Calais

The following two questions both received the same answer

Carol Monaghan [40095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees currently housed in the refugee camp in Calais are unaccompanied children; and what steps are being taken to ensure that the asylum applications of those children are prioritised.

Carol Monaghan [40098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees currently housed in the refugee camp in Calais have immediate family members already resident in the UK; and what steps are being taken to reunite those families.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The French NGO France Terre d'Asile (FTDA) has carried out a survey of children in the camps in the Calais area, which identified, within the scope of the survey, 43 children with claimed family links to the UK. We are working closely with the French Government and FTDA to ensure that where family links are established, transfers take place efficiently under the Dublin Regulation.

The transfer of cases deemed the responsibility of the UK on the basis of family unity provisions contained in the Dublin Regulation can take place relatively quickly and we have resources in place to facilitate this. An individual must first, however, claim asylum in France or another European state participating in the Regulation for the process to begin.

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 we seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process.

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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-09/40095/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-09/40098/>

Asylum: Visas

Lord Hylton [HL522] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in family reunion cases, they are considering providing entry visas valid for longer than 30 days, to enable visa holders to complete all the required exit procedures and necessary travel arrangements.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We issue a flexible 30-day visa to non-EEA nationals coming from overseas to stay in the UK for over six months to enable them to collect their biometric residence permits (BRP) shortly after they arrive in the UK.

When a family reunion application is made, individuals can specify the date they would like the 30-day visa to start to enable them to make any necessary travel arrangements, including obtaining exit visas. The start date of the visa can be

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

deferred for up to three months from the date of application. If there is any delay expected in the processing time of the application, the individual will be contacted by UKVI and informed about the delay. Where someone is unable to make arrangements to travel to the UK within the 30 day period, they can apply for a replacement visa.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-07/HL522/>

Asylum: Appeals

Caroline Lucas [39525] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, in how many applications to appeal a decision on (a) an asylum application and (b) an application for refugee family union in the First Tier Tribunal Asylum and Immigration Chamber the applicant paid a fee in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: There were 2,890 applications to appeal an asylum decision where a fee was paid by the applicant in the calendar year 2015.

The number of applications to appeal a refugee family union decision is not collected by HM Courts and Tribunals Service.

Notes to figures:

1. The figure includes asylum, protection and revocation of protection appeals because they come under the umbrella term of 'asylum'.
2. Figures provided are taken from internal management information and not subject to the same quality checks as Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-06/39525/>

Asylum: Religion

Stuart McDonald [40100] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for the Government's policy on asylum of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief, entitled Asylum report: inadequate assessment of religion-based claims, published in June 2016.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We are currently carefully considering the report and its recommendations. The report acknowledges the progress made by the Home Office with regards to guidance and training provided to its staff but highlighted the Group's view that there were some discrepancies between the Home Office policy and practice.

The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on their individual merits and grants protection for those who genuinely need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). In every asylum case the particular circumstances of the individual are considered in light of published country information, which includes issues relating specifically to religious freedoms.

Published guidance on the interviewing and consideration of religious claims is regularly reviewed and takes into consideration the views of religious groups and other stakeholders.

All asylum decision makers are currently receiving credibility training. This course trains decision makers on how to assess the evidential value of their interview questions (including when assessing religious based claims and religious conversion), the various reasons why someone may not come across as credible in an asylum interview and discusses issues such as speculation and implausibility. The 5-week Foundation Training Programme (FTP) for new decision makers trains staff on all aspects of the asylum decision making process,

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

including religious based claims and religious conversion has been endorsed by the UNHCR.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-09/40100/>

Asylum

Kirsty Blackman [39996] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children were denied permanent asylum having applied as an adult in 2015.

Reply from James Brokenshire: When a child passes the age of 18 and their Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) leave expires, they are no longer considered to be a UASC and are therefore required to take steps to return voluntarily or seek further leave to remain. Our records show that the number of main asylum claimants under the age of 18 years of age, who were granted UASC leave based on an asylum claim made on or after 1 April 2005, who went on to submit a further leave application in 2015 and were refused is 311.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-08/39996/>

Asylum: Children

Royston Smith [39292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on the use of child advocates to support social workers working with unaccompanied migrant children.

Reply from Karen Bradley: Unaccompanied migrant children are looked after by local authorities, which provide social work support and access to legal representation. Such children are also referred to the Refugee Council's Children's Panel for specialist support.

In addition, the Government ran a trial of independent child trafficking advocates from 8 September 2014 for a period of 12 months across 23 local authorities in England. The trial provided a valuable contribution to our understanding of this area of work and we are currently working with a broad range of interested parties as well as Parliamentarians to further develop our thinking so that we ensure we support trafficked children appropriately. We will update Parliament in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-06/39292/>

Asylum: Children

Gareth Thomas [39495] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children arrived in the UK and claimed asylum (a) for each country of origin, (b) by each commercial company who provided transport if known, (c) at each port and (d) in total in each of the last seven years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Figures on asylum claims for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) are published quarterly by the Home Office in the Immigration Statistics release. The attached table shows the total number of claims for asylum from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, excluding dependants, in the last seven years.

Year	Total claims
2009	2,857
2010	1,515
2011	1,248

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2012	1,125
2013	1,265
2014	1,945
2015	3,043

Notes:

(1) Data for 2015 are provisional and subject to change.

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

(3) Source: table as_08, *Immigration Statistics* January to March 2016, Home Office

Annual figures on the number of claims for asylum from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children by country of nationality are available in table as_08 in volume 3 of the asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525627/asylum3-q1-2016-tabs.ods

A copy of the latest release, *Immigration Statistics* January to March 2016, is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2016>

The information requested to answer parts (b) and (c) of the question is not centrally and systematically recorded and to provide this information would require the manual investigation of thousands of case files at a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-06/39495/>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Twigg [39794] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to accelerate the family reunification process for unaccompanied children in Europe with family in the UK.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Government continues to work with key EU Member States to ensure the Dublin Regulation family reunification process works effectively.

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 we have seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process. 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.

We are also providing support to the Dublin Units in Greece and Italy bilaterally and through European Asylum Support Office. On 4 May we announced the Government will work with local authorities on plans to resettle unaccompanied children from Europe. We are looking to transfer children who were already present in Europe before the EU-Turkey deal came into force on 20 March, where it is in their best interests.

We will work closely with local authorities to implement this initiative. It is important that we ensure we fulfil our obligations to children who are already in the UK, as

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

well as ensuring we have the right support for those who may be brought to the UK from Europe. We will also consult relevant Non-Governmental Organisations, the UNHCR, UNICEF and Member States.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39794/>

Asylum: Children

Kirsten Oswald [40127] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to how many unaccompanied child refugees her Department has granted permission to join family in the UK; and what the countries of origin were of such children.

Reply from James Brokenshire: We support the principle of family unity and have several routes for families to be reunited safely. We do not hold collective figures on how many unaccompanied child refugees have been granted permission to join family in the UK; and what the countries of origin were of such children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-09/40127/>

Asylum: Families

Stuart McDonald [39205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the issuing of 30-day entry clearance visas does not inhibit refugee family reunion; and for what reasons such time-limited entry clearance visas are issued.

Reply from James Brokenshire: When a family reunion application is made, individuals can specify when they would like the visa to be valid from to take account of their need to make the necessary travel arrangements. If there is any delay expected in the processing time of the application, the individual will be contacted by UKVI and informed about the delay. Where someone is unable to make arrangements to travel to the UK within 30 days, they can apply for a replacement visa.

We continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure we deliver further improvements including reviewing the visa issuing processes and associated guidance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-03/39205/>

Asylum: Families

Gareth Thomas [39781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the decision to introduce a 30-day deadline to travel once a family reunion visa has been issued; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The visas issued to non-EEA nationals who are coming from overseas to stay in the UK for more than six-months are limited to 30 days duration because they are intended to act as a means of enabling the person to travel to the UK and to collect their biometric residence permit (BRP) following their arrival in the country. When a family reunion application is made individuals can specify the date they would like the visa to start to enable them to make any necessary travel arrangements, including obtaining exit visas.

The start date of the visa can be deferred for up to three months from the date of application. If there is any delay expected in the processing time of the application, the individual will be contacted by UKVI and informed about the delay. Where someone is unable to make arrangements to travel to the UK within the 30 day period, they can apply for a replacement visa.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

We are aware that a small number of families have experienced difficulties with the visa procedures to enable them to join their family members in the UK, and have sought to address these issues by updating the guidance we issue to Entry Clearance Officers on family reunion applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39781/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Cunningham [38729] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of criminal offences against residents of properties used to house asylum seekers have been recorded in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office and its accommodation providers encourage accommodated asylum seekers to inform us of any criminal or anti-social activity against them so that appropriate action can be taken to ensure their safety. Information concerning the reports of criminal offences is not recorded on centrally collated statistical databases and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of case records.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-05-26/38729/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Neil Coyle [39138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Oral Answer of 26 May 2016, Official Report, column 682, how many women she was referring to when she stated that very few pregnant women were detained for immigration purposes.

Reply James Brokenshire: Management information for 26 May 2016 indicate that 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/Commons/2016-06-03/39138/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL675] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many detainees have reportedly been sexually assaulted or raped inside Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre since Serco took over its operation.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Serco, the private supplier at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre (IRC), took over the centre's operation in February 2007. Since 2008, the date from which local records have been collated centrally, there have been twenty three allegations of sexual assault or rape made by detainees against staff. This includes two allegations of rape, of which one was unsubstantiated and one is subject to continuing criminal proceedings. This is provisional management information that is subject to change. It has not been assured to the standard of Official Statistics.

All complaints made by detainees at an IRC are investigated by the IRC supplier in accordance with Detention Services Order 03/2015. Any allegations of serious misconduct made by a detainee against staff at an IRC are also referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit for investigation. Where a detainee, or someone on behalf of a detainee, alleges that a member of staff has committed a sexual offence against them the police will automatically be notified, even if the detainee does not wish the matter to be reported or to make a formal complaint.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-14/HL675/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Deportation

Gareth Thomas [39763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of failed asylum seekers who have been removed or voluntarily deported were (a) overstayers and (b) illegal entrants in each of the last seven years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: Our records show what proportion of failed asylum seekers who have been removed or voluntarily deported were overstayers between 2009 and 2015; in table 1

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Enforced Removal	17%	21%	30%	31%	34%	35%	31%
Voluntary Departure	9%	16%	15%	24%	38%	32%	24%

Our records show what proportion of failed asylum seekers who have been removed or voluntarily deported were illegal entrants between 2009 and 2015; in table 2

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Enforced Removal	48%	56%	54%	45%	42%	40%	44%
Voluntary Departure	42%	40%	30%	40%	36%	39%	40%

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39763/>

Human Trafficking

Sarah Champion [39098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total amount (a) awarded and (b) recovered was from individuals convicted of human trafficking offences in each of the last three years; and how much of the money so recovered was allocated to (i) the Treasury, (ii) the police and (iii) the victim.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The information relating to the amounts recovered and distributed in relation to human trafficking in each of the last three years is given in the table below. It should be noted that during the period in question, the Government introduced the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which gives law enforcement agencies better tools to tackle modern slavery and created a new statutory defence to further protect victims.

The amount recovered only includes money collected from confiscation orders and cash forfeitures under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. The amount paid in compensation only includes that paid out of the money collected under confiscation orders.

Under the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme, the Government invests 50% of any recovered assets that remain once compensation has been paid to victims into frontline operational agencies, including the police, in order to incentivise the use of asset recovery powers.

PROCEEDS RECOVERED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Amount recovered	£1,537,048.80	£1,079,261.11	£541,565.76
Compensation paid to victims	NIL	£53,745.74	£102,198.52
Amount paid to the police	£48,089.57	£67,459.96	£96,026.21

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Amount paid to other frontline operational agencies	£703,572.21	£435,597.92	£119,905.91
Retained by central Government	£751,661.79	£503,057.89	£215,932.12

Data is extracted from reports run on 6 June 2016 using the Joint Asset Recovery Database (JARD). JARD is a central repository of information relating to the seizure of the proceeds of crime using Proceeds of Crime Act powers. JARD is a live database which is continually updated. As such, the data provided may vary from reports run on earlier or later dates.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-03/39098/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Thangam Debbonaire (228) Refugee Week 2016 – That this House welcomes Refugee Week 2016, which runs from 20 to 26 June; believes that this year's theme for Refugee Week of Welcome is particularly important given that the world is currently facing the greatest refugee crisis since the end of the Second World War, with 20 million refugees across the world and another 40 million internally displaced; further welcomes the aim of Refugee Week to create better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration, enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution; encourages hon. Members to check what events are taking place in their constituency to mark Refugee Week; and calls on the Government to work with the many organisations involved in organising Refugee Week to ensure that refugees are given a warm welcome in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/228>

Press Releases

Renewed post study work pressure

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Renewed-post-study-work-pressure-2591.aspx>

Number of first time asylum seekers down to fewer than 290 000 in the first quarter of 2016

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7494855/3-16062016-BP-EN.pdf/4ff50bf8-82fc-4af0-9907-9c8546feb130>

Say “No” to hate speech against refugees: 20 June is European Action Day

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/say-no-to-hate-speech-against-refugees-20-june-is-european-action-day>

World Refugee Day: Council of Europe head calls for renewed effort to protect migrant children from sexual abuse

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/world-refugee-day-council-of-europe-head-calls-for-renewed-effort-to-protect-migrant-children-from-sexual-abuse>

Women refugees at high risk of being victims of gender-based violence

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2016/women-refugees-high-risk-being-victims-gender-based-violence>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

European Union Joint Statement ahead of World Refugee Day 2016

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160619_01_en.htm

New Publications

Perceptions and Reality: Public Attitudes to Immigration

https://www.ipsos-mori.com/DownloadPublication/1634_sri-perceptions-and-reality-immigration-report-2013.pdf

European Court of Human Rights video for legal professionals: Asylum

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HqF_ttSuH4&feature=youtu.be

News

Home Office refuses to reveal if women in Yarls Wood immigration centre have been raped

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/politics/home-office-refuses-to-reveal-if-women-in-yarls-wood-immigration/>

UK can refuse benefits to unemployed EU migrants, judges rule

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/14/uk-can-refuse-benefits-to-unemployed-eu-migrants-judges-rule>

Right to family life not stopping deportation

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/law/right-to-family-life-not-stopping-deportation-8fh8lvb7g>

For child asylum seekers turning 18 is a time of fear not celebration

<http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2016/jun/14/for-child-asylum-seekers-turning-18-is-a-time-of-fear-not-celebration>

Traffickers demanding UK 'entry fees' from child refugees, says Unicef

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jun/16/traffickers-charging-child-refugees-5000-euros-enter-britain-unicef>

Nigel Farage's anti-migrant poster reported to police

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/16/nigel-farage-defends-ukip-breaking-point-poster-queue-of-migrants>

Farage's poster is the visual equivalent of Enoch Powell's 'rivers of blood' speech

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/16/farage-poster-enoch-powell-rivers-of-blood-racism-ukip-european-union>

Former Cameroon refugee pens book on immigration system

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-36477949>

Immigrants' view on the EU referendum: 'When you hear people talk about migration they ignore the benefits'

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/18/immigrants-eu-referendum-migration-vote-brexit>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Refugee Tales: Modern reboot of The Canterbury Tales to tell harrowing refugee stories

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/refugee-tales-modern-reboot-of-the-canterbury-tales-to-tell-harrowing-refugee-stories-a7081366.html>

Immigration: Threat or opportunity?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36548750>

Judging Results for Refugee Festival Scotland Media Awards 2016

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3005_judging_results_for_refugee_festival_scotland_media_awards_2016

Faith leaders in fresh call for solidarity with refugees

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

SCoJeC joins other faiths in joint statement of support for refugees

http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16vi_refugee_solidarity_statement.html

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions

NHS: Training

Fiona Bruce [39748] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, if he will take steps to ensure that NHS staff receive religious literacy training.

Reply from Ben Gummer: Religion or belief (or lack thereof) is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. Public authorities, including all National Health Service organisations, must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under that Act towards people sharing that protected characteristic in discharging their public functions. Employers have a responsibility to ensure that their employees do not behave unlawfully and should take all reasonable steps to prevent unlawful acts from happening. Employees can also be personally liable for any unlawful conduct. NHS organisations are subject to duties under the Equality Act in their own right. They are also directly subject to regulation by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. To help them meet their statutory equality duties, NHS England published an Equality Delivery System for the NHS

(<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/gov/equality-hub/eds/>) which became part of the NHS Standard Contract from 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-07/39748/>

Travellers: Health

Grant Shapps [39186] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, whether his Department took specialist health research into account when undertaking its equality impact assessment on the draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs: caravans and houseboats; and what steps his Department is taking to fulfil the UK's international obligations under the National Roma Integration Strategy on

Equality

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

addressing the effect of accommodation insecurity on the health of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain.

Reply from Jane Ellison: The Department for Communities and Local Government published the draft guidance to local housing authorities on the periodical review of housing needs: caravans and houseboats. We understand from officials in that department its Ministers had due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out by the Equality Act 2010. Accordingly, the Department of Health did not advise on this guidance.

We published earlier this year an independent report as part of this wider approach and as part of inclusion health, which seeks to address the health needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. A copy of the report is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gypsy-and-traveller-health-accommodation-and-living-environment>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-06-03/39186/>

Press Release

224 projects benefit from equality funding

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/224-projects-benefit-from-equality-funding-2594.aspx>

New Publication

Scotland and Race Equality: Directions in Policy and Identity

<http://runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Scottish%20Equality%20report%20v3.pdf>

News

'Different' Scots approach to race equality identified

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-36541614>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases

£1 million to tackle sectarianism

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/-1-million-to-tackle-sectarianism-259a.aspx>

Speech by Commissioner Věra Jourová at the Launch of the EU High Level Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of intolerance

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-16-2197_en.htm?locale=en

FRA Director calls for zero tolerance for hate crime

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/fra-director-calls-zero-tolerance-hate-crime>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Scottish community projects to tackle sectarianism get £1m boost

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-community-projects-to-tackle-sectarianism-get-1m-boost-1-4158282>

£1million for community schemes to tackle sectarianism in Scotland

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/1million-community-schemes-tackle-sectarianism-8215695#TwySSpxWudWbe3fF.97>

Catholic teenager hung on cross at work left 'ashamed'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-36531455>

Edinburgh man accused of mock crucifixion of co-worker

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-man-accused-of-mock-crucifixion-of-co-worker-1-4153592>

Teen apprentice 'crucified' by workmates was 'ashamed and distraught'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/teen-apprentice-crucified-by-workmates-was-ashamed-and-distraught-1-4154470>

Christian was bullied then taped to 'crucifix', trial told

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14555036.Christian_was_bullied_then_taped_to_crucifix_trial_told/?ref=mr&lp=14

Catholic teenager 'hung up on cross and filmed by workmates'

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/uk-world/190239/catholic-teenager-hung-cross-filmed-workmates/>

Catholic teenager 'hung from cross in mock Crucifixion'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/catholic-teenager-hung-from-cross-in-mock-crucifixion-a7082896.html>

Catholic teenager 'was tied to a cross'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-06-14/news/catholic-teenager-was-tied-to-a-cross-r2h1kw357>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Explore the building blocks of democracy at the Festival of Politics

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/100026.aspx>

Over 2,000 people to be part of historic Riding procession to Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/100046.aspx>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government (continued) New Publication

Your Scottish Parliament

[http://www.parliament.scot/PublicInformationdocuments/SP_YSP_A5_Leaflet_\(web\).pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/PublicInformationdocuments/SP_YSP_A5_Leaflet_(web).pdf)

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Tonge [HL626] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many midwives have been trained in identifying female genital mutilation (FGM) and in the new mandatory FGM reporting duties, and what percentage of midwives that represents.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: The Department does not hold information on the numbers of midwives who have been trained in identifying female genital mutilation (FGM) or the mandatory reporting duty to report FGM. Content on tackling FGM is included within the Level 3 Safeguarding training curriculum, published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health on behalf of an inter-collegiate group, which all midwives are required to undertake. Many organisations also deliver additional training, the content of which is decided locally.

Last year the Department commissioned Health Education England to develop a range of FGM e-learning sessions available free of charge to National Health Service staff. As of 17 February almost 16,000 modules had been completed.

As part of the Department's FGM Prevention Programme, a package of FGM awareness materials was sent to all hospitals and general practitioner practices in February 2016. In addition, we have developed a flyer insert about the FGM mandatory reporting duty which will be included in the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) magazine, sent to approximately 45,000 RCM members.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-13/HL626/>

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New Publication

Faith Matters: understanding the size, income and focus of faith-based charities

http://www.thinknpc.org/publications/faith-matters/faith-matters_june-2016-2/?post-parent=17484

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) review on teacher shortages (closing date 16 September 2016)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527653/Teachers_Call_for_evidence.pdf

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Female Genital Mutilation seminar

21 June 2016 in Glenrothes (1.30-3.30)

Fife Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership seminar for professionals to raise awareness of issues surrounding female genital mutilation, including prevalence, consequences, legal aspects and implications for practice. For information see <http://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=7085> or contact fdasap@fife.gov.uk

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

'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/jxrqebc>

**** this week!**

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/zh13dwr>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Volunteering information afternoon for refugees and asylum seekers**

30 June 2016 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event to provide an opportunity for people from refugee or asylum seeking background to find out about volunteering opportunities in Glasgow. For information and to register contact volunteering@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or 0141 248 9799.

Supporting non-EEA destitute migrants

30 June 2016 online webinar (2.00-3.15)

Homeless Link webinar to provide information about support available for non-EEA destitute migrants who find themselves rough sleeping and with no recourse to public funds. For information see <http://www.homeless.org.uk/whats-on/supporting-non-eea-destitute-migrants>

**** Scottish Solutions to the Refugee Crisis**

18 August 2016 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (4.30-6.00)

Panel discussion about how Scotland should respond to the refugee crisis that has seen over 60 million people displaced from their homes and countries by conflict, disaster and destitution. For information see <http://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/scottish-solutions-to-the-refugee-crisis/>

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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>

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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