

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4 September 2016, and the UK Parliament until 5 September, and again from 15 September to 10 October.**

**During recess MEMO will be published on 15, and 29 August, 12 and 26 September, and 10 October 2016.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### EU citizens in Scotland

**Liam McArthur:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it can take to protect the status of EU citizens in Scotland. (S5W-01322)

**Reply from Alasdair Allan:** The Scottish Government is exploring all options to protect Scotland's relationship with the European Union, which includes the right of all EU citizens resident here to continue to live and work freely in this country. The First Minister has made representations to the UK Government, seeking assurances that the immigration status and rights of EU nationals currently living in Scotland will not change in the future. The Scottish Government welcomes

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

those EU nationals who have chosen to make Scotland their home and who make an important and valuable contribution to our economy and society. The First Minister wrote an open letter to EU nationals living in Scotland, reiterating her belief that EU citizens' treaty rights should be upheld and guaranteed for the longer term. Universities Scotland and the Scottish Government have published a joint statement reassuring EU students already studying in Scotland or commencing their studies in the coming months that they will continue to benefit from free tuition and associated support for the duration of their course.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-01322&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-00885 Christina McKelvie: UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** – That the Parliament notes that 30 July 2016 is the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons; condemns the practice of illegal trade of human beings as disgraceful and exploitative; commends the Scottish Government's actions in helping to tackle the issue, such as the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, which it introduced in session four; notes what it sees as the importance of the European Arrest Warrant in helping to tackle this exploitative and inhumane trade, and calls on the UK Government to confirm its continued work with European partners through the warrant to ensure that vulnerable people are protected and that those responsible for human trafficking are brought to justice.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00885&ResultsPerPage=10>

**S5M-00853 Christina McKelvie: Children in Detention Centres** – That the Parliament is deeply concerned at the announcement by the Minister of State for Immigration on 21 July 2016 regarding the closure of Cedars, which is a removal detention centre that is run by Barnardo's; regrets that it will be replaced by a so-called discrete unit at the Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre without, it understands, input from the charity or other partners concerned with the welfare of children; believes that this will result in the unwarranted detention of children; considers detaining children to be a dangerously short-sighted and counterproductive practice that will place them in detached and isolating environments; believes that a humane immigration system should not result in children being held behind bars, and calls on the UK Government to rethink this proposal immediately and to ensure that children are not detained in this manner.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-00853&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Contribution of Poles to UK Society

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-19/debates/16071940000001/ContributionOfPolesToUKSociety>

## Immigration and Asylum (continued)

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

#### Community Sponsorship

**The Home Secretary (Amber Rudd)** – The Refugee Resettlement Programme Team is a tri-departmental team, based in the Home Office. This reflects the cross cutting nature of the resettlement programme. This Written Ministerial Statement has been prepared by officials from the joint team and agreed by both myself and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The response of the British public to the refugee crisis resulting from the conflict in Syria has been one of overwhelming generosity, and many have been moved to make offers of assistance. At the Conservative Party Conference, the then Home Secretary said that we would build on offers of support to develop a community sponsorship scheme to allow individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to support refugees directly. I am pleased to announce today details of how the Government will empower local communities to support the most vulnerable refugees through community sponsorship. This includes a ‘Help Refugees in the UK’ digital register of offers from the public, and a scheme for full community sponsorship.

The ‘Help Refugees in the UK’ register, hosted on the gov.uk website, will make it easier for the public to support vulnerable refugees in the UK. Local authorities will be able to identify the goods and services that they require to support refugees, individuals will then be able to submit their offers, and the system will channel them to the areas where they are going to be used. ‘Help Refugees in the UK’ is being launched in nine pilot local authorities initially. (They are, Broxtowe, Cambridge, Cornwall, Coventry, Gateshead, Lambeth, City of Nottingham, Wiltshire, and City of York.) Offers of help made by members of the public in all non-pilot areas will be considered centrally by the Resettlement Programme Team before being passed on to local authorities. In Scotland, offers of support will be directed to the ‘Scotland Welcomes Refugees’ website through a link on the gov.uk website.

The full community sponsorship scheme will enable community groups to take on the challenging but rewarding role of welcoming and supporting a refugee family in the UK. Full community sponsorship will commence on a small scale, and the resettled families will be among those referred by the UNHCR under the Syrian resettlement and vulnerable children’s resettlement schemes.

Accordingly, a Ministerial Arrangement under paragraph 1 (d) of Schedule 23 to the Equality Act 2010 has been made to allow a community sponsorship scheme for vulnerable Syrians resettled in the UK. I am placing a copy of the Arrangement for this concession in the Library of both Houses of Parliament.

Community sponsors will be responsible for supporting the resettled family from the moment of their arrival in the UK. This will include, for example, meeting the family at the airport, giving a warm welcome and explaining UK and local culture, providing housing, helping them register with medical and social services, arranging English language tuition, and supporting them towards employment and self-sufficiency.

Supporting a vulnerable resettled family is a significant responsibility. The Home Office will approve every sponsoring organisation. The approval process will ensure that each prospective sponsor has sufficient resources (housing, financial and personnel); has a credible plan for supporting a resettled family, backed by relevant experience; and does not present a risk to the resettled family.

In order to develop the scheme, the Government has been working with a number of prospective sponsors and local authorities. Lambeth Palace are the first community group to be approved and receive a Syrian family.

Guidance on how to become a community sponsor will be published on the gov.uk website today. This is an exciting and ground-breaking new development for resettlement in the UK. I hope that this new approach will help bring communities together and support these often traumatised and vulnerable families as they rebuild their lives, and

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

contribute to and thrive in our country. [HCWS95]

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-07-19/HCWS95>

#### English Language Requirement

**The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Ben Gummer):** The Government believe that the public should expect that all those with whom they interact, within the sphere of public services, have the language abilities required to respond to their needs. A clear commitment in our manifesto was to ensure that all public sector workers in customer-facing roles can speak fluent English. I am delighted to announce that this manifesto commitment has now been fulfilled, with the Immigration Act 2016 receiving Royal Assent on 12 May 2016.

Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016 places a duty on all public authorities in scope to ensure that their customer-facing staff can speak fluent English, or in Wales fluent English or Welsh. This will assure citizens that there is not a language barrier that might prevent them from contacting or using public services or inadvertently put them at risk.

It is a clear priority for the Government to ensure public services are delivered to a high standard in spoken English, or in Wales in English or Welsh.

In support of this aim, the Government are today publishing:

A draft statutory code of practice which is intended to support public sector employers in complying with this new duty, while ensuring minimal burden. It provides principles and examples for public authorities to consider when fulfilling their legal duties and obligations. It will also be available in Welsh.

A final impact assessment is available, which evaluates the impact of this duty. It details the problem under consideration, the rationale for intervention and the policy objective. It also evaluates the monetised and non-monetised costs and benefits of the preferred option, as well as considering risks and possible wider impacts of the policy.

The Government have worked with relevant employers throughout the development of the draft code of practice and will continue to do so to ensure that the duty is implemented in a way which ensures a positive impact for employees and service users in frontline organisations.

The code will be laid before Parliament and issued in October but the early publication of the document is intended to support organisations to be ready to adhere to the statutory duty once it comes into force. [HCWS112]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-21/debates/16072152000018/EnglishLanguageRequirement>

## UK Parliament Questions

#### English Language: Education

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**John Glen** [42529] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many women have received tuition under the English language tuition scheme since January 2016.

**John Glen** [42530] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much of the English language tuition fund his Department has spent since January 2016.

**John Glen** [42570] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the introduction of the English language tuition scheme in supporting Muslim women to learn English.

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** As the first step in rolling out the new £20 million programme we have committed just over £3 million to enable six providers who delivered the Department's previous community-based English language programme to provide new tuition to over 10,000 people by March next year. We will shortly be issuing a new Prospectus, inviting applications to run the bulk of the new programme from 2017. The nature and targeting of that provision will be informed by Louise Casey's Review of Integration and Opportunity. We will monitor the new Programme to assess its effectiveness in meeting its objectives.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42529/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42530/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42570/>

#### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Drew Hendry** [42902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum distance is that an applicant for citizenship is expected to travel to attend for the (a) life in the UK and (b) English language test.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** There is no maximum distance. Coverage is national and linked to demand.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-15/42902/>

#### **Overseas Students: Scotland**

**Natalie McGarry** [42316] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to reintroduce the post-study work visa in Scotland.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Her Majesty's Government announced the closure of the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) category in March 2011 and implemented its closure in April 2012, as part of a package of reforms to immigration requirements for overseas students.

We closed the Tier 1 (Post Study Work) category because too many individuals in the route were unemployed or in low-skilled work. Furthermore, too many were using the student route merely as a means to work in the UK, without any intention of study, which does not help hard-working people or our educational institutions. We have replaced it with a more selective system.

We continue to have an excellent post-study offer for graduates that helps us retain the brightest and best overseas students to undertake skilled work in the UK after their studies. In 2015, more than 6,000 international students switched from Tier 4 to Tier 2 from within the UK. This is up from around 5,500 grants in 2014, and around 4,000 grants in 2013. Unlike former post-study work schemes, these students will all be moving into skilled employment with employers who have appropriate sponsorship duties placed upon them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-11/42316/>

#### **Marriage of Convenience**

**Keith Vaz** [41643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of immigration marriage fraud have led to (a) an investigation and (b) a

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

subsequent deportation in each of the last eight years.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The information requested is shown in the following table:

Year	Cases referred	Total Investigations
2014/15	137	54
2015/16	55	47

Prior to 2014 the records were not held centrally. The decrease in the number of referrals to the Home Office can be aligned to the introduction of the Immigration Act 2014. This legislation extends the notification period for those seeking to marry up to 70 days and provides time for the Home Office to investigate whether the marriage is sham. The effect of this is that those marriages deemed to be sham can be prevented from taking place. It would be a disproportionate cost to disaggregate information on the number of criminal investigations for this offence from all of those prosecuted who were subsequently deported.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-04/41643/>

### EU Nationals

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Tom Brake** [43286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to guarantee the rights in the UK of citizens of other EU member states who had been in resident in the UK for less than (a) one, (b) two, (c) three, (d) four and (e) five years on 23 June 2016.

**Tom Brake** [43288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that her Department consults with civil society organisations on the future of EU citizens in the UK.

**Tom Brake** [43296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Compact between Government and the voluntary and community sector includes a requirement on her Department to liaise with (a) civil society organisations which represent the interests of EU citizens and (b) community groups and support agencies that are working with EU citizens.

**Tom Brake** [43298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues on securing the long-term future of EU citizens in the UK.

### UK Withdrawal from EU

**Tom Brake** [43295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of whether (a) EU citizens in the UK have any acquired rights under Article 70 of the Vienna Convention and (b) UK citizens living in other EU member states have any such rights; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The Government has repeatedly stated that there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances of European nationals and their family members entering or currently residing in the UK. We have published guidance on gov.uk which makes this clear.

The Government want to be able to guarantee the legal status of EU nationals who are living in the UK, and we are confident that we will be able to do this. But we must also win the same rights for British nationals living in European countries, and it will be a priority for the Government to achieve those things together.

As part of this process, the Home Secretary will continue to work closely with colleagues across Whitehall and the Government will engage with relevant stakeholders.

Article 70 of the Vienna Convention applies to States only. It does not create rights for individuals. Nevertheless, we would expect to deal with the rights of EU

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

nationals already living in the UK and the rights of UK citizens living in other EU member states as part of the UK's exit negotiations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43286/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43288/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43296/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43298/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43295/>

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Tom Brake** [43297] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reduce or abolish the fee for permanent residency applications for EU citizens.

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** This Government has no plans to reduce or abolish the fee for permanent residency applications for EU citizens.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43297/>

### Pupils: EU Nationals

**Baroness Goudie** [HL923] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the referendum on the UK membership of the EU, whether school children from other EU countries enrolled in British schools will be able to complete their education in the UK without interruption.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** As a matter of principle all children resident in the UK are entitled to receive a free state-school education. We want to reassure European citizens living in the UK that there will be no immediate changes in their circumstances.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-04/HL923/>

### Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1200] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they provide to refugees before they are settled in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UN High Commission for Refugees counsels refugees before they are resettled to the UK.

Additional advice is provided through cultural orientation sessions with practical information about life in the UK and rights and responsibilities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1200/>

### Refugees

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett** [HL1295] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to publish the evaluation of the moving on period for those granted refugee status, announced during the passage of the Immigration Act 2016.

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that new recognised refugees apply promptly for any welfare benefit for which they may be eligible and receive the first payment of any benefit for which they qualify before their Home Office support ends.

We plan to publish our evaluation of this work later this year and will bring forward a change to the current 28-day move-on period if the evaluation shows that to be necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-18/HL1295/>

#### Refugees: Families

**Lord Hylton** [HL1263] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the British Red Cross report *Not So Straightforward* and its campaign to reunite refugee families, *Torn Apart*.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are reviewing our process for dealing with applications for refugee family reunion in consultation with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Justice. We are working closely with the British Red Cross and are considering the recommendations made in the Not So Straightforward report in detail.

We have now improved our guidance on processing family reunion applications so that it is clear, consistent and accessible. We intend to publish this in the next few weeks. We have also committed to redesigning the application form to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them.

There are no plans to extend the family reunion criteria as called for in the British Red Cross Torn Apart campaign. The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations and strikes the right balance. Where family members cannot meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules, such as in the case of an 18 year old applying to join their refugee parents in the UK, we consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting entry clearance outside the Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-18/HL1263/>

#### Refugees: Children

**Catherine West** [42722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child refugees have been accepted by the UK under the Immigration Act 2016.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** The Government is firmly committed to bringing vulnerable unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, in accordance with the Immigration Act 2016. Over 20 children who meet the criteria in the Act have been accepted for transfer from Europe since Royal Assent, the majority of who have already arrived in the UK.

We are in active discussions with the UNHCR, UNICEF and NGOs, in addition to the Italian, Greek and French governments, to strengthen and speed up mechanisms to identify, assess and transfer children who meet the criteria to come to the UK where this is in their best interests.

As is required by the Immigration Act 2016, we are consulting with local authorities to confirm available capacity and to ensure appropriate support systems are in place.

We cannot put a fixed number on arrivals at this point. The legislation is clear that consultation with local authorities is needed before any figure is set. It is vital that their capacity and ability to help is taken into account. We must also ensure that

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

we are able to continue to fulfil our obligations to children who are already in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42722/>

### Refugees: Children

**Alistair Carmichael** [43150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she intends to allow children with refugee status to sponsor their parents for the purposes of refugee family reunion.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations and strikes the right balance. There are no plans to extend the criteria. Allowing children to sponsor parents would create perverse incentives for them to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK to sponsor relatives. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safe guarding responsibilities.

Where a family reunion application fails under the Immigration Rules we consider whether there are exceptional circumstances or compassionate reasons to justify granting a visa outside the Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43150/>

### Refugees: Children

**Neil Carmichael** [43152] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children with refugee status in the UK have been granted permission to sponsor family members to join them under the refugee family reunion rules in each of the last three years.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Under the Family Reunion Rules, children cannot sponsor family members. Any grant of leave in such cases would be on an exceptional basis outside the Immigration Rules. To obtain the information would involve examining individual case records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43152/>

### Refugees: Disability

**Diana Johnson** [43212] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make it his policy to make financial support available to refugees and people in Britain with humanitarian protection status who are disabled.

**Reply from Penny Mordaunt:** Refugees and people in Great Britain with humanitarian protection status who are disabled and in need of financial support are entitled to claim Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit, and Personal Independence Payment, providing they meet all the necessary conditions of entitlement set out in regulations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43212/>

### Refuges: Finance

**Andrew Stephenson** [42471] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what representations he has received on making refuges a statutory-funded service; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Marcus Jones:** Domestic Abuse is a devastating crime and we are determined to ensure that everyone receives the support they need when they

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

need it. This Government recognises the important role played by refuges in keeping victims of domestic abuse safe and we have made a clear commitment to secure a future for refuges.

Many refuges already receive public funding via housing benefit, local authorities and health services. In the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy published on 8 March, we set out our ambition to improve services for women suffering from domestic abuse, committing to a new Statement of Expectations to set out for the first time what we expect from local areas. To support this, we are launching a new two year fund for refuges and other forms of accommodation based support and to help local areas take the steps they need to meet the expectations set out in the Statement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42471/>

### Refugees: Social Security Benefits

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42796] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy, where a newly recognised refugee has made an application for welfare benefits during the statutory 28 day move-on period, to continue paying asylum support allowance to that refugee until their first welfare benefit has been paid, including in circumstances where that payment is a short-term benefit advance.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that new recognised refugees apply promptly for any welfare benefit for which they may be eligible and receive the first payment of any benefit for which they qualify before their Home Office support ends. We will evaluate the impact of this work later this year and bring forward a change to the current 28-day move-on period if the evaluation shows that to be necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-14/42796/>

### Refugees: Loans

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 39223, what criteria officials of her Department have to follow to fulfil the aim of processing refugee integration loan applications as quickly as possible.

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set a target time for processing an application for a refugee integration loan that is less than the 28-day asylum support period that is terminated after refugee status has been granted.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The rules setting out eligibility for integration loans are set out in the Integration loans for Refugees and Other Regulations 2007. All the factors set out in these Regulations are considered for each application received for an integration loan.

We do not intend to set a target time for processing loans less than the 28 day support period given to those granted refugee status. However processes are reviewed on a regular basis and the department aims to respond to all applications as quickly as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42587/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42664/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugees: Loans

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow people who have recently been granted refugee status and have not yet received a refugee integration loan to remain in asylum accommodation.

### Refugees: English Language

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish a strategy for ensuring that classes in English are provided for refugees as soon as possible after refugee status has been granted.

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42667] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that English classes are provided for refugees as soon as possible after refugee status has been granted.

### Refugees

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42727] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to provide an integration support service for refugees to help those refugees who have recently arrived in the UK to integrate into local communities.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** We are working towards achieving more integrated communities and creating the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside each other.

Those who are granted refugee status are given access to the labour market, mainstream benefits and housing assistance from their local authority. There are therefore no plans to allow refugees to stay in asylum support accommodation.

The Home Office offers integration loans to recognised refugees. The loan is designed to help refugees integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

The Home Office also funds strategic migration partnerships which provide coordination and support services for those organisations working with migrants and refugees in local communities.

Earlier this year the Government announced that £20 million of additional funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses would be introduced in October 2016. This funding will reach the most isolated communities in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42662/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42666/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42667/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42727/>

### Refugees: Housing

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42661] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what (a) funding and (b) guidance his Department provides to local authorities to enable people who have recently been granted refugee status to benefit from rent deposit schemes if they are not considered to be in priority need for housing.

**Reply from Gavin Barwell:** Any person, including those granted refugee status, who is not in priority need is eligible for homelessness assistance. Local

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

authorities have a duty to provide advice and information on homelessness, free of charge, to anyone seeking help. Wherever possible local housing authorities will try to stop households from facing the stress and upheaval of a homelessness crisis by taking steps to prevent their homelessness. That is why government has maintained and protected homelessness prevention funding for local authorities, totalling £315 million by 2019/20.

Statutory guidance does not mandate the use of specific preventative tools but sets out a wide range of options so that local authorities can meet the specific needs of an individual on a case by case basis. Rent deposit and rent bond schemes are included within this guidance and the majority of local authorities will operate one.

Since 2010 local authorities have prevented homelessness for over 1.1 million households. We have committed to work with local authorities, homelessness charities and across departments to consider options, including legislation, to put prevention at the centre of our approach to tackling homelessness.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42661/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1199] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Keen of Elie on 12 July (HL Deb, col 124), how many Syrian refugees have been settled in each of the 71 local authorities so far.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Progress on resettlement in each local authority is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 26 May 2016, showed that 1,602 Syrians were resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme between October 2015 and March 2016 and sets out how many were located in each local authority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1199/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1202] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their programme and timetable for the reception of 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We continue to work with local authorities and International Partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this Parliament. We are on track to do this. The number resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the availability of suitable accommodation and support in the UK. Progress on resettlement is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1202/>

### Refugees: Syria

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL1203] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to establish a working group of voluntary organisations and officials to help the 20,000 Syrian refugees to settle successfully in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Refugee Resettlement Programme has established a strategic engagement group consisting of representatives from the programme, NGOs, the Syrian diaspora and service providers for resettled refugees. The group meets quarterly and has a number of objectives including providing targeted expertise that will help inform policy and

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

operational delivery of the UK's resettlement routes and promoting a better understanding of the factors that contribute to successful resettlement. The group is chaired jointly by the Resettlement Programme and the Refugee Council.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1203/>

#### Asylum

**Lord Hylton** [HL1146] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to improve the quality of initial interviews and decisions in asylum cases in order to reduce the need for appeals.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** 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. In every asylum case the particular circumstances of the individual is considered in light of published country information.

All asylum decision-makers receive extensive training on how to consider asylum claims and are expected to follow published Home Office policy guidance. The 5-week Foundation Training Programme (FTP) for new decision makers trains staff on all aspects of the asylum decision making process. All decision makers are currently receiving credibility training. This course trains decision makers on how to assess the evidential value of their interview questions, the various reasons why someone may not come across as credible in an asylum interview and discusses issues such as speculation and implausibility. Asylum decision-makers carefully assess the protection needs of each asylum claimant following an interview by assessing all available evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information and policy guidance. The Home Office systematically assesses the quality of asylum decisions against a detailed quality audit framework drawn up and agreed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

We expect asylum claimants to disclose all relevant evidence to support their claim at the earliest opportunity so that we can properly consider their claim. We aim to reduce the appeal rate by analysing the reasons why appeals are allowed and using this to further improve guidance and training. We are committed to continuous improvement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1146/>

#### Asylum: Scotland

**Chris Stephens** [42791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to ensure (a) that contractors who provide asylum seekers services comply with the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and (b) that such housing is with a registered social landlord.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Asylum seekers are provided with accommodation, transportation and subsistence support whilst their application for asylum is being considered.

In Scotland COMPASS accommodation providers are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with the standards outlined in the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 (regardless of whether the provider is registered as a social landlord) and the Decent Homes Standard.

Providers are monitored closely to ensure accommodation meets these standards

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and the contracts include measures to ensure any issues are quickly addressed. These performance standards are defined in the contract and are managed using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) including those which measure whether an individual property is compliant with contractual obligations following an inspection. This requirement/criteria will continue to apply to future contracts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-14/42791/>

### Asylum: Families

**Stuart McDonald** [42941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 June 2016 to Question 38033, what assessment she has made of the increase in the number of family reunion applications that were refused in each of those years.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Each case is considered on its individual merits based on the evidence submitted by the applicant and their sponsor. We do not collate data on the individual reasons for refusals in every case.

The increase in absolute numbers of refusals of family reunion cases in 2014 and 2015 reflects in part the higher number of cases decided in those years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-15/42941/>

### Asylum: Families

**David Burrowes** [43003] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the time taken to process applications related to refugee family reunion.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Customer service is a key priority for UK Visas and Immigration, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the visa application process is kept under regular review, including by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. The published service standard for resolving refugee family reunion applications is within 12 weeks, or 60 working days.

Where an application is complex and likely to take longer than the advertised processing times, UKVI will contact the applicant to inform them of this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43003/>

### Asylum: Families

**Alistair Carmichael** [43151] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to speed up the application process for refugee family reunion.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Customer service is a key priority for UK Visas and Immigration, and the efficiency and effectiveness of the visa application process is kept under regular review, including by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. Customers now apply and pay online in addition to being able to make appointments to submit their documents and biometrics at visa application centres in over 200 locations around the world.

The published service standard for resolving refugee family reunion applications is within 12 weeks, or 60 working days. Where an application is complex and likely to take longer than the advertised processing times, UKVI will contact the applicant to inform them of this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43151/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Children

**Thangam Debbonaire** [42586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 June 2016 to Question 37587, whether she is taking steps to reduce the time taken to process applications for the remaining children in refugee camps in Calais.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** Where an asylum claim is lodged in France by a minor with close family connections to the UK, both governments are committed to ensuring that process are in place to expedite reunification. 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 has seconded an asylum expert to the French administration to improve all stages of the process of identifying, protecting and transferring relevant cases to the UK. We continue to work with the French Government to improve processes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42586/>

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Hylton** [HL1147] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to enable child refugees and migrants who are now in France but who have close relatives in the UK to make take-charge requests.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As stated in Written Answer HL649 on 27 June under the UK-France Joint Declaration of 20 August 2015 the UK and France have committed to ensuring that 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 a UK asylum expert was seconded to the French administration earlier this year to facilitate the improvement of all stages of the process.

We continue to work closely so that both the UK and France can fulfil our respective obligations under the Dublin Regulation to family members, including unaccompanied children, who qualify for transfer to the UK under the Regulation's family unity provisions.

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 the family reunion process. Whilst the management of migrants in Calais is the responsibility of the French Government, the UK recognises that vulnerable people in the camps are at risk from exploitation and trafficking. This is why the UK Government funds a project, run by a French NGO, to identify and direct vulnerable people to protection, support and advice within France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1147/>

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Hylton** [HL1148] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide legal support to children already in the UK who wish to sponsor their parents to join them, and for other complex reunion cases.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** UK Visas and Immigration issues guidance to help applicants, and the types of evidence requested to accompany an application

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions *(continued)*

- such as marriage and birth certificates - will usually be straightforward to collate. For these reasons, there are currently no plans to make changes to the legal aid provision in such cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1148/>

### **Asylum: Religious Freedom**

**Jim Shannon** [42622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on reforming the questions asked on asylum applications related to persecution related to religious beliefs.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** In June 2016 The Home Office received the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion's report, 'Fleeing persecution: Asylum claims in the UK on religious freedom grounds'. We are carefully considering the report and its recommendations and will provide a response in due course, including whether we will consider whether any changes to the way we handle religious-based claims are appropriate.

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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-13/42622/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Patrick Grady** [43225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce a maximum limit on the length of time an individual can be detained under immigration powers.

**Alistair Carmichael** [43149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a maximum limit on the length of time a person can be detained under immigration law.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The Government does not believe that it is appropriate for there to be a formal time limit on immigration detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43225/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43149/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Catherine West** [43324] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mechanisms are in place to monitor the application of section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, on limitation on detention of pregnant women.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Catherine West** [43325] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will introduce community-based alternatives to immigration detention for pregnant women released from immigration removal centres under section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The Home Office has issued guidance to Immigration Enforcement caseworkers, enforcement officers and Border Force officers on the application of section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016. This was published on GOV.UK on 12 July, and includes monitoring tools to track the detention of pregnant women.

It is already the case that the majority of individuals liable to be detained at any one time are not actually detained but are managed in the community through the grant of temporary admission or temporary release on bail. This includes pregnant women, whose detention is now subject to the further restrictions imposed by section 60 of the 2016 Act.

Pregnant women who are to be released from detention, but who remain liable to be detained, will be granted temporary admission or temporary release with appropriate reporting and/or residence restrictions. Pregnant women have access to the Home Office Voluntary Departures Service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-19/43324/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-19/43325/>

### **Detainees: Vulnerable Adults**

**David Burrowes** [43061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department has undertaken on the draft Adults at Risk policy for vulnerable people detained under immigration powers.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Stephen Shaw carried out a comprehensive consultation in preparing his report of his review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, and the draft adults at risk policy forms part of the Government's response to Mr Shaw's review. The Government saw no reason to duplicate this in developing the adults at risk policy. However, when the draft policy was published on 26 May, the Government wrote to a wide range of relevant non-Governmental organisations and offered them the opportunity to discuss it. Subsequently, Home Office officials have held meetings with a number of interested organisations, and the views of these organisations have been taken into account as the policy has been developed further.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-18/43061/>

### **Deportation**

**Lord Green of Deddington** [HL1143] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration offenders, excluding failed asylum seekers and foreign national offenders, have been removed in each of the last five years for which figures are available, and how many of those first arrived in the UK on a student visa.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics on the GOV.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>.

The information requested regarding Foreign National Offenders and total returns is available in the tables attached.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Home Office is unable to provide data as requested for those who first arrived in the UK on a student visa as this would involve cross checking databases and incur disproportionate costs.

[Table 1 - PQ HL1143](#)

[Table 2 - PQ HL1143](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-12/HL1143/>

### Deportation: Young People

**Lord Hylton** [HL1315] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to make an assessment of the report by the Refugee Support Network *After Return*, in particular with a view to preventing hardship and persecution of 18-year-old refugees sent back to their country of origin and to gaining benefits for the UK from the education of those individuals by not insisting on return in all cases.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not send refugees back to their country of origin. Those who no longer need protection are not refugees and are expected to apply under other provisions of the Immigration Rules if they want to stay in the UK.

We have noted the content of the report but believe that the current policy framework meets the needs of this group and strikes the correct balance. Decision makers take into account the specific vulnerabilities of individuals when considering applications for further leave in addition to considering whether there are other exceptional or compassionate reasons to justify granting leave.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-19/HL1315/>

### Human Trafficking

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Ann Coffey** [42497] To ask the Attorney General, how many people were charged under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 in 2015.

### Slavery

**Ann Coffey** [42518] To ask the Attorney General, how many people have been charged under (a) section 1 and (b) section 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 since those provisions came into force on 31 July 2015.

### Human Trafficking: Sexual Offences

**Ann Coffey** [42519] To ask the Attorney General, how many people were charged in 2015 under (a) section 57 and (b) section 58 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

**Reply from Jeremy Wright:** I am answering on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice, as I am the minister that superintends the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), who is responsible for bringing charges.

The CPS does not maintain a central record of the number of people who have been charged with offences brought by way of Section 1 or Section 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015; or Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004; or Sections 57 and 58 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. (Sections 57, 58 and 59 were repealed and replaced by section 59A Sexual Offences Act 2003 on 13 April 2013) This information could only be obtained by examining CPS case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

However, although it is not possible to identify the number of people charged with a particular offence, records are held showing the overall number of offences in which a prosecution commenced in the magistrates' courts. The table below shows the number of offences, rather than defendants, charged by way of the human trafficking offences during each of the last three calendar years. A single

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

defendant may be charged with more than one offence.

	2013	2014	2015
Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 { 4 }	20	73	48
Coroners and Justice Act 2009 { 71 }	36	26	34
Modern Slavery Act 2015 { 1 }	0	0	5
Sexual Offences Act 2003 { 57 }	22	35	69
Sexual Offences Act 2003 { 58 }	84	35	75
Sexual Offences Act 2003 { 59 }	4	4	9
Sexual Offences Act 2003 { 59A }	1	17	94
<b>Total Human Trafficking Offences Charged</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>334</b>
Data Source: CPS Management Information System			

No offences have yet been recorded under section 2 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which came into force on 31st July 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42497/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42518/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-12/42519/>

### Human Trafficking: Children

**Lord McColl of Dulwich** [HL1303] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, Karen Bradley MP (HC Deb, cols 33WH–54WH), on independent advocates for trafficked children, (1) what is the timetable for establishing early adopter sites of independent child trafficking advocates, (2) what geographic areas will constitute a site for these trials, and (3) what mechanisms will be put in place for monitoring the outcomes of children who received an advocate in the first phase of these trials.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government is in the process of identifying a provider of independent child trafficking advocates and three early adopter sites.

To ensure we assess the revised independent child trafficking advocates model appropriately, early adopter sites will cover areas with different demographics as well as having a range of experiences of working with trafficked children.

Officials are developing an outcomes framework with support from a wide selection of academics and professionals who have expertise and experience in working with local authorities and trafficked children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-18/HL1303/>

## Press Releases

### Defeating modern slavery: Theresa May article

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/defeating-modern-slavery-theresa-may-article>

### Local involvement key to tackling EU's migrant situation

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/local-involvement-key-tackling-eus-migrant-situation>

## Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

### **Towards an end to human trafficking**

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/towards-end-human-trafficking>

### **On World Anti-Trafficking Day, OSCE calls for comprehensive, co-ordinated and victim-centred approach to combatting modern-day slavery**

<http://www.osce.org/sg/257136>

### **Walls and laws against irregular migration are no match for human trafficking – UN expert**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20320&LangID=E>

### **Secretary-General's Message for World Day against Trafficking in Persons Stresses Need for Greater Efforts to Shield Migrants, Refugees**

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm17953.doc.htm>

## New Publications

### **Full Community Sponsorship for Refugees: Guidance for prospective sponsors**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/538794/Full-Community-Sponsorship-guidance-for-prospective-sponsors.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/538794/Full-Community-Sponsorship-guidance-for-prospective-sponsors.pdf)

### **Help refugees who have come to the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/help-refugees>

### **The Modern Slavery Act Review**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/542047/2016\\_07\\_31\\_Haughey\\_Review\\_of\\_Modern\\_Slavery\\_Act\\_-\\_final\\_1.0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/542047/2016_07_31_Haughey_Review_of_Modern_Slavery_Act_-_final_1.0.pdf)

### **Work Immigration and the Labour Market: Incorporating the role of the Migration Advisory Committee**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/541805/MAC\\_presentation-immigrationandlabourmarket.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/541805/MAC_presentation-immigrationandlabourmarket.pdf)

### **Children in crisis: unaccompanied migrant children in the EU**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldeucom/34/34.pdf>

### **The work of the Immigration Directorates**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/151/151.pdf>

### **Report on an unannounced inspection of Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre**

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/07/Colnbrook-Web-2016.pdf>

### **Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre: Action Plan**

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/07/2016-07-26-Service-Improvement-Plan-Colnbrook-IRC-FINAL.pdf>

### **Foreign-born people and poverty in the UK**

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/49350/download?token=n15C0xfZ&filetype=full-report>

### **Living Rights Project: Removal and deportation of EEA nationals**

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/asset/download/516.pdf>

## Immigration and Asylum

### New Publications (continued)

#### **Living Rights Project: Settling in the UK**

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/asset/download/518.pdf>

#### **Your Rights in Northern Ireland: A guide for people who are in Northern Ireland under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme**

<http://www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/VPR-guide-English-Arabic-2016-with-new-rates-for-travel-documents.pdf>

## News

#### **Information for EU and EEA nationals who wish to apply for permanent residence documentation or for British citizenship**

EU and EEA citizens and their family members can apply for British citizenship from the Home Office if:

- They are 18 or over
- They are of 'good character'
- They will continue to live in the UK
- They can speak English well and pass the 'Life in the UK' test
- They have lived in the UK for at least 5 years and had 'permanent residence' for at least a year. 'Permanent residence' is shown by holding a residence certificate or card issued by the Home Office.

For detailed information see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-document-certifying-permanent-residence-or-permanent-residence-card-form-eea-pr>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-naturalise-as-a-british-citizen-form-an>

#### **Theresa May 'wants and expects' to protect rights of Poles in UK**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-36916836>

#### **Theresa May reassures 800,000 Poles living in UK over Brexit and condemns 'shameful' post-referendum attacks**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/28/theresa-may-warned-plans-to-curb-eu-migration-is-likely-to-be-op/>

#### **Sponsor a refugee scheme launched**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14629845.Scheme\\_for\\_communities\\_to\\_help\\_refugees\\_launched/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14629845.Scheme_for_communities_to_help_refugees_launched/)

#### **Refugee crisis: UK on course to fail pledge to resettle 20,000 Syrians amid 'unacceptable' asylum decisions**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-crisis-uk-syrians-resettled-latest-numbers-news-asylum-claims-high-eritrea-human-rights-a7158086.html>

#### **EU immigration debate upset more than half of voters, report finds**

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jul/27/more-than-half-of-voters-disliked-tone-of-eu-immigration-debate-report-finds>

#### **Lone child refugees 'left in squalor' by EU nations - Lords**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36890721>

## Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

**Thousands of child migrants let down by Britain and left to fall into the hands of people traffickers, warn peers**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/25/thousands-of-child-migrants-let-down-by-britain-and-left-to-fall/>

**Hundreds of Eritreans' asylum applications still 'incorrectly refused'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/28/hundreds-of-eritrea-asylum-applications-still-incorrectly-refused>

**UK immigration officers overwhelmed by illegal 'lorry drops', report finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/21/uk-immigration-officers-overwhelmed-by-illegal-lorry-drops-report-finds>

**Judge orders Home Secretary to re-think Muslim asylum claims**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/judge-orders-home-secretary-to-re-think-muslim-asylum-claims-1-4187168>

**Rejected asylum seekers 'are in danger'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-07-27/scotland/rejected-asylum-seekers-are-in-danger-5w2xlfmd>

**Thousands of child migrants left at risk**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-07-26/news/britain-should-do-more-for-child-migrants-tqfjh8qnv>

**Government urged by Lib Dems and SNP to reverse its 'inhumane' decision to close dedicated immigration family unit**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14637591.Government\\_urged\\_to\\_reverse\\_inhumane\\_decision\\_to\\_close\\_dedicated\\_immigration\\_family\\_unit/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14637591.Government_urged_to_reverse_inhumane_decision_to_close_dedicated_immigration_family_unit/)

**Churches and families urged to house Syrian refugees by Archbishop of Canterbury and new Home Secretary**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/19/churches-and-families-urged-to-house-syrian-refugees-by-archbish/>

**Archbishop of Canterbury takes in Syrian refugee family**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/19/archbishop-of-canterbury-syrian-family-refugee-sponsorship-scheme>

**'This is what I'm meant to be doing': the vicar welcoming Muslims to church**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/18/this-is-what-im-meant-to-be-doing-the-vicar-welcoming-muslims-to-church>

**This is our home. Why are they giving all the jobs to foreigners?**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/this-is-our-home-why-are-they-giving-all-the-jobs-to-foreigners-l72sqvsbv>

**Surge in migrant 'lorry drops' overwhelms border officers**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/surge-in-migrant-lorry-drops-overwhelms-border-officers-vgl0qnwbx>

# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

**Poles on Brexit: 'I don't think many will stay. Life in Britain is tough'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/22/polish-uk-brexit-dont-think-many-will-stay-poland-immigration>

**Syrians bursting with Scottish pride**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-07-30/news/syrians-bursting-with-scottish-pride-gc7f7ltbv>

**Syrian refugees counter claims about life on Bute: 'It is a beautiful place, not a refuge for old people'**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14653076.Syrian\\_refugees\\_counter\\_claims\\_about\\_life\\_on\\_Bute\\_39\\_It\\_is\\_a\\_beautiful\\_place\\_not\\_a\\_refuge\\_for\\_old\\_people\\_39/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14653076.Syrian_refugees_counter_claims_about_life_on_Bute_39_It_is_a_beautiful_place_not_a_refuge_for_old_people_39/)

**Syrian refugees living on Isle of Bute hit back at reports they are unhappy in Scotland**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14646306.Syrian\\_refugees\\_hit\\_back\\_at\\_reports\\_they\\_are\\_unhappy\\_in\\_Scotland/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14646306.Syrian_refugees_hit_back_at_reports_they_are_unhappy_in_Scotland/)

**Bute refugees criticise claims attributed to them about island**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/bute-refugees-criticise-claims-attributed-to-them-about-island-1-4188644>

**Syrian refugees given sanctuary in Rothesay on Bute complain island is 'full of old people'**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14641917.Syrian\\_refugees\\_given\\_sanctuary\\_on\\_Bute\\_complain\\_island\\_is\\_full\\_of\\_old\\_people/?ref=mr&lp=9](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14641917.Syrian_refugees_given_sanctuary_on_Bute_complain_island_is_full_of_old_people/?ref=mr&lp=9)

**Syrian refugees resettled on remote Scottish island of Bute complain their new home is 'full of old people waiting to die'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/25/syrian-refugees-resettled-on-remote-scottish-island-of-bute-comp/>

**Syrian refugees settled on the remote Scottish island of Bute complain they are now depressed because it's 'full of old people and where people come to die'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3706625/Syrian-refugees-settled-remote-Scottish-island-complain-depressed-area-old-people-people-come-die.html>

**Who could blame a Syrian for weeping in the Highland rain?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/30/bute-refugees-dream-sun-syrian-families-resettled>

**Life as a refugee in Britain? 'A dog couldn't endure it'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/24/refugees-ales-detainees-in-britain-shame>

**Edinburgh school offers bursaries to Syrian refugee children**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/edinburgh-school-offers-bursaries-to-syrian-refugee-children-1-4188647>

**Almost 1,800 foreign criminals have stayed in the UK for more than five years after being released from jail despite being eligible for deportation**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3708192/Almost-1-800-foreign-criminals-stayed-UK-five-years-released-jail-despite-eligible-deportation.html>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

**Home office reveals 1,800 foreign criminals eligible for deportation have been living in Britain for more than five years**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/25/home-office-reveals-1800-foreign-criminals-eligible-for-deportat/>

**Home Office wastes £1.9m on 'phantom' deportations for failed asylum seekers**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/28/home-office-wastes-19-on-phantom-deportations-for-failed-asylum/>

**Six wealthiest countries host less than 9% of world's refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/18/refugees-us-china-japan-germany-france-uk-host-9-per-cent>

**Six wealthiest countries host less than nine per cent of world's refugees**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/six-wealthiest-countries-host-less-than-nine-per-cent-of-worlds-refugees-a7142666.html>

**Six decades of Britain's refugees: The stories of people who've fled to the UK**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/36907165/six-decades-of-britains-refugees-the-stories-of-people-who-ve-fled-to-the-uk>

**Online 'university of anywhere' opens to refugees**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36738442>

**Distillery owner 'broke promise' to family facing deportation**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/distillery-owner-broke-promise-to-family-facing-deportation-pjsc9wxkb>

**Aussie family faces deportation from the Highlands after five years due to post study visa scheme being cancelled**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/aussie-family-faces-deportation-highlands-8493772#YxSX4G8gQJO2BqtX.97>

**Australian family facing deportation 'looking for miracle' after job falls through**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/26/australian-family-scottish-highlands-facing-deportation-looking-for-miracle-after-job-falls-through>

**Australian family vows not to give up despite time running out in deportation battle**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14653094.Australian\\_family\\_vows\\_not\\_to\\_give\\_up\\_despite\\_time\\_running\\_out\\_in\\_deportation\\_battle/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14653094.Australian_family_vows_not_to_give_up_despite_time_running_out_in_deportation_battle/)

**United Glasgow uses football to support city's refugees**

<http://www.scotsman.com/giving-back/charities/united-glasgow-uses-football-to-support-city-s-refugees-1-4189796>

**Seriously ill detainee was shackled hours before he died**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/30/home-office-report-exposes-treatment-of-sick-detainee-shackled-hours-before-he-died>

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## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Community Cohesion

**Baroness Mobarik:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to bring together all communities following the result of the European Union referendum.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government and the Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth):** ... Britain has a claim on being the most successful multifaith, multiracial democracy in the world. This Government support programmes that bring communities together in celebrating what unites us. We are stepping up efforts to tackle the scourge of hate crime, and fighting disadvantage and extending opportunity, which is the surest way to build strong and cohesive communities.

**Baroness Hodgson of Abinger:** My Lords, deep divisions within our communities emerged during the EU referendum. Since then, we have seen a worrying rise in racist and xenophobic behaviour and language. This exists alongside deprivation and a sense of exclusion for some. I commend Her Majesty's Government for their efforts thus far on community cohesion, but what actions are being taken now towards a more integrated approach, whereby social and economic well-being and community cohesion are tackled collectively?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I am sure my noble friend will welcome the fact that we are working on a hate crime action plan, which will increase the importance of the reporting of hate crime and provide stronger support for victims. We are making progress on this. It is true that post the referendum there was a spike in hate crime reporting, but thankfully that has levelled off. That is not to minimise the challenge. As I say, we are working on a hate crime action plan and taking action forward in that way.

**Lord Dubs:** My Lords, the Minister may be aware that, yesterday afternoon, Hammersmith council organised a demo and meeting on the theme of hope not hate. Do the Government realise that local authorities have a key part to play in this? They might need a bit more help. Will the Government give that help and support to local authorities in tackling hate crime?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The noble Lord is absolutely right. HOPE not hate does a considerable amount in this regard and I follow what it does very closely. We are supporting local authorities and working with them through organisations. I recognise the importance of working with local authorities, and today I have asked that we contact the Greater London Assembly to see how we can work successfully with it across London, too.

**Baroness Hussein-Ece:** My Lords, will the Minister acknowledge and welcome the fact that many people have come together to oppose the rise in hate crime and to show their revulsion at what has been going on? Will he say whether the role of the media should now be looked at more closely? Over the weekend in the *Sun*, Kelvin MacKenzie wrote a column criticising a Muslim broadcaster reporting on the news, because she wore a headscarf. Apparently it was inappropriate for a woman wearing a headscarf to report on the terrible attacks in Nice. Surely this cannot be tolerated in our society. Will the Minister condemn it?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the noble Baroness is absolutely right about people coming together to tackle hate crime. I was particularly impressed to hear of a movement called Salaam Shalom in Nottingham, which is supported by the Government, bringing together the Jewish and Muslim faiths. ...

**To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-07-18/debates/16071823000441/CommunityCohesion>

## Community Relations (continued) Press Release

**"What's Changed About Being Jewish in Scotland": Full Findings Published**  
[http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16vij\\_bjis2/bjis2\\_findings.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2016/16vij_bjis2/bjis2_findings.html)

## New Publication

**What's Changed About Being Jewish in Scotland**  
<http://www.scojec.org/resources/files/bjis2.pdf>

## News

**Peace walk will go ahead despite 'difficult year' for Glasgow's Ahmadiyya Muslims after murder of Asad Shah**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14627256.Peace\\_walk\\_will\\_go\\_ahead\\_despite\\_difficult\\_year\\_for\\_Glasgow\\_s\\_Ahmadiyya\\_Muslims\\_after\\_murder\\_of\\_Asad\\_Shah/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14627256.Peace_walk_will_go_ahead_despite_difficult_year_for_Glasgow_s_Ahmadiyya_Muslims_after_murder_of_Asad_Shah/)

**Many Muslims want help to look outwards**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-07-25/comment/many-muslims-want-help-to-look-outwards-dk2jtz05w>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Equality

**Mary Fee:** To ask the Scottish Government how it will meet its legal duty to involve equality groups in setting its equality outcomes for 2017-21. (S5W-1361)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government works with a number of organisations which provide a coordinating or intermediary role across the different equality communities. They play an important role in informing the policy making process, in supporting and engaging communities, and in developing capacity and leadership. The Scottish Government will work with these organisations and will meet them shortly in order to establish the plan and details for involving people with protected characteristics in setting its equality outcomes for 2017-21.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-01361&ResultsPerPage=10>

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Schools: Festivals and Special Occasions

**Rachel Reeves** [42284] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what provision schools make for Muslim children who want to take time off school for Eid.

**Nick Gibb:** A school should treat a pupil's absence as authorised if a pupil is unable to attend on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which their parent belongs.

This is set out in Regulation 6(2)(b)(ii) of the Education (Pupil Registration)

## Equality UK Parliament Questions (continued)

(England) Regulations 2006, available at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/1751/regulation/6/made>  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-11/42284/>

### Judiciary: Equality

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Ouseley** [HL947] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress towards achieving a more diverse judiciary in the last six years.

**Lord Ouseley** [HL949] To ask Her Majesty's Government what resources they have provided for diversity and equality initiatives in the judiciary; and what assessment they have made of the success of those initiatives to date.

**Lord Ouseley** [HL950] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to support the development and introduction of pre-appointment training for those from under-represented groups seeking judicial appointments.

### Judges: Public Appointments

**Lord Ouseley** [HL948] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many judges have been appointed in each of the past six years; and how many of those were (1) from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, (2) women, and (3) disabled.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The Government is committed to improving judicial diversity and co-ordinates this effort through the Judicial Diversity Forum, a cross-stakeholder group with representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), the judiciary and legal profession.

The Judicial Diversity Forum replaced the Judicial Diversity Taskforce in 2014 as the body responsible for encouraging judicial diversity; it has implemented a number of schemes to help improve judicial diversity. Recent examples include the 100 plus Diversity and Community Relations Judges doing invaluable work with the community to dispel myths about working for the judiciary and interact with schools, universities and the legal professions. There is also a Judicial Mentoring Scheme where judges volunteer to be mentors; providing invaluable advice and guidance to those from under-represented groups seeking a judicial appointment or those wishing to progress in their judicial career.

Data on judicial appointments are published regularly on gov.uk. The below figures show how many candidates were recommended by the JAC for judicial appointment in each of the past six years and how many of those were (1) from black and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, (2) women and (3) disabled. As these figures are JAC recommendations, they may include a small number of candidates that do not go on to be appointed.

- **2010-** 759 candidates were recommended out of which 75 (10%) were from BAME, 309 (41%) were women and 41 (5%) were disabled.
- **2011-** 894 candidates were recommended out of which 91 (10%) were from BAME backgrounds, 406 (45%) were women and 34 (4%) were disabled.
- **2012-** 371 candidates were recommended out of which 48 (13%) were from BAME backgrounds, 152 (41%) were women and 22 (6%) were disabled.
- **2013-** 572 candidates were recommended out of which 38 (7%) were from BAME backgrounds, 303 (53%) were women and 81 (14%) were disabled.
- **2014-** 312 candidates were recommended out of which 40 (13%) were from BAME backgrounds, 134 (43%) were women and 11 (4%) were disabled.
- **2015-** 319 candidates were recommended out of which 28 (9%) were from BAME backgrounds, 143 (45%) were women and 10 (3%) were disabled.

The Government acknowledges that within the judiciary there is an under-representation of women, those who are disabled and those from a BAME

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

background. However, recent statistics show some improvement which suggests ongoing diversity initiatives, co-ordinated by the Forum, are beginning to have an impact:

- 1) 12% of judges across Courts and Tribunals under 50 years of age are from a BAME background (around 14% of the UK population are from BAME groups).
- 2) JAC Official Statistics from April 2015 to March 2016 showed women made up 45% of those recommended for appointment overall (140 of 308 recommendations).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-04/HL947/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-04/HL949/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-04/HL950/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-04/HL948/>

## News

**Fall in proportion of ethnic minority judges 'unacceptable'**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/bme-judges-2016>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Hate Crime

9. **Bob Blackman:** What recent discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the prosecution of hate crime. [906009]

10. **Andrew Stephenson:** What recent discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the prosecution of hate crime. [906010]

**Reply from the Solicitor General (Robert Buckland):** I discuss this matter regularly with the DPP, and the Government will publish their hate crime strategy very shortly.

**Bob Blackman:** I thank my hon. and learned Friend for his answer. Given the terrible terrorist atrocities in Nice, Paris and, recently, Germany, many people in this country are fearful that because of their religion or the colour of their skin, they will be the subject of hate crime. What assurances can my hon. and learned Friend give to those people that we will prosecute, to the limit of the law, anyone involved in hate crime?

**Reply from The Solicitor General:** ... Hate crime of any kind, whether it is on the grounds of disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity, has absolutely no place in our society. We are utterly committed to tackling hate crime.

**Andrew Stephenson:** A Member of the other place recently received a vile racist letter containing white powder, as did a number of mosques and Islamic centres representing a

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

large Pakistani heritage community in Pendle. The long-term rise in Islamophobia is a serious concern. Will my hon. and learned Friend join me in condemning these racist incidents and advise me whether he believes that the separate recording of Islamophobia as a hate crime is likely to help to bring about successful prosecutions?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The incident that my hon. Friend describes is despicable and shameful, and we must stand together against such hate crime and ensure that it is stamped out. Religious hate crime has been recorded separately since April of this year, at the request of the Prime Minister when she was in her former role as Home Secretary. That will give us a greater understanding of the nature of hate crime.

**Christina Rees:** Reports of hate crimes rose exponentially—by 57%—following Brexit. Is the Solicitor General confident that the Crown Prosecution Service is adequately resourced to deal effectively with these reports and support victims?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The hon. Lady is right to note the alarming spike in incidents of hate crime that surrounded the recent referendum and the weeks subsequent to it. I reassure her that the CPS remains absolutely committed to prosecuting all types of such crime, which, frankly, have no place in our society.

...

*To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-21/debates/16072149000022/HateCrime>

### EU Referendum: Hate Crime

**Christina Rees:** What steps the Government have taken to tackle hate crime against black, Asian and minority ethnic communities since the EU referendum. [905983]

**Reply from the Minister for Women and Equalities (Justine Greening):** As the House has just discussed, hate crime of any kind, including that which is targeted at BAME communities, has absolutely no place in our society. I am sure I speak for the whole House when I say how appalled I am at the recent reported increase in hate crime. The Government are monitoring the situation and working across Departments and with the police, the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to provide reassurance and send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated, and that we will take action against those who promote hatred.

**Christina Rees:** I am proud of the Safer Neath Port Talbot partnership, which has been working to counteract the rise in hate crime since the EU referendum by holding hate crime awareness sessions in Neath communities. We should all say no to hate crime. What steps is the Minister taking to adopt such best practice and roll it out across the country to raise awareness and heal divisions in communities?

**Reply from Justine Greening:** I would be very interested to talk to the hon. Lady further about her experience of the work under way in her own community. As she highlights, one of the most effective things we can do to tackle hate crime is to work at community level to spread a message of inclusion, acceptance and tolerance across our society. The broader work happening in Government is being done not just through policing and the Home Office, but through the Department for Communities and Local Government and in my own Department—the Department for Education—through schools.

**Maria Miller:** I welcome my right hon. Friend to her position. Does she feel, as I do, that we should also be looking at online hate crime, from which people often suffer the most? Does she believe, as I do, that platforms and social media outlets should do more to standardise reporting in this area and, frankly, to take more action against the perpetrators?

**Reply from Justine Greening:** I agree with my right hon. Friend that it is important to address the online element of this crime effectively. She will be aware

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

that one of the things the Government have recently done is to strengthen online reporting. Part of the increase in hate crime is due to the tool we set up called True Vision, a website where people can report it online more effectively. She is absolutely right to say that there are different channels through which hate crimes are perpetrated and all of them need a strong response. ...

**To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-21/debates/16072149000023/EUReferendumHateCrime>

## New Publications

**Action Against Hate The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/540700/Action\\_Against\\_Hate\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_s\\_Plan\\_to\\_Tackle\\_Hate\\_Crime\\_2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540700/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf)

**Racist and religiously motivated incidents and hate crimes**

[http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Infographic\\_-\\_Racist\\_and\\_religiously\\_motivated\\_incidents\\_and\\_hate\\_crimes\\_0\\_1.pdf](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Infographic_-_Racist_and_religiously_motivated_incidents_and_hate_crimes_0_1.pdf)

**Post-referendum racism and xenophobia: the role of social media activism in challenging the normalisation of xeno-racist narratives**

<http://www.irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/PRRX-Report-Final.pdf>

**Living Rights Project: Discrimination**

<http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/asset/download/510.pdf>

## News

**Post-Brexit stance on EU nationals not to blame for hate crime surge says Home Secretary Amber Rudd**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14642736.Post\\_Brexit\\_stance\\_on\\_EU\\_nationals\\_not\\_to\\_blame\\_for\\_hate\\_crime\\_surge\\_says\\_Home\\_Secretary/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14642736.Post_Brexit_stance_on_EU_nationals_not_to_blame_for_hate_crime_surge_says_Home_Secretary/)

**EU nationals stance not to blame for hate crime surge - Amber Rudd**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3707867/Police-watchdog-investigate-response-hate-crime-reports.html>

**£2m to protect faithful against hatred**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/2m-to-protect-faithful-against-hatred-fzm7xsghd>

**New Government urges tougher sentences for hate crimes after spike in reports following EU referendum result**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-referendum-hate-crime-racism-tougher-jail-sentences-a7152346.html>

**Amber Rudd promises tougher sentences for racists in hate crime crackdown**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/23/amber-rudd-promises-tougher-sentences-for-racists-in-hate-crime/>

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## News (continued)

### Home Office unveils new measures to fight hate crime

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/hate-crime-racism-abuse-brexit-home-office-police-a7155946.html>

### Government action plan to crack down on hate crimes

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3705175/Government-action-plan-crack-hate-crimes.html>

### Hate crime: Prosecutors told to seek tougher sentences

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36875533>

### Police told to prioritise anti-immigrant hate crimes as true nature of post-referendum racism is revealed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-hate-crimes-leave-eu-referendum-racist-police-figures-stats-tim-farron-natalie-bennett-a7162706.html>

### Hate crime 'still far too high' post-Brexit - police

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36869000>

### Post-Brexit increase in hate crimes continues as police promise crackdown

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/post-brexit-increase-in-hate-crimes-continues-as-police-promise-crackdown-a7150901.html>

### Hate crime policing to be reviewed after spike in reports

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-36890398>

### Police watchdog to investigate response to post-Brexit vote rise in hate crime

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/26/police-watchdog-to-investigate-response-to-hate-crime>

### Racism unleashed: Incident by incident – the grim litany of post-Brexit hate crime

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racism-unleashed-brexit-eu-referendum-post-referendum-racism-true-scale-of-post-eu-referendum-a7149836.html>

### Racism unleashed: True extent of the 'explosion of blatant hate' that followed Brexit result revealed

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-racism-uk-post-referendum-racism-hate-crime-eu-referendum-racism-unleashed-poland-racist-a7160786.html>

### 40,000 lodge complaint with police accusing Farage and Leave.EU campaign of inciting racial and religious hatred

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-leaveeu-campaign-inciting-racial-and-religious-hatred-40000-lodge-complaint-a7147141.html>

### Politicians to blame for rise of 'respectable racism', says Lady Warsi

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jul/22/politicians-blame-respectable-racism-lady-warsi>

### Politicians have fuelled 'respectable racism', claims Warsi

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-07-22/news/politicians-have-fuelled-respectable-racism-claims-warsi-rrpzm2l39>

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## News (continued)

**Thousands of racist incidents reported in Scottish schools**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36935551>

**3,000 racist incidents at Scottish schools in past 5 years**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/3-000-racist-incident-at-scottish-schools-in-past-5-years-1-4190567>

**Anti-sectarianism football act 'unfairly targets young men'**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/anti-sectarianism-football-act-unfairly-targets-young-men-1-4190563>

**Racism unleashed: 'Send the lot back' – on the road in post-referendum England**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racism-brexit-immigration-eu-referendum-post-referendum-boston-least-integrated-town-a7150541.html>

**Scots Muslims speak out over racist abuse after terror attacks**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14653092.Verbal\\_abuse\\_violence\\_and\\_suspicion\\_pr\\_ominent\\_Scots\\_Muslims\\_speak\\_out\\_as\\_racism\\_ramps\\_up\\_amid\\_summer\\_of\\_terror/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14653092.Verbal_abuse_violence_and_suspicion_pr_ominent_Scots_Muslims_speak_out_as_racism_ramps_up_amid_summer_of_terror/)

**Now crackdown on hate crime in the playground: Head teachers told to log anti-Muslim, anti-Semitic, homophobic and racist abuse in bid to stamp it out**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3707857/Now-crackdown-hate-crime-playground-Head-teachers-told-log-anti-Muslim-anti-Semitic-homophobic-racist-abuse-bid-stamp-out.html>

**Parents and teachers should report homophobic, racist and religious bullying to the police, says Amber Rudd**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/25/parents-and-teachers-should-report-homophobic-racist-and-religio/>

**Tax-payer funded CCTV for mosques, churches and synagogues as hate crimes rocket**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/24/tax-payer-funded-cctv-for-mosques-churches-and-synagogues-as-hat/>

**Internet troll faces prison for death threats to Jewish MP**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/internet-troll-faces-prison-for-death-threats-to-jewish-mp-hjdwxh5>

**Internet troll facing prison for sending anti-semitic threats to Labour MP Luciana Berger**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/internet-troll-jailed-for-sending-anti-semitic-threats-to-labour-mp-luciana-berger-a7158551.html>

**'I didn't get anti-Semitism as racism,' says Labour MP Naz Shah**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/anti-semitism-racism-labour-mp-naz-shah-ken-livingstone-bradford-west-a7142691.html>

**Until we take anti-Semitism seriously, the scourge will only get uglier**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/28/until-we-take-anti-semitism-seriously-the-scourge-will-only-get/>

**Scotland's Jewish community has boosted security since terror attacks**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14653077.Scotland\\_39\\_s\\_Jewish\\_community\\_ha\\_s\\_boosted\\_security\\_since\\_terror\\_attacks/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14653077.Scotland_39_s_Jewish_community_ha_s_boosted_security_since_terror_attacks/)

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## News (continued)

**Anti-Semitic hatred is now part of daily life for Jews online - and no-one does anything to stop it**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/31/anti-semitic-hatred-is-now-part-of-daily-life-for-jews-online/>

**Met 'may be overly targeting BAME youths as gang members'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/19/metropolitan-police-may-be-overly-targeting-bame-youths-as-gang-members>

**Somerset mosque rock attack 'racially motivated', say police**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/mosque-yeovil-somerset-racism-hate-crime-brexite-a7155331.html>

**Stones hurled through mosque window in 'racially motivated' attack**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/stones-hurled-through-mosque-window-8490370#6cjGCyUfZAV557iJ.97>

**Belfast City Airport: Black woman 'stopped for looking foreign'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-36846314>

**Home Office pays out £2,000 to black woman who was stopped at Belfast airport because she 'looked foreign'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3699797/Home-Office-pays-2-000-black-woman-stopped-Belfast-airport-looked-foreign.html>

**Police racism case dropped after errors**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/police-racism-case-dropped-after-errors-kb5dcjktw>

**Men jailed over bacon tied to Bristol mosque door handles**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-36846555>

**Moment family of baby Mohammad forgive racist convicted of launching vile threats at maimed tot**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/pictured-moment-family-baby-mohammad-8486610#yGAQ4p2CgSMQIJfr.97>

**Racist pensioner ordered to pay compensation after threatening to kill orphaned tot who survived gas explosion**

[http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14634141.Racist\\_pensioner\\_ordered\\_to\\_pay\\_compensation\\_after\\_threatening\\_to\\_kill\\_orphaned\\_tot\\_who\\_survived\\_gas\\_explosion/](http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14634141.Racist_pensioner_ordered_to_pay_compensation_after_threatening_to_kill_orphaned_tot_who_survived_gas_explosion/)

**Racist who threatened to kill baby that survived Pakistan blast and told family to 'f\*\*\* off back to where you come from' escapes jail**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-who-threatened-kill-baby-8468486#HgqsYE1kUKuusYed.97>

**Racist sentenced despite "white guilt" plea**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/227737/racist-jailed-despite-white-guilt-plea/>

**Jewish students snubbed over anti-racism committee**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/jewish-students-snubbed-over-anti-racism-committee-zhxgbgq3g>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

#### **Jewish students denied say in NUS anti-racism representative**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/19/jewish-students-denied-say-in-nus-anti-racism-representative/>

#### **NUS bans students from picking anti-racism representatives**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/nus-ban-anti-racism-representatives-student-vote-jewish-society-malia-bouattia-a7146176.html>

#### **Eastern European man targeted in hate attack in Hawick**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/eastern-european-man-targeted-in-hate-attack-in-hawick-1-4185864>

#### **No one told me to 'go home' for 16 years. Then we voted for Brexit**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/27/no-one-told-me-to-go-home-for-16-years-then-we-voted-for-brexit>

#### **Racism is like a disease within Met Police, says Tasered firefighter**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3711196/Police-watchdog-apologises-racist-abuse-case-collapses.html>

#### **Publican faces probe over Islamophobic comments**

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/228185/father-of-guilty-man-who-alleged-to-be-the-victim-of-white-guilt-says-islam-should-be-boycotted/>

#### **Peaceful anti-racism march to go ahead in Leith**

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/leith/peaceful-anti-racism-march-to-go-ahead-in-leith-1-4189463>

#### **My charity has received horrific anti-Muslim abuse. But the Met police don't seem to care**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jul/29/tell-mama-met-police-care-anti-muslim-abuse>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Lilian Greenwood:** 2. What steps the Government is taking to increase the number of prosecutions for female genital mutilation. [906000]

**Vicky Foxcroft:** 5. What steps the Government is taking to increase the number of prosecutions for female genital mutilation. [906004]

**Andrew Gwynne:** 7. What steps the Government is taking to increase the number of prosecutions for female genital mutilation. [906006]

**Reply from the Solicitor General (Robert Buckland):** The Government significantly strengthened the law via amendments to the Serious Crime Act 2015 to improve protection of victims through lifelong anonymity and to break down barriers to prosecution. The introduction of a mandatory reporting duty for front-line professionals to identify FGM cases in girls under 18 further improves opportunities for safeguarding and prosecution.

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Lilian Greenwood:** At the age of 11, Valentine Nkoyo was forced to go through female genital mutilation. Nineteen years later she set up the Mojatu Foundation, a social enterprise in my constituency, to use her own experience to raise awareness of FGM, help protect children at risk in the UK and support survivors. Mojatu's current project aims to create a network of media-trained community champions to help tackle the issues affecting women and girls who are at risk or living with the consequences of FGM, to increase self-reporting. What engagement has the Solicitor General had with community organisations such as Mojatu to address the low level of prosecutions for FGM?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** I pay tribute to the work of that community organisation and many others in the network who are fighting the scourge of FGM. The hon. Lady will be pleased to note that I and other members of the Government have regular engagement with community groups. The Department of Health has provided £4 million worth of funding over the past three years in order, among other things, to enhance community engagement so that awareness can be spread and victims need not suffer in silence.

**Vicky Foxcroft:** The lack of services to support victims of female genital mutilation is often seen as a reason why so many cases are left unreported. What effect will cuts of 24% to the Crown Prosecution Service will have on the reporting of FGM cases?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** May I reassure the hon. Lady that the Crown Prosecution Service places great importance upon the need to properly investigate and prosecute, where appropriate, crimes of FGM? It was regrettable that in the years prior to 2010 not one single prosecution occurred. Cultural and other obstacles have prevented the effective investigation and prosecution of this scourge. The work of community groups and the resolution of the Government mean that that position is gradually changing for the better.

**Andrew Gwynne:** The Solicitor General will no doubt be aware of the European Commission guidelines on action against female genital mutilation. Notwithstanding the vote on 23 June for the UK to leave the European Union, can the Minister say whether it is still the intention of the Government to accept into British law the recommendations of the European Commission's report?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** With regard to the specifics, that matter needs to be considered carefully, and I will take that away with me. However, on the general principles laid out in that report, there is no doubt whatever that this Government remain fully committed to making sure that FGM is properly explained, properly challenged and properly dealt with, whether that is by prosecution, awareness in the community or other preventive measures.

**Gregory Campbell:** What steps are the Government taking to ensure that, in communities where, on occasions, a blind eye is turned to this obscenity, people understand that the law will be upheld and that the 130,000-odd young females who are affected will be protected going into the future, as this will affect others?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The hon. Gentleman is right to reiterate that community engagement and community involvement will be key in making more progress on this area. I am glad to see that, certainly in England, the Department for Education has £2.25 million of funding to invest in awareness and education about this issue, and I think that will also have a beneficial effect.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-07-21/debates/16072149000018/FemaleGenitalMutilation>

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Lord MacLennan of Rogart [HL1185]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of victims of female genital mutilation in each of the four nations

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

of the UK; and what steps they are taking to eradicate that practice throughout the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The most recent NHS data released on 7 June showed 1,242 newly identified cases of FGM within the NHS between January and March 2016. 98% of cases were in adult women, and in the vast majority of these the FGM took place in Asia or Africa.

A 2015 prevalence study part funded by the Home Office estimated that approximately 137,000 women and girls in England and Wales are affected by FGM and 60,000 girls were born to women who had undergone it.

We have significantly strengthened the law through the Serious Crime Act 2015, including introducing FGM Protection Orders to protect girls at risk, and a mandatory reporting duty requiring specified professionals to report known cases in under 18s to the police.

We are improving the response of professionals through the Department of Health's £4m FGM prevention programme, up to £2m from the Department for Education to support the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is strengthening the social care response; and updated multi-agency guidance which we published on the 1 April and which is statutory for the first time.

FGM is a devolved matter and we work closely with the Devolved Administrations in taking forward this work.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1185/>

### Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

**Jonathan Ashworth** [43374] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total annual prison population such people represent in each of those years.

### Prison Sentences

**Jonathan Ashworth** [43375] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years.

**Reply from Sam Gyimah:** It is absolutely essential that our justice system treats people from all backgrounds equally. That's why we commissioned an independent review to look at the treatment and experiences of BAME groups in the justice system.

The number of people sent to prison in each of the last 10 years can be viewed in the table below. The table also includes the number of people from ethnic minority backgrounds who were sent to prison in each of the last 10 years.

**Table 1: First prison receptions<sup>1</sup> into prison by ethnic group, England & Wales, 2005 - 2015**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>All ethnicities</b>	<b>132,058</b>	<b>128,986</b>	<b>125,881</b>	<b>134,148</b>	<b>125,877</b>	<b>118,042</b>
White	102,465	98,745	96,412	103,024	96,722	90,095
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	3,330	3,497	3,704	4,047	3,961	3,946
Asian/ Asian British	8,504	8,853	8,392	9,294	8,947	8,249
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	15,664	15,635	15,033	15,585	13,745	11,941

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Table 1 [continued]: First prison receptions<sup>1</sup> into prison by ethnic group, England & Wales, 2005 - 2015**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Other ethnic group	1,657	1,875	2,047	2,039	2,056	1,658
Not stated	276	244	216	125	92	80
Ethnic group not recorded	52	45	42	5	298	2,071
1991 Census ethnic codes <sup>4</sup>	110	92	35	29	56	2
<b>Proportion of first receptions that are from ethnic minority groups</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>22%</b>

**Table 1 [continued]: First prison receptions<sup>1</sup> into prison by ethnic group, England & Wales, 2005 - 2015**

	2011	2012	2013	2014 <sup>2</sup>	2015 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All ethnicities</b>	<b>120,760</b>	<b>112,774</b>	<b>107,318</b>	<b>103,892</b>	<b>93,722</b>
White	92,265	86,671	83,268	..	73,258
Mixed/ Multiple ethnic groups	3,963	3,752	3,567	..	3,192
Asian/ Asian British	8,748	8,017	8,026	..	6,533
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	12,263	10,568	9,773	..	8,316
Other ethnic group	1,607	1,588	1,440	..	1,308
Not stated	87	109	109	..	297
Ethnic group not recorded	1,827	2,069	1,135	..	818
1991 Census ethnic codes <sup>4</sup>	0	0	0	..	0
<b>Proportion of first receptions that are from ethnic minority groups</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>21%</b>

(1) A first reception is a measure which counts a prisoners first movement into custody following a court hearing for a particular set of offences committed, and therefore gives the best indication of the number of new prisoners in the reporting period

(2) Due to data quality concerns and a problem with the supply of data between

## Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014, the volume of first receptions are unavailable for this period. To estimate the 2014 totals and subsequent breakdowns for the affected statistics, an imputation method has been applied. Due to the disruption in data supply, a breakdown of first receptions by ethnic group is not available.

(3) Due to improvements in IT systems, the 2015 prison receptions data is now taken from a different source and, for statistical reporting purposes only, are produced using a different method.

(4) Prior to 2004 the 1991 census ethnic codes were used.

The proportion of the total yearly prison population such people represent in each of those years can be found in the prison population 2015 publication at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2015>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-19/43374/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-19/43375/>

### **Bank Services: Muslims**

**Lord Sharkey [HL1195]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord O'Neill of Gatley on 12 July (HL883), which Muslim organisations affected by the withdrawal of banking services they continue "to work closely with...to better understand their experiences and encourage dialogue with the banking sector"; how that working closely manifests itself; and what is their assessment of the outcomes of that close working.

**Reply from Lord O'Neill of Gatley:** Ministers and officials have received representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals who have been affected by account closure. Officials have discussed the issue of access to banking with individual Muslim organisations as well as representative groups such as the Muslim Charities Forum and Bond.

The Government remains concerned about the growth of de-risking and the implications it has for NGOs, economic growth, financial inclusion and financial stability. We recognise that this trend remains a global problem, and have taken concrete steps to address this. We put the issue on the G20 agenda in 2015 and, closer to home, we have encouraged the banking sector to produce new guidance to help those affected by de-risking to open a UK bank account, by setting out what information banks will require in order to comply with relevant regulation and the questions they will need to ask. We have encouraged those affected to consider using their bank's formal complaint service or, if they believe they have been treated unfairly or unreasonably, to consider referring the case to the Financial Ombudsman Service. We have also encouraged those affected to use the Business Account Finder provided by MoneyFacts to locate an alternative account provider.

In order to continue dialogue with the NGO community on these matters, a Government-NGO Working Group will shortly be convened to explore concerns and identify solutions on the impact of regulation and banking practices on NGO operations in fragile states. The group will examine the specific challenges faced in getting aid into hard-to-reach communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-07-13/HL1195/>

## Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) New Publications

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - April 2015 to March 2016: Report**

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB21206/fgm-apr-2015-mar-2016-exp-rep.pdf>

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - April 2015 to March 2016: Experimental Statistics**

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB21206/fgm-apr-2015-mar-2016-exp-qual.pdf>

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## Other News

**Charity Commission hails 'sheer scale' of fundraising by British Muslims during Ramadan**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/british-muslims-charity-commission-faith-donation-ramadan-a7149826.html>

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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>

**\*\* EU Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom (Right to Stay)**

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

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-12/debates/16071252000002/EUCitizensResidentInTheUnitedKingdom\(RightToStay\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-07-12/debates/16071252000002/EUCitizensResidentInTheUnitedKingdom(RightToStay))

**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/studentssupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* Enterprise and Skills Review** (closing date 15 August 2015)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/enterprise-and-skills/call-for-evidence>

**Draft Strategic Police Priorities for Scotland** (closing date 16 August 2016)

[https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/police-division/strategic-police-priorities/user\\_uploads/430839\\_consultation\\_p2--2-.pdf](https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/police-division/strategic-police-priorities/user_uploads/430839_consultation_p2--2-.pdf)

## Consultations (continued)

**Independent review into the application of sharia law** (closing date 19 August)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sharia-law-review-issues-calls-for-evidence>

**Developing black and minority ethnic talent: issues faced by businesses** (closing date 22 August 2016)  
<https://bisgovuk.citizenspace.com/lm/baroness-mcgregor-smith-review>

**\*\* Scottish Social Housing Charter** (closing date 24 August)  
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/social-housing-services/scottish-social-housing-charter>

**Hate crime and its violent consequences** (closing date 1 September 2016)  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/160704-new-inquiry-hate-crime/>

**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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/527653/Teachers_Call_for_evidence.pdf)

**\*\* Refugees Welcome Inquiry** (closing date 1 October 2016)  
[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0003/8247/Refugee\\_Welcome\\_APPG\\_inquiry\\_TOR\\_for\\_website.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0003/8247/Refugee_Welcome_APPG_inquiry_TOR_for_website.pdf)

**Scotland's place in Europe** (closing date not listed, but responses received by 31 August will inform the Committee's work in October)  
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/scotland-place-europe-16-17/>

**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](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BME_suicide_NorthEastGlasgow)

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Funding Opportunities

**\*\* new or updated this week**

### **Scottish Winter Festivals**

***All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.***

Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns celebrations,

## Funding Opportunities (continued)

boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so the Scottish Government, BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's Winter Festival celebrations. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-guidelines.pdf>.

An application form is available at

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/swf-grant-application.docx>

### Year of Innovation, Architecture & Design

***All applications will be considered until all available funds have been distributed.***

Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, innovation and narrative plays a full part in the celebration of the themed year.

The Scottish Government and BEMIS Scotland, and other national partners are committed to ensuring that our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities participate fully within this year's celebrations. We believe that in order to fulfil our potential as individuals and communities of place, culture and ethnicity that we should celebrate and promote our diversity. This reflects our shared objective to build an 'Inclusive National Identity' which celebrates Scotland's vibrant, diverse, confident and dynamic people. For information see

<http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-guidelines.pdf> and the application form is available at <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/yiad-grant-application.docx>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* Overview of the Universal Periodic Review**

16 August 2016 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to provide an overview and explanation of the Universal Periodic Review process, which provides an opportunity for non-governmental organisations in Scotland have to communicate key human rights issues to the United Nations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hs9kj2k> or contact Chloë Trew 0131 244 3550 / [chloe.trew@scottishhumanrights.com](mailto:chloe.trew@scottishhumanrights.com)

### **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/>

### **\*\* Disparity in Britain, Changing Europe - The real experience of women subjected to Domestic Abuse**

14 September 2016 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.30)

Shakti conference to more about the negative impact of government policy on migrant women who are being denied safe ways to end domestic abuse due to their immigration status. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zvw4ajy>

## Events/ Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* The changing story of religion and human rights**

5 October 2016 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.30)

Interfaith Scotland and Equality and Human Rights Committee event to discuss the current situation regarding Religion and Human Rights in Scotland, and to then explore together the importance of freedom of conscience and belief to the different faith traditions. For information contact Maureen Sier [maureen@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:maureen@interfaithscotland.org)

### **\*\* Launch of Scottish Interfaith Week**

13 November 2016 in Paisley

The theme of the launch will be “Religion and the Media”. For information please contact Frances Hume [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org)

### **\*\* National Holocaust Memorial Day**

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

The theme of this year’s memorial event is “How can life go on?” For information please contact Maureen Sier [maureen@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:maureen@interfaithscotland.org)

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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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

## Useful Links (continued)

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

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

**BBC Democracy Live** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc\\_parliament/default.stm](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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