

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.

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

**The UK Parliament will be in recess until 10 October.
The next issue of MEMO will be on 10 October 2016.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-01574 Sandra White: Scottish Refugee Council – That the Parliament welcomes the £1,328,692 award to the Scottish Refugee Council from the Big Lottery Fund to set up a project to provide support for 3,000 people whose asylum claim has been accepted and have been granted leave to remain in the UK; notes that the project will also support approximately 150 refugees who have newly arrived in the UK and who require support to submit an asylum claim; further notes that the service will be delivered with the support of four established community-based integration networks in Govan and Craighton, Maryhill, Cranhill and north Glasgow that will provide access to community facilities and knowledge of local services, and commends the Scottish Refugee Council on its vital work to support refugees in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01574&ResultsPerPage=10>

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

S5M-01578 Christina McKelvie: Graveyard of Life Jackets – That the Parliament notes the "graveyard of life jackets", which consists of 2,500 life jackets that were worn by migrants crossing from Turkey to Greece, currently laid out in London at Parliament Square, which is raising awareness of the many refugees who have died making the crossing; believes that 650 of the life jackets have been worn by children, all of whom perished during the crossing; further notes that the International Organisation for Migration predicts that 10,000 migrants will die at sea by the end of the year; considers that the protest is a stark and evocative reminder of the perilous journey that hundreds of thousands of people have taken during the crisis in the region; commends the Scottish Government for welcoming over 1,000 refugees since October 2015; further commends South Lanarkshire Council's pledge to welcome a further 60 refugees to the area, taking the total to over 100 during the last year, and recommends a global, humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in which Scotland is ready to play a full and participatory role as a welcoming nation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01578&ResultsPerPage=10>

S5M-01473 James Dornan: Asylum Seeker Obtains University Place – That the Parliament congratulates 19-year-old Hassan Ibrahim on achieving all "A" and "A (band one)" grades at Higher and Advanced Higher Level, which have allowed him to obtain a place at the University of Strathclyde's chemistry department; notes that, five-and-a-half years ago, when 14-year-old Hassan arrived in Scotland with other members of his family to seek asylum from the situation in Iraq, he spoke very little English and taught himself through watching television and DVD box sets; congratulates him on his perseverance in his desire to learn; understands that, while he waited on funding for his studies, he undertook several college courses in order to improve his chances of entering higher education; acknowledges the work of the Student Financial Support Team at the university on making sure that money was made available at what was a difficult time because of ambiguity regarding Hassan's citizenship, and believes that Hassan's story is an inspiration to others who have come to Scotland to seek refuge from oppression.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01473&ResultsPerPage=10>

S5M-01539 Christina McKelvie: UN Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking – That the Parliament congratulates Nadia Murad on her appointment as United Nations Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking; commends this appointment as recognition for the work that she has done raising awareness of the treatment of the Yazidi people by Daesh; notes what it believes to be the horrific abuse and human trafficking of the Yazidi by Daesh; further notes that Nadia is a survivor of kidnapping and human trafficking at the hands of Daesh; believes that, through this appointment, her story and character will be a source of inspiration to help combat human trafficking and abuse, and welcomes this appointment by the UN.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01539&ResultsPerPage=10>

S5M-01589 Kate Forbes: The Brain Family Remain in Scotland – That the Parliament welcomes the decision of the Home Office to allow the Brain family to remain in Scotland following Kathryn Brain's success in securing a job; considers that the Highlands, and Scotland as a whole, benefits from the skills that immigrants like the Brains bring to the country; believes that it is deeply unjust that the new post-study work visa scheme has only been rolled out to four English universities, and considers that it is not acceptable to put those who have made Scotland a home for themselves and their families in a

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

similarly precarious situation to that of the Brain family.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01589>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration

Lord Leigh of Hurley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to determine accurately immigration into the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, immigration figures are estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics based on the International Passenger Survey. These estimates have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as having national statistics designation, being accurate and reliable for measuring immigration to the UK. The ONS continues to take steps to refine the survey design and to publish information on how figures relate to other sources.

Lord Leigh of Hurley: ... Indeed, the ONS does rely on the International Passenger Survey, which asks less than 0.7% of arrivals of their intentions, on a voluntary basis and with no verification. As the Minister knows, UK border officers are not allowed, under EU freedom of movement legislation, to ask arrivals whether they are immigrants or temporary visitors. Therefore, we have a situation where, over the past five years since July 2010, the ONS estimates for immigration are less than half of the national insurance numbers that have been issued to the same group. Does not the Minister agree that, given the events of the summer, the British public deserve better analysis and statistics?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, there are various sources of statistical information and all of them useful in the round. My noble friend talked specifically of the discrepancy between national insurance numbers and the ONS figures. That is due, in the main, to large numbers of short-term migrants who stay for less than 12 months. The official figures are based on the UN international standard definition of a long-term migrant: one who changes their country of residence for a year or more.

Baroness Brinton: My Lords, yesterday Amber Rudd said that there would be further restrictions on international students coming into the UK to help to reduce the immigration target. Is the Minister aware that international students currently contribute more than £7 billion a year to our economy, delivering 137,000 jobs to our universities and their communities, that student numbers are expected to double over the next 15 years, and that some of them could come to the UK? Given that, can the Minister explain why the Home Office has declared this, whereas the three Ministers for Brexit keep going on about how important it is to trade outside the EU? This seems a bit of an own goal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we want students here who will contribute to this country the skills that we need. In fact, there has been an increase of more than 39% over the past few years to Russell group universities. We have taken successful steps to clamp down on some of the bogus colleges that do not provide that sort of training.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-09-12/debates/16091214000553/Immigration>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stuart McDonald [45158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications were made by (a) EEA nationals for registration certificates and (b)

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

EEA family members and extended family members for residence cards in each month since January 2016.

Immigration: Internet

Stuart McDonald [45159] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the feasibility of processing applications for registration certificates and residence cards through an online system; and if she will estimate the potential savings in administration costs to the public purse of such a system.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Data on the total number of EEA related applications made by people in the UK is published on a quarterly basis as part of the Migration Transparency Data release. The latest published figures (Q2 2016) can be found in the table 'Temporary and permanent migration data'. See tab InC-01a. This data can be accessed via the link below.

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

With regards to the online processing of EEA applications, UK Visas & Immigration is undertaking a programme of transformation of which digitisation is a core part. UKVI is working towards digitising all application routes from existing methods of applying by paper for applicants from within and outside of the UK. The intention is to enable customers to apply online across the services and immigration routes in a straight-forward and customer-focused way.

The online application service Access UK first launched for visit visa customers in China in June 2014, and has subsequently been rolled out to 180 countries globally for overseas visit routes in more than 15 languages. For those already in the UK, Access UK has launched for customers applying for tier 2 (work) and tier 4 (study) extensions and is preparing for further services to go online. UKVI is currently trialling the online service for some EEA applicants. As the programme matures we expect benefits to security, customer service and efficiencies to be identified and realised.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45158/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45159/>

British Nationality: EU Nationals

Drew Hendry [45198] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to simplify the citizenship application process for EU nationals.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All those applying for naturalisation as a British citizen must meet the statutory requirements that are set out in the British Nationality Act 1981. These include a period of lawful residence, settled status, good character, and knowledge of language and life in the United Kingdom. These apply equally to EEA and non-EEA nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45198/>

Visas: Syria

The following two questions both received the same answer

Marion Fellows [45123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on the granting of visas to Syrian passport holders to enter the UK on a short term basis.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Visas

Marion Fellows [45126] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to immediately reject visa applications based on the applicant's nationality.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: It is not Home Office policy to refuse an application for a visa on the basis of an applicant's nationality. All visa applications are considered on their merits, in accordance with the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45123/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45126/>

Immigrants: English Language

Justin Tomlinson [44987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to contact visa and naturalisation applicants to ask those applicants to submit an up-to-date English Language Certificate if an application is to be refused solely on the grounds of the submission of an expired certificate.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: For visa purposes, it is not Home Office policy to give an applicant the opportunity to submit a further document if they have provided an out of date English language certificate. Knowledge of the English language is a key requirement of the Immigration Rules which applicants are expected to comply with before they apply. The Immigration Rules specify that, where applicable, the test certificate must be within its validity date.

For naturalisation applications, a person is allowed a period of two weeks to provide any missing information, but they would be expected to have met the language requirement before submitting an application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-05/44987/>

English Language: Education

Daniel Kawczynski [44172] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what the annual funding from the public purse is for English Speakers of Other Languages schemes.

Reply from Robert Halfon: Funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages is not ring-fenced but forms part of the Adult Education Budget (AEB). Providers will use their AEB allocation to put on appropriate provision based on their judgement of the economic and social needs of their local area. We expect that this will include ESOL where there is significant demand.

In addition, the Government has pledged up to £10 million over five years for a jointly funded DfE and Home Office programme to enable Syrian refugees across the UK to access language tuition and integrate into British society.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44172/>

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Lord Blencathra [HL1576] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the letter to *the Times* of 17 August by doctors of the Federation of Specialist Hospitals suggesting that some EU doctors will leave the UK, and the statement on the same day by the Royal College of Surgeons that EU doctors are three times more likely than other foreign doctors to face disciplinary action for inadequate command of English and that patients lives are being put at risk, what plans they have to advertise for doctors in Canada,

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Australia and New Zealand and other fluent English speaking countries.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: It is not for the Government to become involved in the advertising and employment of clinical and healthcare staff. Local healthcare organisations, with their knowledge of the people they serve, are best placed to plan and employ a workforce based on clinical need and sound evidence.

It is vital for patient safety that all doctors and dentists practising in the United Kingdom have the necessary English language skills.

Under the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (MRPQ) regulatory healthcare bodies, including the General Medical Council and the General Dental Council, are required to recognise primary and specialist medical qualifications gained in an European Economic Area (EEA) doctor's home member state.

National Health Service employers are expected to carry out local checks, which are compliant with European Union Law, to ensure that EEA applicants have the right skills needed to carry out their job, including the appropriate level of English language. The revision to the MRPQ Directive states that language controls must be proportionate to the activity to be pursued.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1576/>

Overseas Students: Scotland

Natalie McGarry [45029] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to include Scottish universities in the Government's tier 4 Visa Pilot.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Tier 4 visa pilot has been introduced to test the benefits of a differentiated approach within the education sector on the basis of compliance with immigration sponsorship requirements.

The pilot is deliberately narrow in scope, with institutions selected due to their consistently low visa refusal rates. This is to ensure that the outcomes can be adequately monitored, whilst minimising the risk of unintended consequences, before considering rolling-out the scheme more widely.

Should the pilot be successful, the Home Office will liaise with stakeholders, including Scottish universities, over plans for extending the scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-05/45029/>

Visas: Higher Education

Daniel Zeichner [45380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward proposals to amend visa regulations to better support international university staff and student mobility in order to expand UK universities' science and research markets outside of the EU.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We will continue to reform the student visa system to tackle abuse, and deliver an effective immigration system that is fair to British citizens and those who play by the rules. At the same time, we continue to be committed to ensuring our top universities are a magnet for the best students from around the world.

Our immigration rules for non-EU workers already cater for highly skilled workers, including academics, scientists and researchers

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-07/45380/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Visas: Overseas Students

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [44549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of using institutional visa refusal rates as a indicator of institutional compliance with Tier 4 visa regulations.

Postgraduate Education: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [44187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department carried out prior to launching the UKVI Tier Two pilot involving the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Bath and Imperial College London.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office launched a Tier 4 visa pilot involving the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Bath and Imperial College London on 25 July. The pilot has been introduced to test the benefits of a differentiated approach within the education sector on the basis of compliance with immigration sponsorship requirements.

The pilot is deliberately narrow in scope, with the institutions selected on the basis of their consistently low level of visa refusals. Visa refusal rates are part of the Basic Compliance Assessment, which requires all Tier 4 sponsors to meet three core requirements based on measures of visa refusals, enrolment and completion of studies.

The limited nature of the pilot is intended to ensure that the outcomes can be adequately monitored, whilst minimising the risk of unintended consequences, before considering rolling-out the scheme more widely.

The four selected institutions were consulted regarding its implementation. Should the pilot be successful and rolled out more widely, the Home Office will consult key stakeholders about its expansion.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44549/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44187/>

Students: Refugees

Jamie Reed [44363] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what support her Department provides to students with refugee status.

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Government is wholly committed to ensuring that refugees who are resettled in the UK receive appropriate support and have a positive experience while they remain in the UK. Children with refugee or humanitarian protection status have access to the education system in the same way as citizen children.

Many pupils with refugee status will be classed as having English as an additional language (EAL). Current school funding arrangements enable local authorities to allocate a proportion of their funding to schools on the basis of the number of pupils in each school who have EAL, and who have been in the school system for a maximum of three years. Local authorities, in agreement with their schools forum, have the freedom to set the pupil rate for this, based on local circumstances.

Furthermore, pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years attract additional funding to the schools they attend in the form of the Pupil Premium. This is worth £1,320 per annum for each eligible pupil in primary school, and £935 per annum for those in secondary school. Pupils who are looked after by the local authority, including unaccompanied refugee children, and those who have left care through adoption or other specified routes also

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

attract the Pupil Premium Plus, at the higher rate of £1,900 per annum. Schools have flexibility over how they use the funding to improve the educational outcomes of their pupil premium-eligible pupils, and are held to account through the focus in Ofsted inspections and the school performance tables on the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44363/>

Refugees

Alison McGovern [45347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to support local authorities in integrating refugees into British society.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office funds strategic migration partnerships which are local authority-led partnerships designed to provide structures and support services for those organisations working with migrants and refugees in local communities.

The Home Office also provides a dedicated integration loan directly to recognised refugees. The loan is designed to help refugees integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-07/45347/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Jim Cunningham [45183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation programme; and if she will make a statement.

Refugees: Syria

Jim Cunningham [45184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people to be resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation programme in each of the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We intend to resettle up to 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. We will continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify appropriate cases, prioritising the most vulnerable. The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK. We continue to work closely with local authorities to manage the arrival of the Syrian refugees in to the resettlement places they have pledged. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved, rather than rushing to meet arbitrary targets. However, we are clear that we want to help as many people as we can as quickly as possible.

The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Latest statistics published on 25 August confirmed that a total of a total of 2,898 Syrians have been resettled under the scheme since it began, 2,646 of these arriving since 1 October 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45183/>

and

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45184/>

Refugees: Syria

Matthew Pennycook [45199] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the cost of private-rented sector accommodation on the ability of London boroughs to resettle vulnerable Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Participation in the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme is voluntary and a number of Syrians have already been resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme in London. Overall the programme is on track to meet the commitment to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrians by 2020. Local authorities, including London boroughs are expected to arrange affordable and sustainable accommodation for families before they arrive. They are provided funding by Government to meet the cost of resettlement. This funding is un-ring fenced so it will be for them to determine the best use of the funds to support the placements in their area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45199/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL1514] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that their pledge to accept 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020 is honoured.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We intend to resettle up to 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. We will continue to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify appropriate cases, prioritising the most vulnerable. The numbers resettled in a particular period will depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK. We continue to work closely with local authorities to manage the arrival of the Syrian refugees in to the resettlement places they have pledged. We will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved, rather than rushing to meet arbitrary targets. However, we are clear that we want to help as many people as we can as quickly as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-05/HL1514/>

Middle East: Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL1719] To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities have agreed to accept Syrian refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: More than 170 local authorities have provided firm offers of places and many more have pledged to resettle refugees under this scheme. We continue to work with them all in order to meet our commitment. Progress on resettlement is reported in quarterly immigration statistics, including the local authorities participating in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and how many refugees have been resettled in each area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-09-08/HL1719/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Refugees: Children

Lisa Cameron [45795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what psychological support the Government is providing to lone children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The responsibility for unaccompanied children in Europe lies with the Member State in which they are present. The UK can only contribute in ways agreed with the authorities in the relevant Member State and in compliance with EU law.

The UK has established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. The fund includes targeted support to meet the specific needs of un-accompanied and separated children. Support will include identifying children in need, providing safe places for at risk children and services such as coun-selling and legal advice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-09/45795/>

Refugees: Children

Alison McGovern [44184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the number of unaccompanied child refugees in Calais who have family in the UK; and when that assessment was carried out.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The management of asylum claims and the protection of unaccompanied children in Calais is primarily a matter for the French authorities. A French non-government organisation, France Terre D'Asile (FDTA) has been charged with identifying isolated children with UK links. Both Governments are clear that unaccompanied children in Calais in need of protection should claim asylum in France. The UK will consider requests to take responsibility of an asylum application made in France, when lodged by a minor with close family connections in the UK, and both Governments are committed to ensuring such cases are prioritised. There has been intense cooperation between the UK and French authorities to improve the operation of the Dublin process. We have established a permanent official level contact group and we will shortly be seconding another UK expert to the French Interior Ministry. We have already made significant progress in speeding up the Dublin process. Since the beginning of the year over 120 children have been accepted for transfer from Europe under the family reunion provisions of Dublin, over 70 of whom were from France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44184/>

Refugees: Children

Roger Godsiff [44965] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is for family reunification of unaccompanied refugee children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: For unaccompanied refugee children accepted for transfer to the UK, transfer requests are generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-05/44965/>

Asylum

Steve McCabe [44277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on allowing more refugees the opportunity to reach the UK safely and legally.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We operate several resettlement schemes that

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

provide safe and legal routes to the United Kingdom for the most vulnerable refugees, including Gateway, Mandate, the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme and the Vulnerable children at risk schemes. In addition, we support the principle of family unity and have several routes to enable refugees and their families to be reunited.

We are under no obligation to consider asylum claims lodged outside UK territory and it would not be appropriate to do so. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

We believe that seeking protection in the first safe country allows vulnerable people to receive help more quickly rather than risking their lives on hazardous journeys into and across Europe or falling victim to criminal gangs who are exploiting the situation. Providing humanitarian support in the region and working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on resettlement programmes remains the best way to provide much needed support to the majority of those facing persecution who remain in the region.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44277/>

Asylum

Barry Sheerman [44799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on accepting refugees fleeing war zones; and whether that policy has changed since the EU referendum.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There have been no changes to the policy on how we consider claims for asylum following the result of the referendum. Each asylum claim lodged in the United Kingdom is carefully considered on its individual merits based on the evidence submitted by the applicant, regardless of where the individual originates from.

However, we are under no obligation to consider asylum claims lodged outside UK territory and it is not appropriate to do so. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

We continue to operate several resettlement schemes providing safe and legal routes to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees, including Gateway, Mandate, the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme and the Vulnerable children at risk schemes. In addition, we support the principle of family unity and have several routes to enable refugees and their families to be reunited.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44799/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Oliver Colville [44842] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to create more cohesive societies in areas with dispersal centres for asylum seekers.

Oliver Colville [44843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is giving to dispersal centres for asylum seekers to help foster community cohesion.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office funds strategic migration partnerships which are local authority-led partnerships designed to provide structures and support services for those organisations working with migrants and refugees in local communities.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Home Office also provides a dedicated integration loan directly to recognised refugees. The loan is designed to help refugees integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44842/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44843/>

Asylum: EU Law

Thangam Debbonaire [44218] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been transferred to another EU country under the Dublin III Regulation in the first six months of 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In the first six months of 2016, our records indicate that the UK has returned 198 applicants to other Member States under the Dublin III Regulations to have their asylum applications considered.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44218/>

Asylum: Religious Freedom

Nigel Dodds [46188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted asylum in the UK on the grounds of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of religion in each year since 2010.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: When an individual makes an asylum claim on religious grounds it is recorded in the interview records and any written representations they provide. Data on asylum claims on religious grounds is not systematically recorded on the Casework Information Database (CID) and therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown of information in this way without individual analysis of thousands of casework files at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-13/46188/>

Asylum: Religious Freedom

Nigel Dodds [46190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of training of assessors for asylum applications where religious persecution is the reason for the application.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on their individual merits, including claims based on religious persecution. We grant protection to those who genuinely need it in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Published guidance on the interviewing and consideration of asylum claims is regularly reviewed and takes into consideration the views of stakeholders, including religious groups. The current training and support available for asylum caseworkers includes a the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees endorsed Foundation Training Programme. This, and follow-on courses, covers all aspects of the asylum interview and decision making process, including the assessment of credibility and country information in religious based claims. Real-life case studies and role-play are used throughout the training programme to reinforce knowledge and understanding of the issues.

We are carefully considering the report and recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief published in

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

June 2016 and will provide a response in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-13/46190/>

Asylum: Appeals

Thangam Debonnaire [44205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people refused asylum under the non-suspensive appeal policy were removed from the UK in the first six months of 2016; and how many such people (a) lodged an appeal and (b) successfully appealed against the refusal of their asylum application.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Between 1st January and 30th June 2016, 110 removals of people who have previously been refused asylum and had their claims certified, took place. Of those claimants removed in that period four lodged appeals; there were no successful appeals by the end of the same period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44205/>

Asylum: Housing

Chris Stephens [44406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation and contact her Department has undertaken with local authorities on the suitability and conduct of landlords engaged by Serco and its subcontractors to provide accommodation to refugees and asylum seekers under the COMPASS contract.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office works closely with COMPASS providers and local authorities through Strategic Migration Partnerships to plan for the most appropriate dispersal of asylum seekers.

These partnerships allow Providers to formally consult with local authorities and statutory bodies to ensure all new proposed property procurement and landlords meet the required contractual and statutory standards.

Any Local Authority that has concerns about the suitability or conduct of individual landlords can raise this with the Home Office and COMPASS providers either directly or through the Strategic Migration Partnerships.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44406/>

Asylum: Housing

Chris Stephens [44407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the suitability and adequacy of conduct of landlords engaged by Serco and its subcontractors to provide accommodation to refugees and asylum seekers under the COMPASS contract.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: COMPASS accommodation providers, including Serco, are contractually required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation to comply with the standards outlined in the relevant housing legislation and the Decent Homes Standard.

The Government expects the highest standards from our contractors and providers are monitored closely to ensure asylum accommodation providers meet these standards. Where a contractor is found to be falling short of these standards, we work with them to ensure issues are quickly addressed. When they are not we can and do impose sanctions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44407/>

Asylum: Housing

Paul Monaghan [44681] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

plans the Government has to improve the provision of asylum accommodation.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We have worked closely with our COMPASS Providers to improve property standards and over the lifetime of the contract quality standards have increased. Where issues with accommodation are discovered we work with our contractors to ensure issues are quickly addressed. When they are not we can and do impose sanctions and seek remedial plans to drive improvement. Through continued engagement with service users and accommodation providers and regular property inspections the Home Office will continue to ensure asylum accommodation is adequate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44681/>

Asylum: Families

Steve McCabe [44276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department plans to do to increase the number of refugees reaching the UK safely and legally under the family reunification scheme.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We support the principle of family unity and have several routes for families to be reunited safely. Our family reunion policy allows a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Over the past five years we have granted over 22,000 family reunion visas and will continue to do so.

Where an application fails under the Immigration Rules, we consider whether there are exceptional or compassionate reasons for granting a visa outside the Rules. We published a revised Home Office policy on family reunion in July which provides further guidance for decision-makers on the types of case that may benefit from a grant of leave outside the Rules where there are exceptional circumstances.

This guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-reunion-instruction>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44276/>

Asylum: Children

Alex Salmond [44426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to speed up family reunification for unaccompanied refugee children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government began work to implement the 'Dubs amendment' immediately after the Immigration Bill gained Royal Assent. Over 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act have been accepted for transfer since it received Royal Assent in May, the majority of these have already arrived in the UK.

We continue to work with the French, Greek and Italian authorities and others to speed up existing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary for unaccompanied children. We have seconded a UK official to Greece, we have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts.

We have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe. We also continue to consult local authorities about the transfer

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44426/>

Asylum: Children

Nic Dakin [44534] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to accelerate family reunification for unaccompanied refugee children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government began work to implement the 'Dubs amendment' immediately after the Immigration Bill gained Royal Assent. Over 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act have been accepted for transfer since it received Royal Assent in May, the majority of these have already arrived in the UK.

We continue to work with the French, Greek and Italian authorities and others to speed up existing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary for unaccompanied children. We have seconded a UK official to Greece, we have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts.

We have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe. We also continue to consult local authorities about the transfer unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44534/>

Asylum: Children

David Burrowes [44589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied minors have had their take charge request accepted in (a) Calais, (b) Greece and (c) Italy in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Since the beginning of this year, over 120 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe have been accepted for transfer to the UK, over 70 of which are from France. The Government does not routinely publish statistics on the number of take charge requests accepted for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children transferring to the UK under the Dublin III regulation broken down by country or region.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44589/>

Asylum: Children

David Burrowes [44592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time was for the family reunification process to be completed in (a) Calais, (b) Greece and (c) Italy in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: For unaccompanied refugee children accepted for transfer to the UK, transfer requests are generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. However transfer arrangements are set by the transferring member state who have six months to do so under the III Dublin Regulations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44592/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Children

Roger Godsiff [44615] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child refugees have been assisted to enter the UK in the past year (a) in total and (b) who have come from Calais to join family living in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In the year ending June 2016, 49% (1,308) of those resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) were under 18 years old. In April 2016 the Home Office announced a new scheme to resettle vulnerable children from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. We have worked closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to design this scheme.

Since the beginning of this year, over 120 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe have been accepted for transfer to the UK, over 70 of which are from France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44615/>

Asylum: Children

Steve Reed [44745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children was provided to each (a) local authority and (b) gateway authority in (i) 2013-14, (ii) 2014-15, (iii) 2015-16, and (iv) 2016-17.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: For the periods we have full information [FY 13-14, 14-15 & 15-16], a total of £243 million in funding was distributed to the following local authorities and gateway authorities, to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [This data is taken from unpublished local management information that is not subject to national statistics protocols and is therefore subject to change].

[Local Authorities support -asylum seeking children](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44745/>

Asylum: Children

Lisa Cameron [44868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to accelerate the family reunification process for unaccompanied refugee children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government began work to implement the 'Dubs amendment' immediately after the Immigration Bill gained Royal Assent. Over 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act have been accepted for transfer since it received Royal Assent in May, the majority of these have already arrived in the UK.

We continue to work with the French, Greek and Italian authorities and others to speed up existing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary for unaccompanied children. We have seconded a UK official to Greece, we have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts.

We have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe. We also continue to consult local authorities about the transfer unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44868/>

Asylum: Children

Paul Monaghan [45379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to accelerate the family reunification process for unaccompanied children in Europe.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government began work to implement the 'Dubs amendment' immediately after the Immigration Bill gained Royal Assent. Over 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act have been accepted for transfer since it received Royal Assent in May, the majority of these have already arrived in the UK.

We continue to work with the French, Greek and Italian authorities and others to speed up existing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary for unaccompanied children. We have seconded a UK official to Greece; we have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts. We have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe.

We also continue to consult local authorities about the transfer unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-07/45379/>

Asylum: Children

Jim Cunningham [45436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the geographical distribution by parliamentary constituency of unaccompanied minors who have applied for asylum in the UK in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office holds information as to the relevant local authority, responsible adult and social worker for each individual unaccompanied asylum seeking child and we remain in contact with these parties whilst considering the child's asylum claim. This information is not collated and does not form part of our published statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-07/45436/>

Asylum: Children

Lady Hermon [45571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to introduce a timetable for the re-unification of refugee children in Europe with family members in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government began work to implement the 'Dubs amendment' immediately after the Immigration Bill gained Royal Assent. Over 30 children who meet the criteria in the Immigration Act have been accepted for transfer since it received Royal Assent in May, the majority of these have already arrived in the UK.

We continue to work with and consult the French, Greek and Italian authorities and others to speed up existing family reunification processes or implement new processes where necessary for unaccompanied children. We have seconded a

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

UK official to Greece; we have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and will shortly be seconding another official to the French Interior Ministry to support these efforts.

We also continue to consult local authorities about the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK, where it is in their best interests.

In addition, we have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. Transfer requests under the Dublin Regulation are now generally processed within 10 days and children transferred within weeks. Over 120 children have been accepted for transfer this year from Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-07/45571/>

Schools: Asylum

Daniel Kawczynski [44165] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what role Ofsted has in its (a) reports and (b) other work in monitoring the level of integration of asylum seekers and refugees in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Ofsted's role is to inspect and report on the education provided by a school for all pupils, including all groups of pupils. Where asylum seekers make up part of the cohort, this will be included in the contextual information about the school.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44165/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Andrew Smith [44014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on people detained in immigration removal centres of there being no time limit on immigration

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Although there is no formal time limit on detention for the purposes of immigration removal, individuals cannot be detained indefinitely. However, the Government commissioned Stephen Shaw to carry out a review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention and, as part of this, Mr Shaw commissioned Professor Mary Bosworth to assess the evidence in respect of the impact of immigration detention on mental health. The Government has been taking forward reforms of immigration detention in the light of Mr Shaw's report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44014/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angela Crawley [45862] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps the Government takes to establish whether a woman is pregnant while in detention at an immigration removal centre.

Reply from Nicola Blackwood: NHS England advise that disclosure of pregnancy of women in held in immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England is at the behest of the individual concerned. The health assessment carried out at reception screening would ask if pregnancy was a possibility and a subsequent pregnancy test would confirm this, provided that consent was given.

The Home Office is currently consulting on mandatory new guidelines for its operational staff, "Care and Management of Pregnant women in Detention". This will apply to staff operating in IRCs and other parts of the detention estate in England and is expected to be published this year.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-12/45862/>

Immigration: Detainees

Kate Osamor [46191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the finding of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, A report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw, published in January 2016, paragraph 12, that rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules does not protect vulnerable people who find themselves in detention.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government has carefully considered the recommendations made by Stephen Shaw in his review report, and has taken these into account in introducing revised guidance and its new policy on adults at risk in immigration detention. Revised guidance on Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 was published on 12 September 2016. It will support improved reporting quality by doctors working in immigration removal centres and improved consideration by Home Office caseworkers of those reports. The adults at risk policy, which also came into force on 12 September, strikes the right balance between protecting vulnerable individuals and maintaining effective and proportionate immigration control.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-13/46191/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Kate Osamor [46192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees currently in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre who claim to have suffered persecution in their home country claim to have suffered (a) state and (b) non-state violence.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Information on the reasons for a claim for asylum is not readily accessible from central statistical records and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a manual search of individual case files.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-13/46192/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Virendra Sharma (434) International student visas – That this House notes the important role of international students in the UK higher education sector; further notes that 68,550 international students studied in the UK in 2015; recognises that international students contribute a net value of £2.3 billion a year to the economy, along with a great cultural investment; is concerned about reports of mass deportations of international students; is further concerned that current policy is making the UK a less welcoming place for international students; urges the Government to halt any ongoing programmes of such deportations; and calls on the Government to reassess the criteria by which it grants student visas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/434>

Press Releases

Prime Minister pledges new UK support to help tackle migration crisis

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-new-uk-support-to-help-tackle-migration-crisis>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Prime Minister speech at Leaders Summit on Refugees: 20 September 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-at-leaders-summit-on-refugees-20-september-2016>

More has to be done to deliver on European commitments for asylum seekers

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54908#.V9IazJN96nY>

Almost 300,000 migrants and refugees reached Europe over past 8 months

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54909#.V9Ia5ZN96nY>

UN official unveils draft principles on protecting human rights of refugees and migrants

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54978>

Secretary General, in UN, calls for ensuring basic rights for all migrant and refugee children

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/secretary-general-in-un-calls-for-ensuring-basic-rights-for-all-migrant-and-refugee-children>

General Assembly Adopts Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as United Nations, International Organization for Migration Sign Key Agreement

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm>

MEPs urge EU countries to take more asylum-seekers from Italy, Greece and Turkey

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160909IPR41786/meps-urge-eu-countries-to-take-more-asylum-seekers-from-italy-greece-and-turkey>

Current migration situation poses separation risk for families

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/current-migration-situation-poses-separation-risk-families>

Human trafficking risks in the context of migration

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/MigrationHumanTrafficking.aspx>

Court of Justice of the European Union: EU law does not permit a national of a non-EU country who has the sole care of an EU citizen who is a minor to be automatically refused a residence permit or to be expelled from the territory of the European Union on the sole ground that he has a criminal record

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-09/cp160095en.pdf>

New Publications

An inspection of family reunion applications

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/An-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications-January-to-May-2016.pdf>

The Home Office response to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) report entitled, 'fleeing persecution: Asylum claims in the UK on religious freedom grounds'.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/553205/Home_Office_response_to_APPG_Report_on_religious_claims_-_August_2017.pdf

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Different conflict, same crisis

https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/mb-different-conflict-same-crisis-refugees-150916-en.pdf

News: Refugee crisis

Record number of refugees would make 21st biggest country in the world with population bigger than the UK

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/refugee-crisis-asylum-seekers-migrants-numbers-country-21st-largest-syria-iraq-europe-afghanistan-a7307196.html>

Theresa May commits £740 million to help tackle migrant crisis

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/14754372.Theresa_May_commits_740_million_to_help_tackle_migrant_crisis/

Theresa May resists calls for UK to accept more Syrian refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/19/theresa-may-resists-calls-uk-accept-syrian-refugees-aid>

Refugee crisis: Theresa May to demand action at UN summit

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugee-crisis-theresa-may-demand-action-un-summit-a7313456.html>

Theresa May urges new approach to migrant crisis at UN summit

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-37405598>

Help reunite refugee families, faith leaders urge May

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37328151>

Charity calls for 'more humanity' for Syrian refugees

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37322075>

UK not doing enough for refugees, say charities and aid agencies

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/14/uk-not-doing-enough-for-refugees-say-charities-aid-agencies>

Rowan Williams and 200 faith leaders call for revised refugee policy

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/12/rowan-williams-200-faith-leaders-open-letter-revise-refugee-policy>

Why faith leaders are demanding urgent change to the refugee system

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/12/faith-leaders-refugee-traffickers>

Faith leaders in plea for refugees and their families

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-12/news/faith-leaders-in-plea-for-refugees-and-their-families-rnnfh2cj>

Refugee response very slow, says ex-archbishop amid plea to reunite families

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3784853/Ex-archbishop-Williams-leads-religious-call-Syrian-refugees.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugee crisis (continued)

Doing more of the same will not solve refugee crisis

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/leader-comment-doing-more-of-the-same-will-not-solve-refugee-crisis-1-4234410>

Thousands march in London during pro-refugee demonstration

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/17/thousands-march-in-refugees-welcome-rally-in-london>

Resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees in Britain will cost nearly two billion pounds, says watchdog

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/12/resettling-20000-syrian-refugees-in-britain-will-cost-nearly-two/>

David Simmonds: who's going to pay to help child refugees?

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/14/david-simmonds-pay-help-child-refugees-lga-council-funding>

Why won't the world tackle the refugee crisis?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/17/world-will-not-face-up-to-refugee-crisis-un-obama>

News: Refugee crisis – Scotland

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees: Edinburgh Weekend Club

<http://www.sfar.org.uk/volunteers-needed-for-new-edinburgh-project/>

Company to lose contract to provide asylum seekers' homes

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/company-to-lose-contract-to-provide-asylum-seekers-homes-bs97cs2tw>

Red Cross called in amid allegations over housing for asylum seekers in Glasgow

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14740652.Red_Cross_called_in_amid_allegations_over_housing_for_asylum_seekers_in_Glasgow/?ref=mr&lp=13

Government is underfunding refugees' housing, warns under fire asylum homes firm

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14759973.Watch_Government_is_underfunding_refugees_housing_warns_under_fire_asylum_homes_firm/

Property boss 'in denial' about treatment of Glasgow asylum seekers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/property-boss-in-denial-about-treatment-of-glasgow-asylum-seekers-bkp9fzsq2>

Projects which support refugees in Scotland receive £1.3 million lottery funding

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/projects-support-refugees-scotland-receive-8892862>

Scotland helps migrants as they face a nightmare

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-helps-migrants-as-they-face-a-nightmare-1-4234234>

Syrian refugee family welcome baby born in Scotland

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/syrian-refugee-family-welcome-baby-born-in-scotland-1-4227679>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Refugee crisis – Scotland (continued)

Syrian baby born to refugees in Scotland becomes a symbol of hope as family builds new life

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/syrian-baby-born-refugees-scotland-8819886>

Resettled refugees plea to be reunited with son trapped in Syria

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/resettled-refugees-plea-to-be-reunited-with-son-trapped-in-syria-1-4230656>

News: Refugee crisis – Calais

Calais migrants: Work begins on UK-funded border wall

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37421525>

Work begins on Calais wall to stop refugees trying to board lorries to UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/20/work-calais-wall-refugees-lorries-uk>

New fears for 1,000 lone children in Calais refugee camp

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/24/new-fears-for-lone-children-calais-refugee-camp>

Call for Calais child refugees to be given UK safeguarding protection

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/22/call-for-calais-child-refugees-to-be-given-uk-safeguarding-protection>

Calais refugee children abandoning plans to reach UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/22/calais-refugee-children-abandoning-plans-to-reach-uk>

Half Jungle migrants ‘want to stay in Calais’

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-13/news/half-jungle-migrants-want-to-stay-in-calais-b6k36lr2b>

News: Migration

Daily and Sunday Politics manifesto tracker: Immigration

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-35476585>

Migration of skilled workers from EU ‘should be restricted to 30,000 per year’

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3799345/Migration-skilled-workers-EU-restricted-30-000-year.html>

Visa scheme will help farmers find 75,000 migrant workers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-13/news/visa-scheme-will-help-farmers-find-75-000-migrant-workers-cdhrvixft>

Losing 100,000 migrants ‘won’t hurt economy’

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-21/news/losing-100-000-migrants-wont-hurt-economy-hnt6cbdxx>

News: Other immigration and asylum

Threefold rise in child trafficking into Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37431518>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Other immigration and asylum (continued)

Doubts cast over BBC impartiality on immigration and EU

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/doubts-cast-over-bbc-impartiality-on-immigration-and-eu-1-4230599>

'Bribed' to go home: Illegal migrants given hugely generous packages to persuade them to leave UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3805943/Bribed-home-Illegal-migrants-given-hugely-generous-packages-persuade-leave-UK.html>

Brain family can stay in UK says Home Office

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-37421599>

Brain family allowed to remain in the UK

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brain-family-allowed-to-remain-in-the-uk-1-4235282>

Australian family facing deportation from Scotland told they can stay after landing job

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/australian-family-facing-deportation-scotland-8876738>

Australian family win fight against deportation from Scotland

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/20/australian-family-fighting-deportation-granted-visa-to-remain-in-uk>

Brain family saved from deportation to Australia by job offer

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/21/brain-family-saved-from-deportation-to-australia-by-job-offer/>

Brain family to stay in UK after facing deportation to Australia

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brain-family-stay-uk-australia-deportation-victory-home-office-nicola-sturgeon-snp-a7319071.html>

Australian family win right to stay in their adopted Highlands

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-21/news/australian-family-win-right-to-stay-in-their-adopted-highlands-tsxlb77v7>

When it comes to immigration, it helps if you're white

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/23/immigration-helps-white-brain-family>

Why the history of migration is so important

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/why-the-history-of-migration-is-so-important>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-01566 Ross Thomson: Eid in the Garden Festival – That the Parliament congratulates the organisers of the annual Eid in the Garden festival that took place in Rubislaw Terrace Gardens in Aberdeen on 8 September 2016 in celebration of the Islamic festival, Eid al-Adha; believes that it was a huge success, drawing in a crowd of

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

over 750; appreciates the hard work and efforts of everyone involved in the organisation and running of it; understands the importance of such events in bringing communities closer together, and wishes the organisers every success for 2017 and the years to come.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-01566&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Question

Police Scotland

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government when the next update to the report, Equality and Diversity in Police Scotland 2013 will be published. (S5W-2406)

Reply from Michael Matheson: Equality and diversity within Police Scotland is a matter for the Chief Constable. We understand, that in line with the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012, Police Scotland will publish their next report into Equality and Diversity in 2017. This report follows the publication of their Equality and Diversity Update in 2014 and their Equality and Diversity Mainstreaming Progress Report in 2015. Police Scotland's equality and diversity publications can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/equality-and-diversity>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-02406&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Public Sector: Ethnic Groups

The following two questions both received the same answer

Matthew Offord [45704] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he has appointed a new head of unit to oversee the audit to tackle racial disparities in public service outcomes.

Matthew Offord [45705] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many members of staff he plans to recruit to oversee the audit to tackle racial disparities in public service outcomes.

Reply from Ben Gummer: Senior appointments to the new unit are currently being made from within the Civil Service. The size of the team will be determined over the coming weeks as the details of the work to undertake the Audit are completed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-08/45704/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-08/45705/>

Police: Equality

The following two questions both received the same answer

Rehman Chishti [45200] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

Equality

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

steps she is taking with Police and Crime Commissioners to improve diversity in police forces.

Rehman Chishti [45201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support diversity champions in the police force.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government is clear; increasing diversity in our police forces is not an optional extra. It goes right to the heart of this country's historic principle of policing by consent. We must ensure that the public have trust and confidence in the police, and that the police reflect the communities they serve.

The Government has reformed policing to ensure that there is a sector-led approach to making improvements, including in the area of recruitment and representation.

The College of Policing as the professional body for policing is delivering a major piece of work -black, Asian and minority ethnic Progression 2018 - to address under-representation in policing. The Government looks forward to working with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and individual Police and Crime Commissioners as democratically elected local leaders of policing, to place a greater emphasis on this agenda and urges PCCs to consider the opportunities provided through the Police Transformation Fund.

While the Government would expect senior commitment in all forces it is for local leaders to decide how they will deliver improvements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45200/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45201/>

Police: Ethnic Groups

Rehman Chishti [45202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what annual change there has been in the number of BAME people serving in the police in each year since 2010.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publishes data on the number of individuals working for the police, broken down by worker type and ethnicity, as part of the 'Police workforce in England and Wales' statistical bulletin.

The attached table contains data on the number of police officers who were from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as at 31 March in each year between 2010 and 2016. To provide the appropriate context, tables of total worker numbers and the proportion that were BAME are also provided.

These were published in the latest police workforce bulletin (for March 2016) and the tables can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2016>

[Police officers from BAME backgrounds](#)

[Police officers from BAME backgrounds](#)

[Police officers from BAME backgrounds](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45202/>

Equality (continued) Press Release

EHRC Scotland publishes annual report

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/ehrc-scotland-publishes-annual-report>

New Publication

Scotland Annual Report 2015/16

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/scotland_annual_report_2015-16_final.pdf

News

University can be harmful for minorities, says student leader

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-20/news/university-can-harm-minorities-student-leader-claims-8bz1bdnj>

English Heritage launch scheme to nominate more black and Asian people for blue plaques

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/20/english-heritage-launch-scheme-to-nominate-more-black-and-asian/>

Church of England seeks more black and minority ethnic clergy

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/20/church-england-appoints-national-minority-ethnic-officer-black-clergy>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Hate Crime

Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government how many incidents of alleged hate crime have been recorded in each of the last three years. (S5W-02097)

Reply from Angela Constance: A hate crime is defined as being where an offence is committed by a perpetrator motivated by prejudice on the grounds of one or more of the following - race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Scottish Government currently produces official statistics on the number of racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, including information on any crimes associated with those incidents. In 2013-14, Police Scotland recorded 4,807 racist incidents. We are currently investigating the feasibility of changing the racist incidents publication into a new and broader product on police recorded hate crime. This would include a race element, and we will inform users as this work progresses. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal produce separate statistics that cover all protected characteristics. Since 2013, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service have reported 5180 cases (2013-14), 5428 cases (2014/15) and 5544 cases (2015-16). Further details can be found on the Crown Office website at:

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-02097&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Hate Crime

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: To ask Her Majesty's Government why their report *Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime*, published in July 2016, does not report on the incidence of hate crimes against non-Abrahamic faith communities.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, we take all forms of hate crime very seriously. Until April, the police did not routinely record religious hate incidents by faith. However, we are grateful to both the Community Security Trust and Tell MAMA, which have provided anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crime data for some time. The first disaggregated police recorded data will be available in 2017. *Action Against Hate* brings together a range of departments and agencies, and includes funding for places of worship and further action in education.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: I thank the Minister for her response but it does not address my concerns over the narrow and biased thinking in a report that details 45 examples of hate crime against Abrahamic faiths but not a single example of the many, well-documented mistaken-identity hate crimes suffered by Sikhs and others—and this in a report emanating from a department with specifically designated officers to consider hate crime against the Jewish and Muslim communities but not anyone else. Would the Minister agree that that omission is more due to ignorance than deliberate discrimination? Would she further agree that those who preach the need for religious literacy should first themselves acquire some basic religious literacy, and apologise to those they have offended in such a way?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Government have engaged with non-Abrahamic faith communities and will continue to do so. In Manchester in July, in my previous role, I held round-table events with victims of hate crime, including members of the Sikh community alongside other faiths. On Monday, my noble friend Lord Bourne also hosted a round table to discuss hate crime with Sikh organisations as the latest engagement with the Sikh community. We find such round tables a good way to discuss widely concerns on hate crime and look at a variety of issues and approaches. However, while we know that there are common issues across the strands of hate crime, we also accept that there are issues that affect communities specifically. I and/or officials will be very happy to meet the noble Lord to discuss his concerns. On religious literacy, we have talked about this in the past. People such as the media have a role to play in improving their religious literacy.

Lord Polak: My Lords, sadly, we are all too aware where hate crime can lead. Will my noble friend join me in welcoming the launch of the international design competition for the national memorial and underground learning centre commemorating the Holocaust, announced by my right honourable friend the Prime Minister earlier today and officially launched in 15 minutes' time by Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities, next door in Victoria Tower Gardens? Would my noble friend also agree that this memorial and learning centre aim to inspire future generations to respect and embrace difference, and to fight prejudice and hatred?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: M I most certainly join my noble friend in welcoming this announcement and the fact that my right honourable friend Sajid Javid will be launching it in about 10 minutes' time. My noble friend is absolutely right that these memorials do not just serve to help us remember. The education centres alongside them ensure that our children and the children of future generations know the horrors that went on in the past and, we hope, learn from them for the future.

Baroness Whitaker: Can the noble Baroness tell me how the genocide of the Roma

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

people is to be commemorated in the Holocaust memorial drawn attention to by the noble Lord opposite?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, of course the killing of the Roma people was all part of the terrible Holocaust. I will provide more details to the noble Baroness in due course.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, do the Government agree that when we describe hateful and violent people as “radical”, “extreme” or “militant”, we are nearly always referring to Islamists and not, in this country, to the adherents of any other religion?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am afraid to say to the noble Lord that we are not talking about just Islamist extremism. Hate crime against Polish people rose in the aftermath of the EU referendum, and of course, hate crime against the Jewish people has been happening for as long as we can all remember. It is not confined to Islamist extremism.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: My Lords, just yesterday a woman in a headscarf was attacked and lost her baby as a result. We know from the rise in this sort of hate crime that it is now a daily occurrence. Can the public sector equality duty be used to reduce such hate crime, and will the Government consider looking at the analysis of the figures she is collecting as a way of trying to reduce it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I know the case that the noble Baroness refers to—on the face of it, a truly horrific thing has happened to this lady, but I cannot comment on it further as it is being investigated. The public sector equality duty and other elements of the Equality Act certainly have their role to play. The hate crime action plan which my right honourable friend the Home Secretary published just a few weeks ago will add to measures on what is really quite a vicious crime.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: My Lords, perhaps I may bring the Minister back to the original Question, which is about the concern felt by the Sikh community regarding the reporting of crime. The police have to be able to identify those who have been attacked because they are Sikhs. What discussions has the Minister had with the College of Policing and chief constables about the training of police to ensure that they can accurately record such crimes?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I mentioned earlier, the police are disaggregating the types of hate crime by religion, such as against the main Abrahamic religions plus crimes against Sikhs and Buddhists. That disaggregation went live in April. However, we have published a new cross-government hate crime action plan to drive forward action, including training for the police, against all forms of hate crime.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-09-14/debates/16091430000415/HateCrime>

Social Networking

Tom Elliott [45167]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that social media websites remove abusive and threatening posts.

Reply from Sarah Newton: We expect social media companies, and internet platforms, to have robust processes in place and to act promptly when abuse is reported; including acting quickly to removing inappropriate content, and where appropriate, suspending or terminating the accounts of those breaching the rules in place.

We are working with the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) to keep children and young people safe online. UKCCIS brings together industry, law enforcement, academia, charities and parenting groups to help to keep children and young people safe online. UKCCIS is co-chaired by Ministers from

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Department for Education, Home Office and Department for Culture Media and Sport.

In December 2015 we published guidance to encourage responsible practice from industry, and ensure children using their services are able to do so in a safe and protected way.

The Criminal Justice Act 2015 strengthened two existing communications offences: section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 which can now be used to prosecute misuse of social media. The police now have longer to investigate either offence, and the maximum penalty for the former has been increased to two years imprisonment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-06/45167/>

Press Releases

Tackling hate crime

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Tackling-hate-crime-2b97.aspx>

Scotland's equality body calls for coordinated leadership to tackle hate crime

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/scotland%E2%80%99s-equality-body-calls-coordinated-leadership-tackle-hate-crime>

The situation for Muslims in Europe is getting worse: Time to act

<http://www.enar-eu.org/The-situation-for-Muslims-in-Europe-is-getting-worse-Time-to-act>

New Publications

Report of Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00506074.pdf>

Lessons Learned? Reflections on Antisemitism and the Holocaust

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/7/7/Lessons-Learned-HET-CST.1474643542.pdf>

Holocaust Memorial Day Activity Pack

<http://hmd.org.uk/content/order-or-download-activity-pack>

One year on: an update on discrimination claims in the Employment Tribunal

<http://equalityhumanrights.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e8b4e22e779ea4c3f17588fa4&id=0b8692fb6d&e=19cf345316>

News

Hate crimes in Scotland 'fell after Brexit vote'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/hate-crimes-in-scotland-fell-after-brexit-vote-1-4237818>

The great Brexit hate crime myth: How claims of an epidemic of race crimes since the referendum are simply false

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3805008/The-great-Brexit-hate-crime-myth-claims-epidemic-race-crimes-referendum-simply-false.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Call for stronger approach to tackling hate crime in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-37450324>

Number of hate crimes against Muslims in Scotland nearly double over past year

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/number-hate-crimes-against-muslims-8901809>

Bystanders need training to tackle hate crime, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/sep/23/bystanders-need-training-to-tackle-hate-says-report>

Laws needed to protect refugees from hate crimes, says report

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/laws-needed-to-protect-refugees-from-hate-crimes-says-report-1-4238477>

Schools fear for image if they log hate crime

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/schools-fear-for-image-if-they-log-hate-crime-p6jpg7hzt>

'I don't speak my native language in public': eastern Europeans on post-referendum life

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/11/i-dont-speak-my-native-language-in-public-eastern-europeans-on-post-referendum-life>

Man charged over Edinburgh mosque fire attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-37450282>

Edinburgh mosque fire attack being investigated as a hate crime

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/edinburgh-mosque-fire-attack-being-investigated-as-a-hate-crime-a7314566.html>

Edinburgh mosque fire suspect 'got into argument with group of Asian men and women' before attack

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14761294.Edinburgh_mosque_fire_suspect_got_into_argument_with_group_of_Asian_men_and_women_before_attack/

Police probing fire attack on Edinburgh mosque seek witnesses to argument suspect had with Asian people

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/police-probing-fire-attack-edinburgh-8897868>

Family's terror during racist attack as police take seven hours to respond

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/family-s-terror-during-racist-attack-as-police-take-seven-hours-to-respond-1-4234951>

Racist attack on Polish man in Leeds

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-37337290>

Student stabbed in neck with smashed bottle 'for speaking Polish' in Telford

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/student-stabbed-in-neck-with-smashed-bottle-for-speaking-polish-bartosz-milewski-donnington-telford-a7313036.html>

Man arrested after alleged racist kicking attack on pregnant woman who later lost baby

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/pregnant-woman-racism-attack-man-arrested-after-assaulting-in-street-latest-a7295781.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Woman loses unborn baby in 'racially aggravated' attack near mosque

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/woman-loses-unborn-baby-in-mosque-attack-qbqjfh0mm>

Man arrested after pregnant woman loses baby in 'racially-motivated attack' outside Co-op store

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/14/man-arrested-after-pregnant-woman-loses-baby-in-racially-motivat/>

Man, 37, arrested after mother-to-be lost her baby when she was kicked in the stomach in a sickening racist attack near a mosque that was firebombed by BNP thugs

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3787449/Mother-lost-baby-man-kicked-stomach-sickening-racist-attack.html>

Stop and search still targets black people, police watchdog says

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2016/sep/21/stop-and-search-still-targets-black-people-police-watchdog-admits>

Bigots feel they have a mandate to hate. We have to speak out

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/14/bigots-hate-brexit-migrants-uk-eu-attacks-referendum>

One of Scotland's oldest refugees saw Hitler's vile rhetoric first hand and believes racism and antisemitism are a growing problem

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/sd-8843938>

Paul Gascoigne fined for making racist remark

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/paul-gascoigne-fined-for-making-racist-remark-1-4234208>

Former Rangers star Paul Gascoigne pleads guilty to racially aggravated offence

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14751164.Watch_Former_Rangers_star_Paul_Gascoigne_pleads_guilty_to_racially_aggravated_offence/

Racist signs plastered around town

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/racist-signs-plastered-around-town-p73b6z72d>

Action call over racism by school children in Wales

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-37417006>

Vile neo-Nazi gang set up 'whites only' food bank on streets of Glasgow

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/vile-neo-nazi-gang-set-8866054>

Neo Nazis in Glasgow set up 'whites-only' soup kitchen

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/neo-nazi-soup-kitchen-glasgow-whites-only-national-action-a7318331.html>

Neo-Nazis target homeless, warn Scots charities

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/neo-nazis-target-homeless-warn-scots-charities-ttqsf32qq>

Officer accused of racism slams Met's 'thought police'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/officer-accused-of-racism-slams-mets-thought-police-xv5x1k7vl>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Jailed Muslim killer incites violence through Facebook

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-09-23/news/jailed-muslim-killer-incites-violence-through-facebook-rr87vdsx9>

Glasgow recruitment boss denies accusations of sectarianism after posting 'foolish' anti-Celtic tweet

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/glasgow-recruitment-boss-denies-accusations-8849673>

Enid Blyton gift shop has golliwog advert promoting 'English freedom' banned by watchdog

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/21/enid-blyton-giftshop-has-golliwog-advert-promoting-english-freed/>

The 'right' to sell golliwogs is not something we should be fighting for in 2016

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/sep/21/right-to-sell-golliwogs-not-something-should-be-fighting-for-in-2016-suzanne-moore>

Enid Blyton gift shop owner is rapped by advertising watchdog for 'racist' ad showing a golliwog tea towel emblazoned with the words 'English Freedom'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3799322/Enid-Blyton-gift-shop-rapped-advertising-watchdog-ad-featuring-GOLLYWOG.html>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Radicalism

Martyn Day [43829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to (a) ensure effective consultation with the Muslim community on the provision of the proposed Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill and (b) respond to any concerns of that community on those provisions during proceedings on that Bill.

Reply from Sarah Newton: As announced in the Queen's Speech debates we will consult widely on all the provisions of the Counter Extremism and Safeguarding Bill announced in the Queen's Speech before legislation is introduced.

We want to hear the views of a wide range of groups, including the Muslim community, and will make sure they have sufficient time to properly consider the proposals and that full consideration is given to all views expressed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-21/43829/>

Early Day Motion

Alistair Carmichael (425) The Prevent Strategy – That this House welcomes the Government's strong commitment to keeping Britain safe from terrorist attacks; believes that the Prevent strategy is no longer fit for purpose to serve this agenda; notes that there is little evidence to support Prevent or the conveyor belt theory of radicalisation;

Other UK Parliament and Government Early Day Motion (continued)

further notes that no impact evaluations or indicators are available that show Prevent has been successful; further believes that the severe lack of transparency with the Prevent strategy strongly undermines it; notes that Prevent has had a worrying impact on freedom of expression at schools, colleges and universities; believes that the behavioural indicators of possible extremism are vague and unhelpful; believes that the rhetoric of British values is alienating to many who already believed in those values and encourages ministers to adopt a more inclusive approach and rebrand these as universal values; is strongly concerned that the British Muslim community has been particularly stigmatised by Prevent; encourages ministers to engage with affected communities and their relevant grievances, including around foreign policy issues; further encourages ministers to engage with community actors and organisations that have grassroots credibility; believes that ultimately extremism is best tackled by the Government working in partnership with communities and engendering genuine two-way trust, neither of which Prevent has enabled; and therefore calls on ministers to scrap the Prevent strategy in its entirety and replace it with a community-led programme that builds institutions and resilience for tackling social problems, has grassroots credibility and empowers communities rather than alienating them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/425>

Press Releases

David Mundell: The case for the union: now stronger than ever speech

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-the-case-for-the-union-now-stronger-than-ever-speech>

Home Office announces support for groups tackling extremism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-support-for-groups-fighting-extremism>

Eid al-Adha 2016: Theresa May's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eid-al-adha-2016-theresa-mays-message>

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New Publications

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Equality Strategy 2016-2018

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2353/2016-18-equality-strategy.pdf>

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Other News

Charities and incorporation: Changes coming soon

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/hot-topics/charities-and-incorporation-changes-coming-soon>

FGM: Lack of convictions 'a national scandal'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37364079>

Other News (continued)

Humanists' legal challenge to school religious observance

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-37336340>

Humanists challenge Scottish ban on pupils opting out of religion

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/humanists-challenge-scottish-ban-on-pupils-opting-out-of-religion-1-4227710>

Teens should be able to opt-out of school religion

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/leader-comment-teens-should-be-able-to-opt-out-of-school-religion-1-4228437>

Humanist Society Scotland launches legal bid to give Scottish pupils the right to opt out of religious observance in schools

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14736675.Humanists_launch_legal_bid_to_give_Scots_pupils_the_right_to_opt_out_of_religious_observance_in_schools/

Humanists launch legal challenge over mandatory religious lessons in school

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/humanists-launch-legal-challenge-over-8816195>

Should 16 to 18-year-old pupils be allowed to opt out of religious observance in schools?

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/285119/16-18-year-old-pupils-allowed-opt-religious-observance-schools/>

Church of Scotland speaks out on religious observance in schools

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

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Bills in Progress 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>

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

**** closes this week!**

Refugees Welcome Inquiry (closing date 1 October 2016)

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0003/8247/Refugee_Welcome_APPG_inquiry_ToR_for_website.pdf

The role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (closing date 19 October 2016)

<http://www.parliament.scot/Inquiries/CallForEvidenceCOPFS.pdf>

Proposed Football Act (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 23 October 2016)

http://www.parliament.scot/S4_MembersBills/20160628_FINAL_CONSULTATION_Word_-_version_for_publication.pdf

**** Issues for migrants on early settlement in the UK** (closing date December 2016)

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RTYR_orgs_1

**** Empowering teachers, parents and communities to achieve excellence and equity in education: A Governance Review** (closing date 6 January 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/empowering-schools/a-governance-review>

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

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

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

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

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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, 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>

Funding Opportunities (continued)

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

**** this week!**

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

28 September 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

30 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

23 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** this week!**

Black History Month

1-31 October 2016-09-11

Black History Month provides an opportunity to learn, understand and honour the role that minority ethnic men, women and children have played in shaping both Glasgow and Scotland's history. The full programme is available at

<http://www.crer.org.uk/images/BHM2016.pdf>

**** next week!**

Holocaust Memorial Day Workshop

5 October 2016 in Aberdeen (1.00-4.00)

6 October 2016 in Edinburgh (1.00-6.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to discuss importance of Holocaust Memorial Day in Scotland, network with local activity organisers, and find out about support and resources. For information contact Rhys Prosser enquiries@hmd.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/jugarfu> (Aberdeen) or <http://tinyurl.com/jb8yadl> (Edinburgh)

**** next week!**

The changing story of religion and human rights

5 October 2016 in Edinburgh (6.00 – 8.30)

Interfaith Scotland and Equality and Human Rights Commission event to discuss the

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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

**** next week!**

Working with Interpreters

6 October 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** next week!**

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

7 October 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Cultural Competence

19 October 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jdfkkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Refugee Rights to Housing

10 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course about refugee housing rights. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

15 November 2016 in Dundee (9.30-12.30)

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training on issues related to EEA nationals' access to services and important changes in regulations. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers

15 November 2016 in Dundee (1.15-4.15)

17 January 2017 in Glasgow (1.15-4.15)

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (1.15-4.15)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system operates, and barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Separated Children

17 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about supporting separated child refugees. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Engaging hard to reach groups

13 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

Community Sponsorship – What Do You Need to Know?

15 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

5 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about the new UK Government scheme to enable community groups to sponsor refugee families. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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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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