

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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Questions

Migrants' Contribution to Scotland

Ruth Maguire: To ask the First Minister what analysis the Scottish Government has conducted into the contribution that migrants make to Scotland. (S5F-00430)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Last week, the Government published two analytical reports on the contribution that migrants make to Scotland. We now have robust evidence on their contribution to our economy and society; we also know that the majority of those who come to Scotland are highly qualified young people who are economically active and that European migrants, in particular, make a positive contribution to the public purse. I welcome those findings, as we know that many sectors of our economy are reliant on migrant labour. I also take this opportunity to say again that we truly value the contribution of all migrants to Scotland and welcome all those who choose to make their lives here.

Ruth Maguire: I welcome the findings, which should help to challenge head on some of the prejudices that sadly still prevail about migrants living and working in our society. How will the First Minister work to ensure that Scotland remains a welcoming place for those who wish to live and work here following the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union?

Reply from the First Minister: We have made it crystal clear on many occasions that the 180,000 or so EU nationals who have chosen to make their home in Scotland continue to be welcome here, and I think that that sentiment is shared right across the chamber.

Their contribution to this country is valued, and the position that has been taken not just by this Government but across the political spectrum in Scotland stands in contrast to the unwelcoming and unpleasant rhetoric about migrants that we increasingly hear from the UK Government.

This Government continues to explore all options that are open to us to protect Scotland's interests in Europe. Later this month, Mike Russell will chair a focus group to listen to and gather information on the impact that the EU referendum result is having on EU nationals, and we will continue to press the UK Government to guarantee, without further delay, the residency status of fellow EU nationals who have made Scotland their home. Frankly, I continue to be appalled daily that that guarantee has not been given and that we have a UK Government that still seems content to use EU nationals as bargaining chips in a wider negotiation.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10597&i=97515#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-02257 Lewis Macdonald: Scottish Refugee Council Lunches Cup of Tea with a Refugee Campaign – That the Parliament welcomes the launch of the Scottish Refugee Council's Cup of Tea with a Refugee campaign on 27 October 2016; understands that the campaign is designed to encourage people to share experiences and stories with the refugees making their home in Scotland and to have positive conversations with and about refugees, which will show just how much people have in common; recognises that the campaign has been launched to coincide with a new Scottish Refugee Council survey commissioned to gauge public opinion about the 20,000 refugees currently living in Scotland, which found that 56% of Scots agreed with the statement that "refugees are ordinary people like us", while the same number also stated they were not very concerned or not at all concerned about the number of refugees in Scotland; commends

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

the Scottish Refugee Council on the launch of the Cup of Tea with a Refugee campaign, and welcomes efforts by its staff, supporters and members of the public to help refugees settle safely in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02257>

S5M-02322 Mary Fee: Renfrewshire Council Rehoming Refugees – That the Parliament notes that Renfrewshire Council will soon welcome unaccompanied children from the refugee camp at Calais; understands that the council is among the first in Scotland to work with the Home Office to take children arriving in the UK; congratulates the council for once again leading the way in rehoming refugees in Scotland after it was commended earlier in 2016 for rehoming more Syrian refugees than any other local authority in Scotland; considers that everyone has a moral duty to help individuals who are fleeing from warfare, particularly vulnerable children who are caught up in the humanitarian crisis in Europe; considers that Scotland should celebrate the culture, diversity and skills that refugees bring to the country, all of which enhances the rich fabric of society, and urges the UK Government to redouble its efforts in relation to rehoming Syrian refugees across the whole of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02322>

UK Parliament Debate

EU: Unaccompanied Migrant Children (EUC Report)

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-01/debates/460BAE6C-94E8-4E6F-B071-0B71C6198090/EUUnaccompaniedMigrantChildren\(EUCReport\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-01/debates/460BAE6C-94E8-4E6F-B071-0B71C6198090/EUUnaccompaniedMigrantChildren(EUCReport))

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Safeguarding

The Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families (Edward Timpson): ...

The Government is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and providing help for those in genuine need of international protection. The UK takes its responsibilities towards children extremely seriously, and we already have a comprehensive approach to safeguarding children, including unaccompanied children.

We recognise that the number of unaccompanied and refugee children arriving in the UK has risen over the last few years, including through the transfer of hundreds of children from Calais. Some of these children can be amongst the most vulnerable in society. That is why we are, today, committing to publishing a strategy, by 1 May 2017, which will set out further detail on how these children should be safeguarded and their welfare promoted. This strategy will complement and build on existing safeguarding guidance and procedures, in recognition of the increased numbers and specific needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children already in the UK, unaccompanied children who we transfer to the UK from Europe, and unaccompanied children who we resettle directly from outside Europe. It will also set out the practical steps the Government will take to implement this plan.

In recognition of the important role fostering plays in caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children the strategy will set out plans to increase the number of foster carers. This will include evaluating the need for any additional training needs required by foster carers and support workers in looking after unaccompanied children.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

Supported lodgings, where young people can live in a shared and supportive environment, can also play an important role in meeting the needs of these children as well as ensuring placement capacity so we will set out our plans to encourage provision of this type.

We recognise that these children may have family or potential carers with whom they are seeking to be re-united, under the Dublin Regulation. The Department for Education and Home Office will work together to make sure the system for identifying these children and uniting them with family or potential carers is further strengthened bearing in mind that the primary responsibility of all involved must be safeguarding and promoting the best interests of the child. We are already working closely with the Local Government Association and local authorities where children are arriving, and will look to build on these strong relationships. Specifically, we will regularly review funding to support and care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children, working closely with the LGA and local authorities. ...

To continue reading this lengthy statement see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-11-01/HCWS232/>

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): ... The changes we are making to the rules will ensure that those who do not qualify for international protection on account of their conduct, for example serious criminality, are not granted settlement or limited leave to remain in the UK under the immigration rules.

We are also abolishing the “28-day grace period”, during which we currently accept out of time applications for a range of routes including work and study, to encourage greater compliance with the immigration rules. This will make clear that people must comply with the rules and make any application for further leave before their current leave expires.

The changes also include the reduction in the threshold of NHS debt from £1,000 to £500 for family cases and armed forces cases to align with changes made elsewhere in the rules in April 2016.

The changes also provide for a new English language requirement for non-European economic area national partners and parents applying to extend their stay in the UK. The new requirement, which can be met by passing, as a minimum, an A2 level common European framework of reference for languages speaking and listening test, will apply to partners and parents whose current leave on a five-year route to settlement under the family rules is due to expire on or after 1 May 2017.

The new A2 requirement will deliver on the Government’s manifesto commitment to ensure that those coming to the UK on a family visa with only basic English become more fluent over time. We believe this will improve integration in communities. An associated statement of intent and policy equality statement will be published today on gov.uk.

Following a review by the independent Migration Advisory Committee, on 24 March 2016 the Government announced two phases of reforms to tier 2, to be implemented in autumn 2016 and April 2017. The changes being laid today implement the first phase of these reforms. This includes changes to the salary thresholds for tier 2 (general) and short-term intra-company transfers (ICTs), and closure of the ICT skills transfer category. There are exemptions from the new salary for certain occupations in health and education.

We are also making technical changes to the immigration rules to clarify the concepts of a first country of asylum and a safe third country. [HCWS235]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-03/debates/16110394000008/ImmigrationRules>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Pupils: Nationality

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2513] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889–90), whether any of the information supplied in response to the 20 information requests made by the Home Office of the National Pupil Database since April 2012 related to the information now being sought from schools as part of the school census on pupils' nationality; and whether such information will be supplied in response to future requests for information.

Reply from Lord Nash: Data on nationality and country of birth have not and will not be shared with the Home Office or anyone else. It is solely for DfE research.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-21/HL2513/>

Pupils: Nationality

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2514] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889–90), whether schools are required, as part of the school census, to provide information on pupils' nationality, and whether schools will suffer any adverse consequences if they fail to do so.

Reply to Lord Nash: The Department for Education publishes guidance for schools on administering the school census. As stated in the guidance (section 5.3.5) the requested information on nationality is as declared by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian may decline to provide this information to the school without consequences. In such a case, the school would record this as 'refused' to meet its statutory duty to make a return.

The guidance is available on the Government's website, www.gov.uk, by searching for 'School census 2016 to 2017: guide for schools and LAs'.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-21/HL2514/>

Pupils: Nationality

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL2515] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 12 October (HL Deb, col 1889–90), what steps they have taken to inform parents that the provision of information about their child's nationality for inclusion in the school census is optional and that they can decline to provide that information without any adverse consequences.

Reply from Lord Nash: The Department for Education publishes guidance for schools on administering the school census. It is up to schools to then work with parents and guardians to collect this data. As stated in the guidance (section 5.3.5) the requested information on nationality is as declared by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian may decline to provide this information to the school without consequences. In such a case, the school would record this as 'refused' to meet its statutory duty to make a return.

However, the Department is aware that a number of schools have not implemented the collection in accordance with the guidance. We will, therefore, work with the sector to consider how it can better support schools in collecting school census data for future rounds.

To address any uncertainties, I have placed an information note in the House Libraries. This note has also been published on the Department's public website.

The guidance is available on the Government's website, www.gov.uk, by searching for 'School census 2016 to 2017: guide for schools and LAs'.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-21/HL2515/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Married People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Liz Saville Roberts [50299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect on the health and wellbeing of children in families of their separation resulting from the income threshold for immigration of non-EEA partners of British citizens.

Liz Saville Roberts [50301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what alternatives her Department has considered for the income threshold of £18,600 for immigration of non-EEA partners of British citizens.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsoring a non-EEA partner to come to the UK prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. It was set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. This recommended that it be set in a range between £18,600 (the level at which a couple settled in the UK generally cannot access income-related benefits) and £25,700 (the level at which the sponsor becomes a net contributor to the public finances). The requirement has been upheld by the courts as lawful and compliant with our legal duty to safeguard and promote child welfare.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50299/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50301/>

Immigration

David Nuttall: What steps [is the Home Office] taking to reduce levels of immigration into the UK. [906884]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): The latest figures show that our reforms to cut abuse across non-EU visa routes and our toughened welfare provisions are working, but there is no doubt that there is more to do. As we conduct our negotiations to leave the EU, it will be a priority to retain more control of the numbers of people who come here from Europe.

Mr Nuttall: Given that there is still some way to go, how confident is the Minister that the measures taken by the Government will result in our meeting the target of reducing net migration to the tens of thousands? Does he agree that ending the free movement of people principle imposed on us by the EU is essential if we are to stand any chance of meeting that target?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There is no doubt that this is a challenging target, but I love a challenge. We are committed to bringing net migration down to the tens of thousands, and we have already taken significant steps to control immigration. The UK's departure from the EU will give us control over EU migration, and we will shortly be publishing a consultation document on further changes to the non-EU work and study routes.

Paula Sherriff: A constituent of mine is awaiting an appeal in respect of a spouse visa application. Correspondence from the tribunals service stated that the process would take 15 weeks, but we have now been informed that it could take up to 18 months. Why are appeals taking so long? Why does the information given to applicants not reflect these delays? The lack of clarity is causing undue stress to applicants and their loved ones.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Although I cannot comment on an individual case, I hope that the hon. Lady will give me the details. It is, however, absolutely right that we took measures to stamp out sham marriages and other routes whereby

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

people can use marriage as a way of getting fraudulent entry to the UK. That does mean that some of the hoops people have to jump through can be slightly smaller than before.

Anne Main: Many of my constituents would like illegal immigration stamped out, as well as there to be monitoring of how much migration there is. I was pleased to hear on the weekend reports of a Jetstream 41 turboprop plane being brought in to help control our borders. Will the Minister tell the House a little more about what he is hoping to achieve with that?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are determined to prevent illegal migration, from whatever route it comes. That can be through people getting on vehicles coming through the channel crossings, or through general aviation or general maritime routes. We are determined to clamp down on all of those.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-31/debates/6BB90A8B-2F0B-48A1-B394-718D24A6F97F/Immigration>

Indefinite Leave to Remain

Steve McCabe: What estimate [has the Minister] made of the number of non-UK EU nationals currently residing in the UK who will be entitled to apply for indefinite leave to remain after the UK leaves the EU. [906886]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd):

The Government have been clear that they want to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. The only circumstances in which that would not be possible are if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return.

Steve McCabe: My question was what estimate the Secretary of State had made of the numbers, because on 10 October her colleague the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union said that by the time we leave five out of six migrants will have, or be entitled to, indefinite leave to remain. That is 2.5 million people. Is that the policy of the Government?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I saw those reports. They were based on existing public research, which estimates that around 80% of EU migrants already here will have been resident in the UK for up to five years by the start of 2019. However, it is too simplistic and too early to reach definitive conclusions about what the outcome will be when we do leave.

Greg Mulholland: There are EU nationals who are working, contributing and paying tax and who have children at school in every parliamentary constituency in the UK. If it is not cynical using them as a bargaining chip, why on earth will she not finally do the right thing and announce that they will be allowed to stay in this country?

Reply from Amber Rudd: In answer to an earlier question, the Prime Minister has already said that that is the intention. It is only to ensure that there is a reciprocal arrangement that we have held back from giving that final commitment, which we sincerely hope will be made.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-31/debates/42390EEB-9DA8-4A38-9671-47C715F0825B/IndefiniteLeaveToRemain>

International Students

Ian Mearns: What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for Education on the contribution made by international students to the UK. [906877]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): I am in regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Education on all aspects of policy relating to international students. We will shortly be launching a consultation on changes to the non-EU work and study migration routes. I encourage all interested parties to participate.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Ian Mearns: The Government have previously suggested that tens of thousands of international students break the terms of their visa by overstaying. We also know, however, that international students contribute almost £11 billion to the UK economy and that about 30% of university revenues come from non-EU international students. Analysis conducted by the Home Secretary's own Department shows that only 1% of international students break the terms of their visa arrangements. Will she confirm that the figure is 1% and, if so, what steps will she take to encourage more international students who are a benefit to our economy and our universities, particularly in places such as the north-east of England?

Reply from Amber Rudd: The hon. Gentleman is right. Student immigration plays an important role in supporting our world-class university system, which is a great part of the British economy in terms of exports. He refers to some very encouraging work from my Department about getting a more precise hold on the number of those who overstay. That work is at an early stage, so I would not put too much weight on it yet. We are, however, watching it carefully and hope it will be able to give us more confidence in the numbers of students who leave as well as arrive.

Philip Hollobone: Is it not the case that post-Brexit we can design a student visa system that will attract the best and brightest from around the world, both within and outside the EU, while at the same time regularising the treatment of English students and EU students in Scotland, which is presently different?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I can reassure my hon. Friend that our policy will remain as it is, both post-Brexit and pre-Brexit. It is to encourage the brightest and the best to come to this country, where they contribute to our economy and cultural life. ...

Joanna Cherry: Scottish business, the trade unions, the education sector and every political party in the Scottish Parliament, including the Conservative and Unionist party, agree that Scotland needs a return of the post-study route to allow talented students to remain and contribute to the Scottish economy. Similar views are shared by the all-party group on migration, the Home Affairs Committee, the Scottish Affairs Committee, the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee and the Cole Commission on UK exports. Can the Home Secretary explain which organisations advised against the return of the scheme? Indeed, were there any at all who gave such advice?

Reply from Amber Rudd: We think we have the right balance on welcoming the brightest and the best students to this country, and allowing them to stay where they can get a graduate-level job. We have to ensure that the system is fair in attracting people to our best universities and does not allow people to overstay where they do not have graduate-level jobs. If the hon. and learned Lady will indulge me, I will write to her regarding the particular question on what advice we have received. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-31/debates/1B0E25CB-DC27-437D-BB6F-D6BBB41F7EB8/InternationalStudents>

Immigration: Appeals

Richard Fuller [49852] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking to reduce waiting times for the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum).

Reply from Oliver Heald: HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) has provided an additional 4,500 tribunal sitting days for the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in this financial year compared to 2015/16. HMCTS keeps performance and resource levels under close review. The Government has also recently published a consultation on expediting appeals from immigration detainees.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49852/>

Immigration: Appeals

Paul Blomfield [50783] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment she has made of the effect of changes to immigration and asylum tribunal fees on access to justice.

Reply from Oliver Heald: The Government believes it is right that those who use the immigration tribunals and are subject to a fee should pay the full the cost of the service they receive.

This is about making sure our courts and tribunals are properly funded, while reducing the cost to the taxpayer.

At the same time, we're protecting the most vulnerable from any fee increase, including those who receive asylum support and cases involving children being supported or housed by a local authority.

To read the full lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50783/>

Refugees: Syria

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Burrowes [49968] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the £10 million package announced on 4 September 2016 for resettled Syrian refugees, how many hours of additional English language teaching per refugee that funding will provide.

David Burrowes [49967] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the £10 million funding package for English language tuition for resettled Syrian refugees announced on 4 September 2016, how many ESOL levels those eligible to participate will be expected to attain.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The ESOL funding is provided to help refugees learn English and integrate into British society.

Although it is expected that standards of English will improve, there is currently no standard set attainment level, as ability levels will differ. The ESOL courses should be at least 12 hours a week, for a 3 – 6 month period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49967/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49968/>

Refugees: Syria

Roger Godsiff [49683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 October 2016 to Question 46417, what assessment the Government has made of the likelihood of reaching its target of resettling 20,000 Syrians before the end of the current Parliament at current resettlement rates.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Work continues with local authorities and International Partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees over the lifetime of this Parliament and we are on track to do this. Progress on resettlement will be indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 25 August 2016 showed that 2,646 Syrians were relocated to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme between October 2015 and June 2016.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49683/>

Refugees: Calais

Tom Brake [49715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will grant all children brought from Calais under the Dublin agreement or the Dubs amendment indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government will process cases in line with the EU's Dublin Regulation and Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Dublin Regulation does not confer leave on individuals; it is a mechanism for transferring responsibility of asylum claims between Member States.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49715/>

Refugees: Calais

Lord Hylton [HL2580] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to collect and analyse the lists compiled by British non-governmental organisations in Calais of children and adults who qualify for entry to the UK, and obtain the concurrence of the French authorities to their moving here.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our priority is to ensure the safety of children during the camp clearance and to ensure unaccompanied children eligible to come to the UK are transferred as quickly as possible. Working closely with the French authorities through an agreed and proper process, and in conjunction with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and charities, Home Office officials have interviewed 800 children in the camp who claim to have close family in the UK. Since 10 October, we have transferred almost 200 unaccompanied children to the UK and we expect to transfer many more over the coming days and weeks. We will continue to work with British NGOs as part of this process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-24/HL2580/>

Refugees: Children

Catherine West [906892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children who are entitled to be resettled in the UK under the Dublin III arrangements have had their applications for take charge requests denied or rejected by the Home Office in the last twelve months.

Reply from Amber Rudd: The Dublin Regulation deals with the transfer of asylum claims for consideration, not resettlement. Our records indicate that, from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016, the UK refused 98 'take charge' requests under Dublin for a minor, generally where we were not satisfied as to the claimed family relationship with a person in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/906892/>

Refugees: Age Identification

Henry Bellingham: What steps [has the Minister] taken to ensure that young adult refugees are not entering the UK as children; and what checks she plans to put in place to improve age identification of such refugees. [906887]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): Where clear and credible documentary evidence of age is not available, criteria including physical appearance and demeanour are used as part of the interview process to assess

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

whether a person is under 18. That can be followed, where necessary, by a local authority assessment in line with case law and approved by two social workers.

Henry Bellingham: Does the Minister agree that this country has always been very compassionate and understanding towards children fleeing persecution? Does he also agree, however, that every young adult over 18 whom we admit means one fewer child in desperate need being allowed in, and that we could extend checks to social media and university records, for example, to ensure that our generosity is not abused?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: It is essential that a safe, lawful and efficient process to transfer eligible children is in place, but we must also ensure that the right safeguarding and security checks are carried out. Our focus remains to ensure that the minors who are eligible to come here arrive safely. This must be done through a proper process, with the agreement of the French in the case of the Calais children. The French have agreed to support the children in safe places in France while we carry out essential checks.

Yvette Cooper: The charities working with the children in Calais are reporting, first, that the UK assessment and transfer process has paused and, secondly, that there are 1,500 children and teenagers being held in the container camp, without proper water or food and without enough adults, social workers or youth workers to look after them and to prevent tensions and violence from rising. Will the Minister look into this urgently and make sure that the UK transfer system is restarted very quickly, and that the French urgently provide proper protection and support for these very vulnerable young people?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I echo the points that the right hon. Lady makes. These are exactly the representations that I have received from many NGOs which are working very hard to assist us, and our own people are on the ground to ensure that that is done. It is very important indeed that, as we continue to process those children who are eligible to come here, that is done safely, and the French are determined to help us with that. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-31/debates/2217E593-6506-4648-9A0C-A13E4C86E585/RefugeesAgeIdentification>

Refugees: Children

Steve Double [49790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that children coming to the UK as refugees from Calais are under 18 years olds.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All individuals are referred to the UK authorities by the French non-governmental organisation, France terre d'asile and are then interviewed by French and UK officials.

Where credible and clear documentary evidence of age is not available, trained officials will use criteria including physical appearance and demeanour to assess age as part of the interview process.

Where we believe someone is significantly over the age of 18, they will be refused transfer to the UK as a child. The Home Office does not use dental x-rays to determine an individual's age; the British Dental Association has described them as inaccurate, inappropriate and unethical.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-21/49790/>

Refugees: Children

Diana Johnson [49716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 22 September 2016 to Question HL1788, how many outstanding family reunion applications there are for unaccompanied children from

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

France; what steps are being taken to ensure those applications are processed quickly; and what steps she is taking to ensure that the UK remains in contact with children with outstanding applications in the event that they are moved away from Calais.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Home Office teams have been deployed to France to work with the French Authorities to speed up the identification and transfer of eligible cases under both the Dublin Regulation and Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. More children are arriving to join their family in the UK each day. It is therefore not possible to provide an exact number of outstanding family reunion applications. The UK has made clear that the remaining children, including those who do not qualify for family reunion must be looked after in safe facilities. The UK Government is ready to help fund such facilities and provide resources to aid the decision-making.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49716/>

Asylum Seekers

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the integration of asylum seekers granted refugee status.

Reply from the Minister of State Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government are working towards achieving more integrated communities and creating the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside each other. Those granted refugee status are given access to the labour market and benefits and encouraged to access organisations that can assist with integration.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, one of the biggest obstacles to integration is the destitution faced by too many refugees because they are not given enough time to transition from asylum support to mainstream support. It is nearly eight months since the Government pledged to review this. With winter coming and universal credit throwing up new problems, will the Minister and the DWP now treat this as a matter of urgency to prevent further avoidable destitution and homelessness and as a first step in reintroducing a comprehensive strategy for the integration of refugees, following the example of Scotland and Wales?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the Government have introduced a number of initiatives to prevent homelessness such as the No Second Night Out programme, but recognised refugees are also encouraged to work with the independent charity, Migrant Help, which can assist with integration into the UK. It provides individuals with the resources and support they need to access the appropriate services and information and gain greater independence. In addition, the Home Office announced a new £10 million funding package to boost English language tuition for those arriving under the vulnerable persons' resettlement scheme.

Lord Alton: My Lords, in its report *Let Refugees Learn*, Refugee Action states that, "more than any other factor", English language is a "key driver" towards the "successful integration" of refugees. With long waiting lists and a shortage of teaching hours, does the Minister agree that we need a national strategy for the teaching of English and will she say what has been done since the Prime Minister rightly said in September that the Government would provide more language support?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally agree with the noble Lord. A person who comes to this country unable to speak the language has difficulties with everything from making a doctor's appointment to inquiring about their children's education in school. The additional language funding that I spoke about earlier will mean that all adults arriving through the scheme anywhere in the UK

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

will receive an extra 12 hours a week of tuition for up to six months.

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-01/debates/EE9C35CE-0341-4D32-B631-5234047C7195/AsylumSeekers>

Asylum

Tania Mathias [50352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many days training an asylum caseworker receives; and how many days of mentoring those caseworkers receive after starting that role.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All members of staff who make decisions in asylum receive the same level of training. This includes a dedicated five-week foundation training programme that includes training on international and domestic law and safeguarding issues supplemented by a mentoring programme with an experienced caseworker that can last up to 6 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50352/>

Asylum

Tania Mathias [50353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what qualifications are required for an asylum caseworker to be employed by her Department.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Staff employed to make asylum decisions are required to have a minimum educational requirement of 2 GCE A Level passes A-C and 5 GCSE passes including Mathematics and English.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50353/>

Asylum

Tania Mathias [50648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training asylum caseworkers receive on processing and considering asylum claims involving allegations of torture or serious harm where a Medico-Legal report from the Medical Foundation Medico-Legal Report Service at Freedom from Torture or the Helen Bamber Foundation forms part of the evidence.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All members of staff who make decisions in asylum receive the same level of training. This includes a dedicated five-week foundation training programme that includes training on international and domestic law and safeguarding issues supplemented by a mentoring programme with an experienced caseworker that can last up to 6 months. Within this course there are specific sections that detail torture and Medico Legal Reports and how they should be used and analysed in asylum claims.

Asylum Operations recently received funding from the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund to review and redevelop its training prospectus. As part of that work, Asylum Operations is liaising with a range of external stakeholders - including migrant charities and non-governmental organisations - to ensure a robust and effective safeguarding training product.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-27/50648/>

Asylum: Appeals

Tania Mathias [50355] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate her Department has made of the average cost in the last 12 months of an asylum appeal in the (a) First-tier and (b) Upper-tier Tribunal.

Reply from Oliver Heald: Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

has estimated the average unit cost of an asylum appeal in the First-tier as £1245 in financial year 2015/16 and £1237 in 2016/17 year to date.

The average unit cost of any appeal to the Upper Tribunal is estimated at £2257 in financial year 2015/16 and £2467 in 2016/17 year to date.

These are operational costs only, excluding corporate overheads.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50355/>

Asylum: Housing

Rob Marris [906895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures she has put in place to ensure that providers inform local authorities in advance of their plans to place asylum seekers in accommodation within those local authority areas.

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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/906895/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Porter of Spalding [HL2537] To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding has been allocated to local authorities to support unaccompanied children being resettled in the UK beyond 31 March 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In July 2016, we increased the national rate of funding to local authorities taking responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, from £34,675 to £41,610 a year for those aged under 16 and from £25,915 to £33,215 a year for those aged 16 or 17. We will keep these arrangements under review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-21/HL2537/>

Asylum: Children

David Davies [50106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) male and (b) female child refugees and asylum seekers of each age have arrived in the UK since 1 September 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes the Immigration Statistics release each quarter, and the latest release covering the quarter ending June 2016 is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016>

The annual number of asylum claims received from main claimants and dependants, by age and sex is published in table as_04, in volume 2 of the asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546759/asylum2-q2-2016-tabs.ods

The quarterly number of asylum claims received from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, excluding dependants, sex and age at time of application, is published in table as_08_q, in volume 3 of the asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546760/asylum3-q2-2016-tabs.ods

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50106/>

Asylum: Children

David Davies [50233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child asylum applicants have been refused accommodation by a local authority in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: No unaccompanied asylum seeking children have been refused accommodation by local authorities.

Under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 local authorities have a duty to provide accommodation to any child in need who requires it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50233/>

Asylum: Children

David Davies [49744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) male and (b) female unaccompanied children arrived in the UK seeking asylum in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes the Immigration Statistics release each quarter.

The requested information is available in table as_08, in volume 3 of the asylum data tables:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546760/asylum3-q2-2016-tabs.ods

A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April to June 2016, is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june2016/asylum>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-21/49744/>

Asylum: Age

David Davies [49763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department received any representations from King's College Dental School, between 2012 and 2014, on the use of dental tests to establish the age of people claiming asylum.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office received representations from a number of bodies between 2012 and 2014 about the possible use of dental tests to establish the age of people claiming asylum. The view of many of those making representations was that the use of dental tests for this purpose would be unreliable, inappropriate and unethical.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-21/49763/>

Asylum: Age

David Davies [50231] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants have been given an estimated date of birth by her Department which differs from the date claimed by those applicants in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: An estimated date of birth for an asylum seeker will be provided by the Home Office as part of the age assessment process where no clear and credible documentation as to age is available. If the asylum seeker

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

continues to claim that their date of birth is different, age is recorded as “disputed”. Statistics on the number of age disputed cases are available for each of the last three years at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/asylum#age-disputes>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50231/>

Deportation: Children

Tom Brake [50045] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the compatibility of deporting children provided with sanctuary in the UK when those children reach adulthood with the Dublin regulations and with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: No individual granted protection here will be removed from the UK while that protection is needed. The Dublin Regulation ceases to apply once a person has been transferred to the UK under it. All removals from the UK must comply with the European Convention on Human Rights.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50045/>

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart [49648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who are also either identified or potential victims of trafficking were housed in safe house accommodation rather than National Asylum Support Service accommodation in 2015.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Potential victims of modern slavery in England and Wales are supported through a Government-funded contract, delivered by the Salvation Army. This provides extremely vulnerable victims with a tailored and specialised package of care and support. This can include accommodation in a shelter.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49648/>

Assisted Voluntary Return Schemes

The following three questions all received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [50071] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries her Department has not been able to return people through the assisted voluntary return programme in 2016 due to there being no viable route of return available.

Paul Blomfield [50072] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries her Department has not been able to return people through the assisted voluntary return programme in 2016 because their country of origin automatically removes citizenship from people who have had prolonged residence in another country.

Paul Blomfield [50076] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to which countries her Department has not been able to return people through the assisted voluntary return programme in 2016 due to their country of origin not facilitating or issuing the necessary documentation for that return.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office does not collate information on the policy of foreign governments towards those seeking to voluntarily return to their country of origin.

Persons who seek to return to their country of origin voluntarily are responsible for

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

obtaining the necessary travel documentation. The Home Office does not hold data on the status of applications made by individuals to their embassy or high commission.

In 2016 there have been no countries to which the Voluntary Returns Service cannot return an individual due to there being no viable route of return.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50071/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50072/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50076/>

Detainees: Children

Stella Creasey [48682] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children were detained for immigration purposes at ports in the UK in each of the last three years; and how many such children were unaccompanied.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Numbers relating to children held in the short term holding facilities at port are derived from information provided by TASCOR, the Border Force contractors, who manage the port holding rooms.

Border Force has a legal duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Where it is absolutely necessary, Border Force may detain children or families with children.

Border Force can hold an unaccompanied child in a short term holding facility for the maximum period of 24 hours but only where it is absolutely necessary for immigration purposes and in the interests of their welfare. Detention will be for the shortest possible time and only while alternative arrangements are made for their care.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-13/48682/>

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre

The following three questions all received the same answer

Carol Monaghan [49894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to reserve the right to continue to use Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in the event that the plan to establish a new detention facility at Glasgow Airport does not go ahead.

Carol Monaghan [49895]

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on its plans to close Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre and to establish a new detention facility at Glasgow Airport.

Carol Monaghan [49896] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is a sunset clause on her Department's use of Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The contract with GEO Ltd to operate Dungavel immigration removal centre (IRC) does not contain a sunset clause. It is extendable for 12 months at a time, until September 2019. It is currently extended to September 2017.

The closure of Dungavel IRC is dependent on the success of the planning application for the new short term holding facility near Glasgow airport, currently

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

under consideration by Renfrewshire Council.

The Government announced that it intended to close Dungavel when the new short term holding facility is ready, and therefore it is the Government's policy to reserve its right to continue to use Dungavel for the purposes of immigration detention should the planning application be unsuccessful.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49894/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49895/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49896/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stella Creasey [50187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set out what steps she is taking to monitor whether victims of sexual violence are being detained at Yarlswood Detention Centre.

Stella Creasey [50188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women resident in Yarlswood Detention Centre in the last 12 months have disclosed prior history of sexual violence; and how many such women remain in detention.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All new cases entering detention are screened and approved for detention by a detention gate keeping team working across all immigration commands.

This will ensure that detention criteria are applied consistently across the entire estate. The gate keeping team applies the new adults at risk in detention policy, which was implemented on 12 September 2016. The adult at risk policy includes sexual and gender based violence as an indicator of being at risk. Individuals regarded as being at risk will be detained only when the immigration factors in the case outweigh the risk considerations.

If an issue (such as sexual violence) emerges once an individual has been detained (from a doctor in the context of a report under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, or in another context), the case will be reviewed to establish whether, in the light of the new information, detention is still appropriate.

Information on the number of women who have disclosed a prior history of sexual violence as part of their immigration case 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/2016-10-25/50187/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50188/>

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart [49647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many victims of human trafficking applied for asylum in each year from 2010 to 2015 by gender, age, citizenship and type of exploitation.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Between 1 January 2010 and 30 September 2015 1,200 applications for asylum were submitted by individuals recognised as victims

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

of human trafficking by the National Referral Mechanism. Of those, 782 individuals (65.2%) were successfully granted some form of leave to enter/remain in the UK as a result of their asylum application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49647/>

Press Releases

Scotland welcomes refugees

<http://news.gov.scot/news/scotland-welcomes-refugees-1>

New approaches required to prevent trafficking among conflict-induced migrants – UN human rights expert

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55443>

Politics prevailed over promises by France and UK in handling of children at Calais 'Jungle' – UN experts

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55454#.WBoTzBJ96nY>

New Publications

EU nationals living in Scotland

http://www.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S5/SB_16-86_EU_nationals_living_in_Scotland.pdf

Fact sheet: rationale for collecting new data on nationality, country of birth and English language proficiency through the School Census

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2016-0777/School_Census_QA_FINAL.docx

News

Scottish Government working on new refugee strategy

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/308386/scottish-government-working-new-refugee-strategy/>

Unlawful immigration curfews under government review

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37787007>

Glasgow City Council to welcome 35 refugee children from closed down "Jungle" camp in Calais

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/glasgow-9175597>

Glasgow to become first to welcome refugee children from Calais 'Jungle'

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14838020.Glasgow_to_become_first_to_welcome_refugee_children_from_Calais_Jungle/

Calais 'Jungle': Last remaining children evacuated from camp

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37845135>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Nearly 700 Jungle kids expected to apply for British asylum as remaining 1,600 leave Calais

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/02/last-group-of-calais-refugee-children-evacuated-from-camp/>

Another 400 child migrants head to Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-03/news/another-400-child-migrants-head-to-britain-lkd9c6ss0>

Unaccompanied children bussed out of Calais camp

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-02/world/migrant-children-bussed-out-of-calais-camp-hwgs528rn>

Most Calais camp child refugees 'traumatised and depressed'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/05/child-refugees-calais-traumatised-and-depressed>

Spirit of 'British Schindler' invoked over Calais

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/spirit-of-british-schindler-invoked-over-calais-1-4272700>

From Aleppo to Belfast: A refugee's story

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-37859093>

Child asylum seeker numbers 'double in two years'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-37862039>

Fears over school and foster family safety from migrants pretending to be children

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/06/fears-over-school-and-foster-family-safety-from-migrants-pretend/>

Work visa limited to top foreign students

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/focus/student-visa-curbs-will-kill-off-courses-028s9gfnf>

People moving to UK are not taking British jobs, says George Osborne

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/nov/03/people-moving-to-uk-arent-taking-british-jobs-says-george-osborne>

Home Office to crack down on non-EU migrants using the NHS

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/03/home-office-to-crackdown-on-non-eu-migrants-using-the-nhs/>

Not paid your NHS bill? You're barred! Health tourists to be denied visas to enter Britain

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3899618/Not-paid-NHS-bill-barred-Health-tourists-denied-visas-enter-Britain.html>

Charities vital in welcoming refugees to Scotland

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/charities-vital-in-welcoming-refugees-to-scotland>

In Brexit Britain, being a foreigner marks me out as evil

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/03/brexit-britain-being-foreigner-evil-tabloids-racist>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Helping migrants integrate is a two-way street

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-10-31/news/helping-migrants-integrate-is-a-two-way-street-l6hm8gg2d>

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Community Relations

News

New campaign celebrates cultural diversity in the north-east

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/aberdeen/1075540/new-campaign-launches-to-celebrate-cultural-diversity-in-the-north-east/>

Schools engines of social cohesion, says Ofsted boss

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-37846695>

Ofsted head praises England's schools for immigrant integration

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/nov/02/ofsted-head-michael-wilshaw-praises-england-schools-for-immigrant-integration>

White children should be encouraged to be placed into schools dominated by ethnic minorities or vice versa to halt the rise of racial segregation, says report

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3898098/White-children-BUSSED-schools-dominated-ethnic-minorities-vice-versa-halt-rise-racial-segregation-says-report.html>

Call for action to tackle growing ethnic segregation across UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/nov/01/call-for-action-to-tackle-growing-ethnic-segregation-across-uk>

Segregation in Blackburn: 'We're at an impasse and it is only going to get worse'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/01/segregation-blackburn-whalley-range>

'Go away, you shouldn't be here. Don't come back': The corner of Yorkshire that has almost no white residents

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3899540/Go-away-shouldn-t-Don-t-come-corner-Yorkshire-no-white-residents.html>

The Blackburn halal butcher who has never served a white Brit: Indian opened his shop a year ago but says racial segregation means only Asians and Poles come in

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3897806/The-white-customers-come-Poles-Indian-butcher-Blackburn-tells-racial-segregation-means-shop-serves-Asians-Eastern-Europeans.html>

UK becoming more divided as 'white avoidance' takes hold

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-02/news/uk-becoming-more-divided-as-white-avoidance-takes-hold-wwl60q0vb>

Blend it like Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/blend-it-like-britain-m8c6gr99m>

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Equality

UK Parliament Question

Protected Characteristics

Justin Tomlinson [50003] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make it her policy that executive agencies collect data on funding allocated to people who have protected characteristics as listed in the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is a key lever for ensuring that public bodies, including executive agencies, already consider the potential impact of their decisions, including decisions about funding allocation, on people who share different protected characteristics.

The PSED requires public bodies, and those carrying out public functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity, and;
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

Public bodies must be able to show how equality issues have been considered when they develop, implement, evaluate and review policies, services and processes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/50003/>

New Publication

A Report into the Ethnic Diversity of UK Boards

[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/A_Report_into_the_Ethnic_Diversity_of_UK_Boards/\\$FILE/Beyond%20One%20by%2021%20PDF%20Report.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/A_Report_into_the_Ethnic_Diversity_of_UK_Boards/$FILE/Beyond%20One%20by%2021%20PDF%20Report.pdf)

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Sectarian Behaviour and Hate Crime

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10595&i=97493#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Questions

Gypsy Travellers (Discrimination)

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government how it tackles discrimination against Gypsy Travellers. (S5O-00291)

Reply from the Minister for Social Security (Jeane Freeman): The Scottish Government recognises that Gypsy Traveller communities are among the most disenfranchised and discriminated against in Scotland. We are continuing with work in a range of areas to achieve better outcomes for Gypsy Travellers. For example, we fund and support the work of the Scottish Traveller education programme, which works to promote and develop inclusive educational approaches for mobile and settled Gypsy and other Traveller families.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

Mary Fee: The “Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015” highlighted that Gypsy Travellers continue to be one of the most marginalised groups in Scottish society and that they still face disproportionately high levels of discrimination. Thirty-one per cent of people stated that they would be unhappy if a family member was in a relationship with a Gypsy Traveller, while a further 34 per cent of people stated their belief that a Gypsy Traveller would be unsuitable as a primary school teacher. In light of that, it is clear that the Government’s Gypsy Traveller strategy is failing.

Will the minister agree to carry out an immediate review of the strategy? Will she outline what further steps the Government will take to eradicate the deeply unpleasant and systemic discrimination that is faced by the Gypsy Traveller community across Scotland?

Reply from Jeane Freeman: I am afraid that I cannot agree with the member that the Government’s strategy has failed and that it is therefore entirely responsible for the attitudes that she outlined. I am sure that Mary Fee knows as well as I do that, across a range of discriminatory practices, attitudes and behaviours that affect a number of groups in our society, it is the responsibility of not simply the Scottish Government but all of us to tackle those and to do that at every level in our community.

However, I accept that the Government has a clear leadership role in that regard. As the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities has said, she is consulting the Gypsy Traveller community and others to reflect on and improve the approach that we take in order not only to tackle the specific issues that people are confronted with, but to build on the work that we have done on health, education and the suitability of sites, and our current work with local authorities. All that will be reported back to the Parliament in the revised strategy, which, as we have already said, will come out in 2017.

Annie Wells: What specific action has the Scottish Government taken to assist the members of the Roma community who are living in Govanhill, particularly in relation to the finding of the BBC Scotland study that more than a third of the 310 local Roma people who were interviewed were receiving less than the minimum wage?

Reply from Jeane Freeman: I share the member’s concern with regard to that community, as other Scottish National Party members do. That is also part of the discussions that the cabinet secretary is leading in the spirit that the Scottish Government clearly adopts across a range of the things that we do. We consult directly those who are most affected to make sure that the work that we undertake is as effective as it can be. The Roma community is part of those conversations. We are looking at particular enforcement activities and looking in particular with respect to housing and integration in that community.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10597&i=97505#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-02221 James Kelly: Tip of the Iceberg – That the Parliament acknowledges the Tip of the Iceberg campaign that has been launched by City of Glasgow College students, Rosie Thompson and Samantha Strain, in conjunction with Nil By Mouth; understands that the campaign is aimed at challenging sectarian attitudes in Scotland by encouraging schools to look at the causes of sectarianism beyond football, including history, social media and the influence of family members; hopes that this campaign will lead to informed debate among young people, and wishes everyone involved every success.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02221>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motions (continued)

S5M-02231 Douglas Ross: Justice – That the Parliament believes that sectarian behaviour and hate crime are a blight on society in Scotland and should not be tolerated under any circumstances; notes that there are laws in place to prosecute acts of hatred in addition to the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012; further notes with concern that the legal profession has repeatedly criticised the 2012 Act for being unworkable and badly drafted; regrets that the Scottish Government hastily pushed the legislation through the Parliament, despite widespread criticism from stakeholders and opposition parties, and urges the Scottish Government to repeal the Act as a matter of priority.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02231>

S5M-02231.1 Annabelle Ewing: Justice – As an amendment to motion S5M-02231 in the name of Douglas Ross (Justice), leave out from “there are laws” to end and insert “the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 sends a clear message that abusive behaviour has no place in Scottish football and gives additional tools to police and prosecutors to deal with acts of hatred; further notes that an independent poll carried out by YouGov showed overwhelming public support for the Act, including support from a majority of the football supporters surveyed; recognises the support from equality organisations in assisting to tackle unacceptable behaviour at football matches; notes the importance of Section 6 in tackling issues of threatening communications and stirring up religious hatred, which have been criminalised in the rest of the UK since 2006; further notes the Scottish Government’s record level of investment of £12.5 million in tackling sectarianism through education and grassroots community work, and urges the Scottish Government to continue with this work through the delivery of the recommendations of the independent Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland, as well as tackling all other forms of prejudice and hate crime and implementing the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion.”

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02231.1>

UK Parliament Questions

Antisemitism

Jim Shannon [50110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of attacks reported against Jewish people in each of the last five years.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office does not hold information on the number of attacks against Jewish people in the last five years. The Home Office has collected and published data for 2011/12 to 2015/16 on hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales for the five centrally monitored strands (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity) but these data cannot be broken down by religion of the victim.

From April 2016, the Home Office began collecting data from the police on the targeted religion of religious hate crime offences in order to help forces build community trust, target their resources and enable the public to better hold them to account. This information will be provided voluntarily in 2016/17, but we intend to make it mandatory from the following year. We expect to publish the first data from this collection in the 2016/17 Hate Crime statistics publication in 2017.

For information, the Community Security Trust publishes figures on anti-Semitic

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

incidents, and the latest figures are available here:

<https://cst.org.uk/publications/cst-publications/antisemitic-incident-reports>

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50110/>

Hate Crime: Internet

Gregory Campbell [50369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were (a) prosecuted and (b) convicted of offences relating to online hate content in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Information on prosecutions and convictions for hate crime, held by the Ministry of Justice, does not include details of whether an offence was committed through online activity.

On 26 July we published a comprehensive new cross-Government Hate Crime Action plan to drive forward action against hate crime. This includes education programmes to prevent hate incidents and measures to improve the police response and recording of hate crime. It also includes £2.4million for security at places of worship which are vulnerable to hate crime and £300,000 funding for community groups to tackle hate crime in innovative ways, including the potential to tackle hate crime online.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-26/50369/>

Press Release

Offensive Behaviour Act

<http://news.gov.scot/news/offensive-behaviour-act>

News

Government defeated in Offensive Behaviour at Football Act vote

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-37835502>

SNP defeated in Offensive Behaviour at Football Act vote

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-defeated-in-offensive-behaviour-at-football-act-vote-1-4276310>

SNP suffers defeat as Holyrood demands scrapping of Offensive Behaviour at Football Act

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-politics/308786/snp-loses-vote-on-law-tackling-football-bigotry/>

MSPs vote for Offensive Behaviour at Football Act to be scrapped

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/msps-vote-offensive-behaviour-football-9182830>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Opposition unite to defeat SNP football act

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-03/scotland/opposition-unite-to-defeat-snp-football-act-hmzk6c3nd>

Britain First deputy leader on trial for religious harassment

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/britain-first-deputy-leader-on-trial-for-religious-harassment-1-4276126>

Jayda Fransen guilty: Britain First Deputy Leader convicted after abusing Muslim woman in hijab

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jayda-fransen-guilty-britain-first-deputy-leader-convicted-court-muslim-woman-hijab-a7395711.html>

Deputy leader of Britain First guilty over verbal abuse of Muslim woman

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/03/deputy-leader-britain-first-guilty-over-verbal-abuse-muslim-woman-jayda-fransen-hijab>

Deputy leader of far-right group Britain First is found guilty of religiously aggravated harassment after she hurled abuse at a Muslim woman wearing a hijab in front of her young children

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3902244/Deputy-leader-far-right-group-Britain-guilty-religiously-aggravated-harassment-hurled-abuse-Muslim-woman-wearing-hijab-young-children.html>

Britain First deputy 'hurled abuse at Muslim woman'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-03/news/britain-first-deputy-hurled-abuse-at-muslim-woman-0zf2lq0j5>

RE teacher who posted Islamophobic comments on social media, attended far-right marches and accessed porn on school laptop is banned from classrooms

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3908020/RE-teacher-Nicholas-Hall-posted-Islamophobic-comments-social-media-attended-far-right-marches-accessed-porn-school-laptop-banned-classrooms.html>

Asian firearms officer wins £457,000 payout for years of racist abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/03/asian-firearms-officer-wins-457000-payout-racist-abuse-nadeem-saddique-cleveland>

Officer wins payout for racist abuse

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/officer-wins-payout-for-racist-abuse-shpxq0grw>

Asylum support worker found guilty of racist rant at refugee demo

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/asylum-support-worker-found-guilty-9198913>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Presiding Officer announces membership of Commission on Parliamentary Reform
<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/101910.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Sharia Councils

Oral evidence session: Muslim Women's Network UK, Association of Muslim Lawyers, the UK Board of Sharia Councils, Birmingham Central Mosque, and Islamic Sharia Council
<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/sharia-councils/oral/42576.html>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

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

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

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!**

Police Scotland Equalities Outcomes Review (closing date 9 November 2016)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/equalities-outcomes-review>

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (closing date 7 December 2016)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/human-trafficking-team/a-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy>

Consultations (continued)

**** Section 9(2)(b)(i) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 - support for adult victims** (closing date 23 December 2016)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00509045.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>

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_rr_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Policy on Prosecuting Crimes against Disabled People [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_dhc_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_ht_consultation_2016.html

Draft Referendum Bill (closing date 11 January 2017)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507743.pdf>

Police Scotland: local policing (consultation open during the whole year)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/8LMB9WX>

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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

**** applications closing date this week!**

Political Shadowing Scheme

November 2016 to March 2017 (closing date for applications: 7 November 2016)

CRER scheme to gain political experience, develop an understanding of Scottish politics, and empower and inspire participants and their communities to become politically active.

For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xi_crer.pdf

**** this week!**

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.

**** this week!**

Mainstreaming human rights

10 November 2016 in Glasgow (5.45-7.30)

NZ-UK Link Foundation event to explore the role of the international human rights treaties body framework and its connection with domestic legislation. For information see

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/event-mainstreaming-human-rights/>

**** this week!**

Dare to Dream

Until 30 November 2016

The Scottish Storytelling Centre festival invites everyone to discover the stories of the past and dream the stories of the future. For information see

<http://www.daretodream.scot/#home>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13-20 November 2016 in Paisley

The theme of the launch will be "Religion and the Media". For a full programme of events see

<http://www.interfaithscotland.org/app/download/26516741/Final+Programme+SIFW+2016.pdf>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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/>

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.

Health in Faith Conference and Dinner

26 November 2016 in Glasgow (2.00-6.00)

Waverley Care event to celebrate the efforts that people of faith have made and continue to make in the fight to end HIV and AIDS in Scotland and around the world. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/gnhq3cq>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

30 November 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 June 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.

Enhanced by our Diversity, Combined by our Humanity

30 November 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

BEMIS and TRACS conference bringing together practitioners, policy-makers and academics to discuss how best to foster good relationships at a community level and promote a dynamic, inclusive Scottish national identity for the future. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/j7qkzq7>

Working with Interpreters

6 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

31 May 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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

7 December 2016 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

1 June 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.

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

** Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening

27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for women, particularly disabled, BME, older and trans women, to volunteer to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hz2vfv9>

Cultural Competence

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/jdfkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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Useful Links

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <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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