

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Other News
Community Relations	Bills in Progress
Equality	Consultations
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events/Conferences/Training
New Publications	Useful Links

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-02817 Kenneth Gibson: Impact of the 2016 Immigration Act – That the Parliament notes with concern that the Immigration Act 2016 comes into effect on 1 December 2016; understands that this will require people who apply for, or renew, a taxi licence with local authorities across the UK to provide evidence of their right to work in the country, even if they were born here; believes that, for the first time, the legislation will make illegal working a criminal offence in its own right, which could lead to a maximum custodial sentence of six months and/or a fine and, in so doing, making wages paid to illegal workers recoverable from them under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; considers incarcerating people or taking away money that they have worked for to be counterproductive to the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in society; believes that the legislation will impose a huge administrative and financial burden on local authorities across Scotland and will be neither effective nor beneficial as those who work illegally would be unlikely to apply for licences and that, regardless, local authorities already had the discretionary right to request identification from licence applicants; anticipates that the policy will become more unworkable if EU citizens living in the UK find themselves to have an illegal status as a consequence of what it sees as the botched Brexit negotiations; believes this to be a potential scenario in light of the UK Government's refusal to grant resident EU citizens the right to remain; regards the implementation of the Act to be another form of instilling fear, discomfort and friction among people born in the UK as well as those who were not; understands that this legislation will introduce only the first in a procession of licences that will require workers to justify their immigration status, with alcohol and premises' licences to follow; recalls that the passing of the Act was followed by the Home Secretary's announcement at the Conservative Party Conference in October 2016 that companies should be made to disclose how many foreign workers they employ; is concerned that the UK Government, in implementing this, has entered what it sees as a slippery slope of acting out a divisive and damaging agenda, entirely opposite to the spirit of inclusion that it believes exists in Scotland, and urges it to reconsider those parts of the Immigration Act 2016 that are not aimed at those who exploit illegal workers.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02817>

UK Parliament Debate

Refugee Family Reunion (Immigration Rules)

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-29/debates/16112935000003/RefugeeFamilyReunion\(ImmigrationRules\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-29/debates/16112935000003/RefugeeFamilyReunion(ImmigrationRules))

UK Parliament Questions

Immigrants: Health Services

Martyn Day [54465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy not to charge the immigration health surcharge for repeat visa applications where the applicant has been living working and paying national insurance contributions in the UK since their previous application.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The immigration health surcharge, set at £200 a year for temporary migrants and £150 a year for students and youth mobility scheme visa applicants, is lower than the estimated per capita cost to the NHS of providing treatment to temporary migrants.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

It is a migrant's immigration status that determines whether they pay the surcharge. Temporary migrants have not built up the long-term relationship and contribution to the UK that a permanent resident has built up, and will build up, over the course of their lifetime. The Government does recognise, however, that temporary migrants may contribute to the economy in a number of ways, including by paying income tax and national insurance and this contribution is reflected in the surcharge levels stated above, which are designed to represent a fair contribution towards the cost of providing the full range of NHS services available to surcharge payers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54465/>

Migrant Workers

Lord Taylor of Warwick [HL3342] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of figures published by the Office for National Statistics which show that, in the past year, around 95 per cent of new workers were born outside the UK.

Reply from Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Immigrants who have come to the UK to work have brought significant benefits to Britain – we are a tolerant, welcoming nation encouraging the brightest and best to come to our shores. That will always be the case.

But it's clear that there is no consent in Britain for uncontrolled migration from Europe.

It is important to note that those who hold British Citizenship can also be classed as non UK born.

Letter from the UK Statistics Authority:

The Office for National Statistics does not measure the number of new jobs. However, we do measure net change in the number of people in employment. In our latest release, the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin for November 2016¹, 94.8% of the net annual increase in employment came from people who were non UK born. However, this number does include British citizens. In the breakdown based on nationality, 53.1% of the net annual increase was people with non-UK nationality. These estimates include people who do not state their country of birth or nationality. Therefore the total does not equal the sum of the UK and non-UK series.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3342/>

Immigration

The following six questions all received the same answer

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3253] To ask Her Majesty's Government, with respect to estimated net migration figures for 2014 and 2015, what number are estimated to be (1) EU domiciled students, (2) non-EU domiciled students, (3) non-student EU domiciled, and (4) non-student, non-EU domiciled.

Overseas Students: Visas

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3254] To ask Her Majesty's Government what number of non-EU domiciled students obtained work visas at the end of their studies in (1) 2014, and (2) 2015.

International Passenger Survey

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3255] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the text of the questions used in the International Passenger Survey.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3256] To ask Her Majesty's Government on what basis confidence intervals for responses to the International Passenger Survey are calculated.

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3257] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any study of possible sampling bias has been conducted in relation to the International Passenger Survey.

Migration: Statistics

Baroness Wolf of Dulwich [HL3258] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the accuracy of net migration figures for 2016 and in future years.

Reply from Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Immigrants who have come to the UK to work have brought significant benefits to Britain – we are a tolerant, welcoming nation encouraging the brightest and best to come to our shores. That will always be the case.

But it's clear that there is no consent in Britain for uncontrolled migration from Europe.

Letter from the UK Statistics Authority

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3253/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3254/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3255/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3256/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3257/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3258/>

Immigration

The following three questions all received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [50073] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have applied for leave to remain in the UK as a stateless person since 2013; and how many such applications have been successful.

Paul Blomfield [50074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have applied for leave to remain as a stateless person in the UK have claimed asylum in each of the last five years.

Paul Blomfield [50075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have successfully applied for leave to remain in the UK as a stateless person in each of the last five years because their country of origin will not readmit them on the grounds of that country (a) refusing to issue the necessary documentation and (b) taking away their citizenship after prolonged residence in another country.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office Stateless policy is designed to assist those who do not qualify for protection but are unable to return to the country of their former habitual residence because they are stateless and would not be admitted to any other country. The requirements are set out in the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration Rules and reflect our obligations under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the status of stateless persons.

Home Office records indicate a total of 1665 people have applied for leave to remain as a Stateless person since 2013. Of these applications, 41 have been granted leave.

The number grant leave as stateless is low, in all cases, the burden of proof rests with the applicant to provide information to demonstrate they are stateless and that there is no country to which they can be removed. Paragraph 403(d) of the Rules requires applicants to obtain and submit all reasonably available evidence to enable the Secretary of State to determine whether they are stateless and whether they qualify for stateless leave. It is not enough, for example, for the applicant to rely upon a simple and unsupported assertion of statelessness, or to provide no explanation or evidence in support of the application, particularly where this runs contrary to previously available factual information.

Paragraph 404 of the Immigration rules sets out the general reasons for refusal of Limited Leave to Remain as a stateless person. It states that an applicant will be refused leave to remain in the United Kingdom as stateless person if: (a) they do not meet the requirements of paragraph 403; or (b) there are reasonable grounds for considering that they are: (i) a danger to the security of the United Kingdom; (ii) a danger to the public order of the United Kingdom; or (c) their application would fall to be refused under any of the grounds set out in paragraph 322 of these Rules.

Home Office records indicate that a total of 241 people who applied for leave as a stateless person have applied for Asylum in the past 5 years. This breaks down as 43 in 2011, 59 in 2012, 41 in 2013, 52 in 2014, 33 in 2015, 13 in 2016 (up to and including 30 June 2016). Data has been provided by the Performance Reporting and Analysis Unit and internally quality assured. These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

The information requested on the reason people have been successful in their application is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50073/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50074/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50075/>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

The following three questions all received the same answer

Maria Eagle [54028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that EEA citizens who (a) have resided in the UK for a period exceeding five years and (b) are married to a UK citizen are able to obtain permanent residency in the UK without the need for them to have comprehensive sickness insurance.

Maria Eagle [54029] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to review the requirement for EEA citizens to have comprehensive sickness insurance when applying for permanent resident status in the UK as a result of the vote to leave the EU.

Maria Eagle [54030] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

applications for permanent resident status from EEA citizens have been rejected since June 2015 on the grounds of the applicant not having comprehensive sickness insurance.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: EEA citizens and their family members have the right to enter, live and acquire permanent residence in other Member States when certain conditions are met. This includes, in some cases, a requirement to hold comprehensive sickness insurance. These rights are set out in the Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC), which all Member States are bound by. The UK has implemented the Directive through the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006.

At present the UK remains in the EU, and as such, EU citizens continue to be subject to the rights and responsibilities set out in existing legislation which governs the exercise of free movement in the UK.

There are a number of options as to how EU migration might work once we have left. We are considering various options and it would be wrong to set out further positions at this stage.

The information requested regarding rejected applications is not collated on centrally held statistical databases and could only be produced at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-21/54028/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-21/54029/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-21/54030/>

Prime Minister's Questions: Visas

Kirsten Oswald: Guests from the Hyderabad diocese have twice been refused visas to visit the Church of Scotland presbytery of Glasgow as part of a twinning initiative, the suggestion being that the visit was not genuine, despite the paperwork being correct and the Church bearing the costs. When I raised this with the Leader of the House, he spoke of the need for people to return home after visits, and then the Immigration Minister told me in a patronising letter how to apply for a visa. Will the Prime Minister tell the Church why its visitors are not welcome and what messages she thinks it sends to our faith communities? [907577]

Reply from the Prime Minister: We have a very clear visa system, and decisions are taken according to its rules, but as the hon. Lady will have seen, the Home Secretary has heard her comments. I suggest that if she sends her the details, she will look at the case.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-30/debates/D1700BDE-56C8-4969-BF44-5B630EBEE0B8/Engagements#contribution-ECDDEDA4-BDF5-4A76-B5EA-0AABDE20DE76>

Visas: Overseas Students

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL3367] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 November (HL3024), whether they will now answer the first part of the question asked: whether nationality or country of origin is a factor taken into account to assess the potential level of risk that an international student applying for a visa might pose.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Lord Harris of Haringey [HL3368] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 November (HL3024) about international students applying for a visa to study in the UK, whether they will now answer the last part of the question asked: whether an equality impact assessment has been carried out.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A range of different factors and attributes are taken into account to assess the potential level of risk that an international student applying for a visa might pose to the UK border. In considering the entire Tier 4 visa application, an individual's nationality can be a factor in assessing the level of the risk. A Policy Equality Statement was undertaken to accompany the new provision under the Immigration Rules from 30 July 2012, for an Entry Clearance Officer to be satisfied that an applicant is a genuine student before granting entry clearance under Tier 4.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-21/HL3367/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-21/HL3368/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL2733] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of the refugees taken under the Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme are (1) Christian, (2) Yazidi, (3) Muslim, and (4) male.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: With all of our resettlement schemes we work closely with UNHCR to identify cases that they deem most in need of resettlement according to their established vulnerability criteria.

The number of people who have been resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is published in the quarterly Home Office statistics. Of those resettled between the former Prime Minister's announcement on 7 September 2015 and 30 June 2016, the period covered by the Home Office's most recently published statistics, 51.5% were male.

The religious and ethnic breakdown of those resettled under this scheme is something that we will be monitoring but will not be publishing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-10-26/HL2733/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven [HL3335] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT Syrian refugees have been resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement programme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of people who have been resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is published in the quarterly Home Office statistics. The sexuality and gender identity of those vulnerable people being resettled under this scheme is not routinely recorded or reported.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3335/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven [HL3336] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to assist LGBT Syrian refugees to access the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the VPR scheme the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria.

We are working with UNHCR and other partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register for fear of stigma/discrimination and unaware of the safe space and options available to them. This includes all religious minorities, LGBT people, people with disabilities, survivors of torture and sexual violence and others.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3336/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven [HL3337] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to assist LGBT Syrian refugees who have been identified by the UNHCR as eligible for resettlement in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (1) before, and (2) following, their arrival in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Refugees being resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme are invited to attend cultural orientation before they arrive in the UK.

This includes information on the diverse and inclusive nature of UK society and on the rights and responsibilities of citizens and those resident here. Once in the UK they are provided with a 12 month support package tailored to their individual needs. This includes accommodation, caseworker support and integration assistance, medical and social care needs and English language tuition. We ask local authorities to think carefully about whether they have the infrastructure and support networks needed to ensure the appropriate care and integration of these refugees before they begin resettling people.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3337/>

Refugees: Homelessness

Baroness Smith of Basildon [HL3385] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 1 November (HL Deb, col 540), what initiatives are available to prevent homelessness amongst the refugee community.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the Home Office. If they are granted refugee status this support ends 28 days later because they are given permission to work and can apply for any welfare benefits and local authority housing assistance for which they may be eligible.

We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and others to ensure that newly recognised refugees engage promptly with Jobcentre Plus and the local authority about these matters. Other refugees brought to the UK from abroad under our various resettlement schemes move into accommodation already arranged for them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-21/HL3385/>

Refugees: Children

Martyn Day [54511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the French government on the welfare of unaccompanied minors living in the vicinity of the demolished refugee camp in Calais.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The protection of migrants in France remains the responsibility of the French Government. We are continuing to work closely with the French authorities to identify unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are eligible to come to the UK. The French Government has confirmed that all unaccompanied children present in the camp in Calais have been moved to specialist facilities across France. Specialist Home Office staff are attending these centres, along with social workers and interpreters, to make sure those children who may be eligible continue to be assessed and can be transferred as quickly as possible to the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54511/>

Refugees: Children

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stella Creasy [54522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children are waiting assessment or transfer from Italy to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Stella Creasy [54523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been transferred from Italy to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 since that Act came into force.

Stella Creasy [54556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Dublin III transfers of unaccompanied children from Italy to the UK there have been in each month of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which you can find at

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application

We are working closely with the Italian authorities to identify children who qualify to be transferred to the UK under the Dublin Regulation or section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. We have a long-standing secondee working in Italy and have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. The secondee's role includes facilitating the application of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54522/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54523/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3230/>

Refugees: Children

The following four questions all received the same answer

Jess Philips [54458] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children were transferred from Italy to the UK as Dublin III transfers in each month in (a) 2014, (b) 2015 and (c) 2016.

Jess Philips [54459] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been transferred from Italy to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Jess Philips [54460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children are awaiting assessment or transfer from Italy to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Jess Philips [54475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for how long each child who was subsequently transferred to the UK under a Dublin III transfer was in Italy before that transfer to the UK (a) from first date of arrival in Italy, (b) from the date of appointment of their guardian, (c) from the date of registering their asylum claim, (d) from the date when TCR was made, (e) from the date when TCR was accepted and (f) on the date when the transfer took place.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government is fully committed to the efficient and timely operation of the Dublin Regulation and we are working closely with EU partners, including the Italian authorities to identify, assess and transfer children to the UK who may qualify under the Dublin Regulation or section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Dublin Regulation specifies a range of time limits within which requests to accept responsibility must be made and replies received, which vary depending on the circumstances of the case. The Dublin Regulation states that in all cases requests should be made as quickly as possible.

We have a long standing secondee working in Italy and have established a dedicated team in the Home Office Dublin Unit to lead on family reunion cases for unaccompanied children. The secondee's role includes facilitating the application of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which you can find at

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54458/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54459/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54460/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-23/54475/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Hylton [HL3403] To ask Her Majesty's Government why, of unaccompanied refugee children in France and elsewhere in Europe, they have excluded certain age groups and countries of origin from consideration for asylum in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our criteria under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 is intended to ensure that we are focusing on the most vulnerable children.

In France, we will be considering those aged 12 and under of any nationality, children referred to us by the French authorities as being at a high risk of sexual exploitation of any nationality, and those nationalities most likely to qualify for refugee status in the UK, aged 15 and below.

All unaccompanied minors with close family in the UK will continue to be

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

considered for transfer under the Dublin Regulation, regardless of age or nationality.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-22/HL3403/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3546] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to select and guide the foster parents of new child refugees.

Reply from Lord Nash: Caring for any child requires skills and dedication. Local authorities and independent fostering agencies select and prepare all foster carers for this challenging role. The Government is committed to ensuring foster carers are afforded the appropriate recognition, support and training to ensure every looked-after child receives the high-quality care they need. We have funded a range of initiatives including "Fosterline" – a helpline which provides a confidential, impartial free advice service for foster carers and potential foster carers.

In addition, in September we commissioned the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers who are not experienced in working with unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee children. The Government has also committed to evaluate the need for any additional training required by foster carers looking after unaccompanied children as part of our wider safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. Further information on our safeguarding strategy can be found on the Government's website, GOV.UK, by searching for 'Safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children'.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3546/>

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stuart McDonald [55072] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the compatibility of her Department's guidance, entitled implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in France, published on 8 November 2016, with (a) the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, (b) Article 2 of that convention and (c) the Equality Act 2010.

Stuart McDonald [55180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's guidance, entitled implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in France, published on 14 November 2016, whether she plans to apply similar restrictions to those described in that document based on age or nationality to other children being considered for relocation to the UK under that section.

Answered on: 01 December 2016

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The criteria for relocating children to the UK from France under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 are based on the reasonable likelihood of their qualifying for refugee status and achieving long-term stability. The criteria are therefore in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The guarantee of rights in relation to children, and the delivery of appropriate services to individual children, is currently provided by the French State.

Our policies do not deprive any child of access to these benefits and therefore are fully in line with the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Secretary of State to carry out their immigration and asylum functions in a way

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

that takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. Where a child is outside the UK, the spirit of the duty should be applied. Due regard has been given, throughout the process of establishing the criteria and guidance, to the Secretary of State's duties under the Equality Act 2010. The criteria and guidance are in full compliance with those duties.

The published guidance applies to unaccompanied children in France who had been resident in the migrant camp in Calais on or before 24 October. It is time limited to the period of the camp clearance operation, including the ongoing assessment and transfer of eligible children directly from specialist centres throughout France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55072/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55180/>

Asylum: Children

The following four questions all received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3226] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been granted leave to remain in the UK under the provisions of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 since the passing of the Act; and (2) from which countries those children have been transferred.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3227] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from the Calais refugee camp have been granted leave to remain in the UK under (1) the Dublin III Regulations, and (2) the provisions of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3229] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they gave to a strategy for safeguarding the wellbeing of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children immediately after the passing of the Immigration Act 2016.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3230] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children they expect to be received in the UK under the provisions of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All children transferred here under the Dublin Regulation or under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be expected to make an asylum claim in the UK, which will be considered according to normal processes. We aim to decide 98 per cent of straightforward asylum claims within six months. Where a child does not qualify for asylum and it is clear that safe and adequate reception arrangements are not available in their home country, they will be granted leave to remain under the Immigration Rules for 30 months or until they reach the age of 17 and a half, whichever is shorter.

The Government already has a comprehensive approach to safeguarding children, including refugee children. We recognise that the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children arriving in the UK has risen over the last few years, including through the transfer of hundreds of children from Calais. That is why the Written Ministerial Statement (HLWS231) made on 1 November by my noble friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System committed to the publication, by 1 May 2017, of a strategy setting out further detail on how these children will be safeguarded and their welfare promoted.

This strategy will compliment and build on existing safeguarding guidance and procedures. We have already been working with local authorities, charities and other organisations to make sure plans are in place to give these children the

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

support they need.

We will be working with the relevant agencies to develop this further over the coming months. In line with the legislation we will in due course specify the number of unaccompanied refugee children to be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3226/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3227/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3229/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-15/HL3230/>

Asylum: Children

The following four questions all received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3288] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long it takes on average to transfer an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child to the UK from France under the provisions of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3290] To ask Her Majesty's Government what legal representation is offered to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3292] To ask Her Majesty's Government why the registration of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by Home Office officials in the Calais camp was not conducted earlier and before the demolition of the camp.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3293] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an internal review has been conducted, or is planned, to look at the manner in which the Home Office responded to the closure of the Calais camp and the transfer of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK continues to work closely with the French authorities to ensure eligible children under the Dublin Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 are transferred to the UK as soon as possible. Since 10 October we have transferred over 300 children, and as the Home Secretary told Parliament last month, we expect several hundred more children will be brought to the UK in the coming days and weeks.

Prior to the camp clearance operation the Government focused on transferring those children with close family links to the UK under the Dublin Regulation and transferred over 80 asylum seeking children from France since the beginning of the year.

Since the clearance operation was announced and upon agreement with the French, the Government has worked at pace to process the children who are eligible for transfer to the UK. We continue to work closely with the French to ensure those children who were in the camp at the time of the clearance operation are interviewed to assess their eligibility to be transferred to the UK.

We also must ensure that the proper safeguarding, age assessment and security checks are carried out, and that it is in each child's best interests to come to the UK. All unaccompanied asylum seeking children who have been brought to the UK are entitled to legal advice supported by legal aid. The Home Office is continuously monitoring its response to the migrant situation in France.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3288/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3290/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3292/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3293/>

Asylum: Young People

Philip Davies [52848] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 November 2016 to Question 50781, on asylum: young people, for what reasons the planned trial of the use of voluntary dental x-rays did not go ahead in 2012.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The planned trial did not go ahead in 2012 because the Chief Scientist expressed concerns about the scientific basis of the trial.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-14/52848/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3291] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken to address the concerns raised in the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall *No Safe Refuge: Experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in detention*.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Published guidance, Detention Services Order 2/2016 Lesbian, gay and bisexual detainees in the detention estate and Detention Services Order (DSO) 11/2012 'Care & Management of Transsexual Detainees' sets out how detainees with these protected characteristics should be safeguarded and treated in detention.

The Government is currently considering the report 'No Safe Refuge: Experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in detention' by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3291/>

Asylum: LGBT People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Scriven [HL3332] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall, *No Safe Refuge: the experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in immigration detention centres*.

Lord Scriven [HL3333] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to address the concerns of harassment of LGBT asylum seekers raised in the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall *No Safe Refuge*, and the concerns raised by the inquiry into the use of immigration detention by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We take the welfare of persons detained under immigration powers very seriously and no form of ill-treatment or discrimination is tolerated.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Published guidance for staff in the immigration detention estate, Detention Services Order 2/2016 'Lesbian, gay and bisexual detainees in the detention estate' and Detention Services Order 11/2012 'Care & Management of Transsexual Detainees' sets out how detainees with these protected characteristics should be safeguarded and treated in detention.

The Government is currently considering the report 'No Safe Refuge: Experiences of LGBT asylum seekers in detention' by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall.

[11_2012_-_Care_and_Management_of_transsexual_detainees_Lesbian_Gay_Bisexual_Detainees](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3332/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3333/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven [HL3334] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to revise the Immigration Act 2016 guidance on adults at risk in immigration detention; and if so, whether they will include a presumption that LGBT immigrants, particularly those seeking asylum, should not be detained.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The guidance in respect of the Government's policy on adults at risk in immigration detention came into force on 12 September 2016. The Government has no immediate plans to revise it.

There is a general presumption of liberty for all individuals. Detention is used only when necessary, most often in order to enforce an individual's removal from the UK. The adults at risk policy makes particular provision for individuals who are regarded as vulnerable, by reference to a list of vulnerability "indicators".

Transsexual (and intersex) individuals are included in the list of indicators, following a recommendation from Stephen Shaw, in the report of his review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons, that transsexual people should be presumed unsuitable for detention. Furthermore, any LGB individual who exhibits any of the indicators, or who is otherwise recognised as vulnerable, would fall within the scope of the policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3334/>

Asylum Detention Centres: Safety

Baroness Barker: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the report by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group and Stonewall published on 27 October *No Safe Refuge*, what plans they have to make detention centres safer for LGBT asylum seekers.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government remain committed to continually improving the asylum process for all persons claiming asylum, including those who claim on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender and those in detention while their claim is considered.

Baroness Barker: I thank the noble Baroness for that Answer. Incarcerating lesbian and gay asylum seekers with people who threaten them with exactly the same violence and intimidation from which they are fleeing is a uniquely severe punishment. These people pose a very low flight risk. Why are we spending upwards of £36,000 a year keeping them locked up?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I can reassure the noble

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Baroness that there is actually a presumption against detention. On that note, the Government commissioned Stephen Shaw to do a review into the detention of vulnerable individuals. The noble Baroness and I had a very brief chat before we came into the Chamber. A new category, “adult at risk”, has been introduced, with the clear presumption that people at risk should not be detained, and this includes transsexual and intersex people. Stephen Shaw will carry out a short review next year to see how the actions he suggested have been implemented.

Baroness Burt of Solihull: My Lords, LGBT asylum seekers have already faced persecution in their countries of origin. This report shows that, having risked everything to get here, they are now facing it again. Does the Minister agree that, in order to tackle a problem, you have to quantify it first? Why has the Home Office refused to break down asylum seeker numbers by gender identity and sexual orientation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, all genuine asylum seekers—LGBT or otherwise—have experienced persecution in the countries from which they have arrived, which is why they are in our country seeking asylum. I stress that detention is used only sparingly: to establish the identity of a person; if there is a reason to believe that a person will fail to comply with conditions; or to effect removal from the UK. But I stress that people genuinely seeking asylum have nothing to fear from seeking asylum in this country. Some of the training has been really improved with regard to the questions asked, particularly of the LGBTI community, because of the sensitivity around their claims.

Lord Rosser: In 2010, the coalition pledged to improve the system for LGBT applicants. I think that the then Home Secretary also ordered a review of the LGBT asylum system in 2014. In the light of the findings of this latest report, what has been the outcome of these two commitments in actually improving conditions of detention for LGBT asylum seekers, and what hard evidence is available to prove that those detention conditions have improved?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right. An inspection was commissioned by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration back in 2014. It did not indicate any systemic or endemic issues of bullying, violence or victimisation. In fact, it praised the training and the guidance and our work with organisations such as UKLGIG and Stonewall. But the Government do not rest on their laurels. A new detention services order on LGBT was published in April, which provides operational guidance to suppliers and Home Office staff in the immigration detention estate. As I said, Stephen Shaw will be doing a review next year of how his suggested actions have been bedded in.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-11-29/debates/18473FCB-D1C2-4CC9-84B2-29CE25AB84EA/AsylumDetentionCentresSafety>

Detention Centres: Renfrewshire

Gavin Newlands [54172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her Department's policies of Renfrewshire Council's refusal to grant planning permission for a short-term immigration detention centre near Glasgow Airport.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Following Renfrewshire Council's refusal of planning permission for a short term holding facility near Glasgow airport the Government is considering its position in relation to the right of appeal. The intended closure of Dungavel immigration removal centre is dependent upon a successful planning application for a new short term holding facility.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-22/54172/>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New Publications

Clarity for students over immigration needed

<http://news.gov.scot/news/clarity-for-students-over-immigration-needed>

A fairer deal on migration Managing migration better for Britain

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/A%20fairer%20deal%20on%20migration.pdf>

Migration and Demography Data Catalogue

<https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/catalogue>

Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography: Dynamic Data Hub

<https://bluehub.jrc.ec.europa.eu/migration/app/index.html>

European Commission report assessing the impact of existing national law, establishing as a criminal offence the use of services which are the objects of exploitation of trafficking in human beings, on the prevention of trafficking in human beings

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings/docs/report_onimpact_of_national_legislation_related_to_thb_en.pdf

European Commission report assessing the extent to which Member States have taken the necessary measures in order to comply with Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings/docs/report_on_member_states_compliance_with_directive_2011-36-eu_en.pdf

News: Statistics

Net migration stays near record high

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38167225>

Reality Check: Is migration at record levels?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38169875>

Immigration to UK reaches record high helped by influx of EU nationals

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/14941782.Immigration_to_UK_reaches_record_high_helped_by_influx_of_EU_nationals/

UK immigration level reaches record high

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/uk-world/321571/uk-immigration-level-reaches-record-high/>

Latest ONS immigration figures reveal a record number of EU migrants came to live in Britain in 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/01/record-number-eucitizens-came-live-britain-last-year-says-ons/>

Immigration to UK hit record levels prior to Brexit vote, data shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/01/immigration-to-uk-hit-record-levels-in-run-up-to-brexit-vote-latest-figures-show>

Immigration and Asylum News: Statistics (continued)

Migration was at highest level in run up to EU referendum

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/migration-running-at-its-highest-ever-level-before-brexit-vote-95xnhz2jg>

Net migration virtually unchanged at 335,000 in year leading up to the Brexit vote, official data shows

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-data-statistics-335000-theresa-may-a7449251.html>

Surge in EU workers coming to Britain in run up to Brexit vote sends total immigration to highest ever level of 650,000 in a year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3989400/Surge-EU-workers-coming-Britain-run-Brexit-vote-means-net-migration-TRIPLE-government-target-335-000.html>

More than a third of babies born to foreign parents

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/more-than-a-third-of-babies-born-to-foreign-parents-gglcpv9dv>

To restore Britain's faith in the immigration system, we need statistics we can trust

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2016/12/01/restore-britains-faith-immigration-system-need-statistics-can/>

News: Politics and policy

Home Office keeps child refugees 'in the dark' about move to UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/03/home-office-child-refugees-france-calais>

May refuses to guarantee future of EU migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-30/news/may-mocks-corbyn-for-muddling-the-imf-with-the-ifs-s67bsmcf>

Theresa May under pressure from cabinet ministers to let in low-skilled EU migrants after Brexit

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/03/theresa-may-pressure-cabinet-ministers-let-low-skilled-eu-migrants/>

Ministers want controls on skilled and unskilled EU workers, say sources

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/30/ministers-want-controls-on-skilled-and-unskilled-eu-workers-say-sources>

Theresa May had plan to 'deprioritise' illegal migrant pupils

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38165395>

Theresa May planned to put immigrant children to bottom of school places list, leaked letters reveal

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-immigrant-migrant-illegal-children-school-places-bottom-list-deprioritise-leaked-letters-a7449051.html>

Theresa May called for illegal migrant pupils to be 'deprioritised' as Home Secretary

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/01/theresa-may-called-illegal-migrant-pupils-deprioritised-home/>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Politics and policy (continued)

May wanted to 'deprioritise' school places for children of people illegally in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/01/may-wanted-to-deprioritise-school-places-for-children-of-people-illegally-in-uk>

May wanted to send children of illegal immigrants to back of schools queue

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/may-tried-to-banish-children-of-illegal-immigrants-from-schools-vbmlw8sp>

Immigrants should be forced to speak English to help them integrate, government-ordered review is set to advise ministers

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3993492/Immigrants-forced-speak-English-help-integrate-government-ordered-review-set-advise-ministers.html>

Legal aid for refugees would reunite more families

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-29/news/legal-aid-for-refugees-would-help-us-make-the-right-decision-first-time-mhzddq9rg>

News: Other immigration and asylum

Scotland takes in highest number of Syria refugees, new figures show

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political_news/14944353.Scotland_takes_in_high_est_number_of_Syria_refugees_new_figures_show/

Scotland takes in largest number of Syrian refugees

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-takes-in-largest-number-of-syrian-refugees-1-4307286>

85% of Brits have inaccurate views on immigration

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Press_release_-_85_of_Brits_have_inaccurate_views_on_immigration.pdf

After Brexit, immigration will be lower – and Britain will have to accept that the immigrants who come are the ones we chose

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/01/brexit-immigration-will-lower-britain-will-have-accept-immigrants/>

One million EU citizens in Britain 'at risk of deportation' amid surge in permanent residency applications since Brexit vote

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-eu-citizens-brexit-referendum-deportation-home-office-3-million-a7451476.html>

We need low-skilled migrants, food firms say

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/we-need-low-skilled-migrants-food-firms-say-tz28bgmt8>

Don't help the state bully migrants – boycott the school census

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/01/bullying-migrants-boycott-school-census>

It's time to end the lies about immigration

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-28/comment/its-time-to-end-the-lies-and-prejudices-about-immigration-0mrvid237>

Immigration and Asylum

News: Other immigration and asylum (continued)

Yarl's Wood demonstration draws up to 2,000 campaigners

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/03/yarls-wood-demonstration-brexit-vote>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Community Relations

Mike Freer [907510] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage community cohesion.

Reply from Sajid Javid: As Communities Secretary, I'm proud this is a country where 89% of people view their local area as a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.

Since 2010, we have invested £60 million on community integration programmes. Building on this, during Inter Faith week this month, we announced a further £250,000 for 'The Common Good' fund. This will bring even more communities together to tackle intolerance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-22/907510/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (731) Nagar Kirtan celebrations – That this House congratulates the Sikh community on the Nagar Kirtan processions which took place across the UK on 27 November 2016 to mark the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh faith; celebrates the contribution of the Sikh community to the UK, and the cultural contribution made by community events like the Nagar Kirtan procession to the UK's multicultural, tolerant society; and notes that a procession has been held in Leicester city centre every year since 1992 which attracts thousands of Sikhs from across the Midlands.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/731>

News

Most Muslims want full integration with British way of life

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-02/news/most-muslims-want-full-integration-with-british-way-of-life-p8t5bb5xh>

Today a report which gathered data on what British Muslims really think was released – and the results were surprising

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/muslims-british-report-policy-exchange-islam-values-really-think-released-results-surprising-a7454761.html>

Enclaves of Islam see UK as 75% Muslim

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/enclaves-of-islam-see-uk-as-75-muslim-77qdr67tl>

Community Relations

News (continued)

Isolated British Muslims are so cut off from the rest of society that they see the UK as 75 per cent Islamic, shock report reveals

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3998166/Isolated-British-Muslims-cut-rest-society-UK-75-cent-Islamic-shock-report-reveals.html>

Nicola Sturgeon to visit Ahmadiyya Mosque in Glasgow

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-38196904>

Nicola Sturgeon to visit mosque of murdered shopkeeper Asad Shah

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon/nicola-sturgeon-to-visit-mosque-of-murdered-shopkeeper-asad-shah-1-4308455>

Nicola Sturgeon to visit mosque of murdered shopkeeper in push for peace

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3997998/Nicola-Sturgeon-visit-mosque-murdered-shopkeeper-push-peace.html>

Muslim group's peace seminar

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/muslim-groups-peace-seminar-g63mbjv3r>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-02874 Bob Doris: Work Experience Programme for Ethnic Minorities in North Glasgow – That the Parliament congratulates African Challenge Scotland and NG Homes on the one-week work experience programme carried out during summer 2016; notes that five young people from the challenge completed and enjoyed a week of work experience at various NG Homes offices in north Glasgow; understands that the participants gained valuable experience in the workplace and displayed increased confidence as a result; believes that such programmes can make a real difference to young people from ethnic minority communities and increases their prospects of securing employment; acknowledges the good work that African Challenge Scotland carries out in its community, supporting social inclusion and participation of young people and families; applauds NG Homes for being such a willing partner in this exercise, and wishes both organisations every success in the years ahead.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02874>

UK Parliament Question

Travellers: EU Action

Kate Green [54213] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the conclusions of the 2011 EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Government is committed to creating a fair society in which all people, of whatever ethnic origin or background, are able to participate fully in society and realise their full potential. The United Kingdom has

Equality

UK Parliament Question (continued)

a strong and well-established legal framework, which protects all individuals, including Roma, against discrimination and hate crime. The UK is taking forward Roma integration through wider social inclusion policies, which is fully in line with our commitments under the 2011 EU Council Conclusions on an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-22/54213/>

Press Release

Common sense approach needed for religion and belief at work

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/common-sense-approach-needed-religion-and-belief-work>

New Publications

Religion or belief: is the law working?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/religion-or-belief-report-december-2016.pdf>

Guidance: Religion or Belief

Religion or belief: what is it and why is it important?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/religion-or-belief-what-it-and-why-it-important>

Religion or belief: a guide to the law

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/religion-or-belief-guide-to-the-law.pdf>

Religion or belief: how do I handle employee requests?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/religion-or-belief-how-do-i-handle-employee-requests>

Religion or belief: frequently asked questions

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/religion-or-belief-frequently-asked-questions>

News

Scottish Muslims more likely to have degree than other Scots

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/scottish-muslims-more-likely-to-have-degree-than-other-scots-1-4304247>

80% of Roma are at risk of poverty, new survey finds

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2016/80-roma-are-risk-poverty-new-survey-finds>

MPs condemn decision to block BME woman from Channel 4 board

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/02/mps-write-letter-channel-4-culture-secretary-karen-bradley-board>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Hate crime

Oliver Mundell: To ask the Scottish Government how it is addressing (a) sectarian behaviour and (b) hate crime. (S5W-4629)

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government is committed to preventing and eradicating prejudice and discrimination, doing so through direct community engagement which is focussed on prevention, education and changing attitudes. Coupled with a strong Justice response to supporting victims, this provides a robust basis for tackling sectarianism and hate crime more broadly. The Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009 strengthened the law around hate crime, while The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 is helping to tackle abusive and offensive behaviour, sending a clear message that such behaviour has no place in our society.

Our approach is supported by a significant financial investment, with over £195 million invested to promote equality and tackle discrimination since 2007 and an additional £12.5 million invested since 2012 specifically supporting work to tackle sectarianism, more than any administration before us. This funding continues to deliver community-based work and support work through a range of key organisations including BEMIS; CEMVO; Equality Network; Inclusion Scotland; Interfaith Scotland; LGBT Youth Scotland; Scottish Refugee Council; Scottish Transgender Alliance; Stonewall Scotland; Sense Over Sectarianism; and Nil by Mouth. We have commissioned an independent review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland. We have accepted the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion and will use these to build an inclusive and far-reaching programme of work in this area.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-04629>

UK Parliament Question

Oxford University: Antisemitism

Baroness Deech [HL3397] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 17 November (HL2972), whether they will ask the Higher Education Funding Council for England, in its role as regulator, to engage with the University of Oxford to ensure that their policies and procedures were implemented appropriately following reports of anti-Semitic incidents involving students which led to the resignation of a student club chairman in February.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Government condemns antisemitism wherever it occurs, including on university campuses. Universities and student societies need to be robust in tackling these kinds of issues. Universities are autonomous and have processes for dealing with concerns and complaints where they are raised, unless there are regulatory issues to be addressed.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) holds ongoing discussions (both formal and informal) with institutions, including the University of Oxford, on a regular basis. As the regulator, HEFCE has established procedures for following on up concerns raised about universities. No concerns have been

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Question (continued)

raised with HEFCE about the implementation by the University of Oxford of its policies and procedures on this issue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-22/HL3397/>

New Publication

Racial Violence and the Brexit State

<http://www.irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Racial-violence-and-the-Brexit-state-final.pdf>

News

'Disrespecting Islam' murderer loses appeal against sentence

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-38143593>

Man who killed Glasgow shopkeeper loses appeal

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/man-who-killed-glasgow-shopkeeper-loses-appeal-1-4304180>

Muslim taxi driver who murdered shopkeeper loses appeal against sentence

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14935001.Muslim_taxi_driver_who_murdered_shopkeeper_loses_appeal_against_sentence/

Hitler's only fault showing mercy to Jews, youth leader told secret meeting

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-28/news/hitlers-only-fault-was-to-show-mercy-to-jews-far-right-youth-leader-told-meeting-3mm6fl35p>

Cambridge society revellers accused of antisemitism

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-11-28/news/cambridge-society-revellers-accused-of-antisemitic-abuse-lglpp60fp>

Muslims criticise plans to prioritise denominational school places for Catholics as discriminatory

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14935822.Muslims_criticise_plans_to_prioritise_denominational_school_places_for_Catholics_as_discriminatory/?ref=mrb&lp=6

Racist 'white zone' posters pasted in Berkshire town

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-02/news/racist-white-zone-posters-pasted-in-berkshire-town-h8c0xs7n2>

How bad has 2016 been? Enough for Dictionary.com to choose "xenophobia" as its word of the year

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/uk-world/321058/bad-2016-enough-dictionary-com-choose-xenophobia-word-year/>

Rent racism hits Airbnb's ethnic hosts

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/rent-racism-hits-airbnbs-ethnic-hosts-hbrqw7kxc>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

St Andrew's Day

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10657&i=97923#ScotParlOR>

Parliamentary Motion

S5M-02796 Alasdair Allan: Celebrating St Andrew's Day – That the Parliament notes the fantastic opportunity that St Andrew's Day provides to showcase and celebrate Scotland's unique culture and identity at home and abroad and to boost the country's international reputation by sending a positive and inclusive message to the country and the world about Scotland and its people; acknowledges the potential of St Andrew's Day to further spotlight the contribution that Scots make across the globe and in many different fields of endeavour while emphasising a unity through the celebration of the wide diversity of faiths, cultures and ethnic origins that is the reality of the nation today; recognises the growing success of the St Andrew's Day celebrations over recent years and signals its support for the activities that are planned to mark St Andrew's Day 2016, and extends an invitation to people from near and far to join the celebration of Scotland's national day.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02796>

Public Petitions Committee

Local Authority Education Committees (Church Appointees) (PE1623)

papers pp4-13

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_PublicPetitionsCommittee/Submissions%202016/Public_Briefing_Pack_18.11.16.pdf

Official Report

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10656&i=97903#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Happy St Andrew's Day

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/happy-st-andrews-day-2/>

New Publications

A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People

Summary

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511017.pdf>

Scottish Government Delivery Plan to 2021 for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00510948.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Home Secretary hosts forum to end FGM

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-hosts-forum-to-end-fgm>

St Andrew's Day 2016: Theresa May's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/st-andrews-day-2016-theresa-mays-message>

New Publication

House of Commons Scottish Affairs Committee: Demography of Scotland and the implications for devolution

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmsscota/82/82.pdf>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Scottish Muslims in Numbers

http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/scottish_muslims_in_numbers_web.pdf

Unsettled Belonging: A survey of Britain's Muslim communities

https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/PEXJ5037_Muslim_Communities_FINAL.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

Islamic bank Al Rayan opens for business in Glasgow

<http://www.scotsman.com/business/companies/financial/islamic-bank-al-ryan-opens-for-business-in-glasgow-1-4303665>

Islamic bank arrives in Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14933451.Islamic_bank_arrives_in_Scotland/?ref=mr&lp=19

[TOP](#)

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>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (closing date 7 December 2016)

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

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>

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities [England and Wales] (closing date 27 January 2017)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2015/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities-inquiry-launch-16-17/>

Consultations (continued)

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

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

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

** Europe of Diversities

closing date for applications: 28 February 2016

European Union funding for projects to promote unity in diversity, support sharing of good practices in fighting discrimination and promoting diversity at local and regional level, and help to identify and target discriminatory practices at local and regional level and build understanding between majority and minority societies. For information see <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rppi-eudi-ag-2016.html>

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>

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>

[TOP](#)

**** *this week!***

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.

**** *this week!***

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.

**** *this week!***

LGBT Migrants in Scotland

8 December 2016 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Discussion linked to the research project 'Intimate Migrations' (based at the University of Glasgow), which explores the experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual migrants who have moved to Scotland from Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hrl87tq> or contact socpol-intimatemigrations@glasgow.ac.uk

**** *this week!***

The Legal and Human Rights Implications of Brexit on EU Migration

8 December 2016 in Glasgow (5.00-6.30)

JUSTICE Scotland and the Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider the implications of Brexit for work and retirement; private and family lives; study; housing and property ownership and capital interests. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/16xii_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

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

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/>

Discrimination Law in 2017

23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to review recent employment law changes. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

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/jdfkkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Separated Children

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.

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Talking to Young People about Equality**

23 March 2017 in Fife (venue tbc) (6.00-9.00)

Youth 1st workshop to help Youth Workers to begin a dialogue about equality with young people and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information contact Gayle Brown 01592 645 355 / gayle@youth1st.co.uk or see <https://www.fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8004>

Refugee Rights to Housing

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.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

[TOP](#)



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



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