

## Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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# Immigration and Asylum

## UK Parliament Debate

### Post-study Work Schemes

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-08/debates/C59CD337-F9AA-48F2-89A1-DC0BDD7AD380/Post-StudyWorkSchemes>

## UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

### Asylum Accommodation

**The Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill):** There has been considerable interest in the accommodation and support that is provided to asylum seekers. I am committed to ensuring that destitute asylum seekers are accommodated in safe, secure and suitable accommodation and that they are treated with dignity. I have listened carefully to hon. Members and non-governmental organisations' concerns about the arrangements, including their observations and criticisms of the current contractual arrangements.

The current contractual arrangements expire in 2017, with an option to extend them for a further two years. I have considered carefully whether to extend these contracts and weighed up a range of factors, including the value for money they offer the taxpayer and the improvements that have been made to the standard of accommodation when compared to those achieved under previous arrangements. I have decided to extend the contracts until 2019. However, I recognise that there are improvements that can be made. Therefore I have taken this opportunity to make changes and additional investment to address the concerns that have been raised and improve the services that are provided. These changes will build upon the improvements that we have already made this year in response to the concerns of hon. Members and others.

First I have increased the amount of money that the Home Office pays for the provision of welfare officers and staff property management. This is in direct response to feedback that more attention is needed to ensure that asylum seekers receive the welfare support they need and are able to raise any concerns they have with the accommodation providers. It will also ensure that property standards continue to be closely managed and further improved; and that sufficient suitable property is available. The money will only be available for the employment of additional resources engaged directly on these customer-focused activities.

I have also agreed that the Department should work with providers on developing different contractual terms to ensure that there is sufficient initial accommodation available and thereby further reduce the need to use contingency arrangements, such as hotels, in the future. I am pleased to report that the use of contingency accommodation is already much reduced but these changes will add in resilience, further reduce the numbers and keep them down.

Finally I have introduced a new higher price band for any increases in the number of asylum seekers requiring accommodation, this will allow the providers to further increase their property portfolios if required and widen the areas in which they operate. This will reduce the need to continually increase the number of asylum seekers accommodated in certain communities. This follows work to increase the number of local authority areas that participate in the asylum dispersal scheme, which I am pleased to report has increased the number of participating areas by over one third in the past 18 months.

The Department will continue to monitor the providers closely to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the contract and work closely with non-government organisations and service users to respond to feedback and continue to improve the system.

My officials have started work on putting in place new arrangements for when these contracts expire in 2019. This work is at an early stage and we are engaging with a range

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

of stakeholders to consider options for the future arrangements. [HCWS335]  
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-08/debates/16120856000013/AsylumAccommodation>

## UK Parliament Questions

### Immigration Controls

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Paul Monaghan** [55294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of applying different immigration rules to Scotland and other constituent parts of the UK.

**Brendan O'Hara** [55417] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of applying different immigration rules to Scotland and other constituent parts of the UK.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Immigration remains a reserved matter and we will consider the needs of the UK as a whole.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-29/55294/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-29/55417/>

### Entry Clearances: Married People

**Liz Roberts** [55758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her Department's policy to allow special considerations on the income threshold for the non-EEA partner of a British citizen if that partner is from a country experiencing war or conflict.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** In all cases where an application under the family Immigration Rules fails to meet the minimum income threshold or other requirement, the decision maker will consider whether there are exceptional circumstances to warrant a grant of leave outside the Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55758/>

### Entry Clearances: Married People

**Liz Roberts** [55759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take into account the implications for UK citizens with non-EEA partners of the effect of periods of maternity leave on the ability of those citizens to meet the income threshold in her decisions on immigration cases.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Paragraphs 13(i) and 16 of Appendix FM-SE to the Immigration Rules ensure that a person is not disadvantaged by a period of maternity leave in meeting the minimum income threshold to sponsor a non-EEA partner to come to or remain in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55759/>

### Entry Clearances: Married People

**Liz Roberts** [55760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her Department's policy on the minimum income requirement for UK citizens with non-EEA partners of using evidence provided by those citizens of their partners' earning potential when making immigration decisions.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The earning potential of the non-EEA national partner is no guarantee that they will find work in the UK. Those with an appropriate job offer here can apply under Tier 2 of the Points Based System. Non-EEA national partners coming to the UK under the family route must be capable of being independently supported by their sponsor or by their joint savings or non-employment income.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55760/>

### Entry Clearances: Married People

**Liz Roberts** [55761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect of applying regional income thresholds to UK citizens with non-EEA partners on the ability of those citizens to bring their partners to the UK.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The minimum income threshold of £18,600 for sponsoring a non-EEA national partner to come or remain here applies across the UK. The level of the income threshold, which aims to prevent burdens on the taxpayer and promote integration, was set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee and reflects the income at which a family settled here generally cannot access income-related benefits. The Committee, in its November 2011 report, could see no clear case for differentiation of the income threshold between UK countries and regions and noted several arguments against such an approach. These included that a family living in a wealthy part of a relatively poor UK country or region could be subject to a lower income requirement than a family living in a deprived part of a relatively wealthy one. The Government agrees with that assessment and applying a single minimum income threshold across the UK has been found to be lawful by the courts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55761/>

### Migrant Workers: Agriculture

**Baroness Byford** [HL3476] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 15 November (HL3019), whether they will consider implementing a new Seasonal Agricultural Permit Scheme that allows non-EU workers to work in the UK for a set period of less than 12 months to fill temporary jobs in commercial fruit and vegetable production.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** While the UK remains a member of the EU, EU nationals continue to enjoy rights of free movement in accordance with the UK's Treaty obligations, and employers in the horticultural sector can continue to recruit EU workers to meet seasonal labour needs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3476/>

### Immigration: Appeals

**Meg Hillier** [55592] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps she is taking in conjunction with HM Courts and Tribunals Service to reduce the length of time taken to grant hearing dates for accepted immigration appeals.

**Reply from Oliver Heald:** We do everything we can to avoid unnecessary delay in the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal and we have provided an additional 4,950 tribunal sitting days for this financial year to ensure current case loads do not increase. We are keeping performance under close review and are confident

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

there is sufficient capacity to deal with the number of appeals we expect to receive.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55592/>

### Illegal Migrants

**Nigel Mills:** What steps she is taking to ensure that illegal migrants cannot profit from working in the UK. [907631]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill):** In July this year we implemented new powers in the Immigration Act 2016 to prevent migrants from profiting from working illegally, by making that a criminal offence. That ensures that the profits of working illegally can be seized as the proceeds of crime, and assets may be confiscated on conviction.

**Nigel Mills:** I thank the Minister for that answer and ask him to set out to the House what other measures the Government are taking to ensure that those who are here illegally cannot access UK benefits, such as housing or welfare payments.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** I reassure my hon. Friend that adults with no legal status here are not eligible to receive public funds in that way.

**Ian Lucas:** Victims of people trafficking tell me that they are often prevented from assisting in criminal prosecutions against individuals from abroad who commit criminal offences, because they do not have any access to public funds. What discussions has the Home Office had with the Ministry of Justice concerning providing support to victims of people trafficking?

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** I certainly agree with the hon. Gentleman that if people who are here illegally have been exploited through modern slavery because they have been trafficked, it is important that we treat them with a degree of compassion and respect, and that we treat them differently from people who are not in that situation.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/F0772EB9-9875-4D0F-B364-6A1C0CDC9D52/IllegalMigrants>

### Refugees: Europe

**Paul Monaghan [55295]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support refugees (a) in the UK and (b) elsewhere in Europe.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

All those granted refugee status in the UK are given access to the labour market and benefits, and are encouraged to access organisations that can assist with integration.

The Home Office provides integration loans, which are designed to help new refugees to integrate into UK society by offering support towards housing costs, employment and training.

The Government has prioritised supporting refugees in their region of origin and the countries that host them through aid and development funding and is at the forefront of international efforts to end the Syrian crisis.

We have committed to resettling up to 20,000 individuals under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and 3,000 individuals under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme over the lifetime of this Parliament.

In Europe, the UK is a leading Member State contributing both financial and

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

practical support for refugees through the European Asylum Support Office and bilaterally with countries such as France, Greece, and Italy.

This support includes: resources to assist with processing arrivals; £34 million contribution to Greece's humanitarian response (enabling provision of essential tents, blankets, and sleeping bags); a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe; £1.5 million for humanitarian and research activities in Italy; and naval support for vessels in distress.

The Government accepted an amendment during the passage of the Immigration Act 2016 to bring a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children from Europe to the UK.

Since 10 October, we have transferred over 300 unaccompanied children to the UK from France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-29/55295/>

### Refugee children

**Christina Rees:** If the refugee family reunion section of UK immigration rules was widened, many refugee children could arrive directly from the conflict region rather than via Calais. Will the Home Secretary commit to look again at these rules so that children do not have to risk their lives to be with their families?

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** We are constantly looking at our immigration rules to ensure that we have the right balance to support vulnerable children in the continent—most of them coming from Calais—whom we are trying to help, but we have other programmes that enable us to give direct help to vulnerable children who are out in the conflict regions.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/43AD95BE-5239-4743-8F36-1E6CCFBCF901/TopicalQuestions#contribution-9BD1BEB4-823E-4A8B-9969-555A2515E48B>

### Refugees: Children

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Baroness Jowell** [HL3480] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they have applied to the assessment of unaccompanied refugee children from the Calais camp.

**Baroness Jowell** [HL3482] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been admitted to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; and how many applications are still outstanding.

### Asylum: Children

**Baroness Jowell** [HL3481] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been admitted to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation; and how many applications remain outstanding.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Immigration Act states that we will transfer unaccompanied refugee children. Our criteria under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 are 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 asylum seeking children with close family in the UK will continue to be considered for transfer under the criteria set out in the Dublin Regulation, regardless of age or nationality. Between 1 January and 1 October 2016, over 140 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were accepted for transfer under the Dublin Regulation, compared to around 20 children in the whole

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

of 2015. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures for Dublin transfers.

Furthermore, since 10 October, we have transferred over 300 unaccompanied minors to the UK from France. This includes over 80 girls, many of whom were identified as being at a high risk of sexual exploitation; and more than 200 unaccompanied asylum seeking children with close family links to the UK under the Dublin Regulation. The Home Secretary told Parliament on 24 October that several hundred more children and young people will be brought to the UK in the coming days and weeks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3480/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3482/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3481/>

### Refugees: Children

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3544] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are proposing to resettle in the UK a proportion of the estimated 85,000 unaccompanied child refugees who have made asylum applications in other EU member countries.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, the Government committed to relocating a specified number of unaccompanied child refugees from Europe. The specified number will be announced in due course.

Under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin III Regulation, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who have family already in the UK can be transferred to the UK for consideration of their asylum claim. Between 1 January 2016 and 1 October 2016, over 140 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe have been accepted for transfer to the UK under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, compared to fewer than 20 in 2015.

Since 10 October, we have transferred over 300 unaccompanied children to the UK from France. This includes over 80 girls, many of whom were identified as being at a high risk of sexual exploitation; and more than 200 children with close family links to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation. The Home Secretary told Parliament on 24 October that several hundred more children and young people will be brought to the UK in the coming days and weeks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3544/>

### Refugees: Children

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3545] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they propose to accommodate and rehabilitate future child refugees in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children who are not reunited with family are accommodated by a local authority and the child will become legally looked-after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (or equivalent devolved legislation).

This means that they will be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted in the same way as any other looked after child.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3545/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Refugees: Children

**Helen Goodman** [55038] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government has made an estimate of the number of refugee children awaiting entry to the UK who have gone missing in refugee camps.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Responsibility for migrant children in other countries and the management of refugee camps sits with the respective Governments and organisations working with those Governments. Therefore we are unable to make an estimate.

We are working closely with France, Italy and Greece on the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and we continue to resettle those in need of international protection through our four resettlement schemes. We work closely with organisations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the safe transfer of those children to the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55038/>

### Asylum: Housing Benefit

**Jim McMahon** [55110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has conducted an assessment of the potential effect of reductions in housing payments for asylum seekers.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Asylum seekers are not provided with payments to cover their housing costs. If they are destitute and do not have adequate accommodation they are provided with free, furnished accommodation by the Home Office. Utility bills are also covered by the Home Office and a cash allowance is provided to cover their other essential living needs, including food, clothes and toiletries. The level of the allowance, currently set at £36.95 per week, is reviewed each year to ensure that it is adequate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55110/>

### Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children

**Stewart Jackson:** What steps she is taking to ensure that individual local authorities do not bear a disproportionate burden for supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. [907622]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd):** In July the Government launched the national transfer scheme to ensure a more equitable distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children across the country. The scheme is designed to support local authorities like Peterborough City Council. In support of the national transfer scheme we also increased central Government funding to local authorities caring for unaccompanied children by up to 33%.

**Stewart Jackson:** Will my right hon. Friend reassure me that in areas such as Peterborough, which has already borne a major burden in both EU and non-EU migration, we will not be expected to pay once again for the huge ongoing costs of children and young people who are unaccompanied minors—we have 40 such cases in Peterborough—and that we will receive bespoke central Government funding?

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** I can reassure my hon. Friend that each child that his council looks after does attract additional funding, so I hope that that will address his particular financial concerns about the council's obligations. I would like to put on record our grateful thanks to Peterborough Council, which does a fantastic and generous job in looking after some of these most needy children.



## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Martin Day:** Unlike almost every other EU country, the UK does not allow unaccompanied child refugees to sponsor their parents to join them—a situation that the Home Affairs Committee has described as “perverse”. Does the Home Secretary agree that it is in the best interests of the refugee children, as well as in the interests of our society, to allow them to be with their parents?

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** I understand the hon. Gentleman’s motive in making this point. However, I would respectfully say to him that that could have a very detrimental effect in terms of a pull factor, with children coming to this country—potentially being sent or indeed trafficked to this country—in order to have their parents brought over; so no, we will not be looking at it again.

**John Howell:** How is the Modern Slavery Act 2015 going to affect the burden that is put on local authorities? [907630]

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** On the burden put on local authorities, one of the elements to which I refer them is the controlling migration fund—a new source of funds that I hope they will be able to access to support unaccompanied minors. On the Modern Slavery Act, I will have to get back to my hon. Friend.

**Carolyn Harris:** Child protection organisations such as EPCAP UK fear that a lack of support and resources is preventing some authorities from offering the required level of professional services to adequately protect vulnerable children from traffickers. Why are over a quarter of local authorities unable to participate in the national transfer scheme for unaccompanied children? Will the Home Secretary agree to look at this as a matter of urgency?

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** The funds that we put in place to support unaccompanied children represent a sum that we agreed after consultation with local authorities to work out the costs. It is the average cost. We acknowledge that some children will have different needs and will therefore end up being more expensive, and some less so. We hope that this is the right amount to be able to support them. We believe that it is the right amount. We are always willing to try to listen to local authorities if they have other suggestions. I particularly refer them to the controlling migration fund, which we hope will be able to give additional support.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/4A85FE90-328C-4BFD-9639-65B0585C9693/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

### Asylum: Children

**Michelle Thomson** [55508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on the number of children who can enter the UK of the provisions of her Department's guidance, Implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in France.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The guidance builds on the principles set out by the Home Secretary on 24 October. The criteria are intended to ensure that we are focusing on the most vulnerable children. We will be considering all those aged 12 and under, all children referred to us by the French authorities assessed as being at a high risk of sexual exploitation, and those nationalities most likely to qualify for refugee status in the UK, aged 15 or below. In doing this we are also establishing whether it is in each child’s best interests to come here. Since 10 October, we have transferred over 300 unaccompanied minors to the UK from France and, as the Home Secretary told Parliament on 24 October, we expect several hundred more children to be brought to the UK in the coming days and weeks.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-29/55508/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Asylum: Children

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3289] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Home Secretary on 24 October (HC Deb, col 56) that "the French Government [had] requested that we did not transfer children outside of the Dublin regulation process", what rationale they received from the government of France for that request.

**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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3289/>

### Asylum: Children

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3499] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will provide a definitive figure for the total number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3500] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so why, they are excluding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children over the age of 12 who are not of Syrian or Sudanese origin, given the terms of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and the proportion of the children in the Calais camp at the time of demolition who were of Eritrean or Afghan nationality.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3501] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether excluding from transfer to the UK of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children over the age of 12 who are not of Syrian or Sudanese origin is compatible with Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3502] To ask Her Majesty's Government why the guidance on transferring children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 excludes 16-, 17- and 18-year olds unless they are an accompanying sibling of a child meeting one of the other three criteria.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3503] To ask Her Majesty's Government what training is provided to immigration officials conducting Best Interest Determination interviews under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We will specify in due course the number of unaccompanied refugee children to be transferred to the UK under

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Immigration Act states that we will relocate unaccompanied refugee children. Our criteria under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 are 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. 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 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. Social workers, rather than Home Office staff, are carrying out best interest determinations in France.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3499/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3500/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3501/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3502/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3503/>

### Asylum: Children in Care

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3377] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average yearly cost of supporting an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government significantly increased the funding provided to local authorities looking after Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in July. These rates are based on a detailed analysis of financial information sent to the Home Office by local authorities about their actual cost of caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. The analysis showed that the average cost across all local authorities of looking after an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child aged under 16 was approximately £41,610 per annum and the average cost of supporting those aged 16 and 17 was approximately £33,215 per annum.

On 1 November myself and my hon. Friend, the Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families, made a statement to Parliament on safeguarding unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children where we committed to regularly review

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

funding to support and care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children, working closely with the Local Government Association and local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-21/HL3377/>

### **Asylum: Children in Care**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno** [HL3378] To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional funding has been provided to (1) Kent County Council, and (2) Croydon Council, to support the arrival of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Because of their geographical location as "entry authorities", Kent and Croydon have higher numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in their care and have received enhanced funding rates to reflect this.

In July, the government launched the National Transfer Scheme to ensure a more equitable distribution of unaccompanied asylum seeking children across the UK.

We are committed to reducing the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Kent and Croydon and will keep the additional funding under review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-21/HL3378/>

### **Immigration Detention/Adults at Risk Policy**

**Jess Philips:** If she will take steps to (a) ensure that survivors of sexual and other gender-based violence are only held in immigration detention as a last resort and (b) monitor the effective implementation of the adults at risk policy. [907627]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sarah Newton):** The intention of the adults at risk policy, developed as a result of the review by Stephen Shaw, is part of a wider programme of work that aims to improve the way in which vulnerable people in detention are managed. That should enable the delivery of the issue raised by the hon. Lady. The policy came into effect on 12 September, and the intention is to ask Stephen Shaw to carry out a short review in 2017 to assess progress.

**Jess Philips:** The Government's commitment to reduce the number of survivors of sexual violence in detention is welcome, but how will observers know whether that is happening? Is information now being collected on the numbers of women in detention who disclose that they are victims of sexual violence, and will that information be made available?

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The hon. Lady is right to point out that we are taking a significant package of measures to make sure that people are detained for the minimum time possible, that their vulnerabilities are properly recognised and understood, and that access to mental health and other health services is made available. As I have said, we will ask for an independent review in the course of the year, to make sure that that is working.

**Carol Monaghan:** The Istanbul convention, which the Government have yet to ratify, requires countries to develop gender-sensitive reception procedures, such as women-only accommodation. What steps are the Government taking to guarantee the safety of women in initial accommodation, including women and children-only corridors?

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The hon. Lady is right to point out the importance of making sure that women are safe. It is the absolute priority of this Government to keep women and girls safe, including in our detention system. The Government have signed and will ratify the Istanbul convention and, as the hon. Lady knows, we are well exceeding all its targets.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/AFFF648F-AB47-47BB-8F38-ABB71718FB8C/ImmigrationDetentionAdultsAtRiskPolicy>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Kirsten Oswald (778) Visitor visas and faith communities** – That this House applauds the efforts of the Church of Scotland Glasgow Presbytery to engage in international twinning arrangements with groups including the Diocese of Hyderabad to promote and develop international and interfaith dialogue, constructive communications and mutual understanding; agrees that this kind of engagement benefits faith communities, and also society more widely; expresses disappointment that visa applications for the return twinning visit of the Hyderabad diocese to the Church of Scotland have twice been refused; urges the Government to reverse this decision; suggests that the current system is simply not fit for purpose; and aspires to interfaith and international dialogue being recognised as a vital strand in forming positive, outward-looking global relationships.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/778>

## Press Release

**New Asylum Agency must ensure EU countries respect common asylum rules, say MEPs**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161208IPR55203/new-asylum-agency-must-ensure-eu-countries-respect-common-asylum-rules-say-meps>

## New Publications

**Looked-after children and immigration issues (non asylum)**

[http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/userfiles/file/Looked%20after%20children%20and%20immigration\\_Nov\\_2016\\_final.pdf](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/userfiles/file/Looked%20after%20children%20and%20immigration_Nov_2016_final.pdf)

**Bail for Immigration Detainees Legal Advice Survey**

[http://www.biduk.org/sites/default/files/media/docs/Autumn%202016%20FINAL\\_0.pdf](http://www.biduk.org/sites/default/files/media/docs/Autumn%202016%20FINAL_0.pdf)

## News

**MPs launch inquiry seeking public views on immigration**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/08/mps-launch-inquiry-seeking-public-views-on-immigration>

**MPs will tour the country to hear public's views on immigration**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-08/news/mps-will-tour-the-country-to-hear-publics-views-on-immigration-qtwvcwks>

**Immigration inquiry MPs to tour UK and gather views at public meetings**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4013142/MPs-launch-nationwide-probe-public-opinions-immigration.html>

**Calais child migrants: More than 750 brought to UK**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38270251>

# Immigration and Asylum

## News (continued)

### **Home Office stops transfer of Calais child refugees to UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/09/home-office-transfers-of-calais-child-refugees-to-uk-cease>

### **Refugee children's fates 'hanging in the balance' after Government ends phase of transfers from Calais Jungle**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-calais-camp-jungle-transfers-uk-home-office-croydon-numbers-citizens-uk-a7466416.html>

### **UK's child refugees vanish**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/uks-child-refugees-vanish-q6xxrt706>

### **Schools told to prepare for new wave of child refugees: Education chiefs warn of pressure on system as more than 750 children are brought to the UK from Jungle in Calais**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4019126/Child-refugees-Calais-brought-UK-schools-Jungle-closes-down.html>

### **Speak to immigrant students like me before you 'deprioritise' them**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/08/immigrant-students-theresa-may>

### **'Allow only migrants with jobs into UK'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-09/news/allow-only-migrants-with-jobs-into-uk-3ffq7c99z>

### **Migration cut will raise low pay by just 1%**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-08/news/migration-cut-will-raise-low-pay-by-just-1-c26xztv29>

### **UK food prices will rise without EU workers, say trade groups**

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/dec/08/uk-food-prices-to-rise-without-eu-workers-warn-trade-groups>

### **UK asylum system causing stress to pregnant applicants - study**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-asylum-system-causing-stress-to-pregnant-applicants-study-1-4309891>

### **Investigation after death of second immigrant in UK detention in a week**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/07/investigation-second-death-immigrant-centre-morton-hall-week>

### **Home Office to review decision to bar Pakistani Christians**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14950045.Home\\_Office\\_to\\_review\\_decision\\_to\\_bar\\_Pakistani\\_Christians/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14950045.Home_Office_to_review_decision_to_bar_Pakistani_Christians/)

### **Tribunals should apply rules on deporting foreign criminals**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-08/law/tribunals-should-apply-rules-on-deporting-foreign-criminals-gfdk272zc>

### **English lesson funding cuts stopped women integrating**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-06/news/english-lesson-funding-cuts-stopped-women-integrating-0x9rk9z2d>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **The case for a post-study work visa scheme tailored for Scottish needs**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/14956003.Agenda\\_The\\_case\\_for\\_a\\_post\\_study\\_work\\_visa\\_scheme\\_tailored\\_for\\_Scottish\\_needs/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/14956003.Agenda_The_case_for_a_post_study_work_visa_scheme_tailored_for_Scottish_needs/)

#### **Archbishops are denied visas over asylum fears**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-05/news/archbishops-are-denied-visas-over-asylum-fears-fl38292qb>

#### **EU says member states can start deporting refugees and migrants back to Greece from March**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/europe-refugees-migrants-greece-march-a7462921.html>

#### **A Devon village has unleashed its anger toward the recent 70 Syrian arrivals by donating £600 worth of jumpers to them**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/syrian-refugees-devon-torrington-unleashed-its-anger-a7463946.html>

#### **The Syrian teenagers making a fresh start in the UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/11/childrens-society-observer-guardian-christmas-charity-appeal>

#### **It's not just a Christmas ad – it's a Polish grandpa's heartbreaking gift to Britain**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/09/christmas-advert-polish-grandpa-migrants>

#### **The town where even immigrants are fed up with migration: Failing schools, filthy streets and benefit fraud**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4018946/The-town-immigrants-fed-migration-Failing-schools-filthy-streets-benefit-fraud-ROBERT-HARDMAN-dispatch-accuse-Brexiters-racist-read.html>

#### **The forgotten shipwreck**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-38211589>

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## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motion

#### **S5M-02949 Christina McKelvie: BEMIS Scotland St Andrew's Day Celebrations –**

That the Parliament warmly congratulates BEMIS Scotland on its diverse, inspirational and eclectic St Andrew's Day and Scottish Winter Festivals celebrations; believes that the celebrations are part of the Scottish Winter Festivals period from 30 November 2016 to 28 January 2017, including 61 community-led events across Scotland; notes that these events are led by diverse citizens who call Scotland home; notes that these events include a St Andrew's Day conference between BEMIS and the national arts organisation, Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS), alongside a bespoke St Andrew's Day dinner celebrating the close links between Scotland and South Asia; notes the special International celebration of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, with

## Community Relations

### Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

a BEMIS/Celtic Connections partnership, A Toast tae the International Lassies in January 2017; believes that these celebrations embody the type of Scotland that people seek to live in and enhance, where inclusion is recognised as a right, predicted on people's shared humanity and diverse cultural characteristics; considers that these celebrations play a vital role in Scotland's social, economic and cultural future, and considers that, it is within this ethos that, by way of BEMIS' core values, Scotland is "enhanced by our diversity and combined by our humanity", building a reflective, equitable and fair economic, social and cultural reality.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-02949>

## UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

### Opportunity and Integration

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid):** Dame Louise Casey has today released her report on how to boost opportunity and integration in isolated communities. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House, and it is also available through my Department's website.

Dame Louise was commissioned to carry out her review by the then Prime Minister in July 2015. The review conducted through a combination of written consultation, visits and engagement across the country with members of the public and statutory agencies, round tables with academics, faith leaders and analysis of research and data. I am most grateful to Dame Louise for the thoroughness of her review and the comprehensive report.

This country has long been home to many different cultures and communities, but all of us have to be part of one British society. It is right that we celebrate the positive contribution that diverse groups make to British life, but we also need to recognise that more needs to be done to make sure nobody is excluded or left behind. To do that, we need to take a serious look at the evidence and must not shy away from the challenges we face. Dame Louise's report is a crucial step in that process, and I will be studying her findings very closely.

The report considers population change, patterns of residential and school segregation, social interactions between different groups in society, public attitudes and values, social and economic exclusion, equality impacts of cultural and religious practices, hate and extremism, past approaches and the role of leadership. It concludes with a series of recommendations to Government for promoting integration that could be implemented as a new programme across Government.

I will carefully consider the findings in this review, in consultation with my Government colleagues and faith and community leaders, and will bring forward proposals in due course. [HCWS319]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/1612057000017/OpportunityAndIntegration>

### Casey Report (House of Commons)

**The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid):** I have seen for myself the enormous contribution that immigrants and their families make to British life, all without giving up their unique cultural identities, but I have also seen with my own eyes the other side of the equation. For too long, too many people in this country have been living parallel lives, refusing to integrate and failing to embrace the shared values that make Britain great; and for too long, too many politicians in this country have refused to deal with the problem, ducking the issue for fear of being called a racist and



## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

failing the very people they are supposed to help. I will not allow that to continue.

We in public life have a moral responsibility to deal with the situation ...

One of the central recommendations of the report is to make sure that every community in Britain can speak English. I remember, when I was about eight or nine years old, going with my mother when she had to visit the GP and acting as an interpreter for her. Many years later I am pleased to say that she learned English and now speaks it very well. It has transformed her life. ...

**Teresa Pearce:** For too long as a country we have ignored these complex issues for fear of being seen as racist or as attacking cultural attitudes. Sadly, this approach has left a vacuum that has been exploited by those who exist to promote hatred. ...

**Sajid Javid:** It is worth reminding the House that sharia councils are not courts in England and Wales; they cannot legally enforce any decisions and they must, of course, operate within the national law. However, the report has highlighted some legitimate issues. ...

**David Davies:** ... the last two Muslims to be murdered in hate crimes were murdered not by Brexit supporters but by other Muslims. Does that not show the importance of implementing this report and demanding that all communities sign up to gay rights, women's rights and the right to interpret religion in any way one wishes?

**Sajid Javid:** My hon. Friend highlights the importance of promoting British values and making sure that they are accepted by all communities in Britain. That includes tolerance, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, respect for democracy and so many other things.

...

**Rishi Sunak:** Does my right hon. Friend agree that, while Britain should always remain a tolerant and diverse nation, it is also important that new communities feel an obligation to integrate and embrace a common British identity, and that we should never use the excuse of multiculturalism to tolerate practices that are clearly not in accordance with British laws, values and customs?

**Sajid Javid:** ... I could not agree more with my hon. Friend. I think we all realise—the report highlights this—that mistakes were made in the past. We could collectively, as politicians, have done a much better job in helping to settle and integrate new arrivals and new communities in Britain, and we should now learn from that. ...

**To read the full lengthy Q&A session see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-06/debates/FF91364D-4324-4420-943A-5ABCE8C9ADD1/CaseyReport>

#### **Casey Report (House of Lords): Statement followed by Q&A**

... **Lord Kennedy of Southwark:** ... The report demonstrates that the Government cannot continue to hollow out the social infrastructure and local council and public services that do so much to encourage integration without paying a heavier price in the long term. The key recommendation in Dame Louise Casey's report is the importance of being able to speak English. That way, isolation and subjugation are not able easily to take hold. ...

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** ... Those who have English language skills are more likely to get jobs and feel integrated. Obviously, we will take our time to respond to this report, but I have seen the impact of English language classes, very recently in Bradford and in the East End, particularly for women from some of our religious communities who may be excluded or have difficulty getting a job because of poor language skills. ...

**Baroness Pinnock:** ... does the Minister accept that there are dangers in generalisations and in the stereotyping of communities, particularly Muslim communities? Does he agree that stereotyping in this way—and sometimes stigmatising—can be counterproductive to the aim of integration? Does he accept that the majority of Muslims in our community do integrate and do play a full role in the life of our society? ...

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** ... any hate crime is a crime against all of us. ...

*To read the full Q&A session see*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-06/debates/A3DD98D0-7182-4810-9DA0-5467BC97F261/CaseyReport>

## Press Release

**First Minister visits Ahmadiyya Mosque**

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-minister-visits-mosque/>

## New Publication

**The Casey Review A review into opportunity and integration**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/574565/The\\_Casey\\_Review.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/574565/The_Casey_Review.pdf)

## News

**Nicola Sturgeon hails 'diversity' after Glasgow mosque visit**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/nicola-sturgeon-hails-diversity-after-glasgow-mosque-visit-1-4308696>

**Nicola Sturgeon calls for tolerance during visit to mosque of murdered shopkeeper Asad Shah**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nicola-sturgeon-calls-tolerance-during-9392993>

**Sturgeon backs Muslim tolerance drive**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-05/scotland/sturgeon-backs-muslim-tolerance-drive-kx850h5v2>

**Segregation at 'worrying levels' in parts of Britain, Dame Louise Casey warns**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38200989>

**Pupils 'must be taught British values' claims Westminster review**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/pupils-must-be-taught-british-values-claims-westminster-review-1-4308949>

**Javid: many people in UK 'leading parallel lives' over social integration**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/06/sajid-javid-many-immigrants-in-uk-leading-parallel-lives>

**Casey review raises alarm over social integration in the UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/04/social-integration-louise-casey-uk-report-condemns-failings>

**Casey report criticised for focus on UK Muslim communities**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/05/casey-report-criticised-for-focus-on-uk-muslim-communities>

## Community Relations

### News (continued)

**Sorry, Louise Casey, but Muslim women are held back by discrimination**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/06/louise-casey-discrimination-muslim-women-bradford>

**White people must play a role in integration too**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/05/white-people-integration-louise-casey-review-muslims>

**Loving country you live in part of Muslim faith, says Ahmadi leader**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/06/loving-country-you-live-in-part-of-muslim-faith-says-ahmadi-leader>

**Politicians avoid integration issues for fear of being seen as racist, Sajid Javid says**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajid-javid-integration-louise-casey-review-integration-immigration-a7459006.html>

**Government integration expert says she 'wants to see faces' of Muslim police officers and midwives**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/muslim-women-veils-government-expert-interview-bbc-louise-casey-a7456181.html>

**Government must increase English classes for migrants and make them take oath of allegiance, says report**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/dame-louise-casey-immigration-english-language-british-values-major-report-warns-a7455431.html>

**'Right on' critics are ignoring problems caused by immigration, government tsar warns after Muslim groups condemn her 'inflammatory call' for newcomers to take a vow of allegiance**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4000062/Swear-oath-live-Britain-Major-report-says-migrants-pledge-follow-values-soon-arrive-says-pace-immigration-communities.html>

**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>

**'It rings true to me': Sajid Javid vows the Government WILL tackle problems caused by mass immigration after a bombshell report found 'ghettos' in British towns and cities**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4005754/It-rings-true-Sajid-Javid-vows-Government-tackle-problems-caused-mass-immigration-bombshell-report-ghettos-British-towns-cities.html>

**Muslim backlash at 'divisive' race report: But author slams 'right-on' critics for turning blind eye to truth**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4003902/Muslim-backlash-divisive-race-report-author-slams-right-critics-turning-blind-eye-truth.html>

**I despair of the British Muslims who choose to live under a virtual apartheid**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4003946/I-despair-British-Muslims-choose-live-virtual-apartheid-writes-Dr-Taj-Hargey.html>

## Community Relations

### News (continued)

#### **Censorship and the truth about migration**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-4003920/DAILY-MAIL-COMMENT-Censorship-truth-migration.html>

#### **'I feel like a foreigner in my own country': Inside the 'British GHETTOS' where 21-year-old says he barely sees a white face and Muslim taxi driver blames Eastern Europeans for 'ruining' his home**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4002300/I-feel-like-foreigner-country-Inside-British-GHETTOS-21-year-old-says-barely-sees-white-face-Muslim-taxi-driver-blames-Eastern-Europeans-ruining-home.html>

#### **Ties That Bind**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ties-that-bind-nswsf8vn6>

#### **Ethnic misogyny and patriarchy 'fuels social division'**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-06/news/ethnic-misogyny-and-patriarchy-fuels-social-division-33vnz6gwj>

#### **Migrants ordered to adopt liberal values and culture**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-ordered-to-adopt-liberal-values-and-culture-hlffggz7h>

#### **Now we must all be brave and confront the ugly truths of Muslim segregation**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/politics/now-must-brave-confront-ugly-truths-muslim-segregation/>

#### **Towns like Blackburn need more integration. But this must come from the grassroots, not political edict**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/07/towns-like-blackburn-need-integration-must-come-grassroots-not/>

#### **White liberals have speeded segregation in the UK. The great struggle now is to reverse it**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/05/white-liberals-have-speeded-segregation-uk-great-struggle-now/>

#### **We Need Equality Not Finger Pointing: Response to the Casey Integration Report**

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/we-need-equality-not-finger-pointing-runnymedes-response-to-the-casey-integration-report>

#### **Amid unprecedented levels of immigration, what is the future for Glasgow district Govanhill?**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/life\\_style/14958516.Amid\\_unprecedented\\_levels\\_of\\_immigration\\_what\\_is\\_the\\_future\\_for\\_Govanhill\\_/?ref=mr&lp=4](http://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/14958516.Amid_unprecedented_levels_of_immigration_what_is_the_future_for_Govanhill_/?ref=mr&lp=4)

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Questions

#### **Racial Equality Framework**

**Lewis Macdonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what role the regional equality

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

councils will play in taking forward its racial equality framework. (S5O-448)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** A pioneering programme of engagement activities was used to ensure that a wide range of organisations and individuals, from grassroots community organisations, to practitioners working the public sector and academia, had an active role in the Race Equality Framework. We are determined to show leadership in advancing race equality in Scotland, and we will continue to work closely with public and third sector organisations, including regional equality councils, in undertaking a wide-range of actions to address inequalities through our Race Equality Framework.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-00448>

#### **Gypsy Traveller Sites (Minimum Standards)**

**Mary Fee:** To ask the Scottish Government when it last received an update from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities or the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers regarding the enforcement of minimum standards for Gypsy Traveller sites. (S5O-00432)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance):** There is no requirement for COSLA or the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers to update the Government on progress towards meeting the minimum standards for Gypsy Traveller sites. However, the Scottish Government has met COSLA and ALACHO officials to discuss issues around sites, including site quality, and it will continue to do so.

**Mary Fee:** Across Scotland there are numerous examples of minimum standards still not being enforced at Gypsy Traveller sites since the Scottish Government published its guidance in May 2015. For example, Duncholgan Gypsy Traveller site near Lochgilphead is one that I have visited. Despite residents raising numerous concerns over lack of basic provisions for years, no action has been taken and no progress has been made in improving the very poor living conditions there. The Duncholgan site lacks adequate lighting, the road is still in an extremely poor condition, and the site has no bus stop. It is clear that the current enforcement strategy is failing, as the concerns of residents are being ignored and the improvements at many sites have been minimal at best. Will the minister take responsibility for, and control of, the situation and implement an inspection programme for all Gypsy Traveller sites in Scotland, to ensure that Gypsy Travellers do not have to continue to live in substandard conditions on sites that are failing to offer basic provisions or to meet minimum standards?

**Reply from Angela Constance:** I can reassure Mary Fee by saying that Kevin Stewart, the Minister for Local Government and Housing, has written to Argyll and Bute Council with reference to the site that she mentioned.

On the broader work that the Government is doing, we will review progress towards implementing the standards with site tenants, site providers and other key stakeholders during 2017. We have said that we expect sites to meet the standards by 30 June 2018, and we are also considering linking the guidance to the Scottish social housing charter, which we consulted on recently and which appears to have been well received. The purpose of the Scottish social housing charter is obviously to improve the quality of services received by all members of the community, and that will give opportunities for clearer statements about what the Gypsy Traveller community is entitled to expect. I hope that including the site standards in the charter indicates the seriousness with which the Government takes the issue of poor standards on Gypsy Traveller sites.

**Sandra White:** I thank Mary Fee for raising this question. The issue was always high on the agenda of the Equal Opportunities Committee when I was a member, and we were

## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Questions (continued)

particularly concerned about the relationship between local authorities, local communities and Gypsy Traveller sites.

What is the Scottish Government doing to ensure on-going cohesion with local communities, local communities and Gypsy Traveller sites?

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government works closely with COSLA on this issue. It is a joint aim of the Government and COSLA to ensure cohesion between Gypsy Travellers and the settled community. There are a number of aspects to the issue, including the revised guidance on unauthorised sites, which will set out responsibilities for the Gypsy Traveller community and local authorities.

It is important that we also emphasise the contribution that Scotland's Gypsy Traveller communities have made to our national life, and we will include that in the strategic programme of work, which will be published during 2017.

We are working to better identify better practice in community cohesion work, using the results to inform better collaborative approaches with our partners across the public sector and the third sector. We will also explore ways to support public bodies in implementing the element of the public sector equality duty that is concerned with fostering good relations, with regard to race equality and community cohesion.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10674&i=98050#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Jim Shannon (770) Signs of Christianity in te workplace** – That this House notes the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission which highlights the overzealous approach of some employers to ensuring there is no sign of Christianity in work places, including the discrete wearing of crosses; expresses concern that this approach is tantamount to the persecution of Christians which is intolerable; and underlines the fact that in a Christian country employees must not fear losing their job due to wearing a symbol of their faith.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/770>

## Press Release

**Scottish Government appoints Race Equality Framework Adviser**

<http://news.gov.scot/news/scottish-government-appoints-race-equality-framework-adviser>

## New Publication

**Forty Years of Struggle A Window on Race and Housing, Disadvantage and Exclusion**

<https://bmenational.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/forty-years-of-struggle-a-window-on-race-and-housing-disadvantage-and-exclusion1.pdf>

## News

**Race adviser will be 'critical friend' to government**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-08/scotland/race-adviser-will-be-critical-friend-to-government-btI2qIjzx>

## Equality

### News (continued)

**'Lack of representation in parliament is concerning': Sikhs on living in the UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/05/lack-of-representation-in-parliament-is-concerning-sikhs-on-living-in-the-uk>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Hate Crime

**Gordon Lindhurst:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to curb the posting online of "hate tweets" in Scotland. (S5W-4816)

**Reply from Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government is committed to doing all that we can to prevent and eradicate hate crime and prejudice, and build community cohesion. We are clear that any form of hate crime is totally unacceptable and we are committed to tackling all forms of crime motivated by prejudice. Under Section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 an offence is committed when a person communicates material which contains, or implies, a threat of serious violence or death against another person and the material communicated would cause a reasonable person to suffer fear or alarm. An offence is also committed if the material is intended to stir up religiously-motivated hatred. The material communicated does not have to relate to football and applies to text, images, video and sound, communicated by any means (e.g. by post, the internet, leaflets). Unlike elsewhere in the UK, prior to the introduction of the legislation there was no specific offence in Scots law criminalising threats made with the intent of inciting religious hatred. This was an obvious gap and it was clear that legislation was required to address it. Police Scotland will review and fully investigate all reports of hate incidents, including those that refer to online posting of "hate tweets" via social media platforms. Where a post is found to meet the criteria of being 'grossly offensive' in terms of Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 all efforts are made to trace the perpetrator with a view to bring them to justice, this would be recorded as a hate crime regardless of whether the perpetrator was identified or not. Where an incident is investigated and the post does not meet the criteria required under legislation the report would be recorded as a hate incident.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-04816>

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Hate Crime

**David Rutley:** What steps the Government are taking to increase the number of prosecutions for hate crime. [907735] ...

**David Amess:** What steps the Government are taking to increase the number of prosecutions for hate crime. [907739]

**Henry Smith:** What steps the Government are taking to increase the number of prosecutions for hate crime. [907741]

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** ... the cross-Government hate crime action

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

plan, published in July 2016, focuses on the reduction of hate crime, the increasing of reporting, and ensuring that all criminal justice partners deliver the appropriate outcomes for victims. ...

**David Rutley:** Like many others in the Chamber, I was very concerned about the spike in the number of racial and religiously aggravated offences after the referendum. Will my hon. and learned Friend please tell the House whether that trend has continued in recent months?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** My hon. Friend is right to raise this issue. I think we were all concerned about the spike that clearly occurred after the referendum. The total number of racial and religiously aggravated offences reported in July this year was 41% higher than in the previous year, but I am happy to report that the number of such reported offences has now declined and is at similar levels to before the referendum.

**David Amess:** Will my hon. and learned Friend look carefully at the law relating to abusive and offensive online posts? Often when I look at the remarks that are made, particularly when someone has died, I find it quite incredible that newspapers host them, and I think these cowards should have their names and addresses printed along with the offensive posts.

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** My hon. Friend raises a proper point of increasing concern. I assure him that anonymity—perceived or real—is not an escape route for perpetrators. The use of false online profiles and websites still means that people are traceable, and they can and will be pursued, just like the appalling individual who, only this week, was convicted of offences arising from a racist campaign against the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger). ...

**Jim Shannon:** Does the Solicitor General agree that prosecution of hate crimes is helped when the victim is supported enough to give evidence, and that more training must be provided by the teams that deal with hate crime UK-wide to ensure that all possible support is afforded to victims and their families?

**Reply from the Solicitor General:** The hon. Gentleman knows from his experience in Northern Ireland that the Leonard Cheshire Disability organisation has an excellent scheme in place to support victims. This echoes the point that I made earlier about the need for such best practice to be spread to give better support. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-08/debates/B8F26B81-AFEB-42F3-BB37-36C53FD503AC/HateCrime>

### Brexit

**Karen Lumley [55616]** To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that racism, hate crime and dog whistle tactics are routinely condemned during the UK's negotiations on leaving the EU.

**Reply from David Jones:** Hate crime of any kind, directed against any community, race or religion, has absolutely no place in our society. The government is firmly committed to tackling hate crime, which is why we have published a new Hate Crime Action Plan which focuses on reducing hate crime, increasing reporting and improving support for victims. We have also launched a new funding scheme to help protect places of worship.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55616/>

### Hate Crime

**Lord Ouseley [HL3619]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the recent



## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

increased incidence of hate crime, what assessment they have made of the letter to political parties from the Chair and Chief Executive of the Equality and Human Rights Commission calling for policy debate to be conducted in a way which brings the country together and stating that elected representatives should engage people on contentious issues in a responsible and considered way.

**Reply from Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen:** I am aware of the letter from the Equality and Human Rights Commission, which addresses important issues. As the Prime Minister has made clear, hate crime of any kind, directed against any community, race or religion has absolutely no place in British society. As the Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises, it is for political parties to monitor the content of their campaigns and challenge that of others, as part of free political debate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3619/>

### Hate Crime

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

**Paul Flynn** [55203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime were reported in each month of 2015.

**Paul Flynn** [55224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime have been reported in each month of the last 12 months for which data is available.

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The Home Office collect and publish statistics on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police on an annual basis. In 2015/16, the most recently published data, the police recorded 62,518 hate crimes in England and Wales. The statistical bulletin, which includes data for earlier years, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>

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/2016-11-28/55203/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55224/>

### Sikhs: Discrimination

**The Marquess of Lothian** [HL3668] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent discrimination against the UK's Sikh community, in the light of the UK Sikh Survey 2016 which revealed that almost one fifth of Sikhs encountered discrimination in a public place in the last year.

**Lord Nash:** Discrimination against someone because of their race or religion is abhorrent and has no place in modern society.

We are rightly proud that British anti-discrimination law is among the strongest in the world. The Equality Act 2010 provides legal protection against both direct and indirect discrimination because of a range of protected characteristics, including a person's race and their religious beliefs. Domestic case-law has determined that

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Sikhs are protected as both a racial and a religious group.

Anyone who feels that they have been unlawfully discriminated against should contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service. That is a free, Government-sponsored helpline that advises and assists individuals on issues relating to equality and human rights, across England, Scotland and Wales.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3668/>

#### Antisemitism

**Jim Shannon** [55265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2016 to Question 50110, whether her Department had made an assessment of the potential merits of requiring the collection of data on the presumed religion or belief or other key characteristics of alleged or suspected perpetrators of religiously or racially motivated attacks.

**Reply from Sarah Newton:** The police have made great strides in collecting data on hate crime and from April 2016 they have started to collect data for religiously motivated crimes on the basis of the victim's religion (or perceived religion).

We need to ensure that any additional burdens that are placed on the police in relation to hate crime can be justified in terms of improving their response to such crimes and the support they give to victims. We would also need to ensure that any additional data collected was accurate and could be used constructively.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-28/55265/>

#### Freedom of Expression (Religious Satire)

**Charles Walker:** What legal protections are in place to protect people's freedom of expression with regard to religious satire. [907626]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd):** Freedom of speech and religion are core values that make our country great. They are, indeed, protected in law. What is or is not a joke, or what constitutes satire, is, I believe, in the eye or ear of the beholder and is not, perhaps, for Government to opine on.

**Charles Walker:** Why did the Home Secretary and her Ministers not give voice to those principles during the manhunt and vilification of the gymnast Louis Smith?

**Reply from Amber Rudd:** One of the first actions that I took when I came to office in July was to publish a hate crime action plan, to which I refer my hon. Friend. It enables anybody who is the victim of any sort of hate crime, which I think is what he is referring to, to have the confidence to report what is going on and to make sure that the police take action so that they do not feel singled out and abused.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/98E6C89A-8CD9-46E5-AA66-DB9CACD3C919/FreedomOfExpression\(ReligiousSatire\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-05/debates/98E6C89A-8CD9-46E5-AA66-DB9CACD3C919/FreedomOfExpression(ReligiousSatire))

#### Textbooks: Saudi Arabia

**Lord Alton of Liverpool** [HL3557] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports by the BBC's Panorama programme in 2010 that approximately 5,000 pupils in the UK are being taught the Saudi national curriculum, what action has been taken to ensure that school text books originating in Saudi Arabia which propagate hate speech and religious intolerance are not being used in schools, clubs and weekend schools in the UK.

**Reply from Lord Nash:** The Government is committed to ensuring that all children learn in a safe environment, protected from extremist or hateful views

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

wherever they are receiving education. We are taking firm action where concerns arise, and have taken a number of steps to strengthen regulation in schools. Ofsted now inspects schools on the requirement to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, as well as on the breadth of the curriculum, which should prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. In addition, we have provided further resources to Ofsted to allow them to increase their investigative work into unregistered independent schools. Wherever such schools are found to be teaching hate or intolerance, we are taking action to close them and prosecute those operating them.

Ofsted have not found any evidence of the text books referred to in the programme being used in schools that they have inspected.

We have also taken steps to increase oversight of out-of-school settings, such as clubs and weekend schools. Prevent duty statutory guidance sets out the expectations on local authorities to take steps to understand the range of out-of-school settings in their areas and to ensure that children attending such settings are safeguarded, including from the risk of being drawn into extremism and terrorism. We set out plans to introduce a new system of regulation for out-of-school settings in our call for evidence which closed earlier this year. The proposed system would allow Ofsted to close such settings where there was evidence that they were engaging in extremist teaching or failing to adequately safeguard the children in their care. We received a large number of responses and will set out next steps in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3557/>

#### UN Resolutions: Racial Discrimination

**Chris Stephens** [55858] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what the reasons were for the Government not supporting the motion in the UN General Assembly on 21 November 2016 condemning the glorification of Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Tobias Ellwood:** Her Majesty's Government is firmly committed to tackling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, but does not judge that endorsing UN General Assembly Resolution 70/140, passed on 21 November 2016, would have contributed positively to these goals. We consider Resolution 70/140 unbalanced and politically motivated. It does not address all contemporary forms of racism in a comprehensive way. Furthermore, it is too restrictive in its treatment of the right to freedom of expression and the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association which are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. For these reasons the UK Government did not support the Resolution.

We hope that further amendments to the Resolution, to address these concerns, will make it possible to reach a consensus in the future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-01/55858/>

## Press Release

**Man who posted articles to MP 'littered with hate' convicted**

[http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest\\_news/man\\_who\\_posted\\_articles\\_to\\_mp\\_littered\\_wit\\_h\\_hate\\_convicted/](http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/man_who_posted_articles_to_mp_littered_wit_h_hate_convicted/)

## **Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination** (continued) **News**

**Scottish Government appoints independent adviser to tackle racism**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/referendumnews/14951366.Scottish\\_Government\\_appoints\\_independent\\_adviser\\_to\\_tackle\\_racism/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/referendumnews/14951366.Scottish_Government_appoints_independent_adviser_to_tackle_racism/)

**Hate crimes fall back to pre-Brexit levels despite an initial spike in the number of offences reported immediately after June's referendum**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4016394/Spike-hate-crimes-reported-Brexit-vote-ends-number-offences-falling-levels-June-s-referendum.html>

**Man guilty of harassing Jewish Labour MP Luciana Berger**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-38242100>

**Racist troll gets two-year jail term for harassing MP Luciana Berger**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime\\_courts/14955252.Racist\\_troll\\_gets\\_two\\_year\\_jail\\_term\\_for\\_harassing\\_MP/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14955252.Racist_troll_gets_two_year_jail_term_for_harassing_MP/)

**Luciana Berger: Blogger accused of 'repulsive anti-Semitic abuse'**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-38210920>

**Jewish MP describes her terror to court after race-hate blogger subjected her to harassing four-month campaign**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/jewish-mp-describes-terror-court-9398873>

**Man who harassed MP Luciana Berger online is jailed for two years**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/08/man-joshua-bonehill-paine-harassed-mp-luciana-berger-online-jailed-two-years>

**Racist troll guilty of harassing Labour MP with antisemitic posts**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/07/racist-troll-guilty-harassing-labour-mp-luciana-berger-joshua-bonehill-paine>

**Neo-Nazi given two-year sentence for 'vile antisemitic abuse' of Labour MP Luciana Berger**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/luciana-berger-antisemitic-abuse-neo-nazi-man-jailed-two-year-sentence-a7463726.html>

**'Pathetic and puerile' racist convicted of harassing MP Luciana Berger**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/luciana-berger-labour-joshua-bonehill-paine-convicted-racismanti-semitism-a7461661.html>

**Anti-Semitic troll who called a Jewish Labour MP a 'rodent' and an 'evil money-grabber' with a 'deep-rooted hatred of men' in a series of online rants is jailed for two years**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4013774/Anti-Semitic-troll-called-Jewish-Labour-MP-rodent-evil-money-grabber-deep-rooted-hatred-men-series-online-rants-jailed-two-years.html>

**Luciana Berger in plea to other victims as racist troll convicted of harassment**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4010024/Pathetic-puerile-racist-troll-convicted-harassing-MP-Luciana-Berger.html>

**Even bigots and racists have the right to be heard**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-08/comment/even-bigots-and-racists-have-the-right-to-be-heard-mkns6837d>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**Rabbi tells MSPs of anti-Semitic attack on his family close to Scottish Parliament**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14956881.Rabbi\\_tells\\_MSPs\\_of\\_anti\\_Semitic\\_attack\\_on\\_his\\_family\\_close\\_to\\_Scottish\\_Parliament/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14956881.Rabbi_tells_MSPs_of_anti_Semitic_attack_on_his_family_close_to_Scottish_Parliament/)

**We thought antisemitism in football was long gone. How wrong we were**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/05/antisemitism-football-antisemitic-incidents-abuse>

**Alleged racist used Facebook and YouTube accounts post anti-black and Jewish material and called for 'real holocaust' to rid the world of 'sub-human' Jews, court is told**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4005970/Alleged-racist-used-Facebook-YouTube-accounts-post-anti-black-Jewish-material-called-real-holocaust-rid-world-sub-human-Jews-court-told.html>

**EU must address widespread ethnic profiling by police**

<http://www.enar-eu.org/EU-must-address-widespread-ethnic-profiling-by-police>

**Shop really isn't racist, insists owner after outcry**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-09/news/shop-really-isn-t-racist-insists-owner-after-outcry-tk6c2qt7m>

**Really British' shop selling UK memorabilia accused of racism**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/08/really-british-shop-selling-uk-memorabilia-accused-racism/>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Increasing organ donation and transplantation**

<http://news.gov.scot/news/increasing-organ-donation-and-transplantation>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Parliamentary Questions

#### Forced Marriage Unit

**Mark Hendrick** [55552] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what protocols are in place for the Forced Marriage Unit to provide information to local constabularies about people referred to them.

**Reply from Robert Goodwill:** The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK.

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

The FMU acts in an advisory capacity and, where there is an imminent risk of serious harm or threat to life to the victim, will refer cases to the police and other statutory agencies as appropriate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-30/55552/>

### Female Genital Mutilation

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3531] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of progress in ensuring that all those involved in child protection are aware of, and take action to prevent, the procedure of female genital mutilation.

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3533] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will commission research to ascertain attitudes towards female genital mutilation, including motivations for continuing to use the procedure and awareness of the law prohibiting it.

### Female Genital Mutilation Unit

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3535] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the female genital mutilation (FGM) unit will be given the remit, powers and budget to become the sole source for safeguarding girls at risk and eradicating FGM.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government has taken a range of measures to support professionals, increase our understanding of FGM and co-ordinate activity across Government.

This includes:

- a mandatory reporting duty requiring regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police came into force on 31 October 2015.
- publishing new multi-agency guidance on 1 April for all frontline professionals, including the police, which is statutory, for the first time.
- over 70,000 professionals have completed our free FGM e-learning, which we have updated to include information on the recent changes to the law.
- the Department of Health's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme which is improving the NHS response • Department for Education have funded the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is working to strengthen the social care response.

The Government also recognises the importance of gathering and disseminating information on the prevalence of, and attitudes to, FGM. In addition, we are part-funding a 2015 prevalence study and we have also introduced the recording and publication of FGM patient data across the NHS in England. We will not stop FGM until we have changed attitudes within communities. In July 2016, the Department of Health delivered a targeted patient and public facing FGM prevention advertising campaign based on our understanding of the motivations for FGM which has generated over 650,000 views on social media.

We continue to work closely with community organisations, faith groups and survivors to better understand the motivations behind FGM. The FGM role and function is to coordinate work across Government and carry out outreach work. However, we are clear that all agencies have a role to play in tackling FGM.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3531/>

and

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3533/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3535/>

### Female Genital Mutilation

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3608] To ask Her Majesty's Government to what extent the Home Office FGM unit has formed operational links with police forces and Border Force airside operations to provide them with intelligence and guidance on high risk countries in relation to female genital mutilation.

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3609] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish regular reports from the Home Office FGM unit showing high level results, progress in police investigations and examples of best practice; and whether these will then be disseminated to all professionals with a mandatory duty to report female genital mutilation.

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3610] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in relation to female genital mutilation, they are taking steps to investigate additional legislative measures to ensure that more prosecutions are secured.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Home Office's FGM Unit works closely with Border Force, who play a vital role in helping to identify and protect potential victims of FGM travelling to and from the UK. Border Force officers work in close partnership with other agencies, including social services and non government organisations. Between June and September, a number of operations took place at airports targeting inbound and outbound flights to and from countries with a high prevalence of FGM, forced marriage and human trafficking.

Information on live police investigations is sensitive and there is therefore a limit to how much information can be shared externally. To help encourage the sharing of best practice, we have recently published statutory multi-agency guidance providing information on this in relation to FGM. The FGM Unit has also recently visited all forces in England and Wales to understand their response to these issues and identify and collate examples of best practice.

We have significantly strengthened the law on FGM, through the Serious Crime Act 2015, to improve protection for victims and those at risk and to break down barriers to prosecution identified by the police and Crown Prosecution Service. Our focus is now on embedding the new legislative measures and we are working with the police, College of Policing, CPS and others to drive progress, including as part of work following HMIC's review into so-called 'honour-based' violence. The Government will however keep the legal framework under constant review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3608/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3609/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3610/>

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

### Female Genital Mutilation

**Lord Hunt of Kings Heath** [HL3611] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to reconvene the Girl Summit 2014 which concerned efforts to end female genital mutilation.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** The government continues to lead efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) and combat early and forced marriage, both at home and abroad. We were proud to co-host Girl Summit 2014 with UNICEF, which galvanised important commitments to end these harmful practices. The government is now focused on the implementation of commitments. We have also supported follow-up national events in the UK and overseas, including on 1 December, an event on FGM, bringing together young people and frontline workers. We will continue to take action to maintain international pressure to end both practices within a generation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-28/HL3611/>

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## New Publications

**Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online: First results on implementation**

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/image/document/2016-50/factsheet-code-conduct-8\\_40573.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/image/document/2016-50/factsheet-code-conduct-8_40573.pdf)

**Scottish Human Rights Commission Animation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWcRS18iyos&feature=youtu.be>

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## Other News

**Scotland should set up a state-funded Muslim school, says study**

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14958909.Scotland\\_should\\_set\\_up\\_a\\_state\\_funded\\_Muslim\\_school\\_says\\_study/?ref=mr&lp=3](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14958909.Scotland_should_set_up_a_state_funded_Muslim_school_says_study/?ref=mr&lp=3)

**Call for a Muslim state school open to all faiths**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/call-for-a-muslim-state-school-open-to-all-faiths-b8fsd8gp3>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### UK Parliament

**Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill**

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



## Bills in Progress

### UK Parliament (continued)

#### 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/studentsupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

#### 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>

#### 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](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](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](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>

#### \*\* Immigration (closing date 20 January 2017)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/161208-new-inquiry-immigration/>

#### 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)

**\*\* Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations** (closing date 14 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

**\*\* Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise** (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

**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

**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>

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## Events/Conferences/Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

**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 Martha Harding [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

**\*\* this week!**

**International Migrants Day**

14 December 2016 in Glasgow (5.30)

“Beats of the Antonov”: GRAMNet/BEMIS film screening for International Migrants Day. For information see <http://www.cca-glasgow.com/programme/gramnet-film-series--beats-of-the-antonov>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* this week!**

#### **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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

#### **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 changes in employment law. For information see [http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i\\_ehrc.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf) or contact Kyle Mulholland [equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com](mailto:equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com) / 0141 228 5925.

### **\*\* Meet the Funders/Capacity Building**

26 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15am and 4pm)

Glasgow City Council event for Third Sector organisations throughout Glasgow to engage with funders, fundraisers, and capacity building and support organisations. For information contact Karen Latta 0141 276 9906 / [karen.latta@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:karen.latta@glasgow.gov.uk).

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

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

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

#### **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 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/jdfkzk2> or contact Martha Harding [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **\*\* Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study**

8 February 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-3.30)

The Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study used the 2001 census findings and various health datasets to compare the health of ethnic groups in Scotland. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shels-dissemination-seminar-2-tickets-29978191578> or contact Theresa Kirkpatrick [Theresa.kirkpatrick@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Theresa.kirkpatrick@ed.ac.uk)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

### **Working with Interpreters**

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](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

### **Integration and Working with Syrian Families**

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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7982.

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

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

Youth 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gayle@youth1st.co.uk) or see <https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.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](mailto: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/>

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

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

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

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

**Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS)** [www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services](http://www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services)

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

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

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

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



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