

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

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

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

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

Tell us what you think about MEMO!

SCoJeC, in association with Bemis, and with the support of the Scottish Government, has published MEMO for more than 11 years. During that time we have received a lot of positive feedback but we would love to hear from more of our readers.

Please tell us what you think of MEMO, how you use it, whether you pass it on, and what you think of the range of topics we cover.

[CLICK HERE](#) to take part in our survey

(If you have received a paper copy of MEMO please type the following into the address bar of your internet browser in order to participate in the survey: <http://tinyurl.com/scojec-memo>)

The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 24 December 2016 to 8 January 2017, and the UK Parliament from 21 December 2016 to 9 January 2017. The next issue of MEMO will be published on 9 January 2017.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

International Migrants to Scotland

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10687&i=98142#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Questions

Refugees

Rona Mackay: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding Scotland's role in supporting refugees entering the UK. (S5O-00481)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): Scottish Government officials are in regular dialogue with Home Office officials about support for refugees who settle in Scotland. Ministers have also discussed the issue and I discussed the resettlement of refugees and unaccompanied children, among other issues, when I met the immigration minister in October. I am very proud that Scotland has now welcomed around 1,250 Syrian refugees under the Syrian resettlement programme since October 2015.

Rona Mackay: I welcome the fact that East Dunbartonshire Council has at long last agreed to take refugees: four families and four unaccompanied children. Does the cabinet secretary agree that, in addition to providing the refugees with housing and education, it is essential that a welcoming committee from the communities involved helps to integrate the families socially by helping with language and local knowledge?

Reply from Angela Constance: Like the member, I welcome East Dunbartonshire Council's decision to participate in the resettlement programme. I am pleased to say that, by 2017, all local authorities in Scotland will be involved in supporting refugees to settle in Scotland. It has to be acknowledged that considerable preparatory work needs to be done by local authorities before refugees arrive in their communities to ensure, for example, that the right accommodation, services and supports are in place.

I know that there is a wealth of expertise in the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, other local authorities and third sector organisations that East Dunbartonshire Council is drawing on as it prepares to welcome refugees. Many councils have engaged closely with their local communities through volunteering programmes or other means to make best use of the enormous good will that is out there to provide befriending and other support, whether it is English language practice or other ways to welcome refugees into our communities. I am pleased to acknowledge that Ms Mackay is working closely with the Twechar healthy living and enterprise centre to arrange a community team to help with that integration from day 1 and to give a very warm welcome to refugees when they arrive in East Dunbartonshire.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10693&i=98198#ScotParlOR>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-03049 Alasdair Allan: Welcoming International Migrants in Scotland – That the Parliament acknowledges the UN's International Migrants Day on 18 December 2016; remembers the refugees and migrants who have lost their lives while trying to reach safe harbour; welcomes the opportunity to celebrate the contribution of those who have chosen to make Scotland their home; embraces a culturally diverse community that enriches Scotland's intellectual, social and cultural life; acknowledges the impact that the result of the EU Referendum has had on many of Scotland's friends and neighbours and seeks to reassure all that they are welcome in Scotland; urges the UK Government to guarantee the rights of fellow EU nationals to live and work here, and calls on it to deliver a fair and sensible immigration system that meets Scotland's needs.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03049>

S5M-03049.1 Lewis Macdonald: Welcoming International Migrants in Scotland – As an amendment to motion S5M-03049 in the name of Alasdair Allan (Welcoming International Migrants in Scotland), insert at end ", based on a recognition of the country's demographic deficit and economic requirements, noting in particular the importance of students and graduates from both other EU countries and other parts of the world, and calls on the Scottish Government to co-operate with devolved and city administrations seeking to address similar concerns in other parts of the UK."

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03049.1>

S5M-03049.2 Liam Ker: Welcoming International Migrants in Scotland – As an amendment to motion S5M-03049 in the name of Alasdair Allan (Welcoming International Migrants in Scotland), leave out from "welcomes the opportunity" to end and insert "notes the UK Government's extensive aid programme to support refugees; welcomes the opportunity to celebrate the contribution of those who have chosen to make Scotland their home; embraces a culturally diverse community that enriches Scotland's intellectual, social and cultural life; acknowledges the impact that the result of the EU Referendum has had on many of Scotland's friends and neighbours and seeks to reassure all that they are welcome in Scotland; urges the UK Government to guarantee the rights of fellow EU nationals to live and work here and urges EU countries to offer reciprocal assurances for UK nationals living and working in the EU; notes that non-EU migration is essential and that a future, fairer immigration system can provide equal opportunities to live and work for migrants from outwith the EU; further notes the importance of attracting migrants from elsewhere in the UK, and believes that the Scottish Government has significant powers to create incentives to live and work in Scotland."

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03049.2>

UK Parliament Questions

Immigration Controls

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch [HL3320] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are giving consideration to the establishment of variable immigration rules to take account of the specific needs of the agricultural and food production sectors.

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch [HL3321] To ask Her Majesty's Government what

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

guarantees of the right to remain will be given to EU citizens living in the UK and working in the agricultural and food production sectors after Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme and Sectors Based Scheme for agricultural and food production sectors were closed at the end of 2013 when the transitional employment restrictions applied to nationals of Bulgaria and Romania were lifted. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force.

There are a number of options as to how EU migration might work once we have left. We are about to begin these negotiations and it would be wrong to set out further positions in advance. At every step of these negotiations we will work to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people.

The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here, and the only circumstances in which that would not be possible is if British citizens' rights in European member states were not protected in return.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3320/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-17/HL3321/>

Overseas Students

The Lord Bishop of Winchester [HL3840] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the financial contribution of overseas students to the UK economy.

Reply from Lord Young of Cookham: The Government estimated in 2013 that overseas students (EU and non-EU) in higher education in the UK contributed £9.7 billion to the UK economy in 2011, through tuition fees and living expenditure.

The Department for Education will publish a new estimate of the total value of education exports to the UK economy shortly, based on data from 2014. This will include updated estimates on the financial contribution of overseas students.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-05/HL3840/>

Immigration: International Students

Lord Holmes of Richmond: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the visa requirements for international students and to remove those students from the immigration figures. ...

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government will shortly be seeking views on a range of proposals to reform the visa system for international students. Like other migrant groups in the UK, international students use public services, contribute to population levels and affect local communities. The independent Office for National Statistics therefore includes international students in its net migration calculations, following international best practice in this regard. ...

Lord Holmes of Richmond: ... Can she give the House information on the tier 4 pilot that is being undertaken? What are the results so far and what can be done to extend it to give even greater benefit across the sector?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... The four institutions chosen were Oxford, Cambridge, Bath and Imperial College London, which were selected due

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

to their consistently low level of visa refusals. But the pilot is intentionally narrow in scope in order that its outcomes against the stated objectives can be monitored, and to minimise the risk of unintended consequences. If the pilot is successful we will consider rolling it out more widely.

Lord Morgan: My Lords, has not the Foreign Secretary described the Government's policy in this area as totally crazy and pointed to the fact that the number of Indian students in our universities has roughly halved? He has called for post-study work visas to be restored, and has asked for reassurances to be given to the Indian Government and for international students to be removed from the total of recorded immigration, because it is completely misleading. Would the Minister like to commend the wise words of a sometimes misrepresented colleague?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I do not know who is misrepresenting who but I do not feel that I can speak for the Foreign Secretary. In fact, sometimes I do not know if the Foreign Secretary speaks for others. It is indeed true that Indian student numbers have gone down, but Chinese student numbers have gone up. Indeed, figures for the Russell group have gone up.

Baroness Smith of Newnham: My Lords, is not the figure of tens of thousands as a cap on immigration entirely arbitrary? If we accept the importance of international students, they should be taken out of that target. That does not mean taking them out of the OECD numbers, but it does mean that we could look again at the international numbers. I declare my interests as listed in the register.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, there is no cap on the number of students who come here. As long as students are compliant with immigration rules, they should make only a very limited contribution to the migration numbers. The Government's ultimate goal is to get migration numbers down to the tens of thousands rather than the hundreds of thousands, but that will take time. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-14/debates/C803CF1E-BC3E-4462-9FF4-A4AAF583288/ImmigrationInternationalStudents>

Entry Clearances

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Browne of Belmont [HL3468] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many entry clearance visa applications have been received in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Lord Browne of Belmont [HL3469] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many entry clearance visas have been granted in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The information requested for the latest 12 months available is published in table vi_01_q (visa data tables volume 1) in 'Immigration Statistics, April - June 2016', available from the GOV.UK website.

In the year ending June 2016, there were 2,866,872 entry clearance visa applications (including visitors and those on transit visas). Over the same period there were 2,457,977 grants. These figures include main applicants and dependants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3468/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-23/HL3469/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Immigration: Appeals

Paul Blomfield [53312] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many applications were made to her Department to remit or reduce fees in exceptional circumstances under Article 7 of the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Fees Order 2011 in each year from 2011 to 2016; and how many of those applications were granted in each such year.

Reply from Oliver Heald: The cost of running our courts and tribunals is unsustainably high. It is absolutely right that those using the system, who can afford it, should pay more to relieve this burden. We make no exception for immigration and asylum cases and these appellants will continue to pay a fee. However, we have suspended the higher fees introduced in October this year. The Lord Chancellor's exceptional power to reduce or remit fees will remain in place, along with exemption and waiver arrangements in particular for those who cannot afford to pay. Our management information system does not collate data on unsuccessful applications for exceptional fee remissions. The number of applications granted since fees were introduced for proceedings in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in December 2011 are set out below:

Date (period)	Applications Granted
19.12.2011 to 31.03.2012	6
01.04.2012 - 31.03.2013	71
01.04.2013 to 31.03.2014	148
01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015	183
01.04.2015 to 31.03.2016	314
Total	722

This information covers up to the last full year for which information is available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-16/53312/>

Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3692] To ask Her Majesty's Government who will select the refugees coming to the UK as part of the Government's pledge to welcome 20,000 refugees by May 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK sets the criteria and then United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies and submits potential cases for our consideration. Cases are screened and considered on the papers and we retain the right to reject on security, war crimes or other grounds.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3692/>

Refugees

Lord Hylton [HL3709] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 November (HL3027), how many persons have been admitted to the UK so far in 2016 under the Mandate resettlement scheme for refugees; and what plans they have to enhance the effectiveness of this scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Mandate plays an important part in facilitating the resettlement of refugees in various locations across the world. The referral of cases under Mandate is dependent on UNHCR identifying cases which meet its criteria. The number of people resettled under the Mandate scheme is reported in the quarterly immigration statistics.

We continually review processes to ensure Mandate cases are processed as effectively as possible.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-30/HL3709/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven [HL3787] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 1 December (HL3335), and in the light of the inclusion in the vulnerability criteria of persons at risk due to their sexual orientation, how they determine whether people are being accepted into the scheme because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and how the application of the vulnerability criteria relating to sexual orientation is audited and validated.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria. The seven vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR are Legal and or Physical Protection Needs; Survivors of Torture and/or Violence; Medical Needs; Women and Girls at Risk; Family Reunification; Children and Adolescents at Risk and Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions.

Persons who are at risk due to their sexual orientation or gender identity are usually referred for resettlement using the category "Legal and Physical Protection Needs", however they can also be referred under one of the other categories if more applicable. We are working with the UNHCR and other partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register for fear of stigma or discrimination and who may be unaware of the options available to them.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-02/HL3787/>

Refugees: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3695] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to revise their immigration policy so that refugees welcomed to the UK are able immediately to earn a living.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under our current immigration policy all those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK or resettled under one of our resettlement schemes have immediate access to the labour market.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3695/>

Refugees: Doctors

Lord Crisp [HL3904] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support refugees arriving in the UK, who are medical students or trainees, to complete their training.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: Health Education England is supporting a range of initiatives to help refugees who are qualified or student health professionals to access support to enable them to complete their training and register, so that they can practice in the United Kingdom. These include language support, work placements and courses to refresh skills and knowledge for those returning to practice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3904/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Doctors: Refugees

Lord Crisp [HL3905] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have decided not to proceed with the proposed refugee medical fellowships for refugee doctors which were planned for London, Manchester and Oxford.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: There are no agreed plans for medical refugee fellowships. However, NHS England has been discussing opportunities, including the idea of fellowships, to provide additional support for refugees who wish to practice as a doctor in the National Health Service in England, to see whether such support would help to increase the number of doctors working in general practice by 2020-21. A decision has yet to be taken on this issue.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3905/>

Universal Credit

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL3927] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken to make a decision on (1) all universal credit claims, and (2) UK claims relating to individuals who have been granted leave to remain as a refugee.

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL3928] To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence, if any, they have of people who have been granted refugee status facing problems claiming universal credit because they do not have a bank account.

Reply from Lord Freud: The Department does not track individual claims made by refugees. However, where people have problems getting a bank account, they are not prevented from making a claim for Universal Credit. Furthermore, DWP in conjunction with the Home Office, are currently piloting a new process to assist asylum seekers granted refugee status and needing support to make a claim to benefits.

Officials are currently assessing the data for Universal Credit and will only release information once the necessary quality assurance work has taken place. These statistics will be published in accordance with the relevant protocols in the Code of Practice for official statistics. The Department does not track individual claims made by refugees and therefore this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3927/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3928/>

Refugees: English Language

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3694] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that English language tuition is available in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and the Greek islands to assist those coming to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: UNHCR counsel refugees before they are resettled under the Government's resettlement schemes. Additional advice is also provided through cultural orientation sessions with practical information about life in the UK and rights and responsibilities. Those arriving in the UK are provided with English language lessons by their receiving local authority.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3694/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Calais: Child Refugees

Baroness Sheehan: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of children formerly in the Calais camp who will be eligible for transfer to the United Kingdom under their recently published general criteria for eligibility under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, we are working closely with the French authorities to identify eligible children and transfer them as soon as possible. Since 10 October, we have transferred more than 750 children, including approximately 200 children who meet the criteria for Section 67 of the Immigration Act. More eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin regulation.

Baroness Sheehan: I thank the Minister for her reply. Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the Secretary of State to safeguard the welfare of asylum-seeking children. Where a child is outside the UK, the spirit of the duty should be applied. Frankly, what I saw on my recent visit to French centres to which children from Calais have been moved makes a mockery of that duty. When will the Government finally transfer to the UK children whose eligibility they themselves established some time ago?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I think I set out in my first answer that that is precisely what we will do.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, while I appreciate that children have been dispersed to many parts of France from Calais, have all of them now been contacted by Home Office officials? Do they know their situation? If they have not all been contacted, by when does the Minister think they will be told what will happen to them?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, as the noble Lord knows, we have been working closely with the French authorities in line with what they wish us to get involved with. We will continue to do that.

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-13/debates/A31C78E6-1A3C-4B87-BC30-E39BA6737A47/CalaisChildRefugees>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3693] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much welcoming each unaccompanied child refugee will cost the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office funds local authorities for the care and support of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. The 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 UASC. The analysis showed that the average cost across all local authorities of looking after a UASC 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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3693/>

Asylum

Diana Johnson [56172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of her Department's asylum caseworkers are trained in how to treat evidence from the Medico-Legal Report service when making asylum decisions from people who claim to have been tortured in their home country.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All members of staff who make decisions in

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

asylum, receive training on inter-national and domestic law and safeguarding issues supplemented by a mentoring programme with an experienced caseworker that can last up to 6 months. Within this course there are specific sections that detail torture and Medico Legal Reports and how they should be used and analysed in asylum claims.

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-05/56172/>

Asylum: Hostels

Derek Twigg [56678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in which (a) local authority areas and (b) Parliamentary constituencies asylum hostels are located.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There are currently seven permanent Initial Accommodation Centres located across the United Kingdom in the cities of Liverpool, Cardiff, Birmingham, London, Wakefield and Glasgow.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-07/56678/>

Asylum: Sexual Orientation

Lord Scriven: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people claiming asylum in the last year did so on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity; and of those, how many have been granted asylum.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Home Office does not publish statistics on the basis of asylum claims or the decisions arising from them. This is true for claims relating to gender and sexual identity. The Home Office is considering how data from its casework database may be assured and used to provide such information to a sufficiently accurate standard.

Lord Scriven: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer, but those who sit on the Home Office strategic engagement group, set up after the Vine report in June 2014, will be surprised by it. At the last meeting, in September of this year, a senior civil servant said that the only reason that the statistics have not yet been published is because they are waiting for authority from the Minister. Which is wrong: the Answer from the Dispatch Box or the civil servant, who says that they will be published with the authority of the Minister?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... However, I can say that the Home Office collects information that records whether a claim is based on sexual orientation, and it is likely to correlate with the claimant's sexual orientation, although an individual may have an asylum claim that is quite distinct from their sexual orientation. The data are management information only—I can assure the noble Lord of that—and they do not form part of our published statistics because they have not been quality assured to a sufficient standard.

Lord Cashman: My Lords, claiming asylum on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is deeply intrusive and personal. Often claimants have to prove their sexual orientation by disclosing elements of their private lives. Therefore, given the noble Baroness's commitment to issues of equality, will she work with organisations such as the UK Lesbian & Gay Immigration Group, Stonewall and others to ensure that the approach taken towards them is fair, just and balanced?

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office works, and continues to work, with groups like Stonewall, and we know that some of the training received by people who process claims has improved and that questions are much more sensitively put than perhaps some of the anecdotal evidence from the past suggests. The 2014 report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration into the handling of sexual orientation claims praised our guidance. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-14/debates/4D06F8D4-3A8C-4779-8115-4D06A0C776C3/AsylumSexualOrientation>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor [56463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to end the adults at risk in immigration detention policy.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The new adults at risk policy recognises the dynamic nature of vulnerability and introduces a new focus on decision making with regard to immigration detention. It strengthens the existing presumption against the detention of those who are particularly vulnerable to harm in detention. It is part of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's report on the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention. The Government intends to ask Mr Shaw to carry out a short review in 2017 to assess progress against the key recommendations of his report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-07/56463/>

Deportation: Appeals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Andrew Smith [50064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appeals lodged in cases where section 94B decisions were made for non-EEA nationals were allowed by the Tribunal from July 2014 to July 2016.

Andrew Smith [50066] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many appeals in cases where section 94B decisions were made for non-EEA nationals were lodged from outside the UK from July 2014 to July 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: HM Courts and Tribunal Service publishes appeals data on a quarterly basis which can be accessed at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550952/tribunal-and-gpc-stats.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50064/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50066/>

Deportation: Appeals

Andrew Smith [50065] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many section 94B decisions were made against non-EEA nationals from July 2014 to July 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Our records indicate that approximately 900 such decisions were made between the dates requested. Due to the operational nature of this data it can be subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50065/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Deportation

Andrew Smith [50069] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportation decisions were made against non-EEA nationals from July 2012 to July 2014.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The number of deportations of non-EEA Foreign National Offenders can be found in table: 'rt_06_q: Returns of foreign national offenders' at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2016/returns>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50069/>

Human Trafficking: EU Action

Tommy Sheppard [53905] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what plans he has for inclusion within negotiations on the UK leaving the EU the continuing participation by the UK in Operation Sophia; and if he will take steps to ensure continuing UK participation in that operation after the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Alan Duncan: The UK remains fully engaged in European defence and security, as our ongoing commitments to European Union Common Security and Defence Policy operations and missions demonstrate. Our future relationship with the EU on foreign and defence policy is something that will be addressed in the future. But it is clear that we share many challenges with other European nations, and therefore it is in our shared interests to continue to cooperate.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-21/53905/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister must 'show leadership' on EU migrants' right to remain – says TUC and British Chambers of Commerce

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/economic-issues/labour-market/international-issues/europe/prime-minister-must-%E2%80%98show-leadership%E2%80%99-eu>

Stop inciting fear and hatred of migrants and refugees, urge MEPs

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20161208IPR55162/stop-inciting-fear-and-hatred-of-migrants-and-refugees-urge-meps>

Joint Statement on the occasion of International Migrant Day

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-4440_en.htm?locale=en

Children and families should never be in immigration detention – UN experts

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21026&LangID=E>

'Every migrant is a human being with human rights,' says UN chief on International Day

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55828#.WFayV7Z96nY>

News

Call for 'unilateral' Brexit guarantee for EU citizens

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38305414>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Campaigners urge PM to give EU nationals in UK permanent right to stay

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/12/the3million-campaign-group-letter-theresa-may-eu-citizens-in-uk-right-to-remain>

End Brexit uncertainty for EU citizens in the UK, report urges

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/12/end-brexite-uncertainty-for-eu-citizens-in-the-uk-report-urges>

Europe must do more to root out economic migrants posing as asylum seekers or risk destroying public trust, says Theresa May

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4035290/Theresa-says-Europe-root-bogus-asylum-seekers.html>

'Great Wall of Calais' barrier completed for £2.3million

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/great-wall-of-calais-barrier-completed-for-2-3million-1-4316418>

'Great Wall of Calais' barrier completed at a cost of £2.3 million

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4030248/Great-Wall-Calais-barrier-completed-cost-2-3-million.html>

Hundreds of Calais child refugees have UK asylum claims rejected

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/16/hundreds-calais-child-refugees-uk-asylum-claims-rejected-home-office>

Calais child refugees on partial hunger strike after transfers to UK stop

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/14/calais-child-refugees-on-partial-hunger-strike-after-transfers-to-uk-stop>

UK to help fast-track European deportations of asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/15/uk-to-help-fast-track-european-deportations-of-asylum-seekers>

Child refugees 'lost to prostitution and slavery'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-12/news/child-refugees-lost-to-prostitution-and-slavery-3mznqxrr0>

Migrants seek pregnant women for sham marriages

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-seek-pregnant-women-for-sham-marriages-v23c7j7z0>

Sham marriage disgrace: Men are seeking to marry pregnant women to improve their chance of staying in Europe under human rights law, report says

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4038056/Pregnant-women-sought-illegal-sham-marriages-exploit-human-rights-law-report-says.html>

Syria war: Would you invite a refugee to live with you?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38333478>

Why don't we teach migrants we are a Christian country, asks the former archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-4044714/Why-don-t-teach-migrants-CHRISTIAN-country-asks-former-archbishop-Canterbury-LORD-CAREY.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Refugees aren't like us, they are us

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/columnists/14972813.Catriona_Stewart_Refugees_aren_t_like_us_they_are_us/

From hell to paradise, Syrians celebrate their first Scottish Christmas in safety

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14973560.From_hell_to_paradise_Syrians_celebrate_their_first_Scottish_Christmas_in_safety/

Pupil data shared with Home Office to 'create hostile environment' for illegal migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/15/pupil-data-shared-with-home-office-to-identify-illegal-migrants>

Children who speak English as a second language more likely to improve in primary school, figures show

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/12/15/primary-school-results-nearly-half-children-fall-governments/>

Journalist seeks refuge in Scotland - for filming a protest in Iran

http://www.thenational.scot/news/14972733.Journalist_seeks_refuge_in_Scotland_for_filming_a_protest_in_Iran/

Portraits of welcome

<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-38327867>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-03067 Jeremy Balfour: Congratulations to Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue – That the Parliament congratulates everyone at Edinburgh Jewish Dialogue on receiving a £5,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund; notes that the organisation delivers cultural activities for Jewish people and the wider community; understands that the project aims to celebrate Jewish culture, and wishes everyone involved the best of luck.

Supported by: Ross Thomson

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03067>

UK Parliament Question

Community Relations

Liz Roberts [56682] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what the British values are, as referred to in the Casey Review: a review into opportunity and integration, published on 5 December 2016.

Reply from Marcus Jones: As the then Home Secretary explained in her speech of 23rd March 2015, British values – such as regard for the rule of law, participation in and acceptance of democracy, equality, free speech and respect for minorities – are supported by the overwhelming majority of British people. They are sustained by our most important local and national institutions. And they

Community Relations

UK Parliament Question (continued)

are the means by which we have made our multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society succeed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-07/56682/>

News

What's bad for white women is bad for all women

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/if-it-s-not-good-enough-for-white-women-we-shouldn-t-stand-for-it-with-any-women-bhmvjj72r>

Our excluded need to feel more British, and we can help them

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-excluded-need-to-feel-more-british-and-we-can-help-them-5fmslftdp>

Public overestimates number of Muslims living in UK, finds study

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/public-overestimates-number-of-muslims-living-in-uk-finds-study-1-4317357>

Europeans greatly overestimate Muslim population, poll shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/datablog/2016/dec/13/europeans-massively-overestimate-muslim-population-poll-shows>

British people hugely overestimate the number of Muslims in the UK, says new survey

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-people-muslims-uk-inequality-happiness-ipsos-mori-survey-a7476526.html>

The British way of life is under threat from Muslims who refuse to accept British culture

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/12/british-way-life-threat-muslims-refuse-accept-british-culture/>

Thousands of Muslims donate 10 tonnes of food to help homeless Londoners at Christmas

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/thousands-of-muslims-donate-10-tonnes-of-food-to-help-homeless-londoners-a7481256.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Question

UK Government's Race Disparity Audit

Adam Tomkins: To ask the Scottish Government what contribution it will make to the UK Government's Race Disparity Audit and to what extent information on devolved issues that are the responsibility of the Scottish Government will be included in this audit. (S5W-5299)

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is deeply concerned about the rise in inequality and racism across the UK and we welcome the focus the UK Government is placing on race at this time. We would want to establish

Equality

Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

how the audit might relate to Scottish Government strategy and policy development, in particular the Equality Evidence website and the actions in the Race Equality Framework outlining data and research work. We have therefore entered into dialogue at both Ministerial and official level to assess if the Race Disparity Audit is the right approach for Scotland, alongside engagement with our key race equality stakeholders.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05299>

UK Parliament Questions

Organs: Donors

The following two questions both received the same answer

Khalid Mahmood [56779] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what recent estimate he has made of the difference between BME organ donations and the level of demand for such donations.

Khalid Mahmood [56780] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what steps his Department has taken to establish ways of encouraging BME organ donations.

Reply from Nicola Blackwood: As of 9 December 2016, there were 1,851 people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities waiting for an organ transplant. This represents around 29% of the active transplant list. Around 5% of all deceased organ donors came from BAME communities.

There are a number of specific initiatives to increase the number of organ donors from BAME communities. These include the National BAME Transplant Alliance to coordinate the work of BAME organisations working within these communities, a Peer Educator Project working with the Pakistani Muslim Community in Birmingham and the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets and NHS Blood and Transplant has developed a behaviour change campaign strategy in support of the *Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020: A UK Strategy*. This includes increasing its education and engagement activities with BAME communities and a Faith Action Plan outlining action to work in partnership with faith leaders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-08/56779/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-08/56780/>

News

Bid to redress history's plaque and white image

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bid-to-redress-historys-plaque-and-white-image-r0qjftk7g>

Number of BAME arts workers must improve, says Arts Council report

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/12/number-of-minority-arts-workers-must-improve-arts-council-england>

Campaign begins to counter 'all white' Christmas

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/15/campaign-begins-against-all-white-christmas>

Equality

News (continued)

Fatima Manji: 'It's really important that newsrooms reflect the population'
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/18/fatima-manji-its-important-that-newsrooms-reflect-population-channel-4-newsreader-interview>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-03155 John Finnie: Proscribing of neo-Nazi Group – That the Parliament welcomes the announcement by the Home Secretary that she has used the powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to proscribe the British neo-Nazi movement, National Action; understands that this is the first time that a far-right group has been banned under such legislation; believes that there is no place in Scotland, the UK or anywhere for groups that espouse such ideologies, and supports calls for other groups similar to National Action to also be proscribed.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03155>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Race and Faith Policy

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Sajid Javid):

Today, I am pleased to inform the House that the UK Government are the first European Union country to formally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism. The Government believe that the definition, although legally non-binding, is an important tool for criminal justice agencies, and other public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century, as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which depending on the circumstances could constitute anti-Semitism. It will be for public bodies and agencies to implement the definition and embed it within operational guidance as relevant.

In addition, the Government have published its response to the Home Affairs Select Committee's report on anti-Semitism, and provided a progress update to the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism Inquiry into the rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents following the Gaza conflict in 2014.

Our response to both reports demonstrates the significant progress we have made in combating anti-Semitism which has been acknowledged by the Home Affairs Select Committee and the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism. Our approach has also been cited as best practice across Europe and the Americas.

However, we cannot be complacent. Anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in this country and it is right that, as a Government, we are able to demonstrate the seriousness with which we take it, as we do for other forms of hate crime. Anti-Semitism must be understood for what it is—an attack on the identity of people who live, contribute and are valued in our society. Our relationship with the Jewish community has been built on the solid work of the cross-Government working group on tackling anti-Semitism, which ensures that we are alive to any issues and concerns of the Jewish community and can respond quickly.

The adoption of the definition and our positive response to both reports underlines how the Government have done much to establish Britain as a safer place for Jewish people.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination UK Parliament Ministerial Statement (continued)

[HCWS345]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-12/debates/1612122000010/RaceAndFaithPolicy>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Hate Crime and its Violent Consequences

Oral evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/oral/44438.html>

UK Parliament Questions

Prime Minister's Questions: Racial hatred

Lucy Frazer: In October, hundreds of people from across Europe attended a neo-Nazi rally in Haddenham, a small village in my rural constituency. What steps is the Prime Minister taking to tackle racial hatred?

Reply from the Prime Minister: First of all, can we once again, from this House, send a very clear message that there is no place for racial hatred in our society? This is so important. The Home Office has done a lot of work on racial hatred and hate crime. It has published a hate crime action plan, which shows what we are going to be doing during the lifetime of this Government. Of course, earlier this week, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary proscribed the right-wing organisation National Action, which means that being a member of, or inviting support for, that organisation will be a criminal offence. It is important that we take every step we can to stop racial hatred in this country, and I was pleased to announce on Monday that Britain will be the first country in Europe to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-14/debates/7053F896-FC84-4084-8AAA-CAC26A51EEBB/Engagements>

Hate Crime

Paul Flynn [56415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 December 2016 to Question 55224, how many incidents of hate crime were recorded in 2014-15.

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 2014/15, the police recorded 52,465 hate crimes in England and Wales. The latest statistical bulletin 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/2016-12-06/56415/>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Criminal Justice System: Diversity

Lord Patel of Bradford: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the review by David Lammy MP of racial bias and BAME representation in the criminal justice system.

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Keen of Elie): My Lords, the Government welcome the Lammy review's emerging findings and continue to support it. David Lammy has indicated a number of areas he wants to examine in more detail in the second phase of the review. We look forward to responding to the final report, due in the summer of 2017.

Lord Patel of Bradford: My Lords, I thank the Minister for that Answer. I want to give the House some early figures that we already know. The total number of young people held in secure institutions has halved since 2005, which is good. However, over the past 10 years, the number of young black prisoners has risen by 67% and the number of young Asian prisoners by 75%, meaning that one in four prisoners is black or Asian. In contrast, the number of white detainees has dropped from 75% to 60%. Does the Minister agree that these are shocking figures and that we need a vital step change in our policies for and treatment of young black people in the criminal justice system?

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: There is no doubt that a series of complex reasons lie behind the figures that the noble Lord referred to and that custody rates among black, Asian and minority-ethnic males are materially higher than they are in respect of white males. At present and so far in his review, David Lammy has provided research findings rather than final conclusions. He has of course said that he is concerned by those findings but that the issue needs to be explored further before firm conclusions can be drawn.

Lord Marks of Henley-on-Thames: My Lords, the Lammy review raises a number of questions. Will the Government continue after the review to monitor disproportionate outcomes in the criminal justice system using the relative rate index method of analysis pioneered in the UK in the Lammy review? Secondly, does not the finding that black offenders are disproportionately likely to receive custodial sentences highlight the urgent need for greater ethnic diversity among the judiciary, which the Lammy review is now also to consider?

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We are of course committed to greater diversity within the judiciary, and are endeavouring to take that forward. With regard to the particular statistics that the noble Lord referred to, there are a variety of complex reasons why these figures have emerged. For example, the rate at which black, Asian and minority-ethnic men plead not guilty at Crown Court and go to trial is distinct from those who plead at an earlier stage and perhaps receive a lesser sentence. The Government are not committed to any particular means of analysing the relevant statistics at this time. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-15/debates/11B5A86A-6217-454F-811E-4CDEBADA93BD/CriminalJusticeSystemDiversity>

World War II: Genocide

Baroness Whitaker [HL3686] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 September (HL Deb, col 1457), whether they will provide more details regarding how the genocide of the Roma people will be commemorated in the Holocaust memorial.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Abertstwyth: The Holocaust Memorial designs will remain true to the vision of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission by appropriately representing the Holocaust and all victim groups persecuted by the Nazis. In addition, there will be a full consultation around the design competition

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and we would encourage the Roma community to be part of this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3686/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Deidre Brock (801) Operation Report Hate – That this House supports the Operation Report Hate campaign to raise awareness of hate crimes within the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities and the need to report them; notes that hate crimes towards the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities are currently severely underreported; calls on the Government and devolved administrations to help improve reporting rates by instructing police forces and all criminal justice agencies to use Gypsy and Traveller ethnic categories; and urges the Government, devolved administrations and local authorities to work with the organisations involved in Operation Report Hate to ensure hate crimes against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma are reported, recorded and resolved.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/801>

Press Releases

Government leads the way in tackling anti-Semitism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leads-the-way-in-tackling-anti-semitism>

Data collection lack of progress impedes antisemitism fight

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/data-collection-lack-progress-impedes-antisemitism-fight>

New Publications

A progress update to the All-Party Parliamentary Group against Anti-Semitism Inquiry into the rise in the number of anti-Semitic incidents following the Gaza conflict in 2014

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/576563/16_1212_APPG_-_Progress_Update.pdf

Response to Home Affairs Committee inquiry into anti-Semitism

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/576792/C_M9386_-_Select_Comitee_Response_-_Antisemitism_in_UK.pdf

Antisemitism - Overview of data available in the European Union 2005-2015

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2016-antisemitism-update-2005-2015_en.pdf

News

Anti-Semitism: Official definition will fight hatred - Theresa May

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38281950>

Official definition of anti-semitism to be adopted

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/official-definition-of-anti-semitism-to-be-adopted-1-4314916>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

PM accuses Labour of turning blind eye on anti-Semitism as she unveils new measures to combat anti-Jewish hatred

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14961999.PM_accuses_Labour_of_turning_blind_eye_on_anti_Semitism/

UK adopts antisemitism definition to combat hate crime against Jews

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/12/antisemitism-definition-government-combat-hate-crime-jews-israel>

May backs official definition to 'call out' antisemitism

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-12/news/may-backs-official-definition-to-call-out-antisemitism-0cft9pcbq>

Working Definition on Anti-Semitism Leads the Way

<http://tellingmamauk.org/working-definition-anti-semitism-leads-way/>

The rise of Islamophobia in Europe - and how we can deal with it

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/12/rise-islamophobia-europe-can-deal/>

Far-right group that backs Jo Cox's killer is outlawed

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-group-that-backs-jo-coxs-killer-is-outlawed-5zblv5v5f>

Neo-Nazi group that backed Jo Cox's killer to be banned

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/12/neo-nazi-group-backed-jo-coxs-killer-banned/>

Neo-Nazi group that backed Jo Cox's killer is to be banned after it is declared as Britain's first far-right terrorist group

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4024154/Neo-Nazi-group-far-Right-group-banned.html>

Ex-Britain First leader Paul Golding jailed over mosque ban

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38326446>

Paul Golding: Former Britain First leader jailed for eight weeks

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/paul-golding-jailed-britain-first-leader-8-weeks-high-court-injunction-mosque-a7477046.html>

Britain First leader is jailed for eight weeks after driving members of the far right group to a 'mosque invasion'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4036860/Britain-former-leader-jailed-London-s-High-Court-eight-weeks-breaching-court-order-not-enter-mosque.html>

Mosque in Cumbernauld sprayed with racist graffiti

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-38353706>

'Crusader' hate graffiti daubed on Scottish mosque

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/14973585.39_Crusader_39_hate_graffiti_daubed_on_Scottish_mosque/

Mosque sprayed with Islamophobic graffiti in 'worrying' attack in Scotland

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/mosque-sprayed-islamophobic-graffiti-god-willing-police-scotland-north-lanarkshire-hate-crime-a7481926.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Cumbernauld Mosque in Glasgow Vandalised with Crusader Quotes

<http://tellmamauk.org/cumbernauld-mosque-in-glasgow-vandalised-with-crusader-quotes/>

The social media racists must be silenced

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-13/comment/the-social-media-racists-must-be-silenced-67t0qkbfz>

The media stoke up racism on purpose. It's our duty to point that out

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/16/media-racism-minority-groups>

Safety Pin Box aims to get white people to step out of theirs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38306294>

Bake Off star Nadiya Hussain tells of race hate train ordeal

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14968429.Bake_Off_star_Nadiya_Hussain_tells_of_race_hate_train_ordeal/

Great British Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain says she was racially abused by fellow train passenger

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/great-british-bake-off-winner-nadiya-hussain-racially-abused-by-train-passengre-a7477256.html>

'I ain't sitting near a Muslim': Great British Bake Off's Nadiya Hussain reveals racist incident on train

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/15/aint-sitting-near-muslim-great-british-bake-offs-nadiya-hussain/>

Bake Off winner Nadiya Hussain reveals a passenger REFUSED to sit next to her on the train saying: 'I ain't sitting near a Muslim'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4035862/Bake-winner-Nadiya-Hussain-says-passenger-REFUSED-sit-train-saying-ain-t-sitting-near-Muslim.html>

Forest Hill stabbing: Attacker shouted 'I want to kill a Muslim' while chasing passengers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/forest-hill-stabbing-kill-muslims-attacker-suspect-station-london-train-a7470016.html>

Wife describes train attack on Muslim

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/wife-describes-train-attack-on-muslim-ld0m73h3k>

Wife describes 'terrifying' moment her husband was stabbed on train by man shouting 'I want to kill a Muslim'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/15/wife-man-describes-terrifying-moment-husband-stabbed-train/>

Muslim woman dragged along pavement by hijab in London hate crime attack

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-hate-crime-london-attack-woman-hijab-headscarf-ripped-off-pushed-injured-chingford-a7479766.html>

Young Muslim woman is shoved to ground and dragged along the pavement by her headscarf in 'sickening' attack on a busy street

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4041772/Young-Muslim-woman-shoved-ground-dragged-pavement-headscarf-sickening-attack-busy-street.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Blogger, 52, 'who posted a grossly offensive and anti-Semitic song on YouTube' denies hate crime charge brought by a Jewish charity in a private prosecution

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4036710/Blogger-52-posted-grossly-offensive-anti-Semitic-song-YouTube-denies-hate-crime-charge-brought-Jewish-charity-private-prosecution.html>

Neo-Nazi was free to wage race war on Twitter

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/neo-nazi-was-free-to-wage-race-war-on-twitter-jn3dqtn3m>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Motion

S5M-03173 Ruth Davidson: Motion of Condolence – That the Parliament expresses its deep regret and sadness at the untimely death of Alex Johnstone MSP; offers its sympathy and condolences to his family and friends; recognises the high esteem in which he was held by colleagues from all parties, and appreciates his contribution as a principled public servant dedicated to the people of the north east.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03173>

Press Release

A Budget for Scotland's future

<http://news.gov.scot/news/a-budget-for-scotlands-future-1>

New Publications

Draft Budget 2017-18

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511808.pdf>

Equality Statement - Scottish Draft Budget 2017-18

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511772.pdf>

SPICe briefing: Scottish Government Draft Budget 2017-18

http://www.parliament.scot/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S5/SB_16-103i1_Scottish_Government_Draft_Budget_2017-18_Infographic.pdf

News

Replacement for late MSP Alex Johnstone announced as Bill Bowman

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38301270>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

International Human Rights Day

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-13/debates/16121371000002/InternationalHumanRightsDay>

Parliamentary Questions

Islam: Tenet of Abrogation

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their strategy against Islamic terrorism, they will encourage United Kingdom Muslim leaders to re-examine the Muslim tenet of abrogation.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, freedom of speech and religion are core values that make our country great. Britain is home to diverse communities, which are free to practise their religion in accordance with the law. The Government's strategy for tackling Islamist terrorism is firmly based on strengthening our partnership with communities, civil society groups and faith organisations across the United Kingdom.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for that reply, which was helpful as far as it went. I should explain that Islamic abrogation holds that the Koran's later, violent verses, of which there are many, take precedence over the earlier, peaceful verses, and so it lends support to the jihadists. Have the Government noticed that we can say what we like about any other religion, but we get into all manner of trouble if we try to discuss Islam? If they have noticed, what can they do to encourage civilised national debate about Islam, in the hope that that will encourage our peaceful Muslim friends—who are, of course, in the vast majority—to do more to stand up to their violent co-religionists?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have to say that I think that the first part of the noble Lord's statement is factually incorrect. We work with communities to make them resilient and we certainly support the discussion of religion, as we are doing now, as we speak. This is a country that prides itself on freedom of speech—unless people are actually inciting others to intolerance or hatred—and that is something of which I am very proud.

Lord Lamont of Lerwick: My Lords, is the Minister aware that a Muslim scholar, whom I consulted today, told me that there is no unanimity in the Islamic world about which verses of the Koran are abrogated by later verses? It is completely wrong of the noble Lord, Lord Pearson, to ascribe the views of some hard-line Wahhabis and Salafists as though they were the views of mainstream Sunni, Sufi and Shia Muslims. That is not the case, and all that the noble Lord does by repeating this—as he has done before—is to undermine the position of moderate Muslims in this country.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I could not have put it better than my noble friend; that is absolutely right. The vast majority of Muslims in this country share our values and share most of the things that we would aspire to for our children and our communities. We should not make blanket statements about a very small minority. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-12/debates/2053BE25-831C-4331-965B-1BF6BA5AC311/IslamTenetOfAbrogation>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Release

Crown Prosecution Service and NPCC launch new Honour-Based Violence/Abuse and Forced Marriage Protocol

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/cps_and_npcc_launch_new_protocol/

New Publications

NPCC-CPS protocol on the investigation and prosecution of 'so-called' Honour Based Violence / Abuse and Forced Marriage Offences

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/agencies/HBV_and_FM_Protocol.pdf

Letter from Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen regarding Sharia councils

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2016-0912/Chisholm_letter_to_Buscombe_on_the_police_and_crime_bill.pdf

Home Office response to the report 'An inspection of the implementation of the Immigration Act 2014 provisions for tackling sham marriage, August to September 2016'

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/576939/Home_Office_response_to_ICI_inspection_of_Sham_Marriage_-_December_2016.pdf

Inspection report on hostile environment provisions for tackling sham marriage, December 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577880/Sham_Marriage_report.pdf

News

British values oath proposed for public office holders

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38355373>

Sajid Javid proposes 'British values oath' in wake of Casey review of social integration

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/18/sajid-javid-british-values-oath-casey-review-social-integration>

Doctors, civil servants and BBC staff could be made to swear an oath of allegiance

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/doctors-civil-servants-and-bbc-staff-could-be-made-to-swear-an-oath-of-allegiance-a7482421.html>

Loyalty oath for all public office holders

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/loyalty-oath-for-all-public-office-holders-gr39vqgsl>

British values oath would not combat radicalisation - Labour

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38358164>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Sharia courts have no place in UK family law. Listen to women who know

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/14/sharia-courts-family-law-women>

Other News (continued)

Charity warns of FGM 'parties' taking place in England

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-38290888>

African midwives flown in for FGM 'parties'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2016-12-13/news/african-midwives-flown-in-for-fgm-parties-5rxqprnv8>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

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

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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>

**** closes in two weeks!**

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

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

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_rr_consultation_2016.html

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Policy on Prosecuting Crimes against Disabled People [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_dhc_consultation_2016.html

Consultations (continued)

Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity [England and Wales] (closing date 9 January 2017)

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_ht_consultation_2016.html

Draft Referendum Bill (closing date 11 January 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507743.pdf>

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/>

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>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Europe of Diversities

closing date for applications: 28 February 2016

European Union funding for projects to promote unity in diversity, support sharing of good practices in fighting discrimination and promoting diversity at local and regional level, and help to identify and target discriminatory practices at local and regional level and build understanding between majority and minority societies. For information see

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rppi-eudi-ag-2016.html>

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

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 or contact Kyle Mulholland 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.

National Holocaust Memorial Day

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

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

Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening

27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

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

Cultural Competence

31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jdfkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Separated Children

9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

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 / 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 / 0141 223 7982.

Engaging hard to reach groups

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 / 0141 223 7982.

Talking to Young People about Equality

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

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

Refugee Rights to Housing

30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

[TOP](#)



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



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://onescotland.org/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.