

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration Rules: Spouse Visas

Chris Stephens: Whether [the Minister] plans to review immigration rules for spouse visas. [909053]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): The Supreme Court has now endorsed our approach in setting a minimum income threshold for spouse visas to prevent burdens on the taxpayer and ensure that migrant families can integrate into our communities. That is central to building an immigration system that works in the national interest.

Chris Stephens: The Supreme Court has described the financial threshold that forces UK citizens to choose between their country and their family as being “particularly harsh.” Will the Minister put families and children ahead of the illogical and arbitrary net migration target, ditch the £18,600 threshold or, at the very least, consider the circumstances of those in low-paid employment?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: It is important that family life must not be established here at the taxpayer's expense and that families are able to integrate.

That is what our family immigration rules achieve, an approach that the Supreme Court has now endorsed.

Andrew Bridgen: Does the Minister intend to use the same minimum income threshold for EU spouses as he currently uses for non-EU spouses?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We have not even sat around the negotiation table, so that question is probably slightly premature.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-06/debates/E7437A5A-7455-447E-B55E-9B50D215AF28/ImmigrationRulesSpouseVisas>

Refugee Support

Stuart McDonald: What steps [the Minister] is taking to support refugees in the UK and other European countries. [909062]

Margaret Ferrier: What steps [the Minister] is taking to support refugees in the UK and other European countries. [909064]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): The UK provides protection for refugees here, in accordance with our international obligations. The Government have established a £10 million refugee children fund for Europe, provided significant assistance via the European Asylum Support Office, and allocated up to £39 million to the humanitarian response in Greece.

Stuart McDonald: Why is it that only a solitary Home Office official in each of Greece and Italy is working on the Dubs and Dublin schemes? According to non-governmental organisations on the ground, the result is that the schemes are barely functioning there at all.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We work very closely with our colleagues in France, Greece and Italy. We committed 115 staff into Greece, 75 of whom are already there, including one embedded member of the Home Office staff who is helping with Dublin applications in Athens. Of course, we also have our Border Force commitment in the Mediterranean, which ensures that we save people's lives should they make that perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

Margaret Ferrier: Home Office guidelines recognise that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender refugees are at serious risk in Afghanistan, but also suggest that if the individual did not attract or seek to cause public outrage, they would avoid persecution, so could be returned. Will the Minister tell us why the Home Office has decided to depart from the UN guidelines on refugees?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We aim to process all asylum claims sympathetically. Our staff are trained in interviewing asylum seekers who may have LGBT issues or, indeed, who may have converted to Christianity and find it difficult to express some of their feelings during those interviews.

Ben Howlett: Bath and North East Somerset Council has one of the best relocation programmes for unaccompanied children and for refugees in the country. However, it is struggling to enable more to come to Bath and North East Somerset due to a range of different safeguarding risks. What more support can the Government give to councils such as Bath and North East Somerset that are really struggling on safeguarding issues? Perhaps I could meet the Minister to discuss those issues.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We recognise the challenge that many local authorities face in dealing with some of these particularly vulnerable children, which is why we have increased the funding up to £40,000 for the under-16s, and to around £30,000 for 16 and 17-year-olds. I hope that will help them find the resourcing that they need to deal with those particular children.

Kelly Tolhurst: Kent continues to be on the frontline when it comes to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in the UK, with more than 3,000 arriving each year. Given the interest in the matter across the House, will the Minister outline what steps are being taken to ensure that local authorities across the country are helping counties such as Kent and sharing the burden of these children no matter how they have come into the UK?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: That is precisely why we have set up the national transfer scheme for local authorities such as Kent, which have 400 more children than the 0.07% allocation would indicate. It is also why we have encouraged local authorities that say that they have spare spaces to participate in that scheme and take the pressure off counties such as Kent and Croydon.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-06/debates/D2F7CC57-F080-4AF3-A2C3-3C6CB7717E2C/RefugeeSupport>

Unaccompanied Refugee/Asylum-seeking Children

Alex Cunningham: What discussions [the Minister] has had with local authorities on their capacity to support unaccompanied refugee and asylum-seeking children. [909052]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): The Government undertook a comprehensive consultation with local authorities in order to assess their capacity to accept unaccompanied children. This consultation included 10 regional events in each part of England, and events in Scotland and Wales, which were attended by representatives of more than 400 local authorities.

Alex Cunningham: When the Calais camp was cleared last year, 550 of the 750 children who came to the UK did so under an accelerated process based on the family reunion criteria of the Dublin regulation, which has since been discontinued. How will the Minister ensure that refugees in Greece, France, and Italy, including unaccompanied children with family members in the UK, can be reunited with their families?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Dublin process works well and is well established. Indeed, a member of the Home Office staff is embedded in Athens, helping the process to work. Although we had a fast-track system during the Calais clearances, it is important that, first, we identify that the children are who they say they are and, secondly, that they can be properly cared for by the family they are placed with.

Peter Bone: The Prime Minister did much to lead the campaign against human trafficking, and we are undoubtedly the best country in Europe at countering human traffickers, but I am still concerned about one area in which the traffickers operate: children who are given to local authorities and then re-trafficked. Will the Minister assure us that the Government are following up on children who have been placed in care to ensure that they are still in care?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I pay tribute to my hon. Friend's long campaign on this issue. He is right that it is a concern that children placed with local authorities may abscond due to traffickers wanting their pay day—for want of a better phrase. It is absolutely right that local authorities understand their responsibility to care for those children and to ensure that their safety is maintained.

Yvette Cooper: The Minister will have seen the Home Affairs Committee report, which is out today, that sets out the evidence we heard from charities and the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner about the increased risk of child trafficking if the Dubs scheme closes, from councils about their extra capacity, and from the Local Government Association that thousands more places could be available if the right funding is in place. New clause 14 to the Children and Social Work Bill, which is before the House tomorrow, has cross-party support, so will the Minister agree to seek further evidence from the Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner and from local councils on their capacity, rather than rushing to close the Dubs scheme?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I certainly look forward to appearing before the right hon. Lady's Committee to give the Government's side of the story. I do not recognise the figures that I saw, and I suspect that some of the methodology behind them will not bear too much scrutiny. If spaces are available with local authorities, it is important that they are made available for the national transfer scheme. Kent County Council, for example, has 400 surplus children over its normal capacity—Croydon is another—which makes things difficult.

Lucy Frazer: I am pleased that Cambridgeshire County Council has accepted people

from the unaccompanied asylum seekers dispersal scheme and that Cambridge City Council, together with East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, is welcoming 100 refugees. Does the Minister think that councils should do what they can and, more importantly, that we should properly welcome the people who come and integrate them into our communities? [909060]

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I pay tribute to local authorities such as Cambridgeshire that not only take in children under the national transfer scheme but make families welcome under our scheme for the 20,000 children and their families coming from the camps around Syria and the 3,000 children and their families from the wider middle east and north Africa area.

Rupa Huq: On Holocaust Memorial Day, Michael Brown movingly described his experiences as a child refugee fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939 and advocated the need for Britain to be open to children from Europe fleeing atrocities today. Numerous local authorities, such as Ealing, Hammersmith, and even Hastings—the Home Secretary's backyard—are willing to take more, so why are the Government pulling the plug on the world's most vulnerable by closing the Dubs scheme?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: If any parallels are to be drawn between Nazi Germany and the situation nowadays, they would be in the situation in Syria, not in our European neighbours and partners. I point out for the record that of the 750 children we took from Calais under both Dubs and Dublin fewer than 10 were actually from Syria. We should concentrate on the children and their families most in need, and they are the ones in the refugee camps in the region.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-06/debates/F34C4679-D09C-4341-A4DD-37767F3EBA5F/UnaccompaniedRefugeeAsylum-SeekingChildren>

Immigration: Indefinite Detention

Caroline Lucas: If [the Minister] will make it her policy to (a) end indefinite detention for immigration purposes and (b) introduce a maximum time limit of 28 days for such detention. [909059]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): Detention and removal are essential parts of an effective immigration control system, but it is vital that they are carried out with dignity and respect. When people are detained, it is for the minimum time possible. We take the welfare of detainees very seriously, which is why the Government commissioned Stephen Shaw to carry out an independent review of the welfare of vulnerable people in the detention system.

Caroline Lucas: Numerous reports suggest that the Government are using indefinite detention. I commend to the Minister a report by Women for Refugee Women that sets out practical alternatives to detention as a routine part of asylum policy. I would like to see the reality for myself, yet my application to visit Yarl's Wood as a party leader appears to have been blocked. Can he tell me the status of my application, which was first made in November and has, I understand, been referred to his office? When can I expect to get clearance?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are still considering that suggestion. I know that the shadow Home Secretary would like to visit as well. ... We did wonder whether the Home Affairs Committee would like to take precedence on a visit of that sort, but if it does not want to go, we will certainly look into the matter more urgently.

David Burrowes: When will the current system of detention reviews be replaced by the individual removal assessments and reviews, and when will the plan for the future of the immigration and detention estate, promised by the Minister's predecessor last year, be published?

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We seek to minimise the time for which people are kept in detention, and that is done for the purposes of removal. We have, of course, introduced a new adults at risk policy, which seeks to minimise the use of

detention for those considered vulnerable.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-06/debates/BDA903C2-F08C-4817-8555-899BE79AE643/ImmigrationIndefiniteDetention>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Services and Social Services: Apprentices

The following two questions both received the same answer

Sarah Wollaston [66471] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether the revenue raised by the Immigration Skills Charge applied to NHS and social care sponsors of Tier 2 visas will be hypothecated for investment in apprenticeships in health and social care; and if she will make a statement.

NHS: Migrant Workers

Sarah Wollaston [66472] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what estimate she has made of the cost of the Immigration Skills Charge to NHS and social care sponsors of Tier 2 visas in 2016-17; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The income raised from the Immigration Skills Charge will support the provision of skills for the resident population, to address the skills gaps that employers face. Further information will be set out in due course. We have not estimated the potential annual cost to NHS and social care sponsors. The cost will depend on employer use of the Tier 2 skilled worker route.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-03/66471/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-03/66472/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Tulip Siddiq [66034] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many non-UK EU nationals are employed in the NHS; and what proportion of those work in (a) oncology, (b) neurological and (c) maternity services.

Reply from Philip Dunne: NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record. As at 30 November 2016, 61,173 identify themselves as non-United Kingdom European Union nationals employed in NHS Hospital and Community Health Services; of this group 1.4% (838) work in oncology, 1.5% (919) in neurological and 3.4% (2,063) in maternity services.

The 30 November data is the most recent data available.

Oncology staff include staff with a specialty of Clinical Oncology or Medical Oncology or a secondary area of work of Clinical Oncology or Medical Oncology.

Neurology staff include staff with a specialty of Clinical neurophysiology, Diagnostic Neuropathology, Neurology, Neuropathology, Neurosurgery or Paediatric neurology or a secondary area of work of Clinical Neurophysiology, Neurology, Neurosensory Sciences or Neurosurgery.

Maternity staff include staff defined by their occupation code, as working in maternity services or a secondary area of work of Maternity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/66034/>

Psychiatry: EU Nationals

Luciana Berger [66262] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what estimate he has made of the number of nationals of other EU countries working in the NHS as psychotherapists; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK

leaving the EU on (a) the number of such nationals and (b) NHS productivity.

Reply from Philip Dunne: NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record. Psychotherapists include a range of staff groups including Medical Psychotherapy and Consultant Therapists / Scientists, Other Scientific staff and Therapeutic and Technical Staff.

As of 30 November 2016, 383 psychotherapists employed within NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups declared their nationality as European Union nationals, excluding the United Kingdom. This is out of a total headcount of 5,265. The November data is the most recent data available.

The potential effect on the number of EU nationals and NHS productivity of leaving the EU will be dependent on the outcome of negotiations. The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here. It is the Government's aim to get the best settlement for the UK in all areas including the healthcare system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66262/>

Immigration Controls

Nick Clegg [65793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is to process an individual arriving at a UK port or airport from (a) within the EU and (b) outside the EU.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR), which provides a quarterly summary of long-term international migration statistics, includes data relating to general refusals at the UK border.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=border-force&publication_type=transparency-data

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65793/>

Visas

Chi Onwurah [66773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people denied visas to come to the UK on the grounds that they have (a) insufficient personal income and (b) no family dependents in their home country were women in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Applications for a visa to visit the UK are considered on their individual merits, in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix V to the Immigration Rules, taking into account the information and supporting documents provided in the application. It is for the applicant to satisfy the decision maker that they meet those requirements, including that they are a genuine visitor who will leave the UK at the end of the visit.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66773/>

Visas: Married People

Paul Monaghan [65621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to review immigration rules for spouse visas.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Supreme Court endorsed our approach in setting a minimum income threshold for sponsoring a spouse visa in its judgment in MM (Lebanon) & Others on 22 February 2017.

This requirement prevents burdens on the taxpayer and ensures migrant families can integrate into our communities. We are carefully considering what the Court has said in relation to cases involving children and to exceptional cases where the income threshold has not been met.

Visas: India

Andrew Rosindell [66142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of offering equivalent visitor visa arrangements to Indians as those that are provided to Chinese visitors.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The UK began piloting in China, from 11 January 2016, two-year multiple entry visitor visas at the same price as the current standard six month visitor visa. China has made the same offer for British citizens. There are no plans to introduce this in other countries.

The UK has an excellent visa service in India for the increasing number of visitor visa applicants, which makes it quick and easy to apply for a visa. We have more Visa Application Centres in India than in any other country and we have continued to expand our premium and priority services

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66142/>

Overseas Students

Christina Rees [66313] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the feasibility of extracting figures on the number of international students from overall migration numbers.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The independent Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the net migration statistics.

In line with best international practice the ONS includes international students in net migration calculations. International students who stay for longer than 12 months, like other migrants, have an impact on communities, infrastructure and services while they are here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-02/66313/>

Immigration

Steve McCabe [66113] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to introduce a fully online application process for permanent residency in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There is no requirement to register for documentation to confirm this status. As part of an ongoing programme to digitise all applications for current immigration routes, the Home Office expanded its online service for those applying for documents confirming residence under the EEA regulations. The online service, which has been open to single applicants exercising treaty rights from the EU since October, has allowed applicants to apply on behalf of family members at the same time since the start of February. The European Passport Return Service, offered via participating local authorities, supports the online application service and enables people to retain their original passport whilst their application is considered.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66113/>

Immigration: Appeals

Keith Vaz [65584] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what number of cases awaited a hearing at the immigration (a) First-tier and (b) Upper Tribunal at 1 February 2017.

Reply from Oliver Heald: The number of registered appeals awaiting a hearing as at 30 September 2016 in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber were as follows:

- (a) First-tier - 58,357
- (b) Upper Tribunal – 1,401

These figures are the most recent available official statistics. This information is covered by the Code of Practice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65584/>

EU Nationals: Migrant Workers

Tulip Siddiq [66033] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the economic contribution of non-UK EU nationals living in the UK to GDP.

Reply from David Gauk: Analysis undertaken by the independent Migration Advisory Committee in 2012 shows that higher levels of net migration will, all else equal, increase the growth rate of the potential labour supply and therefore the rate of growth of overall GDP.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/66033/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake [65578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing EU citizens to register and have processed through local authorities their permanent right to stay in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

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

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65578/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Nick Clegg [65791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications made by EU citizens for permanent residency in the UK have been rejected in each of the last 12 months on the basis of insufficient health insurance provisions.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The information requested is not collated on centrally held statistical databases and could only be produced at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case files.

Applications for documentation certifying permanent residence are refused where they do not meet the requirements set out in EU law in the Free Movement Directive. The Free Movement Directive is clear that those who wish to rely on periods of residence as a student or self-sufficient person must have held comprehensive sickness insurance in order for their residence to count towards permanent residence status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65791/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield [65973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to involve the Migration Advisory Committee in decisions about the rights of entry, residence and right to work of EU citizens.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are considering the options for our future immigration system very carefully. As part of that it is important that we understand the impacts of different options on different sectors of the economy and the labour market.

We will ensure businesses and communities have the opportunity to contribute their views and we intend to commission advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65973/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [65974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to alter the residency rights or ability to obtain residence rights of EEA nationals resident in the UK (a) before the UK leaves the EU or (b) on the date the UK leaves the EU.

Paul Blomfield [66048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on (a) changes to the rights of EU citizens resident in the UK before the UK's departure from the EU and (b) the effect of such changes on (i) negotiations with the EU and (ii) the UK's future relationship with the EU.

Reply from Tobert Goodwill: At present, the UK remains in the EU.

The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to secure the status of those EU nationals already living in the UK as early possible once formal negotiations begin.

As part of this process, the Home Secretary will continue to work closely with colleagues across Whitehall and the Government will engage with relevant stakeholders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65974/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/66048/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Andrew Smith [66002] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plans to take to publicise any changes to the residency rights of EU citizens living in the UK; and if she will provide a telephone number for such people to call for such information.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The rights of EU nationals living in the UK remain unchanged while we are a member of the European Union. We are currently considering the various options as to how EU migration might work once we have left, it would be wrong to set out further positions at this stage.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/66002/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Steve McCabe [66114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the entitlement to free NHS care is not considered as fulfilling the comprehensive sickness insurance requirement for EU nationals applying for permanent residency.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC) states that EU citizens who are exercising Treaty rights as a self sufficient person or student must not become a burden on the social assistance system of the host Member State and must hold comprehensive sickness insurance. The Home Office considers that, allowing such EU citizens to rely on the National Health Service does not satisfy the comprehensive sickness insurance (CSI) requirement.

The latest Court of Appeal judgment on this question, *Ahmad*, supports the Home

Office's position and found that reliance on the NHS by an EU national could not, as a matter of law, meet the comprehensive sickness requirement.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66114/>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield [66201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2017 to Question 61929, whether her Department plans to launch services for non-single EEA applicants to apply for permanent residence online; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There is no requirement to register for documentation to confirm this status. As part of an ongoing programme to digitise all applications for current immigration routes, the Home Office expanded its online service for those applying for documents confirming residence under the EEA regulations. The online service, which has been open to single applicants exercising treaty rights from the EU since October, has allowed applicants to apply on behalf of family members at the same time since the start of February. The European Passport Return Service, offered via participating local authorities, supports the online application service and enables people to retain their original passport whilst their application is considered.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66201/>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield [66202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2017 to Question 61929, what steps her Department has taken to raise awareness of the service launched in October 2016 to enable single EEA applicants to apply for permanent residence online.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There is no requirement to register for documentation to confirm permanent residence status. Applicants who wish to do so are directed towards the online services by UK Visas and Immigration Contact Centres and GOV.UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66202/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-26/61929/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens [66716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for permanent residency have been made by non-UK EU nationals since 23 June 2016; and how many and what proportion such applications have been rejected.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Statistics on applications decided for Documents Certifying Permanent Residence issued to European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are published quarterly. These include data for grants, refusals and applications deemed invalid and hence rejected. The most recent edition (European Economic Area data tables Immigration Statistics October to December 2016) is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593039/eea-q4-2016-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-06/66716/>

Refugees: Children

Tulip Siddiq [65721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many

officials of her Department have worked in Calais to support unaccompanied children in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16 and (c) 2016-17 to date.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: At various points during the Calais camp clearances in 2016/17 the Government had over 200 staff supporting the deployment, including specialist social workers and interpreters, as well as officials seconded to the French Interior Ministry. In 2016 we transferred over 900 unaccompanied minors to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France, as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance.

We introduced the National Transfer Scheme in July 2016, underpinned by powers in the Immigration Act 2016. The Scheme makes it easier to transfer legal responsibility for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children from one local authority to another. The National Transfer Scheme has been working well since its launch in July 2016 and has successfully transferred unaccompanied children away from local authorities whose children's services are under pressure, ensuring that vulnerable young people are getting the support they need. The National Transfer Scheme has also enabled many of the unaccompanied children transferred from France under the Dubs amendment to be placed with local authorities where they are now receiving the support they need. Additionally, to support the National Transfer Scheme, the Government significantly increased the funding we provide to local authorities who look after unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65721/>

Refugees: Children

Tulip Siddiq [65722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to work with other EU member states on improving protection for unaccompanied children at risk of trafficking or exploitation.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The UK has established the £10 million Refugee Children's Fund which is providing targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children migrating through Greece and other transit countries. The fund is providing additional and improved safe accommodation spaces for children, with 24hr care and specialist support. The fund also provides specialist training for officials and volunteers as well as legal support and advice.

We are working internationally to help prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims. The Prime Minister pledged £33.5m of official development assistance funding, to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice by working in partnership with key countries. The PM Taskforce is also making progress bringing the collective weight of Government to bear. We are already seeing progress in intelligence gathering and are developing our international strategy to tackle the threat overseas and deepen law enforcement cooperation. This will enable us to investigate, prosecute and otherwise disrupt the activity of slave-drivers and traffickers of human beings. We also work closely with Europol and Eurojust to facilitate cross-border operations and joint investigations with European law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-27/65722/>

Refugees: Children

Michelle Donelan [65933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities were consulted ahead of the decision to close the Dubs scheme.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government consulted with all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales before agreeing the specified number of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children it would transfer to the UK.

Refugees: Children

Michelle Donelan [65934] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government took to encourage foster care provision ahead of its decision to close the Dubs scheme for unaccompanied minors.

Reply from Edward Timpson: The Government takes the welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children extremely seriously and the UK has contributed significantly to hosting, supporting and protecting the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis.

The Government committed to increasing the number of foster carers as part of our wider safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. In September, we commissioned the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers to support them in looking after unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee children. We have also committed to evaluating the need for any additional training required by foster carers looking after these children. Further information on our safeguarding strategy can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/safeguarding-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-and-refugee-children>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65934/>

Refugees: Children

Michelle Donelan [65935] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to help close smuggler routes into the UK after the closure of the Dubs scheme.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Our work to close people smuggling routes to the UK is delivered by the Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce. The Taskforce is comprised of officers from the National Crime Agency, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and the Crown Prosecution Service. It is working closely with law enforcement agencies in 17 source and transit countries to disrupt the organised crime groups that facilitate people smuggling. This work involves intelligence sharing, conducting joint criminal investigations and the provision of capacity building.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65935/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-17/64009/>

Asylum

Anne Main [65945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 February 2017 to Question 63970, how many asylum claims lodged in the UK have been rejected in each year since 2014; and what proportion and how many claims lodged were correctly decided upon the first time in each such year.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes figures on the outcome of asylum claims made during each calendar year in table as_06 of the *Immigration Statistics* release. The Home Office also publishes figures on asylum appeals and determinations, in table as_14_q of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release. A copy of the latest release, *Immigration Statistics July to September 2016*, is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

We are working to improve the quality of decision-making to ensure that we properly consider all the evidence provided and get decisions right the first time. UK Visas and Immigration has an internal audit process, consisting of reviews by senior case workers and independent auditors, which assesses whether Home Office policy has been followed.

An allowed appeal is not in itself an indication that our decision was incorrect at the time it was made though we aim to reduce the allowed appeal rate by analysing the reasons why appeals are allowed and using this to further improve guidance and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65945/>

The answer referred to in the question above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-09/63970/>

Asylum: Accommodation Centres

Anne Main [65941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2017 to Question 64009, whether her Department has received representations from providers on the current asylum seeker accommodation system and its effectiveness; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office is committed to ensuring that destitute asylum seekers are accommodated in safe, secure and suitable accommodation whilst their claims are considered.

We remain in daily contact with our providers and have worked closely with them to develop improvements to the service over the lifetime of the contract and as part of the recent contract extension. 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.

We have started 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 of stakeholders to consider options for the future arrangements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65941/>

Asylum: Children

Paul Monaghan [66136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to resettle child refugees in (a) the UK and (b) Scotland.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Child refugees and their families are being resettled across the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme. We continue to work with local authorities and devolved administrations to ensure reception arrangements, accommodation and appropriate care arrangements are in place to meet our commitments.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66136/>

Asylum: Children

Charles Walker [66137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have been resettled in the UK in each of the last five years; what

countries those refugees arrived from; what those refugees' countries of origin were; how many of those refugees were assessed as being under the age of 19; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes data on the number resettled refugees, asylum applications and age dispute cases in the quarterly Immigration Statistics. The latest figures are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#asylum>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66137/>

Deportation: Scotland

Tommy Sheppard [65877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportation charter flights there have been from Scotland to other countries in the last 12 months; and on what dates those flights took place.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There have been no charter flight operations from Scotland to other countries in the past 12 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65877/>

Asylum: Deportation

James Duddridge [65886] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidelines her Department provides on the process for the removal of people from the UK who have exhausted an asylum application and appeal process.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office encourages people with no right to be here to leave the country voluntarily and will offer help for them to do this. Where they fail to leave the Home Office we will enforce their departure. Guidelines on removal are available

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/enforcement-instructions-and-guidance>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65886/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Jim Cunningham [65969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that child victims of trafficking receive adequate specialist support and accommodation.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: This Government is committed to ensuring that child victims of trafficking receive the support and accommodation they need. That is why we are introducing Independent Child Trafficking Advocates, starting in three early adopter sites, who will provide specialist support and act in the best interests of trafficked children. We are also investing £2.2m from the Child Trafficking Protection Fund in projects to support child trafficking victims including a specialist accommodation pilot; and we have commissioned a review, with the Department for Education, to assess local authority support for trafficked children from non-EEA countries.

Under existing legislation, local authorities must draw up a care plan for each looked after child which includes ensuring they have access to health and education services and appropriate and safe accommodation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65969/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Jim Cunningham [66056] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the effectiveness of the introduction of

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates in three early adopter sites; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Independent Child Trafficking Advocate service (ICTA) went live in the three early adopter sites on 30 January 2017 and it is therefore too early to assess its effectiveness.

The Home Office is conducting an assessment of the ICTA service in the three sites with oversight from an Independent Expert Advisory Panel. The assessment will collect data to monitor outcomes for children who receive an ICTA and consider how the service was implemented.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-01/66056/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Syria

The Marquess of Lothian [HL5516] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied Syrian children are estimated to be in the EU; how many of those have been resettled, and in which EU countries; and how many have come to the UK as a result of the scheme under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Eurostat figures for UASC claims in 2015: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7244677/3-02052016-AP-EN.pdf/>

(NB 2016 data on UASC claims is only available for a few countries, not including UK, and so not yet useable).

Less than 10 Syrian National Children have been transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

[Europa - eurostat](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-21/HL5516/>

Refugees: Syria

The Marquess of Lothian [HL5517] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied Syrian children will be admitted to the UK before the scheme under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 is ended; and what urgent action they are taking in place of that scheme to help vulnerable Syrian refugee children in Europe.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's strategy is to resettle the most vulnerable directly from the regions; that is how we stop traffickers and smugglers from exploiting vulnerable people and children affected by conflict.

By the end of this Parliament, we will have resettled 20,000 Syrian nationals through our Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, one of the biggest resettlement schemes this country has ever undertaken, and a further 3,000 of the most vulnerable children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa region under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

We have also pledged over £2.3 billion in aid in response to the events in Syria and the region. We have also committed over £100m of humanitarian support to help alleviate the Mediterranean migration crisis in Europe and North Africa and we have established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-21/HL5517/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5439] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to assess the capacity of local authorities to accept unaccompanied child refugees brought into the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in the financial year 2017–18.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5440] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that local authorities have sufficient resources to accept unaccompanied child refugees in the financial year 2017–18.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On February 8, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act following consultation with local authorities on capacity. We ran a full consultation process, with regional events in every part of England, one in Scotland and one in Wales. Over 400 local authority representatives attended the regional events. Any further places offered by local authorities will be gratefully received, and we will use them to fulfil our existing commitments, including ensuring a fairer distribution of children between local authorities through the National Transfer Scheme.

In July 2016 the Government significantly increased the funding it provides to local authorities who look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Local authorities now receive £41,610 per annum year for each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged under 16 and £33,215 per annum for unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged 16 and 17. This represents a 20% and 28% increase in funding respectively. In addition, the Government went further and also increased the funding it provides to local authorities for those young people who turn 18 and go on to attract leaving care support by 33%. We will be working with local authority partners to conduct a review of our funding rates and remain fully committed to maintaining the current rates.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-20/HL5439/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-20/HL5440/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5585] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to respond to the statement by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, published on 22 February, concerning the protection of unaccompanied child refugees against modern slavery and other forms of exploitation.

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5586] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to respond to the recommendations made by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on 22 February, on (1) safe refuge for child refugees under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016; (2) safe refuge for child refugees under the Dublin III Regulation; (3) working with partners to improve protections in Europe; and (4) working to address the root causes of trafficking at source.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We note the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's statement and welcome the focus on the UK's wider support for vulnerable refugee children and efforts to prevent human trafficking at source. We will continue to engage closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on these issues.

On 8 February, the Government announced that we will transfer the specified number of 350 children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act. This number has been agreed following consultation with local authorities on their capacity to accommodate and care for unaccompanied children. We will

announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

The Government is fully committed to the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin Regulation and supports the principle of family reunification. We are working closely with EU Member States to improve the Dublin process. We have secondees in France, Greece and Italy who are supporting work on Dublin and section 67.

The UK has established the £10 million Refugee Children's Fund which is providing targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children migrating through Greece and other transit countries. The fund is providing additional and improved safe accommodation spaces for children, with 24hr care and specialist support. The fund also provides specialist training for officials and volunteers as well as legal support and advice.

We are working internationally to help prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims. The Prime Minister pledged £33.5m of official development assistance funding, to support victims and bring perpetrators to justice by working in partnership with key countries. The PM Taskforce is also making progress bringing the collective weight of Government to bear. We are already seeing progress in intelligence gathering and are developing our international strategy to tackle the threat overseas and deepen law enforcement cooperation. This will enable us to investigate, prosecute and otherwise disrupt the activity of slave-drivers and traffickers of human beings. We also work closely with Europol and Eurojust to facilitate cross-border operations and joint investigations with European law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-23/HL5585/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-23/HL5586/>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5503] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many spontaneous arrivals of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors were recorded in Kent during (1) October to December 2015, and (2) October to December 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes the number of asylum applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, each quarter in table as_08_q of the Immigration Statistics release. The latest figures are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#asylum>.

Table - 08_q - Immigration Stats - Oct-Dec 2016

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-21/HL5503/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Alan Meale (1016) Refugees – That this House notes that today worldwide there are approximately 65.3 million people who have been forcibly displaced, including 4.9 million Syrians fleeing war, reminds the Government that enshrined in the UN Convention is the duty to protect and assist refugees especially when they have to flee their homes in search of safety; and calls upon the Government to adhere to the terms of the Dublin Regulation to reunite refugee families, with priority given to children, the vulnerable and pregnant women and particularly to allow unaccompanied children safe passage of the UK, especially where they have a relative living here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1016>

Press Releases

Reform of the EU asylum rules - creating a new Dublin system that works

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170306BKG65314/reform-of-the-eu-asylum-rules-creating-a-new-dublin-system-that-works>

New report on protecting refugee children from sexual abuse

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/new-report-on-protecting-refugee-children-from-sexual-abuse>

New Publications

Migration Statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

Unaccompanied child migrants

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmhaff/1026/1026.pdf>

Draft Immigration Skills Charge Regulations 2017

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldsecleg/126/126.pdf>

Management of Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594770/DSO_Adults_at_risk_.pdf

Undocumented migrant workers: Guidelines for developing an effective complaints mechanism in cases of labour exploitation or abuse

http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/WorkerComplaintMechanism_Leaflet_EN.pdf

Protecting children affected by the refugee crisis from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806faf44>

News

Dubs amendment: Child migrant challenge defeated by MPs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-39187290>

Dubs amendment: Tory backing for council refugee audit

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-39187290>

Government defeats attempt to restart Dubs scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/07/government-defeats-attempt-to-restart-dubs-scheme>

Home Office decision to end Dubs scheme 'not backed by evidence'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/06/home-office-decision-to-end-dubs-scheme-not-backed-by-evidence>

SNP accused of ignoring powers to attract migrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/snp-accused-of-ignoring-powers-to-attract-migrants-pnsI0k6vz>

Foreign teachers to be fast-tracked to rescue struggling rural schools

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/foreign-teachers-to-be-fast-tracked-to-rescue-struggling-rural-schools-p6tnbh6c8>

Downing Street makes it clear there will be one single immigration policy for whole of the UK

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15145111.Downing_Street_makes_it_clear_there_will_be_one_single_immigration_policy_for_whole_of_the_UK/?ref=mr&lp=6

All refugees in UK now face prospect of return to countries they fled

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3082_all_refugees_in_uk_now_face_prospect_of_return_to_countries_they_fled

Refugees applying to live in UK face being sent home after five years

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/09/refugees-applying-to-live-in-uk-face-being-sent-home-after-five-years>

Refugees applying to live in UK face being sent home after five years under new Home Office rules

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-applying-uk-immigration-sent-home-five-years-home-office-immigration-rules-a7621831.html>

Tory MPs could force ministers to ask councils how many more refugee children they can accept

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/06/tory-mps-could-force-ministers-ask-councils-many-refugee-children/>

Will more immigrants be allowed to move to Scotland after Brexit? David Davis says new border rules will 'reflect the needs of every part of Britain'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4296914/David-Davis-hints-regional-immigration-policy.html>

Business 'needs new migration system after Brexit'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-39165996>

Recording Britain's EU residents will be 'paperwork nightmare'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-07/news/recording-britain-s-eu-residents-will-be-paperwork-nightmare-mbhp8zk0h>

EU students told health insurance 'a technicality' after German woman threatened with removal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/07/uk-tells-eu-students-it-will-not-deport-them-for-lacking-health-insurance>

Child asylum seekers may have been illegally detained, rules court

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/09/child-asylum-seekers-may-have-been-illegally-detained-rules-court>

Government is ordered to pay compensation to a Sudanese asylum seeker, 16, who immigration officers refused to believe was a 'child' and held for three weeks in an adult detention centre

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4297382/Government-pay-damages-Sudanese-asylum-seeker-16.html>

Home Office tells Jamaican man to talk to family online after removal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/07/home-office-tells-jamaican-man-talk-to-family-online-after-removal>

'Britain has accepted you': what it's like to be a resettled Syrian refugee

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/09/britain-has-accepted-you-resettled-syrian-refugee-batous-family-nottinghamshire>

'I had lost hope': Syrian boy is reunited with his family in Scotland after being missing in war-torn country for four years

<http://www.thenational.scot/news/15149414.I-had-lost-hope-Syrian-boy-is-reunited-with-his-family-in-Scotland-after-being-missing-in-war-torn-country-for-four-years/>

Child refugees learn to leave trauma behind

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/child-refugees-learn-to-leave-trauma-behind-3ghmhrn3w>

Labour peer Lord Bassam reveals his family has taken in a young Syrian refugee

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/07/labour-peer-lord-bassam-reveals-family-has-taken-young-syrian/>

Activist Amal Azzudin: 'As long as there is passion and courage, anything is possible'

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/mar/08/amal-azzudin-refugee-rights-campaigner-interview>

'Chatbot' lawyer will help asylum seekers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-08/news/chatbot-lawyer-will-help-asylum-seekers-bt8qmwmsc>

Brook House immigration detainees 'held for years'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-39221869>

Ugandan man faces deportation after 'failing to prove he's gay'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ugandan-man-deportation-lgbt-asylum-seeker-home-office-amber-rudd-abbey-kyeyune-a7624901.html>

Teenager invited to Parliament for Young Builder of the Year Awards nomination to be deported to Afghanistan

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teenager-walid-durani-young-builder-of-year-deport-afghanistan-fleet-hampshire-visit-parliament-a7617606.html>

Is this the end of Britain as a place of sanctuary for refugees?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/11/britain-place-of-sanctuary-home-office>

UK could have taken 100 child refugees a week, says charity

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/11/home-office-rejected-child-refugee-places-tact-care-dubs-scheme>

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Equality

Equality and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Removing Barriers: Race, Ethnicity and Employment

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10822&i=99125#ScotParlOR>

New Publication

Who runs Wales? 2017

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/wrw_2017_english.pdf

News

Cash-strapped hospital announces plans to introduce a separate Halal kitchen to cater for Islamic patients and staff

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4297774/Separate-hospital-kitchen-built-Islamic-patients.html>

Top rank: cabbies and dentists have widest ethnic mix

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/top-rank-cabbies-and-dentists-have-widest-ethnic-mix-lp9r0tjgj>

Meera Syal: TV's portrayal of British Asians has 'gone backwards'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-39185147>

Goodness gracious me – why are there still so few Asian people on TV?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/08/asians-on-british-tv-no-progress-actors-or-programmes>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism

John Mason: To ask the First Minister what the Scottish Government's response is to the report by the chair of the advisory group on tackling sectarianism in Scotland. (S5F-01017)

Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney): I take this opportunity to thank Dr Morrow for undertaking this important review. He gathered evidence from a wide range of sources, including all parties in Parliament, and I thank everyone for their constructive contributions.

It is clear from the review that work remains to be done and that we all have a responsibility to meet the challenge. The Scottish Government is fully committed to building on Dr Morrow's work. We have invested £12.5 million over the past five years to tackle sectarianism, including £9.3 million directly invested in community-based projects across Scotland—more than any public expenditure in this field in advance of this announcement.

John Mason: One of the responses that came to Dr Morrow was from Action of Churches Together in Scotland, which covers a number of denominations. It mentioned the concern and the worry that, if any changes were made to the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, that could be viewed “as ‘legitimising’ sectarianism.” Does the Deputy First Minister share my concern that we must not do anything that would legitimise sectarianism?

Reply from John Swinney: I agree that we must do absolutely nothing to legitimise sectarianism.

The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs made a statement just the other

week about the steps that the Government has taken to commission a review into all of our hate crime legislation to ensure that it is fit for purpose in the coming period.

The approach that we are determined to take is to look for alternatives and to see how the measures in the 2012 act can be improved. In line with constructive views that have been offered by the Equality Network, Stonewall and the Law Society of Scotland, the independent review of hate crime legislation will include an analysis of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. That will set out the issues that we must address in ensuring that we have legislation that is fit for Scotland in the 21st century.

James Kelly: I do not doubt the Deputy First Minister's words on opposing sectarianism. However, they are undermined slightly by the fact that the Government has cut by £2 million funding to initiatives that have been fighting sectarianism in their communities.

The Government's flagship policy for combating sectarianism has been the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. Unfortunately, one of the policy outcomes of that act has been to criminalise young men and introduce them to the criminal justice system for the first time. That is not consistent with Scottish Government justice policy, and it was not the intention when the Government introduced the legislation. Will the Deputy First Minister take the opportunity to rethink the Government's approach to that failed legislation, and its overall approach to tackling sectarianism?

Reply from John Swinney: The Government has taken such steps by commissioning the independent review to consider the issues that are raised on sectarianism in the context of hate crime legislation. That is an open process that should be welcomed across Parliament.

The financial commitments that the Government has made to tackling sectarianism have resulted in the investment of £12.5 million over the past five years. That is more than any other Government has done in the past and it is a measure of our commitment to ensuring that we tackle the issue effectively through the support that is in place.

I appreciate Mr Kelly's strong views on the question, and he acknowledged my commitment in the points that he made. However, I ask him to accept that the Government is determined to tackle the issues in a way that addresses the wider questions that have to be considered on the matter, which is important.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10830&i=99220#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Social Networking: Fines

Nusrat Ghani [65479] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing fines for social media companies which fail to remove offensive and hate material from their platforms.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Government has reached agreement through the European Commission's High-Level Group on Hate Crime with social media companies, that they should have robust processes in place to act promptly when online hate abuse is reported. This includes acting quickly to assess the report; removing content within twenty-four hours which does not comply with the acceptable use policies or terms and conditions; and, where appropriate, suspending or terminating the accounts of those breaching the rules that are in place. Collaborative efforts are ongoing to find and evaluate a range of solutions that balance free speech and protection from harm, with the potential to introduce fines if insufficient progress is made. The Government will continue to engage with social media companies and other interested parties to tackle online hate crime, as set out in our Hate Crime Action Plan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-24/65479/>

Press Releases

Tackling sectarianism

<http://news.gov.scot/news/tackling-sectarianism-1>

Concerns raised over intolerance, discrimination and minority languages in the UK

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?p=&id=2454643&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE&direct=true>

New Publications

Review of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514870.pdf>

Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: Fourth Opinion on the United Kingdom

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806fb9ab>

News

Culture of denial over sectarianism in Scotland, report says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39179445>

Warnings over 'subtle sectarianism' in Scotland's independence debate

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15137769.Warnings-over-subtle-sectarianism-in-Scotland-s-independence-debate/?ref=mr&lp=2>

Crown Prosecution Service to review decision not to prosecute prolific anti-Semite

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/cps-agrees-to-review-decision-not-to-prosecute-far-right-activist-a7616706.html>

Anti-Semites are becoming bolder in Britain, and that should worry us all

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/08/anti-semite-becoming-bolder-britain-should-worry-us/>

Muslim detective Nighat Hubbard sues Met over racism and sexism

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-39248079>

Muslim detective sues Met Police over racism claims

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/385182/muslim-detective-sues-met-police-over-racism-claims/>

Asian detective honoured by the Queen sues Metropolitan Police over racism claims

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/12/muslim-detective-honoured-queen-sues-metropolitan-police-racism/>

Muslim detective sues Yard for racism

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/muslim-detective-sues-yard-for-racism-vgj99lmp>

Muslim detective honoured by the Queen sues the Met Police 'after she was banned from recruiting minority staff and heard a colleague call a policewoman a f*ing witch'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4305596/Muslim-detective-sues-Met-racism-claims.html>

Edinburgh receives £40,000 for projects to help tackle Islamophobia

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15139990.Edinburgh_receives_40_00_for_projects_to_help_tackle_Islamophobia/

Muslims and Jews 'must tackle bigotry in their own communities'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-06/news/muslims-and-jews-must-tackle-bigotry-in-their-own-communities-lqf6g3clq>

Teens charged over racist assault on Edinburgh taxi driver

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/teens-charged-over-racist-assault-on-edinburgh-taxi-driver-1-4389176>

Driver dragged from taxi in racist attack in Edinburgh

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-39180864>

Private hire driver dragged from car in racist attack in Pilton

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/private-hire-driver-dragged-from-car-in-racist-attack-in-pilton-1-4384304>

Driver dragged from taxi and robbed in racially-motivated attack in Edinburgh's West Pilton area

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15136597.Driver_dragged_from_taxi_and_robbed_in_racially_motivated_attack/

Edinburgh driver 'thought life was over' during racist attack

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/crime/edinburgh-driver-thought-life-was-over-during-racist-attack-1-4384702>

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Scottish Devolution

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Scottish Devolution

Drew Hendry: What discussions has [the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the potential devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament as a result of the UK leaving the EU. [909136]

Gavin Newlands: What discussions has [the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the potential devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament as a result of the UK leaving the EU. [909146]

Margaret Ferrier: What discussions has [the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on the potential devolution of further powers to the Scottish Parliament as a result of the UK leaving the EU. [909151]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (David Davis): ... As the Prime Minister said in Glasgow last week, as we bring powers and control back to the United Kingdom we must ensure that they are the right

powers, at the right level, so that the UK can operate effectively in the interests of all its citizens, including the people of Scotland. Where powers should best sit will be a matter for further consultation and discussion across the United Kingdom.

Drew Hendry: I remind the Secretary of State that on 27 November, in *The Sunday Times*, the Secretary of State for Scotland stated: “Whatever the circumstances, no powers will be re-reserved to Westminster.”

In Scotland, we know that such vows are not worth the paper they are printed on. Will the Secretary of State give the House a guarantee that powers currently exercised by the European Union will be devolved to the Scottish Parliament?

Reply from David Davis: Those are two different questions, if I may say so. ... I take this issue very seriously indeed, but there is a distinction between the current exercise of powers over matters such as agriculture, fisheries and the environment by the Scottish Parliament and matters that are dealt with by the United Kingdom Government in the EU on behalf of the whole United Kingdom, with heavy consultation.

Gavin Newlands: Talking of devolved powers, last month the Prime Minister ventured north to tell Scotland just how poor the Scottish NHS is, despite all evidence to the contrary, including information about public satisfaction and A&E waiting times. If the situation is so bad, will the Secretary of State tell us when we will receive our share of the £350 million a week so that we can fix it?

Reply from David Davis: I have generally exercised a self-denying ordinance about not attacking the domestic policies of the Scottish Government, because I think that those are matters for them to worry about, and their day job should be their main interest. The aim here will be to secure the best outcome for the whole United Kingdom, including Scotland, and for Scotland not to lose in any way.

Margaret Ferrier: ... Notwithstanding the key principle of the Scotland Act 1998 and what he said that the Prime Minister had said at the Scottish Tory conference on 3 March, will he please assure us categorically that when non-reserved powers are repatriated from Brussels, they will come directly to Scotland?

Reply from David Davis: ... The simple fact is that no powers that are currently exercised by the Scottish Government will be removed from the Scottish Government. As for other powers coming back from the EU, we will consider—in conjunction with representatives of the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, when they are back in place—what is best for the United Kingdom and the constituent nations thereof. It is very important for us to have as much devolution as possible, but it is also very important for us not to damage the United Kingdom single market, which is four times as valuable to the Scots as the EU single market. ...

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-09/debates/0ABAE361-C45F-4E12-B753-33392BA30DC3/ScottishDevolution>

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[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

Press Release

‘First Mentor’ opportunity launched

<http://news.gov.scot/news/first-mentor-opportunity-launched>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Scotland: Demography and Devolution

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-09/debates/E70DD21F-B3BC-4C96-8C2A-AAF763FD891E/ScotlandDemographyAndDevolution>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation

Jim Shannon [65419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to reduce the number of cases of female genital mutilation in the UK.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. That is why our work to end this practice is an integral part of the Government's 2016-2020 Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

We are taking action to ensure women and girls who have undergone FGM receive the care and support they need, deter potential perpetrators and identify and protect girls at risk. We have significantly strengthened the law on FGM, including introducing a new offence of failing to protect a girl from FGM and creating civil FGM Protection Orders to ensure we are able to protect women and girls at the earliest opportunity. These are already being used to good effect and since their introduction in July 2015, 79 FGM protection orders have been issued.

It is also necessary to raise awareness amongst frontline professionals to ensure they are able to effectively identify girls who may have undergone the procedure and those at risk. In April 2016 we published statutory multi-agency guidance on FGM to support professionals when responding to potential cases and to take necessary preventative action. We have developed free online training on FGM which, to date, has been completed by nearly 90,000 professionals, and the Home Office FGM Unit is driving a step-change in national outreach on FGM, including speaking at a number of awareness raising events across the UK.

In addition, significant work is under way to improve the response from health and social care professionals. The Department of Health is leading a £4m national FGM Prevention Programme, and, to strengthen the social care response, the Department for Education has provided nearly £2 million for a national programme backed by Barnardo's and the Local Government Association. The Department for Education has also recently announced funding for FGM organisations FORWARD and Midaye Somali Development Network to help safeguard girls from FGM.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65419/>

New Publications

Female Genital Mutilation - Oct to Dec 2016, enhanced data set

<http://www.content.digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB23494>

Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/597869/Forced_Marriage_Unit_statistics-2016.pdf

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Other News

Young Scot Fairer Future for Race Equality in Scotland

Young Scot is working with the Scottish Government to set up a team of 15 people, aged 14-21 to create a young people's vision for Race Equality in Scotland. They are looking for young people from ethnic minority communities and those who are passionate about race equality to participate. No previous experience required! For information see <http://young.scot/things-to-do/events/aberdeen/fairer-future-for-race-equality-in-scotland/>

Scottish Charity Awards 2017

Which charities and individuals in Scotland have been the best, most innovative and effective this year? For details of how to nominate a person, organisation, or project for the Scottish Charity Awards see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scottish-charity-awards-2017/>

New £5 million charity hub to be created

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/new-5-million-charity-hub-to-be-created>

Imams to be told to preach in English at mosques

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/03/11/imams-told-preach-english-mosques/>

Glasgow midwife reveals horror of barbaric tradition of female genital mutilation

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15149837.Glasgow_midwife_reveals_horror_of_barbaric_tradition_of_female_genital_mutilation/

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

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

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

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** closes this week!**

Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/draft-gender-representation-on-public-boards/>

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Prison Service Corporate Plan 2017-20 (closing date 17 March 2017)
<http://www.sps.gov.uk/Corporate/News/News-4872.aspx>

Changes to The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014 arising from the Immigration Act 2016 (closing date 23 March 2017)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590887/tpc-bail-consultation.pdf

Commission on Parliamentary Reform (closing date 27 March 2017)
<https://parliamentaryreform.scot/have-your-say/>

EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (closing date 31 March 2017)
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=54326

Housing for disabled people (closing date 18 April 2017)
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-housing-disabled-people>

Policing 2026: Draft Strategy (closing date 8 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures (closing date 28 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/support-and-wellbeing/improving-educational-outcomes-for-children/>

Here to Stay? Young Eastern Europeans' experiences of life in the UK (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/heretostayproject>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Funding Opportunities

**** new or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Government Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund
closing date for applications: 17 March 2017

Scottish Government funding for projects that work with, or on behalf of, people who are disadvantaged due to protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender (sex), gender identity/ reassignment, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Applications can be made by incorporated third sector organisations, community interest companies, statutory bodies, and partnerships where the lead

applicant must be an incorporated Third Sector organisation. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/equality-fund/>

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Government Equally Safe (Violence Against Women and Girls) Fund
closing date for applications: 17 March 2017

Scottish Government funding for projects to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls, including projects that build capacity in local partnerships to strengthen responses to violence and abuse, the delivery of frontline services, or projects which focus on prevention and early intervention. Applications can be made by incorporated third sector organisations, community interest companies, statutory bodies, and partnerships where the lead applicant must be an incorporated Third Sector organisation. For information see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/violence-against-women/>

**** Community Safety Tackling Sectarianism Fund**

closing date for applications: 21 March 2017

Scottish Government funding to improve overall understanding of the nature and extent of sectarianism in modern Scotland, including providing information on the nature and extent of sectarianism in Scotland and specifically how it is understood in, and impacts on, individual communities across Scotland; the extent to which tackling sectarianism is a priority for individual communities and the level to which communities are prepared to engage in open and frank dialogue with one another on this issue; and the effectiveness of different interventions, and what can be learned from interventions which fail to have the intended impact and how interventions can be mainstreamed successfully. For information see <http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/index.php?cid=198>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Equality and Human Rights Law after Brexit

13 March 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-1.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider what Brexit might mean for equality and human rights in Scotland, and how we can secure strong protection for equalities and fundamental rights following Brexit. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jpq5r6b> or contact Kyle Mulholland 0141 228 5925 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

**** this week!**

Honour-Based Violence: Who is Doing What to Whom, and Why?

14 March 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to discuss the meaning of Honour in the context of Honour-based violence, the influence of family, community, faith, tradition, migration and gender in victims/survivors' experiences, links to domestic abuse and gender-based violence, the long term impact and consequences of Honour-based violence on minority ethnic women children and young people, and appropriate service responses to supporting survivors. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hzeo96f>

**** this week!**

EU Citizens in the UK: Understanding Your Rights and Options

17 March 2017 in Aberdeen (6.00-7.30)

Ethnic Minority Law Centre presentation for EU and EEA citizens concerned about their

post-Brexit immigration status. Translators are available if requested in advance. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jqknk3w>

Employability & Muslim Women in Scotland

20 March 2017 in Edinburgh (12.00)

Amina event bringing together employability providers to facilitate discussion, create new partnerships and work together to foster best practice, ensuring that services address the needs of Muslim women. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hm4wf4p>

**** Code of Fundraising Practice Consultation Events**

20 March 2017 in Inverness (12.30-2.00)

24 March 2-17 in Dundee (12.30-2.00)

29 March 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-2.30)

31 March 2017 in Glasgow (3.00-4.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator discussions on the proposed changes to the Code of Fundraising Practice. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/code-of-fundraising-practice-consultation-events>

Race Equality Framework anniversary

21 March 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-4.00)

Scottish Government event one year after the official launch of the Race Equality Framework to explore the story so far with Scottish Government's recently appointed Race Equality Framework Adviser, Kaliani Lyle, and Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities. The outcomes of discussion on the day will help develop future work towards achieving the Framework's goals and visions. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zdx9ndb>

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

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

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/>

Engaging Young Refugees: An equipping day for Youth Workers

23 March 2017 in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, and Inverurie (1.00-4.30)

Church Response For Refugees online training for those wanting to engage with young refugees and unaccompanied minors in their community. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hbthqpg>

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.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8004>

Brexit and its implications for rights

27 March 2017 in Edinburgh (2.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland seminar to provide information around the structure and law on rights in Europe currently and the Brexit process in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z6csuts> or contact hrcscotland@gmail.com

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.

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People

30 (9.30-4.30) and 31 (9.30-12.30) March 2017 in Edinburgh

26 (9.30-4.30) and 27 (9.30-12.30) April 2017 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to include definitions of domestic abuse; how domestic abuse affects women and families from BME communities, and BME children and young people; the concept of 'honour' and how it affects BME women experiencing domestic abuse; forced marriage; and immigration issues including entitlement to support. For information see <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/events-training/> or contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

Cultural Competence

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

Separated Children

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.

Working with Interpreters

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

1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

7 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.

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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

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

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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 <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

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

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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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