

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

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Non-UK nationals: right to vote

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S5W-13349] To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on non-UK EU nationals continuing to have the right to vote in (a) local authority and (b) Scottish parliamentary elections post-Brexit.

Reply from Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government has full responsibility for the franchise for both local government elections and also elections to the Scottish Parliament. In both elections, the franchise includes people resident in Scotland who are:

- British Citizens; or
- Qualifying Commonwealth Citizens; or
- Citizens of the European Union.

Therefore, at present, non-UK EU nationals have the right to vote in Scottish elections and the Scottish Government intends that this will continue to be the

position in future.

On 19 December 2017, the Scottish Government launched a public consultation on Electoral Reform. The consultation includes discussion around a proposal to further extend the franchise in Scottish elections to include everyone legally resident in Scotland. The consultation will run for 12 weeks until 12 March 2018.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-13349>

Asylum seekers: antenatal classes

Anas Sarwar (Labour) [S5W-13334] To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many asylum seekers accessed antenatal classes in each of the last three years.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: This information is not held centrally.

The Scottish Government have worked with NHS Boards to improve early access to antenatal services and have created a Local Delivery Plan Standard to help drive improvement. The standard states that at least 80% of pregnant women in each deprivation area will have booked for antenatal care by the 12th week of pregnancy.

Information Services Division (ISD), part of NHS National Services Scotland, published The Births in Scottish Hospitals report on 28 November. This report showed that the Antenatal Access standard had been met at a Scottish level across all deprivation categories.

Scotland's approach to integration aims to provide a positive experience for refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to rebuild their lives here, through access to the support and services they need, including health care services.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-13334>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Motion for leave to bring in a Bill

Immigration Detention of Victims of Torture and Other Vulnerable People (Safeguards)

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-12-20/debates/95A9A847-4914-42AB-846B-C8AA496BD478/ImmigrationDetentionOfVictimsOfTortureAndOtherVulnerablePeople\(Safeguards\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-12-20/debates/95A9A847-4914-42AB-846B-C8AA496BD478/ImmigrationDetentionOfVictimsOfTortureAndOtherVulnerablePeople(Safeguards))

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [119832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many meetings she has had with Scottish Government Ministers on the Government's proposed reforms to the UK's immigration system after the UK leaves the EU.

Immigration: Scotland

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [119834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which Scottish business sectors have made representations to her on immigration schemes for Scotland after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government is considering a range of options for the immigration system for EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU. Since the Referendum result last year, Ministers have been undertaking an extensive programme of engagement and evidence gathering with all interested parties including the Devolved Administrations, businesses, educational institutions and many others. Most recently, I discussed the recent agreement on citizens' rights

and next steps on the future immigration arrangements at the Joint Ministerial Committee (European Negotiations) on 12 December 2017. Home Office officials also have frequent meetings with their colleagues in the Devolved Administrations, including the Scottish Government.

On 27 July, the Government commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to advise on current patterns of EU migration across all sectors, and the role of migration in the wider economy and society. This will be an important element in our decisions about future immigration arrangements that work for all parts of the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-15/119832/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-15/119834/>

Immigration

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [119833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of reforming the immigration system with a view to increasing working age populations in regions where growth in that demographic has halted or is in decline; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There is a wide range of options as to how EU migration might work we leave the EU. We are considering these options very carefully and we will take decisions based on evidence. As part of this, on 27 July, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to gather evidence on patterns of EU migration and the role of migration in the wider economy, ahead of our exit from the EU. We have asked the MAC to report by September 2018 and flagged that interim reports throughout the period would be helpful as we develop future immigration arrangements that work for the whole of the UK.

Immigration remains a reserved matter and we will consider the needs of the UK as a whole. Applying different immigration rules to different parts of the UK would complicate the immigration system, harming its integrity, and cause difficulties for employers who need the flexibility to deploy their staff to other parts of the UK.

The Government will be setting out initial proposals for our future immigration arrangements shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-15/119833/>

Immigration: Applications

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op) [119193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect on low income applicants of increases in the cost of applications for leave to remain.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: An impact assessment was completed in early 2016 which considered the changes being made as part of the Immigration and Nationality Fees Order (2016), the details of which can be found via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2016/33/pdfs/ukia_20160033_en.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-13/119193/>

Visas

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [119328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer 12 October 2017 to Question 105497 on Visas, how many non-straightforward applications received under each immigration route that were

not withdrawn, voided, rejected or discontinued, took longer than four weeks to be determined; what the average waiting time was for such applications; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The specific data requested is not published by the Home Office.

The available information relating to performance against service standards and processing of cases is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

The Secretary of State currently has no plans to make a statement on this subject.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-13/119328/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-06/105497/>

Immigration

Rupa Huq (Labour) [120217] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that those establishing residency in the UK via a Tier 1 visa pass strict checks.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In 2015, we introduced new, more stringent measures on our Tier 1 (Investor) route before applicants can invest in the UK. These changes ensure that migrants are subjected to stronger due diligence and anti-money laundering checks before they are granted a visa. We also doubled the minimum required investment and removed a provision which allowed migrants to invest money which had been obtained through loans. We created new powers to refuse applications including where granting the visa is not conducive to the public good.

On the Tier 1 Entrepreneur route, we have introduced a number of measures which ensure that migrants must demonstrate that they have made an economic contribution to the UK before they can settle.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-19/120217/>

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [119586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing non-EEA nationals who were granted permanent residency under EEA Regulations but who are no longer family members of EEA nationals to switch to settled status.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [119588] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that non-EEA nationals who were granted permanent residency but who are no longer family members of EEA nationals can obtain settled status when the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The UK and European Commission agreement set out in the Joint Report published on 8 December 2017 protects EU and UK citizens and their family members who have exercised free movement rights by the time of the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Under the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC), once acquired, permanent residence is held on an individual basis and as such those who have been granted that status on the basis of their relationship with an EU citizen do not lose it if they cease to be a family member. Provided they are legally resident at the time of the UK's withdrawal, such persons will be eligible to apply for settled status.

The Government has been clear that we want to secure the same protections for non-EU EEA nationals (citizens of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Swiss nationals as soon as possible, on a reciprocal basis.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119586/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119588/>

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Stephen Timms (Labour) [118831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to implement a communications campaign to make it clear to EU workers in the UK that they will be able to obtain settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is already communicating about the settled status scheme for EU citizens and their families through the media, digital channels and with stakeholders, including businesses and EU citizens' representatives. Communication activity will increase next year towards the launch of the scheme in late 2018, and throughout the two-year 'grace period' for EU citizens and their family members to obtain settled status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-12/118831/>

Mental Health Services: Refugees

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [118387] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to support local authority provision of mental health services for child refugees.

Reply from Marcus Jones: Health services are the responsibility of the Department of Health. Child refugees are entitled to the same rights as other looked-after children and young people, including access to National Health Service (NHS) mental health services. The NHS actively seeks to meet the unique needs of a wide range of vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers of all ages, and local NHS services have legal duties to meet the varied needs of their population. Access to Mental Health services is based on clinical need. To improve the offer to all children, the Government published The Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper on 4 December. This sets out an ambitious set of proposals to transform support for children and young people's mental health generally.

Refugee resettlement programmes can also provide an avenue towards mental healthcare. Under resettlement programmes, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Health Boards can claim a per capita amount for primary and secondary healthcare costs – including mental health costs – for refugees they support. If per capita costs are exhausted, CCGs and Local Health Boards can claim additional funding for secondary healthcare costs identified during the first 12 months of a refugee's arrival. Funding decisions do not rest with the Department for Communities and Local Government but with the Home Office, which is accountable for the Resettlement Programme.

Local authorities have been invited to bid for funds to assist their capacity to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) through the Controlling Migration Fund. The Department for Communities and Local Government manages part of this fund, and bids have included interventions to support UASC mental health. The bidding opportunity has closed and we will be announcing the results of this programme early in the New Year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-08/118387/>

Middle East: Refugees

Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative) [118539] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assistance her Department provides to Iraqi and Syrian

refugees wishing to return home.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The UK promotes the safe, voluntary and dignified return home of refugees and IDPs. DFID is supporting the rehabilitation of priority infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and water treatment plants in areas liberated from Daesh in Iraq, and facilitating planning for regional returns in the major refugee hosting countries neighbouring Syria.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-11/118539/>

Asylum

David Linden (SNP) [108003] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what procedures are in place to ensure that pregnant asylum seekers and refugees receive access to maternity grants.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Details of the support available to asylum seekers including payments toward the costs arising from the birth of a new baby can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/overview>

The full policy and guidance for processing such claims is published on the GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/asylum-support-asylum-instructions>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-10-16/108003/>

Asylum: Housing

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [120280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to ensure that future asylum accommodation contracts work to ensure the long-term sustainability of the dispersal system through co-operative working with local authorities and communities.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is committed to working co-operatively with local authorities and communities to ensure the sustainability of asylum accommodation contracts.

Since September 2016 the Home Office has actively engaged with local authorities with a wide range of stakeholders across local government, statutory and third sector as part of the development of the new asylum accommodation contracts and the information obtained through this process has influenced the design of the future service provision. We will continue to engage with local authorities and the wider community throughout the procurement and implementation of the new contracts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-19/120280/>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [119645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-UK EU citizens have been deported to their home country in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The number of enforced returns by country of nationality is published in table rt_04 (Volume 3 - Returns data tables where returns are broken down by country of nationality and the destination to which an individual is returned to) in 'Immigration Statistics, July - September 2017', available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662533/returns3-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods

The term 'deportations' refers to a legal definition of a specific set of returns. Deportations are a specific subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is

conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. Published information on those deported is not separately available. As such, the question has been interpreted as referring to enforced returns. In an enforced return, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. They have declined to leave voluntarily and the Home Office enforces their departure from the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119645/>

Immigrants: Detainees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [119960] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will take steps to ensure that all persons detained under immigration powers who claim to be stateless or whose nationality is unclear or disputed are advised in a language they understand of the possibility of applying to remain in the UK as a stateless person under Part 14 of the Immigration Rules.

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [119961] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will take steps to ensure that all persons detained under immigration powers who claim to be stateless or whose nationality is unclear or disputed can access free legal (a) advice on their eligibility to make an application under Part 14 of the Immigration Rules and (b) assistance to make such an application where there is merit in so doing.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office does not detain those who are stateless who cannot be removed to any other country.

We will only detain persons where they can be removed within a reasonable timeframe and issues regarding statelessness or nationality disputes are considered in assessing whether detention is appropriate.

The Government has no plans to provide detainees with advice on the possibility of applying to remain in the UK as a stateless person because those in detention are considered to be removable and as such admissible to another country for purposes of residence there. All detainees are made aware of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an immigration removal centre (IRC). The Legal Aid Agency operates legal advice surgeries across the detention estate in England, with detainees receiving up to 30 minutes of advice without reference to financial eligibility or merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries a detainee may attend. If a detainee requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid then full legal advice can be provided.

Detainees also have regulated access to the internet under the requirements set out in Detention Services Order DSO 04/2016 (Internet access). This enables them to independently identify contact details for immigration legal advisors and to make an application for Stateless Leave. Legal reference material is stocked in all IRC libraries and each IRC has a welfare officer who can signpost detainees to information on how to access legal advice.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-18/119960/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-18/119961/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [119973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will place a time limit of 28 days on immigration detention.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has no plans to introduce a fixed time limit on immigration detention as this would only encourage detainees to refuse to cooperate with immigration and asylum processes until they reached the point at which they had to be released from detention and thus avoid their enforced removal from the UK. Published Home Office policy is clear, however, that detention is only used for the shortest period necessary.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-18/119973/>

Human Trafficking: Migrant Workers

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [119769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's procedures for identifying the exploitation and human trafficking of undocumented non-EEA nationals working in the UK fishing industry; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government has introduced mandatory training for Border Force and UKVI staff to identify at risk seafarers from outside the EEA who enter the UK in order to join a vessel departing from a UK port. They are advised of their rights before they board vessels and any suspicious circumstances in relation to vessels and contracts are investigated further.

The Government also introduced specific maritime provisions in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to provide powers to law enforcement agencies to tackle suspected slavery at sea and have provided significant additional funding to the police to improve the wider operational response to modern slavery. This funding includes provision for a dedicated ports and transport officer to provide tactical advice on all aspects of slavery and exploitation occurring in the maritime arena.

We keep the effectiveness of these measures under review, and will consider whether checks on those coming to join UK-based fishing vessels should be adjusted to reflect the ILO Work in Fishing Convention 2007 (ILO 188) which sets out minimum living and working conditions for fishermen.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119769/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Teachers: Migrant Workers

Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP) [HL4191] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many teachers from overseas have been awarded qualified teacher status in the UK in each of the last three years, broken down by country.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The Department for Education produces statistics for England only. The responsibility for education statistics in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales lies with each devolved administration.

The attached tables provide the number of qualified teachers from overseas who have been awarded qualified teacher status (QTS) in England in each of the last three years available (financial year 2014/15 to financial year 2016/17). These tables are taken from published statistics in the initial teacher training (ITT) census, available at the department's ITT Statistics webpage.

Table 8, attached, shows the number of QTS awards made in England to qualified teachers from the European Economic Area (EEA) under EU Directive 2005/36/EC.

Table 8a, attached, shows the number of QTS awards made in England to qualified teachers from overseas (excluding the EEA).

[Table 8a](#) [Table 8](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-14/HL4191/>

Refugees: English Language

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4127] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in improving English language provision for refugees since the meeting between Home Office Ministers and Lord Alton of Liverpool on 21 November; and whether they have any plans to provide more fast track English language training to enable Syrian refugees, and other suitably qualified doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, who are refugees, to take up work in the NHS.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4128] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to change rules that impact the ability of refugees who are health professionals to access full time English language lessons while being in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As soon as adults are granted refugee status or humanitarian protection they become eligible for skills funding (including for ESOL courses) through the adult education budget.

The Home Office also provides funding for English language as part of its commitment to resettling vulnerable people through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme to the UK. This funding includes a tariff for each person resettled, a proportion of which can be allocated to ESOL provision. For those resettled under these programmes, local authorities are now required to provide a minimum of eight hours' formal tuition a week, within a month of arrival, and for a period of at least 12 months, or until the individual reaches at least English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) entry level three (whichever is the sooner).

All NHS professions (including all doctors and nurses) have an English language requirement of IELTS 7. This is not a Home Office requirement but a requirement set by their regulatory bodies (for example General Medical Council). ESOL courses are available for free to those in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-13/HL4127/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-13/HL4128/>

Refugees

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL4317] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have (1) been granted permanent residence status, and (2) had their applications rejected, in each of the last ten years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The available information is given in the table below.

Asylum-related grants and refusals of settlement										
Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total asylum-related grants	10,251	1,995	2,102	3,158	7,493	6,498	11,172	9,696	9,997	7,572
of which:										
Recognised refugees	30	27	15	1,348	6,684	5,198	9,250	7,989	8,778	6,021
Persons previously given ELR, HP or DL	8,849	625	212	154	449	704	1,305	894	296	214

Granted under the Family ILR exercise	215	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z
Other asylum-related grants	1,157	1,343	1,875	1,656	360	596	617	813	923	1,337
Total asylum-related refusals	:	:	:	:	20	1	6	38	36	32

z = Not applicable.

: = not available

Source: Home Office, Immigration Statistics July to September 2017, tables se_01, se_02 and corresponding datasets

Information on grants and refusals of settlement (permanent residence) are published in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics', settlement tables se_01 and se_02, available on the GOV.UK website.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4317/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL4318] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average cost to public funds in the first year for a person who has been granted refugee status.

Refugees: Families

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL4321] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have estimated the cost to public funds, and the impact on the availability of medical care, housing and education, of passing the Refugee (Family Reunion) Bill.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Annex 6 of the Impact Assessment for the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016 gives an estimate of the cost to the public purse of different migrant categories.

Table 14: Estimate of the typical public service costs associated with various migrants (2014/15)

	£ per head - Low case	£ per head - Central case	£ per head - High case
All migrants	5,300	7,000	8,800
Non-EEA migrants	5,400	7,100	8,900
Migrant in last 10 years	4,500	6,300	8,100
Migrant in last 5 years	4,300	4,300	4,300
Non EEA - Those who came to work;	5,300	7,100	8,800
Non EEA - Those who came to study	4,600	6,400	8,200
Non EEA - Those who came for family reasons	5,500	7,200	9,000
Non EEA - Those who came as a dependant;	5,400	7,100	8,900
Non EEA - Those who came to seek asylum.	5,700	7,500	9,200

Source: HO calculations based upon ONS mid-year population estimates (2014), HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA), (2015:Table 5.2), and the Annual Population Survey (Jan-Dec 2013). Rounding: nearest £100
 Under our existing family reunion policy, we have granted over 24,000 visas to nuclear family members of refugees in the last five years. We therefore believe that the impact of the Bill would increase the costs to the public purse significantly because it would widen the definition of a family member of a refugee and enable a large number of extended family members to qualify to come to the UK and have access to public services. The Government's priority is to provide international protection to people who need it and extending the scope of family reunion to extended family members who may themselves not need international protection would not achieve that.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4318/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4321/>

Refugees: Families

Lord Marlesford (Conservative) [HL4319] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many partners and children have been reunited with their refugee family members under the immigration rules and family reunion policy in each of the last ten years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the total number of Family: Other visa applications and grants is published quarterly.

The most recent data can be found in the Home Office publication 'Immigration Statistics, July – September 2017'. A breakdown of Family: Other visa grants by year are provided in the table below.

Entry clearance visas granted by category and country of nationality: Family: Other

Year	Granted
2007	4,497
2008	3,632
2009	4,209
2010	4,887
2011	4,306
2012	3,710
2013	4,211
2014	4,596
2015	4,887
2016	6,098
Q1-Q3 2017	3,801

Source: Home Office Immigration Statistics July to September 2017, Table vi_01_q

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4319/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL4223] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been brought to the UK from Northern France and other parts of **Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France as part of the UK's comprehensive support to the Calais camp clearance. On 30 November we published data on transfers of

children from Calais:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transfers-of-children-to-the-uk-from-the-calais-operation-november-2017>

220 of those transferred met the criteria under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

We are fully committed to delivering on our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 and are working closely with Member States, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGO partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws

Further transfers of eligible children under section 67 have taken place this year and transfers are ongoing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-14/HL4223/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL4325] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their response to the House of Commons International Development Committee's report Syrian refugees crisis (1st report, 2015–16, HC Paper 463 and 5th Special Report, 2015–16, HC Paper 902), whether they plan to record the sexual orientation or gender identity of people referred to the UK for resettlement if and when it is declared by the refugee.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We do not ask individuals referred to the UK for resettlement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to disclose their sexual orientation, therefore this is not recorded unless it is a factor in their need for protection.

Individuals who require protection because of their sexual orientation are likely to be referred to us under UNCHR's vulnerability category of 'Legal and/or Physical Protection Needs'. We have no plans to change this approach.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4325/>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmintdev/463/463.pdf>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmintdev/902/902.pdf>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL4326] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps have been taken to intensify outreach to LGBT refugees who may be in need of resettlement under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In all of the countries from which we resettle refugees fleeing the Syrian conflict, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has undertaken significant efforts to ensure that LGBTI individuals are able to register. These include establishing mobile registration units, outreach teams and help desks for areas where different minority groups are concentrated. This is all part of an effort to facilitate registration for those refugees who, for whatever reason, cannot or choose not to access the main registration offices.

In addition to training its staff on LGBTI issues, UNHCR also works closely with partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) supporting the LGBTI community in the region to facilitate registration, ensure access to services and explore available durable solutions, which may include consideration for resettlement. The NGOs have autonomy to refer such cases to UNHCR where particular protection concerns exist.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4326/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL4327] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many single people, couples and families have been resettled to the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Details of the marital status and family composition of those arriving under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) are not published

A total of 9,394 people have been resettled under the VPRS since the scheme began. Around half of those resettled under the VPRS were under 18 years old, and around half were female.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-19/HL4327/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Ian Blackford (SNP) (704) Highland support for Middle East refugees – That this House warmly congratulates the many dedicated people in the Highlands who have given up their free time since October 2015, volunteering with The Highlands Support Refugees group in Conan Bridge; notes that they have now sent a total of 104 tonnes of aid from the Highlands for refugees from the Middle East; further notes that in the past eight weeks alone 1,854 boxes of aid have been sent to Chios and Lesvos to reduce the suffering of refugees spending the winter in tents in refugee camps on the two islands; and recognises the immense contribution made by the committee of The Highlands Support Refugees and the many volunteers from across the Highlands for their hard work in collecting, sorting and packing donations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/704>

Press Releases

2,000th Syrian refugee in Scotland

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/2000th-syrian-refugee-in-scotland/>

EEA workers vital to economy

<https://news.gov.scot/news/eea-workers-vital-to-economy>

Home Secretary's open letter to EU citizens in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretarys-open-letter-to-eu-citizens-in-the-uk>

Local authority support for non-EEA migrant child victims of modern slavery

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669077/Local_authority_support_for_non-EEA_migrant_child_victims_of_modern_slavery.pdf

Court of Justice of the European Union: An EU citizen who, after more than one year, has ceased to work in a self-employed capacity in another Member State because of an absence of work owing to reasons beyond his control retains the status of self-employed person and, consequently, a right to reside in that Member State

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-12/cp170144en.pdf>

Integration of migrants is Europe's present and future opportunity

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/statement-on-international-migrants-day>

On International Migrants Day, ODIHR Director calls for increased action to promote long-term, human rights-based inclusion and integration of migrants
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/363241>

Integration of refugees: Commission joins forces with social and economic partners
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-5352_en.htm

New Publications

Employment in Scotland's Seafood Processing Sector: UK, European Economic Area and Non-European Economic Area Nationals
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530017.pdf>

Monthly data collection on migration situation - December 2017
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-december-monthly-migration-report-highlights_en.pdf

Immigration Act 2014 Code of Practice: Freezing Orders (Bank Accounts Measures)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669841/60498_UnNum_CoP_FreezingOrders_Accessible.pdf

News

Syrian refugee housing target met three years early
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-42385589>

Theresa May defends plan to count foreign students in immigration data
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-immigration-data-foreign-students-count-defend-plan-a8138206.html>

Home Office pays for Syrian refugees' schooling
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-42429100>

Theresa May seeks to reassure UK's Polish residents
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42432390>

Agreement on EU citizens' rights is as welcome as our European friends are here in Scotland
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/agreement-on-eu-citizens-rights-is-as-welcome-as-our-european-friends-are-here-in-scotland-bf37x39r0>

Homeless EU migrants have already borne the brunt of Brexit Britain
<https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2017/dec/20/brexit-bonfire-legal-protection-homeless-eu-migrants>

Home Office denies whistleblower claims it is prioritising visa applications based on profit
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/visa-application-service-delays-profit-guardian-home-office-denied-a8128616.html>

Asylum offices 'in a constant state of crisis', say whistleblowers
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/25/asylum-offices-constant-state-crisis-say-whistleblowers-home-office>

UK banks face fines as immigration checks on account holders loom

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/dec/18/uk-banks-face-fines-as-immigration-checks-on-account-holders-loom>

Home Office urged to stop 'harmful' immigration checks on bank accounts by more than 60 MPs and campaign groups

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-checks-bank-accounts-mps-campaign-groups-urge-stop-caroline-lucas-david-a8118251.html>

Diane Abbott asks for explanation over denied access to Yarl's Wood

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/dec/22/diana-abbott-asks-for-explanation-over-denied-access-to-yarls-wood>

'Draconian' immigration policies are tearing families apart, say SNP

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15809318.39_Draconian_39_immigration_policies_are_tearing_families_apart_say_SNP/

University accused of 'colluding with Home Office' after PhD student removed from studies over immigration concerns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/university-of-sheffield-colluding-home-office-a8138571.html>

Refugees and asylum seekers could be given right to vote in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/refugees-and-asylum-seekers-could-be-given-right-to-vote-in-scotland-1-4654555>

Refugees could be given right to vote in Scotland

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/refugees-vote-scotland-elections-parliament-local-council-democracy-a8145496.html>

Plea to recycle old computers to refugees

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15793340.Plea_to_recycle_old_computers_to_refugees/

SNP ministers demand urgent review of Home Office visa ban on Canadian Gaelic teacher

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15790042.SNP_ministers_demand_urgent_review_of_Home_Office_visa_ban_on_Canadian_Gaelic_teacher/?ref=mr&lp=5

Gaelic teacher from Canada denied visa to work at Isle of Mull school

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/gaelic-teacher-from-canada-denied-visa-to-work-at-isle-of-mull-school-sq2s38lwr>

Home Office blocks Canadian from teaching Gaelic in Hebridean primary school

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/12/22/scottish-island-finally-finds-gaelic-teacher-six-month-search/>

We can't break a promise to take in child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/24/we-cannot-break-our-promise-to-take-in-child-refugees>

Hostels offer shelter and hope to refugees made homeless for years by asylum system

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/dec/24/hostels-shelter-for--homeless-refugees-naccom-arimathea-trust-charity-appeal>

Call for Syrian refugees' interpreters to get psychological support

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/26/call-for-syrian-refugees-interpreters-to-get-psychological-support>

The refugees who brought hope to a Scottish island

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/24/bute-scotland-syrian-refugees-asylum>

'I have nightmares': people threatened with deportation reveal what happened next

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/01/i-have-nightmares-people-threatened-with-deportation-reveal-what-happened-next>

Afghan torture survivor gains 11th hour reprieve from deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/23/afghan-torture-survivor-wins-11th-hour-reprieve-from-deportation>

'He can't live without me': Canadian woman, 27, who suffered 'despicable' attack with disabled husband outside Starbucks could be deported despite being his only carer

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5240147/Canadian-carer-disabled-husband-faces-deportation.html>

Asylum seekers record festive single with message of unity

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/19/asylum-seekers-record-festive-single-one-heart-refugee-choir>

Praxis: a light in the dark for immigrants with no benefits and nowhere left to go

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jan/07/christmas-appeal-praxis-charity-trafficking-homeless>

Is this the most inspiring school in Britain?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/22/is-this-the-most-inspiring-school-in-britain>

Sesame Street to help Syrian refugees

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-42429527>

British husband battles to stop his Guatemalan wife and mother of their two young children being sent back to one of the most violent countries in the world

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5232561/British-man-battles-stop-Guatemalan-wife-deported.html>

Mother fears removal from UK after boyfriend beat son, 5, to death

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-03/news/mother-fears-removal-from-uk-after-boyfriend-beat-son-5-to-death-q2cfcjif9>

Volunteers could guard some UK borders, Home Office says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42527750>

Ministers pondering use of volunteers to guard UK borders

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15800447.Ministers_pondering_use_of_volunteers_to_guard_UK_borders/

Whitehall plans for volunteer border force "risk security on cheap," says union chief

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15800698.Whitehall_plans_for_volunteer_border_force_risk_security_on_cheap_says_union_chief/

Ministers consider using volunteers to guard UK borders

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/31/ministers-consider-using-volunteers-to-guard-uk-borders>

'Dad's Army' volunteers to help Border Force patrol Britain's coastline against people smugglers and crime gangs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/31/dads-army-volunteers-help-border-force-patrol-britains-coastline/>

Don't panic: Dad's Army volunteers to guard borders

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/dont-panic-dads-army-volunteers-to-guard-borders-p0rgh8b6s>

Bizarre plan is launched to enlist 'Dad's Army' of volunteers to help Border Force protect ports from illegal immigrants, criminals and terrorists

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5223661/Bizarre-plan-launched-Dads-Army-Border-Force.html>

Two officers at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre are cleared of sex offences against a convicted criminal Roma woman detainee as she was set to be deported

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5199113/Immigration-centre-officers-cleared-sex-offences.html>

TOP

Community Relations

New Publication

Scotland's Memoir (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2x8P-nkFJ7M&feature=youtu.be>

News

The Muslim youth group who help bring festive cheer

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42467246>

Young Muslim group to bring festive cheer to elderly and isolated

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/569376/young-muslim-group-to-bring-festive-cheer-to-elderly-and-isolated/>

When a Muslim celebrating Christmas causes angst it's no wonder we think we can't win

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/29/muslims-celebrating-christmas-angst-no-wonder-cant-win-mo-farah>

Does profiling make sense - or is it unfair?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/stories-42328764>

Britain's Muslims 'live in fear of terror attacks too'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/britain-s-muslims-live-in-fear-of-terror-attacks-too-1-4650677>

What made an insular Jewish community relocate to the Ukip heartland of Canvey Island?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-06/the-times-magazine/what-made-an-insular-jewish-community-relocate-to-the-ukip-heartland-of-canvey-island-l0h73kmh8>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ethnicity Pay Gap

S5W-13040 Jackie Baillie (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-10398 by Jamie Hepburn on 10 August 2017, whether it has made or plans a further assessment of the need for new statistical outputs regarding the ethnicity pay gap.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government has provisionally calculated the ethnicity pay gap using the Annual Population Survey data source. The estimate produced is now being quality assured by Scottish Government analysts in liaison with the Office for National Statistics, who own the data, to assess whether this Scottish estimate is reliable for public use.

We are also exploring whether a more reliable estimate may be produced from the three year pooled Annual Population Survey data set 2014-2016. Following our review these estimates will be made available on the Scottish Government web site, alongside technical notes and guidance.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-13040>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-10398>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Faith Schools: Teachers

Chris Williamson (Labour) [118775] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether a voluntary-aided English school designated with a religious character can give preference on the grounds of religion in connection with the appointment of every single one of its teachers.

Reply from Anne Milton: A voluntary aided English school designated with a religious character is permitted to take faith into account when appointing employing teachers - see section 60 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This provision does potentially apply to the appointment of all teachers at such a school but it does not provide blanket protection or an unlimited exception from the terms of the Equality Act 2010 and is not a licence to discriminate on the basis of religion or belief. If challenged as to the use of section 60 in a particular case, a school would be expected to justify the use of the power in the relevant context, the justification being that it was legitimate to take faith into account in the particular case or context. For example, a school might rely on factors such as the pastoral responsibilities of all teachers, regardless of subject or seniority, and the importance that such pastoral responsibilities are discharged consistently by the teachers in the school.

Also, it is our expectation that schools with a religious character will balance the need to maintain the religious character of their school with that of securing the best staff for their school.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-12/118775/>

Magistrates: Ethnic Groups

Richard Burgon (Labour) [119057] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of people on Advisory Committees on Justices of the Peace were of BAME

origin in each year for which records are available.

Reply from Philip Lee: The information requested can be found in the tables below.

	2017		2016		2015	
White - BRITISH, IRISH or White Other	218	89%	301	91%	321	92%
BAME	28	11%	30	9%	29	8%
Not Known	94		26		25	
TOTAL	340		357		375	
	(declaration: 72%)		(declaration: 93%)		(declaration: 93%)	

	2012		2011		2010	
White - BRITISH, IRISH or White Other	427	94%	557	94%	669	94%
BAME	29	6%	34	6%	42	6%
Not Known	45		53		57	
TOTAL	501		644		768	
	(declaration: 91%)		(declaration: 92%)		(declaration: 93%)	

	2009		2008		2007	
White - BRITISH, IRISH or White Other	628	94%	512	95%	398	94%
BAME	39	6%	29	5%	24	6%
Not Known	57		63		57	
TOTAL	724		604		479	
	(declaration: 92%)		(declaration: 90%)		(declaration: 88%)	

	2006		2005	
White - BRITISH, IRISH or White Other	351	95%	283	94%
BAME	20	5%	18	6%
Not Known	33		19	
TOTAL	404		320	
	(declaration: 92%)		(declaration: 94%)	

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-12/119057/>

Young Offenders: Ethnic Groups

Richard Burgon (Labour) [118592] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of young offenders in youth custody identified as BAME in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Philip Lee: Table 1 shows the numbers (broken down by month and yearly average) and proportions of BAME (Asian, Black, Mixed and others) young people within the youth secure estate. At this point, I will not be making a statement in the house on this issue. We are responding fully to the findings of David Lammy's review into the treatment of BAME individuals in the criminal justice system.

Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Ave	%
2012/13	656	629	628	607	592	590	605	570	530	522	511	493	578	37
2013/14	507	502	486	507	487	494	493	493	457	466	464	466	485	40
2014/15	431	419	437	442	418	414	408	398	374	375	382	413	409	39
2015/16	414	410	417	419	395	394	398	406	379	382	372	388	398	41
2016/17	405	391	411	399	373	385	393	366	349	381	380	371	384	44

*2016/17 figures are provisional

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-11/118592/>

Press Release

Justice Secretary pledges commitment to tackling racial inequality in the Criminal Justice System

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/justice-secretary-pledges-commitment-to-tackling-racial-inequality-in-the-criminal-justice-system>

New Publications

Equality Fact Sheets for Fife

Race and Religion

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-race-religion-and-belief.pdf>

Age

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-age.pdf>

Disability

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-disability.pdf>

Gender

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-gender.pdf>

Pregnancy and Maternity

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-marriage-civil-partnership-pregnancy-maternity.pdf>

Sexual Orientation and Gender Reassignment

<https://fifecentreforequalitiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/fife-equality-fact-sheet-2017-sexual-orientation-gender-reassignment.pdf>

News

Welsh judges 'need to be more ethnically diverse'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-42558738>

Diversity target for prison bosses to tackle race bias

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-12-19/news/diversity-target-for-prison-bosses-to-tackle-race-bias-nfxlhdmkl>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-09628 Adam Tomkins (Conservative): Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 – That the Parliament recognises that 27 January 2018 marks Holocaust Memorial Day; believes that the day serves as an opportunity for learning institutions, faith groups and communities across Scotland, including in Glasgow, to remember the six million men, women and children murdered by the Nazi regime in occupied Europe; notes that the theme of the 2018 memorial day is the Power of Words; understands that this theme aims to look at how words can make a difference, both for good and evil; values the Holocaust Education Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project, which gives two post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; celebrates the Holocaust survivors who subsequently made Scotland their home; thanks them for their contribution to Scotland as a nation, and acknowledges the view that anti-Semitism in all its forms should be challenged without fear or favour.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09628>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Convictions

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [117315] To ask the Attorney General, how many incidents of hate crime resulted in convictions in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Jeremy Wright: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) maintains a central record of the number of defendants flagged as committing hate crime offences that were prosecuted and convicted through its Case Management System.

The table below shows the volume and proportion of hate crime prosecutions and convictions during each of the last three years.

-	2014 - 15		2015 - 16		2016 - 17	
-	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
Convictions	12,220	82.90%	12,846	83.20%	12,072	83.40%
Unsuccessful	2,518	17.10%	2,596	16.80%	2,408	16.60%
Total	14,738		15,442		14,480	

Data Source: Case Management Information System

The CPS does not hold a record of the number of reported incidents of hate crimes. Such information is recorded by the 43 police forces. The data reported in the table above shows prosecutions completed by the CPS after receipt of the case papers from the police.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-04/117315/>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Martyn Day (SNP) [114985] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of the conclusions of the Tell MAMA Annual Report for 2016 on Anti-Muslim Hatred on the gender of victims and the majority identity of perpetrators of such hatred.

Reply from Marcus Jones: We take hate crime in all its forms very seriously: the United Kingdom has some of the strongest hate crime legislation in the world. The statistical breakdowns provided by Tell MAMA give an invaluable insight into the extent and nature of the deplorable abuse which Muslim citizens are subjected to

on account of their belief or appearance. It is notable that most reported offline incidents of anti-Muslim hatred involve male perpetrators and that the majority of victims of offline incidents are women, most of whom are visibly Muslim. The Government has committed funding of £100 million to counter violence against women and girls with prosecutions and convictions for such offences rising 63 per cent since 2007-08.

This Government has done more than any other to tackle anti-Muslim hatred. We set up the first ever cross-government working group on anti-Muslim hatred. We have funded Tell MAMA, the first service to record incidents, support victims and raise community awareness of how to report anti-Muslim hate incidents. We are also disaggregating religious hate crime data held by the police to reveal the true scale and nature of the problem. Funding has been made available for the security of mosques and other faith establishments.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-22/114985/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/A-Constructed-Threat-Identity-Intolerance-and-the-Impact-of-Anti-Muslim-Hatred-Web.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Prosecutions

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL4003] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton (HL Deb, col 1052) on 6 December, whether the Crown Prosecution Service's definition of hate crime includes any action or speech which is perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by prejudice based on a person's religion; and where such action or speech leads to a successful prosecution, what is the maximum sentence.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The shared CPS and NPCC flagging definition of a religiously motivated hate crime covers any incident or crime which is perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person's religion or perceived religion. In order for a crime to be charged and prosecuted as a hate crime, the CPS uses the legal definitions contained in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (CDA 1998) and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (CJA 2003).

The CDA 1998 creates a number of specific racially or religiously aggravated offences, each of which has a higher maximum sentence than the 'basic' non-racially or religiously aggravated version of the offence. For other offences, the CJA 2003 places a duty on the courts to increase the sentence where the defendant has been convicted of an offence where they have demonstrated or been motivated by hostility towards the victim based upon their protected characteristic. The CDA 2003 does not set a maximum sentence. Sentencing is a matter for the courts and will depend on the individual circumstances of the case and the legislation under which the defendant has been convicted.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-08/HL4003/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-12-06/debates/2322BFC7-28B5-4D8F-BF90-E847771C422B/FreedomOfSpeechHateCrime#contribution-061945DA-01A6-453E-8EF6-99610749BB49>

Religious Hatred: Prosecutions

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL4004] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further

to the answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton (HL Deb, col 1052) on 6 December, whether the Crown Prosecution Service's definition of hate crime covers cases in which a Christian says that Jesus is the only Son of the one true God if this offends anyone of any other religion.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The CPS assesses each case on its individual facts and circumstances. Prosecutions can only be brought in line with legislation and in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. For something to be considered a hate crime, the perpetrator must have first committed a crime in accordance with the relevant legislation.

The CPS legal guidance on hate crime recognises the right to freedom of expression set out in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The CPS seeks to balance the right to freedom of speech and expression against the duty of the state to act proportionately.

In relation to offences of stirring up religious hatred, there is a freedom of expression defence contained in Section 29J of the Public Order Act 1986, which explicitly states nothing in the Act; "...prohibits or restricts discussion, criticism or expressions of antipathy, dislike, ridicule, insult, or abuse of particular religions, or the beliefs or practices of its adherents."

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-12-08/HL4004/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-12-06/debates/2322BFC7-28B5-4D8F-BF90-E847771C422B/FreedomOfSpeechHateCrime#contribution-061945DA-01A6-453E-8EF6-99610749BB49>

UK Parliament House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

Hate Crime and its Violent Consequences: Evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/hate-crime-and-its-violent-consequences/oral/75919.html>

News

MPs slam Twitter for failing to remove anti-Semitic and racist posts months after they were highlighted in Commons

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/mps-slam-twitter-failing-remove-11721049>

Twitter cracks down on swastikas and 'hateful imagery' and it starts enforcing new rules on abusive content - shuttering accounts run by white nationalist magazines and more

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5191173/Twitter-rolls-stricter-rules-abusive-content.html>

YouTube moderation is slammed yet again after investigation reveals the site takes down 'less than half' of dangerous hate content that is reported to it

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5217517/YouTube-removes-HALF-hate-content-reported.html>

Facebook fails to delete hate speech and racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-03/news/facebook-fails-to-delete-hate-speech-and-racism-hwrzw0qzn>

'Race bias' in justice system: Government to unveil action

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42406302>

'Racist' authorities ignored pleas of murdered refugee Bijan Ebrahimi

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-12-19/news/racist-authorities-ignored-pleas-of-murdered-refugee-bijan-ebrahimi-pz0wvc5wd>

Banned group behind new neo-Nazi campaign recruiting in Scotland, say anti-racism campaigners

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/banned-group-behind-new-neo-11754558>

Twitter suspends Britain First leaders

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-42402570>

Twitter suspends Britain First leaders as it enforces new anti-abuse rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/dec/18/twitter-enforcing-anti-abuse-rules-clean-up-act-abuse-hate-symbols-sexual-advances-violent-groups>

Polish 'most targeted group' in prejudice in Aberdeen

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-42443028>

Young girl pelted with stones in shocking anti-gypsy hate crime

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/young-woman-pelted-stones-being-11763914>

Bijan Ebrahimi murder: 'Institutional racism' by council and police

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-42393488>

Bristol refugee murder review accuses police of institutional racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/18/bristol-refugee-murder-review-finds-police-institutional-racism-bijan-ebrahimi>

Far-right extremist planned 'race war' by making explosives

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-42450131>

Alcohol 'acts as igniter for hate crimes'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15793795.Alcohol_acts_as_igniter_for_hate_crimes_/

Forget the football. Rhian Brewster's story is about racism, plain and simple

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/04/rhian-brewster-football-racism-abuse>

For Muslim women, Britain's streets are more hostile than ever

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/muslim-women-britains-streets-hostile-ever/>

Van driver's vile 'Hitler was a great man' rant at Jewish road-rage victim

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/watch-van-drivers-vile-hitler-11748744>

'Hitler was a great man, he knew what he was doing': Van driver caught on video shouting antisemitic abuse at Jewish motorist

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5209963/Van-driver-erupts-antisemitic-rant-Jewish-motorist.html>

Drunk yob, 31, who called Jewish people 'rats' during a vile racist tirade in front of stunned onlookers yawns as he walks free from court

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5203519/Oldham-yob-called-Jewish-people-rats-drunken-tirade.html>

To fight European antisemitism, we must first face up to it

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/dec/18/fight-europe-antisemitism-attacks-trump>

Field Farm Fisheries' 'no Polish' sign taken down

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-42472722>

South Belfast: Pork thrown into Belfast Islamic centre

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-42471875>

Palestinian student was 'savagely beaten up by three men in a pub for being a Muslim "suicide bomber" after he wished them a Merry Christmas'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5217829/Palestinian-student-attacked-Muslim.html>

Mo Farah targeted with racist abuse after wishing his Instagram followers a Merry Christmas

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/general/athletics/mo-farah-racist-abuse-instagram-followers-merry-christmas-muslim-racial-messages-a8128571.html>

Jürgen Klopp hails 'brave' Rhian Brewster for speaking out about racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/dec/29/jurgen-klopp-hails-brave-rhian-brewster-speaking-out-about-racism>

FA urged to act strongly on Millwall fans' alleged racist abuse during Wolves game

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/dec/28/millwall-fans-racist-abuse-allegations-wolves-kick-it-out-fa>

Princess Michael of Kent sorry for wearing 'racist' brooch

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-42462724>

Princess Michael apologies to Harry's fiancée for 'racist' brooch

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15791233.Princess_Michael_apologies_to_Harry_s_fiancee_for_racist_brooch/?ref=mr&lp=9

Princess Michael of Kent 'very sorry' for wearing 'racist' brooch

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/569270/princess-michael-of-kent-very-sorry-for-wearing-racist-brooch/>

Princess Michael of Kent apologises for wearing 'racist' brooch

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/princess-michael-of-kent-apologises-for-wearing-racist-brooch-lvq7nf9v5>

Princess Michael of Kent apologises for 'racist jewellery' worn at lunch with Meghan Markle

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/dec/22/princess-michael-apologises-wearing-racist-jewellery-meghan-markle-christmas-lunch>

Coronation Street slammed for airing 'disgraceful' racist remarks against Alya Nazir pre-watershed

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/entertainment/celebrity/coronation-street-slammed-airing-disgraceful-11759661>

The professor, his wife and the photo everyone is talking about

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-42510187>

Self-proclaimed Nazi 'called for Jews to be eradicated'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-42546017>

Man who allegedly filmed his Nazi-saluting dog faces hate crime charge

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/man-who-allegedly-filmed-his-nazi-saluting-dog-faces-hate-crime-charge-1-4654737>

Man who filmed pet dog giving Nazi salutes 'said gas the Jews 23 times' in short video clip

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5239559/Man-said-gas-Jews-23-times-teaching-dog-Nazi-heil.html>

Everyone is talking about this picture of a Scots professor and his wife

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/everyone-is-talking-about-this-picture-of-a-scots-professor-and-his-wife-1-4650346>

Footballer dropped as BBC pundit after racially abusing police

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15803483.Footballer_dropped_as_BBC_pundit_after_racially_abusing_police/?ref=mr&lp=14

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-09753 Linda Fabiani (SNP): Happy 50th Anniversary, Samye Ling – That the Parliament notes that 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Samye Ling monastery, an international centre of Buddhist training in the South of Scotland, which was founded in 1967 by Dr Akong Tulku Rinpioche and Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche; is pleased that Scotland became home to Samye Ling as the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre in the West, named after Samye, the first monastery to be established in Tibet; recognises that, as well as offering instruction in Buddhist philosophy and meditation, Samye Ling is a centre for the preservation of Tibetan religion, culture, medicine, art, architecture and handicrafts; notes that Samye Ling hosts a residential community and welcomes many visitors; congratulates everyone involved in the community on the 50th anniversary of its establishment, and looks forward to many more years of friendship, peace and unity.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-09753>

Press Releases

First Minister's 2018 New Year message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UvZsyA3q0I>

Democracy in action

<https://news.gov.scot/news/democracy-in-action>

Giving the gift of life

<https://news.gov.scot/news/giving-the-gift-of-life>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ritual Slaughter: Animal Welfare

Afzal Khan (Labour) [119581] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his policy on recognising animals as sentient beings encroaches on the rights of religious minorities to slaughter animals in accordance with Muslim and Jewish faith traditions.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government's policies on animal welfare have always been driven by the fact the animals are sentient beings. The draft Animal Welfare (Sentencing and Recognition of Sentience) Bill published on 12 December 2017 for consultation gives absolute clarity to that commitment. The draft bill does not affect the right of Jewish and Muslim communities to eat meat from animals slaughtered in accordance with religious rites. There are strict rules that govern the slaughter of animals in England and additional rules which apply to animals slaughtered in accordance with religious rites.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-14/119581/>

Prisoners: Muslims

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [119347] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the number of women of Muslim faith in prison on 1 October 2017.

Reply from Phillip Lee: According to published figures, as of 30 September 2017 there were 254 Muslim women in prison.

This is the closest published data to the requested date. We publish end of month prison population figures broken down by religion and sex quarterly, and the statistics can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prison-population-figures-2017>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-12-13/119347/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister Theresa May's New Year message for 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-theresa-mays-new-year-message-for-2018>

David Mundell New Year Message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-mundell-new-year-message>

Prime Minister Theresa May's Christmas message 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-theresa-mays-christmas-message-2017>

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New Publications

Remember Us – Muslim Communities and the First World War

Exhibition highlighting and responding to the little-known contributions of Muslim soldiers during the First World War. The resources can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzoVqUz4OJI&feature=youtu.be>

and

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/westofscotlandrec/sets/72157690473225514/>

and can be borrowed from the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council by contacting info@wsrec.co.uk

Investigation into unregistered educational settings in Hackney

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/documents/s58810/FINAL%20UES%20for%20PUBLIC%20ACTION.pdf>

Court of Justice of the European Union: The Rome III Regulation does not determine the law applicable to private divorces (relates to sharia divorce)

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-12/cp170137en.pdf>

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Other News

Halal and kosher meat could be labelled by method of slaughter after Brexit in row over animal cruelty

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5228149/Halal-kosher-meat-labelled-slaughter-method.html>

Halal meat could be labelled with method of slaughter after Brexit amid animal cruelty concerns

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/01/halal-meat-could-labelled-method-slaughter-brexid-amid-animal/>

Mosques launch legal challenge against an council's bid to ban halal meat in schools

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/12/22/mosques-launch-legal-challenge-against-councils-bid-ban-halal/>

Ban on unstunned halal meat in Lancashire schools is put on hold

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/dec/22/ban-unstunned-halal-meat-lancashire-schools-put-on-hold>

Schools' halal meat ban halted by legal challenge after decision branded 'unnecessary and divisive'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/lancashire-school-halal-meat-ban-muslim-leaders-court-halt-review-animal-welfare-rights-unstunned-a8124551.html>

Mosques launch legal challenge to council's ban on 'cruel' halal meat in schools - claiming officials didn't consult community first

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5208075/Lancashire-mosques-legal-action-against-council-halal-ban.html>

Hackney's Scrutiny Commission releases report into unregistered 'schools'

<http://news.hackney.gov.uk/hackneys-scrutiny-commission-releases-report-into-unregistered-schools/>

EU laws do not cover Sharia divorce, says ECJ

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-42424547>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0147/amend/eu_rm_rep_1220.1-7.html

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-12-20/debates/EDBDFC17-C424-4348-A515-78BD8203367E/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-12-20/debates/EDBDFC17-C424-4348-A515-78BD8203367E/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Bill as amended in Committee

<https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2017-19/compared-bills/EU-Withdrawal-bill-Commons-tracked-changes.pdf>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Schools: collecting information on bullying (closing date 10 January 2018)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/secondary-education-resources/schools-tell-us-how-you-collect-information-bullying>

International students: economic and social impacts (closing date 26 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/international-students-economic-and-social-impacts>

Modernising the EU's common visa policy (closing date 2 February 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy_en

**** Electoral Reform** (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

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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Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Self-Creative Writing to explore and celebrate integration

12 January 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-3.30)

Creative writing workshops organised by the UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration Through Language and Art at Glasgow University. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y77alnbx> or contact Aimee Ottroh ottroh@icloud.com

Back to Work - Women's Returner Workshops

January 18-20 2018 in Edinburgh

Adopt an intern workshops in partnership with Radiant & Brighter offering support to minority ethnic women looking to refresh their careers. Including guidance on what employers are looking for in the current job market, applying skills and qualifications in the workplace, improving communication skills and becoming more effective in a work context. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycoj7fxq>

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

23 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

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. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

24 January 2018 at Glasgow Caledonian University

Details will be available in due course. For information contact the Scottish Interfaith Council admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778.

Discrimination Law in 2018: The authoritative review of the most dynamic area of employment law

29 January 2018 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an update on discrimination in relation to employment law. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y6vxwcb> or contact Ross Mathers 0141 228 5919 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Working with Interpreters

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

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. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Rape Crisis Scotland training information evening**

7 February 2018 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for self-identified women to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Rape Crisis Scotland information evening for people who would like to benefit from a supportive atmosphere, excellent training, and personal and professional development. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9vbgotf> or contact Mridul Wadhwa 0141 3314188 / volunteer@rapecrisisscotland.org.uk

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age Assessment Awareness

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Supporting Those Affected by Forced Marriage**

21 February 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to demystify forced marriage and help those attending to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact 0131 226 6606 / info@womensaid.scot or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/supporting-affected-forced-marriage/>

Refugee Rights to Housing

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

(closing date abstracts for posters, presentations and workshops: 6 October 2017)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

Refugee Community Sponsorship

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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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/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

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/>

[TOP](#)



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



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



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

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