



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) 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 have been redesigned, so that links published in previous 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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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 22 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-14385 Jenny Marra (Labour): Closing the Protection Gap, Anti-Slavery Day 2018 – That the Parliament recognises Anti-Slavery Day on 18 October 2018; understands that human trafficking and modern slavery is happening in Scotland today, including in North East Scotland; is concerned at reports that victims, including children, can be left waiting up to three years for their immigration status to be resolved and be given leave to remain in the UK by the Home Office; believes that protection and support must be provided for all victims of human trafficking and modern slavery; condemns the UK Government's policy of creating what it considers a hostile environment for those without a settled status, and notes calls for the Scottish Government to work with the Home Office to close the protection gap experienced by

victims of trafficking and modern slavery that was identified by Helena Kennedy QC, Baroness Kennedy of The Shaws.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-14385>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [176527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 September to Question 169672 on Migrant Workers: Visas, whether he has plans to publish a White Paper on Immigration before the conclusion of negotiations for the UK to the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will put in place a new single immigration system that treats EU countries the same as non-EU countries. We will publish a White Paper on the future border and immigration system later in the autumn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176527/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169672/>

Immigrants: Personal Records

Janet Daby (Labour) [177398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long his Department keeps paper immigration records before they are destroyed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information about retention periods for immigration records has been published and is available in the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship privacy information notice on GOV.UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-information-use-in-borders-immigration-and-citizenship/borders-immigration-and-citizenship-privacy-information-notice#how-long-we-keep-your-personal-information-for>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177398/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Helen Hayes (Labour) [179266] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Written Statement of 11 October 2018 on Immigration health surcharge, <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-10-11/HCWS995/>, how the figure of around £470 for the average annual cost of NHS usage by people paying the immigration health surcharge was calculated.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Department has reviewed the cost to the National Health Service in England of treating those who pay the surcharge, and estimates that the NHS spends on average £470, per surcharge payer, per annum.

The Department looked at actual data on surcharge-payers who use the NHS and their length of stay in the United Kingdom between April 2015 and December 2017 inclusive, and estimated the NHS costs of treating the average surcharge payer.

The estimated average primary and secondary care cost across all surcharge payers including those who did not access health services was around £470 per person per annum.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179266/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-10-11/HCWS995/>

Visas

Ian Lavery (Labour) [176302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what comparative assessment he has made of the the average waiting time for visa applicants in (a) the last six months and (b) 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information for the latest quarter available is published online.

Data on entry clearance visa processing times, including the percentage and number of visas that are processed within service standards, is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176302/>

Immigration

Laura Smith (Labour) [176611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Leave to Remain have been rejected by his Department in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of (in country extensions) leave to remain applications granted and refused is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, extensions table ex_01_q at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#extensions>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176611/>

Immigration

Laura Smith (Labour) [176612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Leave to Remain made outside the rules have been granted in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on total grants and refusals of in-country applications for leave to remain is published in the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics, Extensions tables, the latest edition is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#extensions>

See tab ex_01_q. Leave outside the rules and discretionary leave decisions fall under 'other' in column B.

Applications made outside of the rules can result in grants of leave within the rules and these are recorded in the category under which they are granted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176612/>

Immigration

Laura Smith (Labour) [176613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of applicants for Leave to Remain that continue to reside in the UK after their application has been refused.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information requested is not recorded in a form that can be reported. Answering the question would entail the individual examination of cases and would incur disproportionate cost.

Information on the UK's resident population by characteristic is a matter for the Office for National Statistics.

The available information on total grants and refusals of leave to remain is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Extensions tables tab ex_01_q, latest available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#extensions>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176613/>

UK Visas and Immigration

Gareth Snell (Labour Co-op) [176516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration reporting centres have been (a) closed and (b) relocated since May 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office reporting centres have not been closed. We have rationalised some of our police reporting locations in England and Wales to some of our Home Office reporting centres or larger regional police stations to effectively manage the reporting population.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176516/>

UK Visas and Immigration

Gareth Snell (Labour Co-op) [176517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that people subject to reporting requirements are not disadvantaged financially if the nearest immigration reporting centre is closed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Those who are eligible for help with travel costs will have a fixed amount added to their support account in order to purchase tickets to enable them to travel to their new reporting location. The facility for those not automatically entitled to travel expenses, but who are required to report and are destitute, to apply for expenses under 'exceptional needs' will remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176517/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Biometrics

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op) [176098] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department plans to advise individuals with indefinite leave to remain to apply for a biometric residence permit.

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op) [176099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is for processing biometric residence permits for people (a) applying with existing indefinite leave to remain and (b) making new claims in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Non-EEA nationals with indefinite leave to remain already have the facility to enrol for a biometric residence permit to show they have no time limit on their stay in the UK. Details on how to apply are available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-transfer-indefinite-leave-to-remain-in-uk-form-ntl>

We do not publish the specific data requested, but as per the In-Country migration statistics published in August 2018, 99.5% of settlement applications were decided within the six-month service standard. This figure includes applications made by those who already hold indefinite leave to remain and those who have never previously held a biometric residence permit. The data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176098/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176099/>

Immigration Controls: Skilled Workers

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [176334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for the publication of the review of the use of paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules to refuse applications for leave to remain from highly skilled migrants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Officials have concluded the review and are now in the final stages of drafting the final report, which will be submitted shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176334/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Sammy Wilson (DUP) [176170] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to revise the requirements of routes to post-study work for international students.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Migration Advisory Committee recently published its report on the impact of international students in the UK. The report makes several recommendations regarding the current post-study work offer. The Government is carefully considering the recommendations and will be setting out its full response in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176170/>

Students: Visas

Louise Ellman (Labour Co-op) [179136] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the effect of a requirement for EU students to obtain Study Visas on student numbers in (A) universities and (b) English Language Teaching after the UK has left the EU; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: EU students make a powerful contribution to our world-class higher education sector. The government wants that contribution to continue and we are confident – given the quality of our higher education sector – that it will. We are similarly committed to the English language teaching sector and recognise the opportunities and value this brings to institutions in both the UK and abroad.

The government is undertaking a comprehensive and wide-ranging programme of ongoing analysis in support of our EU exit negotiations and preparations. In addition, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recently published its report on the impact of international students in the UK, which highlighted the important part that international students play in the UK education sector, the economy and our society. The MAC report will inform our decision-making and we will consider their recommendations carefully before setting out further detail on the UK's future immigration system; the government plan to publish a white paper on the future immigration system later this year.

In the meantime, to help provide certainty for prospective students and the sector, we have given assurances on student finance for EU students starting courses in 2019/20 academic year or before. We have also reached an agreement with the EU guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and of UK nationals living in the EU. EU citizens living in the UK by 31 December 2020, along with their family members, will be able to stay with the same access to work, study, benefits and public services that they enjoy now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179136/>

Visas: Religious Persons

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [178519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his policy is on granting visas to religious or community leaders who publicly advocate female genital mutilation or cutting.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and constitutes child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate the practice, which can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls.

All applications for entry clearance and those seeking entry to the UK are considered on their merits and against the Immigration Rules. If an immigration decision maker is aware that an applicant advocates FGM then they should normally refuse the application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-12/178519/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration

Sandy Martin (Labour) [176681] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether he is taking steps to ensure that legal aid is available for immigration cases in Suffolk; and if he will make a statement.

Sandy Martin (Labour) [176682] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the Legal Aid Agency plans to provide contracts for immigration legal aid to advisers in Ipswich.

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Sandy Martin (Labour) [176683] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what plans he has to ensure an adequate level of legal support and advice to provide for the projected increase in unaccompanied child asylum seekers dispersed to Ipswich under the National Transfer Scheme.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The LAA will shortly complete the procurement process for new civil legal contracts which included immigration advice. The majority of contracts commenced on 1 September 2018 however there are still a small number of contracts that have not yet commenced.

Once the procurement process is completed the LAA will assess whether there are any gaps in provision and what steps need to be taken to fill the gaps. We are aware of the concerns raised in relation to access in the East of England and have had this under review for some time. This is one of the first areas that we will consider once all the contracts have started.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176681/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176682/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176683/>

Visas

Laura Smith (Labour) [176605] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to improve the communication applicants receive on the progress of their visa application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UKVI are bringing in a new streamlined online journey for most application types, with an intuitive easy-to-use form. This will provide an improved online customer journey, making it easier and quicker for

customers to complete applications and keeping the customer informed via notifications throughout the process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176605/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Married People

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [177360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of spousal visa applications which have been completed within service standard times in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) in 2018 to date.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [177361] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of spousal visas that were not completed within the service standard time which have gone on to be completed within (a) six months and (b) 12 months in (i) 2016, (ii) 2017 and (iii) 2018 to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Performance against service standards is reported quarterly, figures for spousal visa applications are included within the overall figures published which indicate the majority of straightforward applications are processed within service standards.

The available information on processing against service standards is published in the Department's Migration transparency data at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-august-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177360/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177361/>

Visas: Families

Faisal Rashid (Labour) [178385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family visit visa applications from non-EEA countries have been declined in the last 12 months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The family visitor visa has been replaced by the standard visitor visa <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>

The information on total entry clearance visitor visas granted is released quarterly as part of the Home Office's Immigration Statistics, available at the [.GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

The most recent published visas statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#visas>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178385/>

Ilois: British Nationality

Emily Thornberry (Labour) [177232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to waive the fees required to apply for British citizenship in respect of third-generation Chagos Islanders currently resident in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In my response to the Home Affairs Committee's report of 3 July, on the Windrush generation, I committed to consider the issues encountered by the descendants of those removed from the British Indian Ocean Territory and this remains my position.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177232/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [170380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush generation cases remain outstanding; and what the timeframe is for those cases to be concluded.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of live applications is subject to frequent change. The Home Secretary provides the Home Affairs Select Committee with regular updates that give details on those applying and granted under the Windrush Scheme and the August update was published on 21 September 2018.

The Taskforce aims to complete straightforward applications within two weeks of all evidence being gathered however some will fall outside that timeframe due to complexity and the need to investigate thoroughly in order to reach a correct decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-04/170380/>

The update referred to above can be read at

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0833/20180821_-_Windrush_update_.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: EU Nationals

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [176590] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU-born citizens have undertaken British citizenship ceremonies in Ceredigion since June 2016.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [176591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU-born citizens currently residing in Ceredigion have undertaken their British Citizenship ceremony in a location outside of Ceredigion since June 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The available published information on the number of citizenship ceremonies attended in Ceredigion are published in Home Office's Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2018, Citizenship table cz_08 (People attending British citizenship ceremonies by region and local authority) and available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#citizenship>

Ceremonies attended in other local authorities by people resident in Ceredigion could only be identified at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176590/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176591/>

EU Nationals

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [178389] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many EU nationals are resident in the UK; and how many have been resident in the UK for more than (a) five, (b) 10 and (c) 20 years.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of the UK population by Country of Birth and Nationality annually, using data collected from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The latest available data are for the 2017 calendar year. The APS is a sample survey based on households and so does not include people living in most types of communal establishments.¹ Please note that estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

From the APS data, we estimate that the number of non-UK EU nationals resident in the UK is as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Non-UK EU nationals resident in the UK

Year of Latest Arrival	Estimate	Thousands
		+/- Confidence Interval
Total (2017)	3,813	92
6-10 years	901	45
11-20 years	973	46
21 or more years	454	32

Source: Annual Population Survey, Office for National Statistics

We have used year of latest arrival as that shows continuous residency in the UK (i.e, that person hasn't left the UK since they last arrived). You may wish to note that any EU nationals born in the UK and who have never left will only be included in the Total (2017) figure

¹ The Annual Population Survey is a household survey of people in the UK. It covers people in private households, NHS accommodation and students in halls of residence whose parents live in the UK. However, people in other communal establishments such as prisons and private care homes are excluded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178389/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [176644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to protect all existing rights of citizens of other EU member states living in the UK in the event of the UK leaving the EU with no deal.

Janet Daby (Labour) [176696] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that EU citizens living in the UK can continue to do so in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have confirmed that in the event of no deal, all EU citizens resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be able to stay, their rights will be protected and they will be able to live their lives broadly as they do now.

Further information will be published in due course

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176644/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176696/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [177291] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is the Government's policy that the eligibility criteria for the EU Settled Status Scheme as outlined in the EU Settlement Scheme Statement of Intent, published on 21 June 2018, will change in the event that no agreement is reached with the EU on the UK leaving the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have confirmed that in the event of there being no agreement with the EU on the UK's withdrawal from the EU, all EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be able to stay, their rights will be protected and they will be able to live their lives broadly as they do now. Further information will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177291/>

The Statement of Intent referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU Settlement Scheme SOI June 2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf)

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Martyn Day (SNP) [177350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's policy is on what will be considered as (a) criminality and (b) security issues when deciding on applications for settled status.

Martyn Day (SNP) [177351] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) process and (b) definition is of a security check in respect of settled status application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As agreed with the EU, criminality and security checks will be carried out on all applications for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Applicants are required to declare whether they have convictions in the UK or abroad and whether they have had any involvement in terrorist activities, war crimes, crimes against humanity or given support to an organisation concerned with extremism. They will then be checked against UK police databases as well as watch-lists.

In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, conduct (including any criminal convictions relating to it) before the end of the implementation period will be assessed according to the current EU public policy tests for deportation, as set out in the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016. Conduct (including any criminal convictions relating to it) after that period will be considered against UK deportation thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177350/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177351/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Martyn Day (SNP) [177352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department plans to provide (a) legal advice and (b) assistance to anyone whose application for settled status is refused or rejected.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme application process is being built around a presumption to grant rather than refuse, and we expect any issues with applicants to be resolved before a decision is made. Where an application is refused applicants will be able to contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre to discuss the outcome of their application. There will also be an administrative review mechanism to quickly resolve any caseworking errors.

The Ministry of Justice are conducting an evidence-based assessment of the impact of the legal aid changes and are committed to publishing their findings by the end of the year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177352/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Martyn Day (SNP) [177353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government to ensure that people with a temporary status are not discriminated against by (a) banks, (b) employers and (c) landlords.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Equality Act 2010 prohibits unlawful discrimination against persons with protected characteristics, including on grounds of nationality. The Equality Advisory Support Service (<http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>) is provided to offer advice to people

who may have experienced discrimination in England, Scotland or Wales, and an equivalent service is provided by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (<https://www.equalityni.org/Individuals/I-have-a-work-related-problem>).

The Home Office has published statutory codes of practice for employers and landlords on how to avoid unlawful discrimination whilst conducting statutory right to work and right rent checks under immigration legislation on GOV.UK. These can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-code-of-practice-on-avoiding-discrimination>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-rent-landlords-code-of-practice>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177353/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [177369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for people who have secured settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme but who are subsequently absent from the UK for a period of less than five years, what constitutes a return to the UK in order for their leave not to lapse and the clock on absence to be reset.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, where a person granted settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme has returned here after being absent from the UK for a period of no more than five consecutive years, their settled status will not have lapsed. There is no minimum period for which they must then remain in the UK for the clock on any further absence to be reset.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177369/>

EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [178213] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, pursuant to the Answer of 11 October to Written Question 175801 on EU Nationals, whether legislation will be required to ensure full rights to EU citizens in the event of the UK leaving the EU (a) with a deal and (b) without a deal.

Reply from Robin Walker: The Government has already set out its intention to legislate to implement the Citizens' rights part of the Withdrawal Agreement in the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill and through secondary legislation, as appropriate.

We do not want, nor expect a no deal scenario. However, in the unlikely event of a no deal, the Prime Minister has been clear, stating to EU citizens on 21 September "I want to be clear with you that even in the event of no deal your rights will be protected. You are our friends, our neighbours, our colleagues. We want you to stay." We will set out further details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178213/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/175801/>

EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [178214] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if the Government will publish a technical paper on guidance to be issued to non-UK EU citizens residing in the UK in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Reply from Suella Braverman: We have been clear that securing the rights of

citizens has always been our priority.

The Government has made it clear that we will unilaterally protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK in the event of no deal. The Prime Minister said, "You are our friends, our neighbours, our colleagues. We want you to stay."

We will set out the details as soon as is practical, and we now urge the EU and all its member states to give UK nationals on the continent the same reassurances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178214/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179317] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish his Department's evaluation of the first phase of the roll-out of the EU settlement scheme.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for the first phase of the EU settlement scheme; and how many of those applications were (a) successful, (b) unsuccessful, (c) awaiting a decision.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what was the average time taken by his Department was to process an application for the first phase of the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As I set out in my Written Statement on the EU Settlement Scheme on 11 October, I have written to the Rt Hon Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford, the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, with our early findings from the initial private beta phase and placed a copy of that letter in the Library.

We will continue to monitor findings and will publish a full report with our findings once this first phase, which runs until later this month, has been completed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179317/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179318/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179319/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-10-11/HCWS997/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-0985/2018-10-11_Caroline_Nokes_to_Chair_HASC_-_EU_Settlement_scheme.pdf

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress his Department has made on enabling people to apply to the EU settlement scheme on (a) Apple and (b) other smartphones.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme will be a streamlined, user-friendly, digital application system with multiple service options to meet the needs of a varied customer base. Applicants will be able to complete the application on a computer, tablet, smartphone or using an assisted digital service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179320/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179321] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what additional support he plans to provide to vulnerable people applying for the second phase of the EU settlement scheme.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [179322] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which (a) local authorities and (b) community organisations are planned to be involved in providing support to vulnerable people applying for the EU settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As we have previously said, the EU Settlement Scheme will be a streamlined, user-friendly, digital application system with multiple service options to meet the needs of a varied customer base including vulnerable applicants. As such, we are engaging with stakeholders who represent local authorities, community groups, employers and users to help build a system that is fit for purpose.

We are working in partnership with community organisations and a number of local authorities to support a range of vulnerable applicants through the second phase of the EU Settlement Scheme private beta. A list of these local authorities and community organisations are provided in the Immigration Rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179321/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179322/>

Immigrants: Christianity

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [179080] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions has he had with the House of Bishops on the criteria used by the immigration authorities to assess whether a person has satisfactory grounds for using conversion to Christianity as a reason to be granted leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office policy is clear that when considering asylum claims based on religious belief or lack of belief, caseworkers must ask appropriate and sensitive questions based on an understanding of religious concepts, philosophical viewpoints and forms of persecution a person may be subjected to in their country. Where caseworkers need to establish credibility of a conversion to any faith, the approach taken is to explore with that individual their personal experiences and journey to their new faith, both in their country and in the UK, rather than test their knowledge of religious facts.

Home Office officials regularly discuss religious-based claims with a broad range of faith groups to ensure we are considering such claims appropriately. This includes working closely with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on International Freedom of Religion or Belief and engaging with a range of groups in order to improve our policy guidance and develop specialist training for caseworkers to drive further improvement in this important and complex area. The Home Office has not engaged directly with the House of Bishops on this matter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179080/>

Refugees: Children

Peter Kyle (Labour) [178357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 September 2017 to Question 6773, when Government plans to meet its commitment to transfer 480 unaccompanied child refugees to the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In line with the legislation, we are fully committed to relocating the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 as soon as possible. Over 220 children are already in the

UK and transfers are ongoing.

We are working very closely with participating States and partners to deliver the scheme in line with their national laws. Relocation of children to the UK is also dependent on the availability of appropriate local authority care placements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178357/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-20/6773/>

Asylum: Contracts

Dan Carden (Labour) [178367] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that Local Authorities are consulted on the provisions of the new (a) asylum accommodation and support services and (b) advice, issue reporting and eligibility contracts prior to their finalisation; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In developing the structure of the contractual arrangements and the specifications within them the Home Office undertook extensive consultation with local government, devolved governments, non-governmental organisations and the market.

Engagement was both at a national and regional level, with the regional level coordinated by Strategic Migration Partnerships using their knowledge of regional stakeholders. Engagement activity used a range of approaches, including roundtable discussions, one-to-one engagement and a written exercise. Stakeholder feedback had considerable influence on the specifications in the contract, where the Home Office has adopted a host of improvements that were proposed by stakeholders.

As we approach contract award, expected to be before the end of December 2018, we will increase the engagement activity to ensure that all partners and stakeholders are aware of the new contracts and how they will work and are able to work constructively to make the services work for Service Users and local communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178367/>

Housing: Immigrants

John Hayes (Conservative) [178232] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the relationship between immigration from outside the EU and housing demand.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Department has not made an assessment of the relationship between immigration from outside the EU and housing demand.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178232/>

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas (Green) [176205] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will take steps to improve its communication with local authorities, community organisations and the Third Sector on decisions relating to the location of asylum accommodation; and what progress his Department is making in recognising each of those groups as key stakeholders in such decisions.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The COMPASS contracts place an obligation on accommodation Providers to consult Local Authorities on the procurement of any new properties to be used for the purposes of asylum accommodation.

The Home Office fund Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships. These partnerships bring together the national, regional and local public sector to

coordinate activity to deal with effects of the immigration system on local economies and communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176205/>

Asylum: Housing

Kate Green (Labour) [176284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has allocated additional funding to local authorities to support asylum dispersal under the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contract.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no current plans to directly fund Local Authorities that are dispersal areas. The Providers of accommodation will continue to contribute to Local Authority funds through the payment of council tax, which our providers report was over £10m for the financial year 17/18 .

The Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities has provided funding to Local Authorities in England, through the Controlling Migration Fund, for the provision of Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176284/>

Asylum: Housing

Kate Green (Labour) [176285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the new Asylum Accommodation contracts and attendant Statement of Requirements and Performance Management regime include mechanisms for levying financial penalties on providers who fail to meet contractual obligations.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. More specifically:

The Provider shall perform the Services to meet or exceed the Performance Standards defined in the Statement of Requirements and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined within the Performance Management Regime.

Service Credits associated with Provider performance failures against the KPI targets, shall be applied by the Authority from the Contract Effective Date.

Service Credits will be applied in the event of performance failures against KPIs, at a level commensurate with the Provider's degree of failure against the relevant KPI. The agreed Service Credit Payment (SCP) for each Service Area will be deducted from the Monthly Service Payment which would otherwise be payable to the Provider for the relevant Payment Period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176285/>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [177302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of the changes to the licenses of Houses of Multiple Occupation that took effect on 1 October 2018 on the practice of enforced room sharing as permitted under the contract for asylum accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government expects the highest standards from our contractors and Providers are monitored closely to ensure they continue to meet these standards. There are strict criteria set out in the current asylum accommodation contracts around when room sharing can take place and who can share a room.

Providers must also comply with national and local housing regulations including, obtaining an appropriate licence if the relevant property is a House of Multiple Occupation. Advice from social services and primary and secondary care bodies is also taken into consideration on whether room sharing is inappropriate for individual cases and discussions about equality impacts form part of regular

engagement with stakeholder groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177302/>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [177303] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the likelihood of delays to the mobilization period for the new asylum accommodation and support services contracts in (a) the North East, (b) the Yorkshire and Humber and (c) Northern Ireland where compliant bids were not received in round one of the tendering process; and what arrangements have been put in place for housing asylum seekers in the transition period.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The procurement exercise for asylum accommodation and support for the North East, Yorkshire and Humber and Northern Ireland regions is underway and is based on the same set of requirements as the initial procurement. We have taken steps to mitigate the time delay that this second procurement activity will take and have condensed our procurement activity to ensure that the transition period is protected. We remain confident of delivering a fully operational accommodation contract before the expiry of the current arrangements, with sufficient time to properly transition the services. The Home Office has designed the project to replace the current asylum accommodation and support services so as to ensure a smooth transition of services from one Provider to another. The timetable allows eight months for mobilisation and transition activities. The transition planning activity has been underway for some time, allowing the Home Office to engage with Providers as soon as the contracts are let, this is a key lesson from the previous transition. The transition plans have also built on a number of other lessons, including the creation of a team with suitable experience, expertise and understanding of the new contracts and the early engagement with enabling functions from across the Home Office to plan out the demands that will be placed on them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177303/>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [177688] To ask the Secretary of State for Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that standards for preventing overcrowding in houses of multiple occupation under the asylum accommodation contract will be upheld above the legal minimum set by local authorities.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Accommodation providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The use of Houses of Multiple Occupancy is commonplace across a range of sectors, including for supported asylum seekers. The contracts will require Providers to obtain the relevant licences from local authorities and remain compliant with the licensing rules and regulations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-10/177688/>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [177768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether provisions will be included in the new asylum accommodation contracts to ensure that service providers that fail to meet specified standards will be held to account.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. More specifically: The Provider shall perform the Services to meet or exceed the Performance Standards defined in the Statement of Requirements and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined within the Performance Management Regime. Service Credits associated with Provider performance failures against the KPI targets, shall be applied by the Authority from the Contract Effective Date. Service Credits will be applied in the event of performance failures against KPIs, at a level commensurate with the Provider's degree of failure against the relevant KPI. The agreed Service Credit Payment (SCP) for each Service Area will be deducted from the Monthly Service Payment which would otherwise be payable to the Provider for the relevant Payment Period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-10/177768/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C. McDonald (SNP) [179244] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to involve local authorities in existing dispersal areas in the process of finalising the new asylum accommodation contracts with providers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The transition of the contracts is not a point at which we intend to revisit or revise the contractual arrangements with new accommodation providers.

Regional Transition Leads are working in partnership with local authorities via the Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) to ensure appropriate liaison and engagement leading up to contract award. This proactive engagement will result in local authorities shaping the narrative around placements of asylum seekers in their communities but also form the beginnings of Joint Partnership Boards which will monitor and manage the transition to the new contracts.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179244/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [177778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the psychological effect on immigrants of detention without a time limit.

Detention Centres: Overcrowding

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [177779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government plans to take to tackle overcrowding in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The health and welfare of detainees is of upmost importance. Although there is no statutory time limit on immigration detention under Immigration Act powers, the law does not allow indefinite detention.

Under the adults at risk in immigration detention policy – which is part of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention - the consideration of any vulnerability, including mental health, is based on a case-by-case assessment of the appropriateness of detention for each individual. All individuals detained also have ready access to medical professionals and health care, including mental health services. In all cases, detention is kept under regular review to ensure that it is necessary, appropriate and takes into account the welfare of those detained.

The Home Office has published guidelines on acceptable room capacity in immigration removal centres, which build on requirements set out in secondary legislation. Capacity across the detention estate is kept under regular review.

In line with the Home Secretary's statement on immigration detention on 24 July, the practice of accommodating three detainees in rooms designed for two has now ceased.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-10/177778/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-10/177779/>

Mental Health Services: Detention Centres

Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op) [177281] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to support the mental health of women held in detention centres in the UK.

Reply from Matt Hancock: The only immigration removal centre for women in England is Yarl's Wood in Bedfordshire and women are not held in other immigration removal centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177281/>

Deportation: West Africa

Caroline Lucas (Green) [178272] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 October 2018 to Question 174681 on Deportation: West Africa, how many of the 60 people who were due to be returned on the charter flight to Nigeria and Ghana on 28 March 2017 have subsequently been deported and on what dates; whether each of the 60 people were informed by his Department (a) between 28 March 2017 and 15 April 2018 of the rights to stay which are conferred to Commonwealth citizens under the 1971 Immigration Act and (b) of the Windrush Taskforce after 16 April 2016; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Of the 60 people due to be returned on the charter flight to Nigeria and Ghana on 28 March 2017, 49 have since been removed. The table below shows the dates of removal. In the table below, we have included all types of removal including those who may have been deported.

Date of removal	Number removed
30-Mar-17	33
31-Mar-17	1
2-Apr-17	1
4-Apr-17	1
7-Apr-17	1
10-Apr-17	1
15-Apr-17	1
18-May-17	1
23-May-17	4
28-Jun-17	2
29-Jun-17	1
23-Aug-17	1
27-Sep-17	1

Prior to any enforced removal, all individuals are notified of their liability for removal. This informs them of the reason why they are liable to removal, the destination for removal, advises the migrant to seek early legal advice and places them under a duty to raise with the Home Office any asylum, human rights or European free movement reasons why they believe they are entitled to

stay. It also sets out the options for voluntary departure as well as the consequences of not doing so. All individuals are provided with a minimum of 72 hours in which to access legal advice prior to action being taken to enforce their return.

Any individual who believes they are protected under the provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act is able to contact the Windrush Taskforce, who will help to identify their current status. Information on the Windrush Taskforce is readily available on the Home Office website. None of the individuals have contacted the Taskforce.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178272/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-13/174681/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Girvan (DUP) [176597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many police officers have been tasked with assisting police services in other countries in cases of human trafficking in the last three years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government does not hold this information centrally. However, to support the wider operational response to modern slavery in November 2016, £8.5 million was awarded to national policing, through the Police Transformation Fund. To enhance the police response to modern slavery, this included funding two posts within Europol to support police forces to investigate Modern Slavery internationally.

In addition, the National Crime Agency uses its international network to investigate the high-harm Organised Crime Groups involved in modern slavery affecting the UK and to support international partners to build their capability to investigate human trafficking and safeguard victims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176597/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Girvan (DUP) [176598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) age (b) gender and (c) nationality was of each victim of human trafficking rescued by agencies in England and Wales in the last five years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Statistics on referrals to the NRM are broken down by nationality and gender and are published quarterly on the NCA website. The age of potential victims is limited to whether they are a child or an adult to protect the identity of victims. They can be found via the link below:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176598/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

UK Visas and Immigration: Customer Charges

Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government how much UK Visas and Immigration charges its customers applying from outside the United Kingdom for making enquiries by (1) telephone, and (2) email; and how much money they have collected from those charges since 1 June 2017.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: ... For overseas customers, UK Visa and Immigration has a chargeable call rate of £1.37 per minute and a £5.48 email

charge. The Home Office has a contract in place with Sitel UK Ltd for the provision of contact services for both UK and international inquiries. It is not possible to provide data requested on how much money has been collected since 1 June 2017 due to commercial sensitivity.

Lord Harris of Haringey: My Lords, £1.37 per minute plus the carrier costs and £5.48 for an email? This issue was drawn to my attention by a postgraduate researcher based in India seeking to clarify their visa position. The costs are not insignificant to such a person. The Minister mentioned commercial sensitivity because this is a privatised service. Presumably that means that, in this case, a graduate student would not even be talking to Home Office officials to get the answers they wanted. Can she place on record the quality impact assessment that was carried out when this was introduced, and tell us where the liability lies in the event of bad advice being given? Is it with the Home Office, the contractor or the graduate student in India?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, certainly if a quality impact assessment has been done we will make that available. To be clear, I should say that the Government believe that it is right for those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system to make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs. Fees set by the Home Office border, immigration and citizen services are set at a level that partially funds the immigration system; the remainder is funded through general taxation.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, does UKVI see itself as a service? Also, large as these sums may be to the individual, as the noble Lord said, they are very small in the context of government. What is the cost of collecting such amounts? Can that be shown as a set-off against the income derived? Indeed, does UKVI successfully collect that income?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, it is a service, and many people believe it is a good service. International call and email charges are levied to fund the commercial contract, and the new service is delivered at a much lower cost to UKVI than previously. Before 2014, there were 32 centres fragmented across the country. The new contract offers a modern, streamlined service which service users find helpful.

Lord Rosser (Labour): Why do not the Government run this inquiry service directly themselves instead of outsourcing it? Presumably the claimed difficulties over commercial confidentiality would then not arise over answering questions about the income arising from the charges made and the cost of providing the service. The reality is that the arrangements into which the Government have entered deny the public information and, conveniently for the Government, reduce their accountability.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: I do not agree. There is accountability for the service. UKVI set up clear quality standards to monitor the service offered. I hope that the noble Lord will be pleased to hear that 98% of the targets for quality, timeliness and responses to issues are met. I will give an indication of the number of cases that come in: the volume of calls to the contact centres exceeds 100,000 people making inquiries per month. That is an awful lot of people wanting to come to the UK who are prepared to pay for the service.

Lord Berkeley (Labour): My Lords, has the Minister done any sensitivity tests? Would doubling the charges reduce the number of people who inquire and may want to come here? Is that not what the Government's policy is all about?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: Absolutely not. It is about streamlining a service, providing good customer service and building on the digital platform for UKVI to provide an improved service. From January next year, it will provide services across the country where people living in the UK who want citizenship can have their visas or documents updated. Individuals can even be visited at their business premises or in their home. That is an exceptional service.

Lord Geddes (Conservative): Would it be possible for the applicant to use communications such as FaceTime, thereby saving them any cost at all?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: That is an excellent idea, which I will take back to my department.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-18/debates/C9F9A57F-4773-4A2F-95CF-C6FD86386314/UKVisasAndImmigrationCustomerCharges>

Asylum Applications

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the assessment by the Home Office of asylum applications made on the grounds of religious or belief based persecution. ...

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, all asylum decision-makers undertake a bespoke training package on how to assess religious and belief-based persecution claims. UK Visas and Immigration is currently working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief to develop a specialist considering religion or belief in the asylum claim training course. This will be introduced in the new year and will enhance asylum decision-makers' religious literacy in dealing with these complex issues.

Baroness Berridge: I thank the Minister for the work done by her and her officials since the publication of a report co-authored by the All-Party Parliamentary Group drawing attention to the problems with assessing these claims and, in particular, to policy and practice being somewhat different. Will the Minister outline what plans the department has to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of that training so that in a few years' time we are not facing the same difference between training and the decisions being made?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank my noble friend for her Question, her follow-up question and the tenacity and commitment she has shown on this issue. The new specialist course will form part of a continuous training package for asylum decision-makers, technical specialists and senior caseworkers. UKVI expects to roll it out in early 2019. UKVI has an internal audit process to assess the quality of decisions and interviews and the application of policy. Allowed appeals are also regularly analysed. In addition, independent audits are carried out by the operational assurance and security unit.

Baroness Bakewell (Labour): My Lords, there was considerable publicity around the case of the Pakistani humanist Hamza bin Walayat who failed his asylum application in part, it is thought, because he failed to identify Plato and Aristotle as humanists. What steps will the Home Office take to ensure that asylum assessors are better educated about the beliefs of non-religious people, including humanists?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness outlines precisely why training in religious literacy and, indeed about those who have no beliefs or are humanists, which is a belief in and of itself, is required in order to make proper decisions.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister will be aware of the report *Still Falling Short*, which was produced recently by the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration group highlighting that LGBT+ asylum seekers were routinely disbelieved by Home Office decision-makers, and were falling short of the legal standard required in asylum applications. For example, one applicant was told that LGBT+ people cannot possibly follow a religion and that their application was rejected. What is being done to address this failure?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think I outlined the process to my noble friend, but the noble Baroness is right to point out that you can be LGBT and have a religion. The care with which asylum case decision-makers make their judgments is very important, as are the sensitivities around interviewing LGBT people and those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, having visited Pakistan earlier this month and seen first-hand the abject, festering conditions in which many of the country's religious minorities live, and having heard accounts of abduction, rape, the

forced marriage of a nine year-old, forced conversion, death sentences for so-called blasphemy—the Minister may have heard the interview on the “Today” programme on Saturday morning with a young woman whose mother has spent eight years on death row for so-called blasphemy with a death sentence hanging over her—and in one case, children being forced to watch as their parents were burned alive, I ask the Minister: how can the Home Office in all those circumstances continue to say that what is happening in Pakistan to religious believers and humanists is merely discrimination, not persecution?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think I or the House would disagree with the noble Lord in the examples that he cites, particularly those in Pakistan of certain religious groups being persecuted under blasphemy laws. Sadly, the laws in Pakistan are quite different from the laws here; unpalatable though we might find them, they are the laws there. Nevertheless, each application to our asylum system should be dealt with in terms of the persecution that people might face.

Lord Elton (Conservative): My Lords, how long will it take from rollout for the whole of the relevant force of people to receive the training? What oversight will there be to make sure that it has been understood and implemented?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think I outlined that process just now to my noble friend Lady Berridge. We are expecting to roll it out in 2019. With regard to quality assurance, the audits are going to be carried out by an operational security unit for both the quality of the decision and the application of the policy.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, there have been media reports that a further problem is that staff considering asylum applications are rushed because there is a backlog to deal with, and that in addition staff have targets to meet in respect of the number of decisions they have to make each week on whether to grant or refuse asylum seekers. Is there still a backlog of people waiting for an asylum decision or for an appeal to be heard? If so, how big is that backlog? What targets in reality are staff making asylum decisions expected to meet each day, week or month?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is important that the decisions made are the right ones. I could not comment on decisions being rushed, but I can go back to the department to ask that question. There are certainly a lot of decisions to be made, because people want to come to this country and I can try to ascertain a figure for the backlog.

The Lord Bishop of Leeds: My Lords, before training is rolled out, will some religious leaders in this country be consulted on what sort of training might be appropriate, and the sort of questions that may be asked of asylum seekers? At the moment, I should be hard-pressed to answer some of them.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I would struggle with the questions proposed by the noble Baroness, Lady Bakewell, and might also struggle with questions on my religion. Religious leaders have been engaged. What is to be established is the reason for persecution, therefore religious literacy is needed for the assessors—it is not a test of religious facts.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-15/debates/2F85B17E-85B9-49C5-A2D0-CB899614796B/AsylumApplications>

The All-Party Parliamentary Group report referred to above can be read at
<https://appgfreedomofreligionorbelief.org/media/Fleeing-Persecution-Asylum-Claims-in-the-UK-on-Religious-Freedom-Grounds.pdf>

The UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration group report referred to above can be read at
<https://uklgig.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Still-Falling-Short.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Crown Dependencies

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL10405] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Crown Territories, in particular the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, about the possibility that they will take part in receiving (1) unaccompanied child refugees in Europe, and (2) refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey under existing schemes for refugee families.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the early stages of developing the UK's response to the refugee crisis, conversations were held between the UK Government and the Crown Dependencies to explore whether the infrastructure and capacity existed in the Crown Dependencies to support the resettlement of refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Any offers of capacity and support for the UK schemes now or in the future are welcome.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-01/HL10405/>

Asylum: Families

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL10556] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications they have received for UK visas for family settlement to reunite with a partner or parent who is in the UK as a refugee or with humanitarian protection in each year since 2010; and of those, how many have been granted.

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

Family reunion applications from dependants of those with refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK (made under Part 11 of the Immigration Rules) are included in the 'Family: Other' category within the published Home Office 'Immigration Statistics' visa tables, latest edition at,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#visas>.

The vast majority of the 'Family: Other' category relate to family reunion and hence the published figures provide a good indication of trends for family reunion cases.

The table below provides the latest data:

'Family: Other' entry clearance visa applications and outcomes: 2010 to 2017

Year	Applications	Resolved	Granted	%	Refused	Withdrawn/ Lapsed
2010	6,111	6,654	4,887	73%	1,664	103
2011	5,143	5,536	4,306	78%	1,093	137
2012	5,135	5,318	3,710	70%	1,479	129
2013	6,064	6,108	4,211	69%	1,797	100
2014	5,639	6,658	4,596	69%	1,931	131
2015	8,477	8,283	4,887	59%	3,267	129
2016	8,610	9,620	6,098	63%	3,472	50
2017	7,439	7,543	5,237	69%	2,253	53

Notes: Applications made in a given year may be resolved (granted, refused, withdrawn or lapsed) in a later year.

Source: Home Office 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2018', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-10/HL10556/>

Asylum: Pupils

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL10482] To ask Her Majesty's Government what help they provide to asylum seeker families whose children are allocated places at schools too close to their homes to qualify for free transport but where the additional cost of travel fares is unaffordable; and what assistance they provide for obtaining school uniforms.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers and their dependants who would otherwise be destitute are provided with accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs. The level of the allowance is reviewed each year using a methodology that takes account of the costs of reasonable travel and of purchasing clothes, including school uniforms.

The level of the allowance does not take account of the costs of children travelling to school because these are generally covered by the local authority if the family does not live within reasonable walking distance of the school. However, where an asylum seeker or their dependant have a need for additional funds for travel purposes they can apply for it exceptionally. The applications are considered on a case by case basis.

Further information about how the level of the cash allowance provided to asylum seekers is assessed and about how they can apply for additional funds can be found in the reports published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers> and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applications-for-additional-support>
[Applications for Additional Support](#)

[Report on Review - cash allowance paid asylum](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-09/HL10482/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10688] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to prevent any verbal or physical abuse of detainees at immigration detention centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government takes detainee welfare very seriously and expects the highest standards from those who manage the detention estate on its behalf.

A comprehensive complaints system ensures that all complaints made by detainees are investigated by the relevant supplier in accordance with published guidance. All allegations of serious misconduct are referred to the Home Office Professional Standards Unit for investigation. If a detainee, or someone on behalf of a detainee, alleges that a member of staff has committed an offence against them the police will automatically be notified, even if the detainee does not wish the matter to be reported or to make a formal complaint. For detainees who are dissatisfied with the way their complaint has been handled, there is an avenue of escalation to the independent Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Independent scrutiny makes a vital contribution to assurance that immigration removal centres are secure and humane. The Government will continue to implement action in response to recommendations made by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and the Independent Monitoring Boards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-15/HL10688/>

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10689] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigrants were removed in (1) 2010, (2) 2014, and (3) 2017 to

(a) Somalia, (b) Afghanistan, and (c) the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the number of people that have been returned from the UK by nationality, is available in table rt_05 (returns data tables, volume 5) in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2018', available from the GOV.uk website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734186/returns5-jun-2018-tables.ods

Unfortunately the table is too wide to include in the body of the answer; therefore it is attached.

Table HL10689

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-15/HL10689/>

Press Releases

Firms on front line against trafficking and exploitation

<https://news.gov.scot/news/firms-on-front-line-against-trafficking-and-exploitation>

Committee to cross-examine reforms to immigration detention proposals

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/windrush-generation-government-response17-19/>

New Publications

Windrush generation detention: Government Response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights Report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1633/1633.pdf>

The Committee Report, which was published in June, can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1034/1034.pdf>

Slavery and Human Trafficking: Guidance for Businesses in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00542119.pdf>

Immigration Assistance

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748817/Immigration Assistance - PRACTICE NOTE - 161018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748817/Immigration_Assistance_-_PRACTICE_NOTE_-_161018.pdf)

Asylum screening and routing (updated)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748589/screening-and-routing-v2.0ext.pdf

Home Office and Migration Advisory Committee: framework document, October 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-and-migration-advisory-committee-framework-document-october-2018/migration-advisory-committee-framework-document>

Does Immigration Enforcement Matter (DIEM)? Irregular Immigrants and Control Policies in the UK

<https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/DIEM-Irregular-Immigrants-and-Control-Policies-in-the-UK.pdf>

2018 UK annual report on modern slavery

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf

Lift The Ban: Why people seeking asylum should have the right to work
<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Lift-the-Ban-report.pdf>

News

MPs urged to scrap child citizenship 'good character' test
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/mps-urged-to-scrap-child-citizenship-good-character-test>

'Golden passports' firm was consulted by government over investor visas
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/17/golden-passports-firm-was-consulted-by-government-over-investor-visas>

The Windrush generation: the scandal isn't over
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/17/the-guardian-view-on-the-windrush-generation-the-scandal-isnt-over>

Dishonesty is 'undermining asylum court'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-18/law/dishonesty-is-undermining-asylum-court-zkmpgtbzl>

Asylum seekers 'could contribute £42m to UK' if work rules relaxed
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/16/asylum-seekers-could-contribute-42m-to-uk-if-work-rules-relaxed>

Asylum seekers could contribute £42m to UK if allowed to work, finds study
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-work-uk-economy-home-office-benefit-lift-the-ban-a8586016.html>

'I wanted to feel worth something': an asylum seeker willing but unable to work
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/16/i-wanted-to-feel-worth-something-an-asylum-seeker-willing-but-unable-to-work>

I was sold and abused. Now I can't clothe my children. Please let me work
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/16/sold-abused-clothe-children-work-uk-asylum-system>

Preaching to asylum seekers about loneliness takes some nerve
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/17/preaching-to-asylum-seekers-about-loneliness-takes-some-nerve>

Split Court of Appeal rules detention of asylum seekers unlawful (Part 1)
<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2018/10/17/split-court-of-appeal-rules-detention-of-asylum-seekers-unlawful-part-1/>

Hostile environment failing to deter illegal immigration and pushing people into exploitation, report finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hostile-environment-failing-immigration-enforcement-home-office-theresa-may-university-oxford-a8590266.html>

Visa squeeze on foreign students 'cost universities £8bn'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/visa-squeeze-on-foreign-students-cost-universities-8bn-m6pk0x7kp>

Opelo Kgari: Woman brought to UK as child describes ongoing distress after release from 'inhumane' Yarl's Wood

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/opelo-kgari-yarls-wood-detention-deport-uk-home-office-theresa-may-immigration-a8587201.html>

Balachandran deportation: family refuses to board flight to Australia

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/15/last-gasp-legal-bid-to-stop-deportation-from-uk-of-seriously-ill-man-sangarapillai-balachandran>

Police campaign asks public's help to stop human trafficking

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/police-campaign-asks-public-s-help-to-stop-human-trafficking-1-4814880>

'The lucky ones were often terrorised'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-45787962>

Syrian refugee who lives in a historic manor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-45751347/syrian-refugee-who-lives-in-a-historic-manor>

Eritrean asylum seeker, 17, relocation labelled 'tragic'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-45837901>

Bilingual pupils outperform native English

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-15/news/bilingual-pupils-outperform-native-english-v0s2g53xg>

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Welcomes Draft Modern Slavery Strategy

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/human-rights-commission-welcomes-draft-modern-slavery-strategy>

Scottish ministers pile pressure on firms dodging modern slavery duties

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16992341.scottish-ministers-pile-pressure-on-firms-dodging-modern-slavery-duties/>

TOP

Community Relations

New Publication

Fear, Hope & Loss: Understanding the Drivers of Hope and Hate

<https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

News

Home Secretary accused of 'sowing division' after tweeting about 'Asian paedophiles'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/sajid-javid-huddersfield-grooming-gangs-paedophiles-sick-asians-tweet-a8593486.html>

Divided Britain: study finds huge chasm in attitudes

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/oct/17/divided-britain-study-finds-huge-chasm-in-attitudes>

Third of British people wrongly believe there are Muslim ‘no-go areas’ in UK governed by sharia law

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-no-go-zones-muslim-sharia-law-third-poll-hope-not-hate-far-right-economic-inequality-a8588226.html>

Focus on slavery is putting black children off history, teachers warned

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2018/10/17/focus-slavery-putting-black-children-history-teachers-warned/>

Police campaign asks public’s help to stop human trafficking

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/police-campaign-asks-public-s-help-to-stop-human-trafficking-1-4814880>

Anger as imam Monwar Hussain delivers sermon to Anglicans

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/anger-as-imam-monwar-hussain-delivers-sermon-to-anglicans-dnflctzsd>

Young and black in Northern Ireland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-northern-ireland-45843001/young-and-black-in-northern-ireland>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Universities: Ethnic Groups

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [178283] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the potential implications for the Government's ambition to increase the number of BAME students going to university by 20 per cent by 2020 of implementing the recommendations in the University and College Union report entitled Investigating higher education institutions and their views on the Race Equality Charter; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: I welcome the report from the University and College Union. Widening access to Higher Education is a priority for this government. We want everyone with the capability to succeed in Higher Education to have the opportunity to benefit from a university education, regardless of background, ethnicity, or where they grew up.

In 2017, 18 year olds from ethnic minority backgrounds were more likely to enter full-time undergraduate higher education than ever before.

However, we still have more to do. That is why we asked the Office for Students to continue to ensure ethnic minority groups are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

A new transparency condition will also require HE providers to publish application, offer, acceptance, non-continuation and attainment rates by socio-economic background, gender and ethnicity, which will provide greater transparency and help to shine a light on those providers who need to do more.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-11/178283/>

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Andy Slaughter (Labour) [176072] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the report, Pressing for Progress,

published by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in July 2018, when he plans to respond to the recommendations to (a) replace the current planning definition of Gypsies and Travellers with the more inclusive definition in the Housing Act 2004, and (b) reintroduce the duty on local authorities to provide sites for Gypsies and Travellers under the Caravan Sites Act 1968.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government response to the recent consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework confirmed that we are considering whether any changes may be required to the planning policy for traveller sites, as a result of the changes in the revised Framework. In addition, the Government is also reviewing responses to the consultation on Powers for dealing with Unauthorised Development and Encampments, which closed on 15 June. This consultation asked whether there are any specific barriers to the provision of more authorised permanent and transit sites and, if so, whether there is any action that the Government could take to help overcome those barriers. We will provide a formal response to this consultation, as well as confirming whether any changes are required to the planning policy for traveller sites, in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176072/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/pressing-for-progress-womens-rights-and-gender-equality-in-2018-pdf.pdf>

Churches: Equality

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [169369] To ask the right hon. Member for Meriden, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps are being taken to promote greater diversity by (a) gender (b) ethnicity and (c) sexual orientation in leadership positions within the Church.

Reply from Caroline Spelman: Increasing diversity among the clergy is a priority for the Church of England. Nationally the Church has set a target that it will increase the overall number of people recommended for training by 50% over a five-year period. The Church is well on the way to deliver this and has already seen a 22% increase in those entering training since 2016. The Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council has developed programmes to support those who are being called to the priesthood from as wide a range of communities and backgrounds as possible. Members of the Crown Nominations Commission who are involved in the recruitment and discernment process for the most senior appointments also undergo unconscious bias training.

During 2018 the Church recommended 316 women for training, which was 54% of the total. This represents the highest proportion of women entering training that the Church has seen in the last ten years.

The most recent data from 2017 shows that around 6% of those entering training self-identify as being from a minority ethnic background. The Church responded by recruiting a National ME Vocations Officer to address this underrepresentation of minority ethnic clergy and through the "Turning up the Volume" programme is supporting future senior leaders. The Ordained Vocations Mentor Directory was also created to help support those at any stage on the journey towards ordained vocations who would like a mentor.

The Church of England does not record or keep data on the sexual orientation of candidates.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-03/169369/>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission Impact: Effective and efficient use of our powers from 2016-18

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/impact-effective-efficient-use-of-our-powers-from-2016-18.pdf>

News

Equality laws 'may need to be changed to exempt church from gender shake-up'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16990012.equality-laws-may-need-to-be-changed-to-exempt-church-from-gender-shake-up/?ref=mr&lp=11>

Tackling ethnic pay gap could bring £24bn boost

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/comment-tackling-ethnic-pay-gap-could-bring-24bn-boost-1-4816649>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Religious Intolerance and Prejudice

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-17/debates/FC5A8FC0-FAFF-435B-B9E5-C5DBFB16465D/ReligiousIntoleranceAndPrejudice>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Question Time: Hate Crime

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op): Yesterday, Nottingham Citizens published a report on hate crime in our schools, which it highlighted as a growing issue. I was particularly struck by the lack of awareness among the children who were surveyed of what actually constitutes a hate crime. We have failed those children by not yet properly arming them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to thrive in this challenging world. Will the Prime Minister meet me, and a delegation of young people from my city, to discuss how to change that? [907107]

Reply from the Prime Minister: The hon. Gentleman has raised a very important issue about hate crime, and we have been taking a number of steps over recent years. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has published an updated action plan, and I suggest that the hon. Gentleman and those young people meet the Home Secretary to discuss how that action plan can help to address the issues raised.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-17/debates/6A796B16-4B20-4822-B244-9FD46D22DEFD/Engagements#contribution-A627848C-E073-445E-8FCE-B0B362BC90D6>

Business of the House: Hate Crime

Jim Shannon (DUP): Earlier in the week, the Home Office published data that shows that there has been a huge surge in hate crime directed at people in England and Wales because of their religious beliefs. Figures recorded by the police show that over 8,000 incidents of this type of hate crime were recorded in 2017-18—up by a whopping 40% on

2016-17. Only yesterday, our noble Friends in the House of Lords had a debate to discuss this growing religious prejudice and intolerance in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Will the Leader of the House agree to a similar debate, in Government time, on this pressing issue?

Andrea Leadsom: The hon. Gentleman is absolutely right that all forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable. As he will be aware, the Government's hate crime action plan has improved the response to all forms of hate crime. The refresh that was published yesterday ensures a renewed commitment to victims remaining at the heart of our work. As part of that refresh, we have committed additional funding to continue to protect places of worship, alongside just over £1.5 million for projects to tackle racially and religiously motivated hatred. In addition, we have asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislative provisions. Later this year, we will launch a wide-ranging national hate crime public awareness campaign to address the issue. I congratulate the hon. Gentleman on securing a debate on 25 October on the subject of International Freedom of Religion or Belief Day.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-18/debates/6E7DEA2E-6C58-41C8-8081-68DC76C49465/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-E706C0A1-4394-49C4-8B1C-F57299F595F1>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Hate Crime

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [175967] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of reasons for the recent rise in recorded hate crimes; and whether the Government has plans to identify crimes committed against people from alternative sub-cultures as hate crimes.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The increases in recorded hate crime is thought to be driven by general improvements by the police in how they record crime, better identification of hate crimes, willingness of victims to come forward, and a genuine increase in these offences around certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.

We have recently published a refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan. As part of this, we have asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislative provisions. This will include consideration of whether there should be additional protected characteristics, which could include alternative sub-cultures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/175967/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Press Releases

Hate crime plan refreshed to protect victims and promote shared values

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hate-crime-plan-refreshed-to-protect-victims-and-promote-shared-values>

Tougher hate crime sentences at record levels

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/tougher-hate-crime-sentences-record-levels>

Welsh Government confirms it has adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism including all eleven examples

<https://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2018/wgconfirmsadoptionihradefantise mitism/?lang=en>

Members of National Parliaments and of the European Parliament join forces to fight antigypsyism in Europe

<http://www.enar-eu.org/Members-of-National-Parliaments-and-of-the-European-Parliament-join-forces-to>

New Publications

Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017/18

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748287/hate-crime-1718-hosb2018.pdf

Action Against Hate The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime – 'two years on'

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Criminal Prosecution Service: Hate Crime Annual Report 2017–18 (England and Wales)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/cps-hate-crime-report-2018.pdf>

Race, Ethnicity & Equality in UK History: A Report and Resource for Change

https://5hm1h4aktue2uejbs1hsqt31-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/RHS_race_report_EMBARGO_0001_18Oct.pdf

Website: Disability Safety Hub

The Disability Safety Hub is a website, aimed at disabled people. It is funded by the Scottish Government, and has been designed with input from disabled people and a number of key stakeholders. Its purpose is to help disabled people identify incidents of hate crime, but it also gives information and advice about how to report it.

The website aims to tackle the under-reporting of disability hate crimes. Too many disabled people face victimisation and harassment, but brush it off as 'banter' or accept it as part of their day-to-day lives. This website will help disabled people recognise incidents of hate crime, and offer information about how they can report it.

<http://disabilitysafety.scot/>

News

Bigotry campaign is seriously flawed

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/16982071.agenda-bigotry-campaign-is-seriously-flawed/?ref=mr&lp=12>

Hate crime surge linked to Brexit and 2017 terrorist attacks

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/oct/16/hate-crime-brexit-terrorist-attacks-england-wales>

Religious hate crime has risen by 40 per cent in the last year – and Muslims like me can help to stop it

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/religious-hate-crime-anti-semitic-islamophobic-jews-muslims-uk-brexit-stop-a8586396.html>

Hate crime linked to religion doubled in three years

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/16/hate-crime-linked-religion-doubled-three-years/>

Police record surge in hate crimes after series of terrorist attacks

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/police-record-surge-in-hate-crimes-after-series-of-terrorist-attacks-7d72ws3qq>

Muslims and Jews bear the brunt of the rise in religious hate crime

<https://tellmamauk.org/muslims-and-jews-bear-the-brunt-of-the-rise-in-religious-hate-crime/>

Rising Islamophobia in the UK: Muslim Council of Britain Demands Action

<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/rising-islamophobia-in-the-uk-muslim-council-of-britain-demands-action/>

Police bracing for Brexit hate crime spike against EU citizens and migrants in March

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-hate-crime-eu-citizens-xenophobia-racism-police-bracing-march-2019-article-50-a8590921.html>

NHS bosses accused of 'racism' over email warning staff about Gypsy/Travellers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16991737.nhs-bosses-accused-of-racism-over-email-warning-staff-about-gypsytravellers/>

Health staff told to shun travellers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-19/scotland/health-staff-told-to-shun-travellers-2kdv568pp>

One in three university historians from ethnic minorities experience racial discrimination, research finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/racism-history-academics-university-staff-discrimination-abuse-royal-historical-society-rhs-a8589201.html>

History is too white, claim academics

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-18/news/history-is-too-white-claim-academics-7m3znpjnr>

We risk losing slices of our past if we don't root out racism in our universities

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/21/we-risk-losing-slices-of-our-history-if-we-dont-root-out-racism-in-our-universities>

Racist broker Robert Tolley banned from every pub in central London

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-19/news/racist-broker-robert-tolley-banned-from-every-pub-in-central-london-fpw65jx9n>

Man with 'religion issues' set fire to church and temple

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-45905249>

Man who set fire to Leith church and Sikh temple 'wanted to watch them burn'

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/edinburgh-fife-lothians/man-who-set-fire-to-leith-church-and-sikh-temple-wanted-to-watch-them-burn-1-4816733>

Man admits setting fire to doors of Edinburgh Sikh temple because he wanted to 'watch it burn down'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/man-admits-setting-fire-doors-13437081>

Man set fire to church and temple

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-19/scotland/man-set-fire-to-church-and-temple-vwbkmp8cz>

Show Racism the Red Card: The important reason people are wearing red today

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/wear-red-clothes-show-racism-red-card-why-october-19-racism-uk-a8591311.html>

English Defence League hold protest rally in Manchester as anti-racists mount counter demo

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/english-defence-league-hold-protest-13449374>

Tackle racial disparity across society, and maybe I'll stop being mistaken for the PA

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-18/news/if-we-can-tackle-racial-disparity-across-society-maybe-i-ll-stop-being-mistaken-for-the-pa-qmdqm7xrv>

One man's (very polite) fight against media Islamophobia

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/oct/18/miqdaad-versi-very-polite-fight-against-british-media-islamophobia>

Ryanair flight: 'Racial abuse passenger' referred to police

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45932027>

Charity praises Wales football fan for highlighting racism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-45907798>

Roma community group gets apology from Belfast Health Trust

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-45895356>

Kamal Ahmed says facing a Nazi salute was 'so shocking'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-45905758/kamal-ahmed-says-facing-a-nazi-salute-was-so-shocking>

The zeal for making everything a hate crime utterly undermines the fight against racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/16/zeal-making-everything-hate-crime-utterly-undermines-fight-against/>

Naomi Campbell condemns magazine's 'whitewashed' London

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16997218.naomi-campbell-condemns-magazines-whitewashed-london/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publications

Scotland's Place in Europe: Our Way Forward

<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00541974.pdf>

Animation: How do MSPs vote in the Scottish Parliament?

<http://www.parliament.scot/visitandlearn/109923.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Devolution: Scotland

Neil Gray (SNP) [177332] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what recent discussions he has held with the Scottish Government on the devolution of powers to the Scottish Parliament upon the UK leaving the EU.

Reply from David Mundell: The EU Withdrawal Act confirmed that where EU law intersects with devolved competence, those powers will flow directly to the devolved administrations on exit day. We are also continuing to make progress to establish common frameworks which the Joint Committee on EU (Negotiations) discussed last week.

The Committee has met thirteen times, most recently on Thursday 11 October. At this last meeting the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations discussed progress on Common Frameworks.

Good progress has been made through the process of outlining frameworks in the twenty four priority policy areas where legislative frameworks have been considered and this is testament to constructive working relationship between all UK administrations on this matter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177332/>

Forced Marriage

Philip Davies (Conservative) [174014] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many recorded crimes relating to forced marriage there have been since 16 June 2014.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad.

We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK. To date, there have been four convictions under the offence.

The most recent Crown Prosecution Service Violence Against Women and Girls report shows that the volume of forced marriage referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) fell from 90 in 2015–16 to 56 in 2016–17, with a corresponding fall in the volume of defendants charged from 57 to 36. The volume of prosecutions completed fell from 53 in 2015–16 to 44 in 2016–17. The volume of convictions stayed steady at 32, as in 2015–16. The conviction rate increased from 60.4% in 2015–16 to 72.7% in 2016–17.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-09-12/174014/>

Blood and Organs: Donors

David Simpson (DUP) [177261] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase the level of organ and blood donation.

Reply from Matt Hancock: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) is responsible for the collection, manufacturing and issuing of blood products to the NHS in England. NHSBT needs to collect more than 6,000 blood donations every day to treat patients in need across England.

NHSBT undertake a range of activities to drive recruitment of around 200,000 new donors each year to off-set donors who can longer donate for reasons such as illness, travel or pregnancy. In addition, NHSBT has undertaken work to change

its donor base to better reflect the needs of NHS patients. In particular, it is working to recruit a significant number of new blood donors from a black African or black Caribbean background.

Initiatives to support this goal have included work with black Christian churches across England, to encourage more black donors to register, book an appointment and give blood. NHSBT continues to work with black Asian and minority ethnic charity partners, including the Islamic Unity Society and Sewaday to promote registration drives and publicise sessions. It has also carried out Know Your Type events in high population Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic areas where individuals can learn their blood type with a finger prick test and be encouraged to book an appointment to donate.

NHSBT has continued this promotion in 2018 with the B Positive choir, which was created by NHSBT. The members include blood donors and blood recipients, people who have blood-related medical conditions such as sickle cell disease, their families, friends and people who work with blood.

NHSBT is currently implementing the 'Taking Organ Transplantation to 2020: A UK Strategy' which was launched in 2013. The strategy aims to achieve world class performance in organ donation and transplantation. It was developed by NHSBT and the four United Kingdom Health Departments. The strategy set the agenda for increasing organ donation and transplantation rates to world class standards over the next few years.

There is an urgent shortage of organs for people from all backgrounds. The problem is particularly acute for black, Asian and minority ethnic patients. These patients are over-represented on the waiting list. They are more likely to need an organ transplant than the rest of the population as they are more susceptible to illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension, which could result in organ failure. NHSBT is running a number of projects and engaging with stakeholders to address this issue.

During Organ Donation Week 2018 NHSBT and the Department announced a community investment scheme to break down myths and barriers and increase support for organ donation among black, Asian and ethnic minority communities. Community and faith-based groups from across England and Wales were invited to apply for funding for projects to promote organ donation. An estimated £115,000 has been made available for projects in England in the first year of the scheme.

Despite these efforts, there are over 5,000 people on a transplant waiting list in England. To address this challenge, in October 2017, the Prime Minister announced plans to increase organ donation by shifting the balance of presumption in favour of organ donation. The new system which is expected to start from 2020 is expected to save hundreds more lives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-09/177261/>

Press Releases

PM meeting with First Minister Sturgeon

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-first-minister-sturgeon-15-october-2018>

PM launches Government's first loneliness strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-governments-first-loneliness-strategy>

More faith and belief groups to join the National Service of Remembrance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-faith-and-belief-groups-to-join-the-national-service-of-remembrance>

New Publication

Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_MASTER_V7_-_FINAL_-_Amended081018.pdf

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Other News

Black anti-slavery campaigners in Edinburgh traced

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/black-anti-slavery-campaigners-in-edinburgh-traced-1-4815836>

New £50 note could be first to show ethnic minority as campaigners put forward Muslim war heroine

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/16/new-50-note-must-become-uks-first-bank-note-feature-ethnic-minority/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.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>

Proposed amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0028/18028\(a\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0028/18028(a).pdf)

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

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>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.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

Historic Environment Scotland draft Corporate Plan (closing date 2 November 2018)

<https://tinyurl.com/y8b6tpeu>

** **EU settlement scheme** (closing date 5 November 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/immigration-detention-phase-2-launch-17-19/>

Draft Statutory Guidance on Funeral Costs (closing date 8 November 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/statutory-guidance-on-funeral-costs/>

Windrush: lessons learned review (closing date extended to 16 November 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 23 November 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/109902.aspx>

The future of civil partnership in Scotland (closing date 21 December 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-scotland/>

**** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill** (closing date 4 January 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/violence-against-women-team/female-genital-mutilation/>

Ethnicity pay reporting (closing date 11 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747546/ethnicity-pay-reporting-consultation.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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Year of Young People

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed. Year of Young People 2018 celebrates everything that makes Scotland's young people incredible. As a nation proud of our young people, the Year of Young People puts the spotlight on the contributions and achievements of eight to 26 year olds, while giving them a stronger voice on issues that matter to them, and aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally and on a global-stage.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoy-p-grant-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoy-p-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week**

Black History Month

October 2018, Scotland-wide

Black History Month provides an opportunity to recognise the struggles and successes of Black people throughout history. It is a time to mark the sacrifices, acknowledge the contributions, and to celebrate the achievements of African, Caribbean and Asian people and communities in Scotland's heritage and history. In particular, it is an opportunity to apply the lessons of the past to build a better future for all of us. To read the full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/ybccqdna>

**** this week**

Modern Slavery, Trafficking and Exploitative Employment Practices Session

23 October 2018 in Stirling (9.30-11.30)

CSREC awareness session to cover what the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority does, the signs of trafficking, procedures for reporting, and dos and don'ts in reporting and working with victims. There will also be a session on Hate Crime Reporting. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7jux6a3>

**** this week**

Prosecuting Racist & Religious Hate Crime - The Court System

26 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-12.30)

Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service, in partnership with Glasgow Hate Crime Working Group event to insight into the workings of the court system and victims' and witness' experiences of going to court. It will build staff and volunteer capacity to advise and support victims of all forms of hate crime but with a focus on a Racist & Religious hate crime for the mock trial. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/yat8rfu4>

**** this week**

Multicultural Football Festival

27 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

SFA and BEMIS festival bringing together teams from across Scotland celebrating diversity and inclusion across the country. The 2018 event will support the Year of Young People 2018 and celebrate the contribution of young people within Football. Open to Men's, Women's, Youth and Junior teams. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/event/multi-cultural-football-cup/>

**** this week**

Introduction To Policing – Recruitment

27 October 2018 in Broxburn

3 November 2018 in Kincardine

10 November 2018 in Broxburn

17 November 2018 in Broxburn

Police Scotland Introduction to Policing Programme, a 4-day course, spread over 4 weeks, to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to apply for positions with Police Scotland. The course is designed to provide an insight into being a police officer or special constable. Over the 4 days attendees will receive input from specialist departments, try the fitness test, visit the unique training facility and learn about the recruitment process. For information and to book a place, see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/18xi_ps.png or contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Glasgow Workshop

30 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Through an exploration of the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2019: *Torn from home*, this Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop will provide you with practical help, advice and free resources to enable you to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity of your own. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybnwysxc>

Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities

31 October 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-3.30)

Conference organised by Bemis, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Government to discuss how effectively to challenge hate and prejudice through collaborative working. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y7gqfh8z>

Upping Our Game: Can Communities Take the Lead?

Politics as Though People and Planet Matter

3 and 4 November 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scottish Communities CAN and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network course to discuss a fresh way to look at how we do politics, including place planning; community empowerment; alternative decision making models. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9ydb7s6>

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

7 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; how to respond to misunderstandings or offence; and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y8eyezz2>

Bullying – It's never acceptable

8 November 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

28 November 2018 in Inverness (9.30-4.30)

RespectMe training on bullying behaviours and practical strategies which can be used to address bullying behaviour wherever it occurs. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/bullying-never-acceptable-multiple-dates-locations/>

Scottish Interfaith Week

11-18 November 2018

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Mainstreaming Anti-Sectarianism in Equalities Toolkit

15 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

WSREC training for public / third sector organisations, students and individuals interested in unravelling the meaning of sectarianism as an 'equalities' issue and its impact on the wellbeing, safety and opportunities of those affected, and on society as a whole. For information and to book for 13 Sept see <https://tinyurl.com/ydh74vrg>, for 4 Oct see <https://tinyurl.com/y9muw7pm>, and for 15 Nov see <https://tinyurl.com/y7cmj54e>. Other venues may be available by request – for information contact kperezp@wsrec.co.uk

**** Ethnic Minority Impact Awards 2018**

23 November 2018 in Glasgow (6.00-11.00pm)

CEMVO Ethnic Minority Impact Awards recognise individuals or organisations that have contributed to Scottish society or made a difference to their community locally or nationally. For information see <https://www.cemvoscotland.org.uk/event/ethnic-minority-impact-awards-2018/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/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) <https://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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