



*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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Brexit (Economic Migration to Scotland)

Alex Rowley (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the UK's exit from the European Union to ensure that Scotland is promoted as a destination for economic migration. (S5O-02622)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson): Migration is crucial to the development of Scotland as a thriving nation. I recently met the UK Minister of State for Immigration and, again, sought her commitment to meaningful engagement, given the profound impact that migration has on Scotland's economy, public services and demography.

We submitted compelling evidence to the Migration Advisory Committee. Disappointingly, the proposals that the Prime Minister's Cabinet has accepted

ignore sectors that are integral to Scotland. The UK Government's discredited hostile environment policies damage our ability to attract the people whom we need, and recommendations in the MAC's recent reports would harm our prosperity. That is why the Scottish Government will continue to argue for a tailored and more flexible migration system that meets our distinct needs.

Alex Rowley: What progress has the Scottish Government made in making the case that Scotland has a specific need for more powers over migration and immigration policies to be devolved to Scotland? Does the minister agree that the Government needs to do more work to promote the benefits of migration to the wider Scottish public?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: With the aim of achieving more devolution of powers to build a more flexible and tailored migration system, I and the rest of the Government are working constantly with stakeholders, who are raising with us concerns about the MAC's recommendations, the effect of Brexit and the hostile environment policy. We are going through a constructive awareness-raising process with business and other stakeholders on the opportunity to devolve powers so that we can do things differently here in Scotland. By "devolution of powers", I mean the devolution of powers in the current UK system in order to build flexibility and deliver on our needs.

On raising awareness, absolutely all of us in the chamber have a responsibility to champion the positive benefits of migration, especially in the current environment and given the absolutely awful things that are being said, such as the reference to EU nationals skipping the queue that the Prime Minister recently made. Those are shocking remarks. I point the member to the Scottish Government's we are Scotland campaign. It has been very successful in highlighting and championing the positive benefits of migration, which we should all celebrate.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11809&i=106847#ScotParlOR>

Brexit (Migration Policy)

Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what involvement it currently has with the United Kingdom Government's Migration Advisory Committee in relation to advice on migration policy post Brexit. (S5O-02623)

Reply from the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson): The Scottish Government has made it clear to the UK Government and the Migration Advisory Committee that Scotland's needs in relation to migration policy are distinct and significant. The Scottish Government also provided a detailed response to each of the MAC's calls for evidence, but that evidence has largely been ignored.

We have highlighted to the UK Government that the MAC's recommendations in its reports are disappointing to employers, local authorities, third sector organisations and universities across Scotland. The Scottish Government has met and heard evidence from a range of stakeholders to discuss the impact of the MAC's recommendations and to hear their concerns. The Scottish Government shares those concerns, and we are committed to listening to and promoting the interests of individuals and organisations across Scotland. I have personally met Professor Alan Manning, the chair of the MAC, and the UK immigration minister to discuss Scotland's needs, and I have reiterated our concerns in relation to the MAC's recommendations.

Linda Fabiani: I am pleased that the minister mentioned Professor Manning, the chair of the Migration Advisory Committee. Is he aware that, when Professor Manning gave evidence to a committee of this Parliament earlier this month, he admitted that no specific modelling regarding the situation in Scotland in relation to migration had ever been done? There is now a consultation on the shortage occupation list, in which Scotland has very specific interests. What strong and firm representations are being made with regard to those interests?

Reply from Ben Macpherson: Linda Fabiani is right to say that the MAC report took little cognisance of Scotland, with only page 123 and a little bit of page 124 being allocated to it.

The member is also right to ask about our engagement with the MAC and, indeed, the UK Government on the shortage occupation list. In August—and again this week, when I met her for a second time—the UK Minister for Immigration gave me an undertaking that Scottish interests and Scottish Government input with regard to the shortage occupation list would be respected and constructively considered. The Scottish Government will, of course, respond robustly to the MAC's call for evidence in its consultation on the Scottish shortage occupation list.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11809&i=106848#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

UK Parliament Debates

EU Settled Status Scheme

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-27/debates/AE2C5A30-BC54-494A-AF38-318786EFE489/EUSettledStatusScheme>

Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2018

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-11-28/debates/51DBF97C-87E1-49ED-8092-CE6F00A69D6D/Immigration\(HealthCharge\)\(Amendment\)Order2018](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-11-28/debates/51DBF97C-87E1-49ED-8092-CE6F00A69D6D/Immigration(HealthCharge)(Amendment)Order2018)

Kindertransport Commemoration

Includes discussion about present day policy relating to unaccompanied child refugees.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-11-26/debates/CD95D482-2B27-4645-A18E-6865B7338DF7/KindertransportCommemoration>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

DNA Evidence: Immigration Applications

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): [HCWS1116] I am providing an update on progress made following my statement to the House on 25 October on the Home Office's use of DNA evidence in immigration applications.

I would like to reiterate that no one should have faced a demand to supply DNA evidence and no one should have been penalised for not providing it. I have apologised to those affected by this practice and committed to get to the bottom of what has gone on in relation to DNA evidence.

On 8 November the Home Office published new overarching policy guidance on the use of DNA evidence in the whole of the borders, immigration and citizenship system on gov.uk. This guidance makes clear that the Home Office cannot mandate individuals to provide DNA evidence, or draw any negative inferences from non-provision. However, it also makes clear that individuals can volunteer such evidence to demonstrate a biological relationship. It will help to ensure there is a consistent approach across the whole BICS system and it will be used in parallel with guidance on individual routes and schemes (e.g. Gurkhas).

The Home Office is also arranging bespoke training sessions with frontline staff to ensure that operational practice aligns with the overarching policy position on the use of DNA evidence. The published guidance related to Gurkhas has been corrected and reissued.

On 24 October I established a taskforce so that anyone who feels that their case may

have been influenced in any way by an inappropriate demand for DNA testing, can receive advice and support. Details of how to contact the taskforce were sent to hon. Members and publicised on Home Office social media channels as well as on gov.uk. As of 14 November, the telephone helpline had received a total of 25 calls. Seventeen of these calls have been referred to the taskforce and are being actively reviewed.

We will arrange reimbursement for individuals who contact us using the helpline, if the individual has suffered financial loss because the Home Office required DNA evidence from them when we should not have.

Likewise we will proactively contact individuals who are known to have been required to provide DNA evidence and did so, to arrange reimbursement.

The vast majority of outstanding Operation Fugal cases I referred to in my statement have now been concluded and Home Office officials are continuing to work to conclude any remaining cases as soon as possible.

Some cases will take longer to conclude where we have requested further information to help us make a decision. There are a number of cases we are currently unable to conclude where there are outstanding criminal proceedings, although to date there have been no criminal charges brought against any individuals as a result of Operation Fugal.

I can now confirm that I have appointed Darra Singh OBE to conduct the independent assessment on the Home Office's approach to establishing the numbers involved, the operational response, the policy response and the extent to which follow-up training and communications have addressed the issue. Darra brings significant experience, skills and credibility to this task.

I stated that I will review more broadly our structures and processes to ensure that they deliver a system in a way that is fair and humane. I am considering what form that review will take and I will provide an update to the House in due course.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-27/debates/18112754000009/DNAEvidenceImmigrationApplications>

The DNA Policy Guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754961/DNA-v1.0ext.pdf

The updated Guidance relating to Gurkhas, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750344/persons-seeking-settlements-on-discharge-gurkhas-v2.0ext.pdf

Information about, and contact details for the taskforce referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-statement-on-the-use-of-dna-evidence-in-immigration-applications>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

John Hayes (Conservative) [192724] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to the absence in the UN Global Compact for Migration of the UK's three main objectives as set out in the Prime Minister's addresses to the UN General Assembly in 2016 and 2017, whether the Government plans to decline to sign that compact at the forthcoming UN meeting in Morocco.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The UK Government is supportive of the UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, both as a step forward in international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and as a framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a leading voice in the negotiations, the UK Government secured positive outcomes in the final text which clearly support the Prime Minister's main objectives as set out in her speech to the United Nations General Assembly. This includes a clear differentiation between refugees and migrants; the recognition of

a State's right to control their borders and proposals to help States build capacity in this area; and an explicit acknowledgement of States' responsibility to accept the return of their nationals who no longer have the right to remain elsewhere.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192724/>

The Global Compact for Migration, referred to above, can be read at <http://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.231/3>

Immigration

Jo Stevens (Labour) [194215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 November 2018 to Question 190910, for what reasons he cannot indicate in which of the remaining weeks of the year he intends to place the immigration White Paper before the House.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government will publish a White Paper on the UK's future border and immigration system later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194215/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-13/190910/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: DNA

Kate Green (Labour) [194177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his Department's policy to delete from its records evidence obtained as a result of a wrongful requirement for DNA testing to support immigration applications.

Kate Green (Labour) [194178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has directed the destruction of original DNA samples collected in response to an invalid requirement by his Department for DNA evidence to support immigration applications; and what records are held by his Department on where such samples are located.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: I can confirm that the use of DNA evidence in the three cohorts the Home Secretary spoke about in his statement of 25 October to the House did not involve collection or storage of DNA by Home Office staff. Any DNA evidence submitted would have been in the form of reports from approved DNA testing centres, stating whether familial relationships were evidenced. These reports may have been attached to case files.

A Taskforce has been established so that anyone who feels that their case may have been influenced in any way by an inappropriate demand for DNA testing can get advice and support. Anyone concerned about these reports being held should contact the Taskforce, who will investigate the circumstances of each case and advise on the options, including deletion of the record from case files where appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194177/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194178/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-25/debates/F1CFD0C3-3776-401A-98DE-642E62E3869A/ImmigrationDNATests>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [194766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens and people settled in the UK who have not been joined here by (a) a spouse or partner or (b) a child because they cannot meet the income requirements of the immigration rules on family members.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [194767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to review the income requirements in the immigration rules for family members including their effect on (a) individuals and families and (b) the public purse.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not make an estimation of those figures. The Home Office publishes data on the number of visas issued to join family members; this can be accessed at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734164/entry-visas3-jun-2018-tables.ods. All applicants who do not meet the minimum income requirement will still be considered under exceptional circumstances.

We continue to keep the family Immigration Rules under review and make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. We have also taken into account the findings of the courts, including the Supreme Court judgment upholding the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement. Our overall assessment is that the family Immigration Rules are having the right impact and are helping to restore public confidence in the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194766/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194767/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Jo Stevens (Labour) [194214] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2018 to Question 191946 on Health Services: Immigrants, what the evidential basis was for his Department's conclusion that the surcharge has had no effect on recruitment and retention of NHS staff.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: The Government publishes quarterly updates on immigration statistics, which include data on visa grants and is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-2-to-work>

The available evidence suggests that, since its introduction, there has not been any negative impact on the number of applications made to come to the United Kingdom as a result of the surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194214/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-15/191946/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [195629] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the Home Office and his Department, published in November 2016, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of that MoU on (a) public health and (b) access to healthcare for immigrants.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: Prior to signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2016, the Department considered the evidence available to it on the possible impact of the MOU on public health and access to healthcare. Following the publication of the MOU the Department asked Public Health England to undertake a review into the impact of the MOU. The review is due to be published next year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195629/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585928/MOU_v3.pdf

Health Services: Undocumented Migrants

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [195630] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the Home Office and his Department, published in November 2016, for what reasons that MoU was introduced; for what reasons that MoU has been withdrawn; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department, NHS Digital and the Home Office was introduced to formalise longstanding arrangements under which the Home Office could seek non-medical information from NHS Digital to support them to trace immigration offenders. The Government has since agreed to amend the MOU so that it can only be used to trace those individuals facing deportation action for serious criminal offending and, as now, to protect the welfare of an individual. As the previous MOU is no longer required, it has been withdrawn.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195630/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585928/MOU_v3.pdf

Health Services: Undocumented Migrants

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [195631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Health and Social Care Information Centre, the Department of Health and Social Care and his Department, published in November 2016, (a) how many immigration offenders were reported to the Home Office by NHS Digital and (b) what sanctions those immigration offenders received after being so reported to the Home Office in (i) 2016, (ii) 2017 and (iii) 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Memorandum of Understanding which came into force on 1 January 2017 has now been withdrawn. A new Memorandum of Understanding is being produced to reflect the commitments made by my Hon Friend, the Minister of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 9 May 2018. NHS Digital information on the number of Home Office requests processed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding in 2017 can be found at:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/health-committee/memorandum-of-understanding-on-datasharing-between-nhs-digital-and-the-home-office/written/76672.html>

Data on 2018 requests can be accessed at:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/data-access-request-service-dars/register-of-approved-data-releases>

The information provided to the Home Office supports the broader intelligence picture regarding a particular individual and their whereabouts. The Home Office does not record the information in such a way as to attribute it to specific

outcomes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195631/>

The 2016 Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/585928/MOU_v3.pdf

The Ministerial commitments referred to above can be read at col 756 of the following link beginning "New clause 12"

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-09/debates/CE43B0ED-87D3-4F63-B8A4-2A66964790C2/DataProtectionBill\(Lords\)#contribution-9D7D926A-A034-431A-B462-37EEFBE274A2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-09/debates/CE43B0ED-87D3-4F63-B8A4-2A66964790C2/DataProtectionBill(Lords)#contribution-9D7D926A-A034-431A-B462-37EEFBE274A2)

Married People: Visas

Peter Kyle (Labour) [195093] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 November 2018 to Question 192122 on Visas: Applications, for what reason are there no appointments available for Spousal Extension Visas (Family Route) at the new UKVCAS service until January 2019, and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Appointments for the Spousal Extension Visas (Family Route) will be available at the new UKVCAS service from 30 November for those customers who are applying for leave based on family life where one of the following conditions applies:

- they have extant leave;
- they are not applying for the first time;
- they are not switching from an unrelated route

If customers applying for a Spousal Extension Visa do not meet the above criteria, then they must use existing services until the Service and Support Centres which open in January 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-23/195093/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-16/192122/>

Married People: Visas

Peter Kyle (Labour) [195094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to make appointments available for Spousal Extension Visas (Family Route) between the closure of the old Premium Service Centres on 29 November 2018 and the opening of appointments at the new UKVCAS service in January 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There will be appointments available to affected Spousal Extension Visas (Family Route) applicants in the Premium Service Centres (PSCs) between 29 November 2018 until January 2019. Although the PSCs will close for most services at the end of November, we will continue to offer appointments to those customers who are not able to use the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services and have chosen a 24-hour consideration. Customers will be advised about which services they are able to use when they make their application online.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-23/195094/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Skilled Workers: Visas

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194749] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what plans he has to pay compensation to people who were wrongly refused Tier 1 general visas on the basis of rule 322(5) of the immigration rules; and if he will make a statement.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194750] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will update the House when his Department has made a decision on the 19 cases for which it is seeking more information from applicants before reconsidering their cases, as set out in the Review of Tier 1 (General) settlement refusals published on 22 November.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the Tier 1 (general) visa applications refused under paragraph 322(5) of the immigration rules were refused on the basis of (a) criminality or threats to national security and (b) the applicant's character and conduct meaning that it is undesirable for them to remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Each case is being looked at on its merits and we will consider any compensation where appropriate. We will be contacting the 19 applicants from who we need further information with a view to resolving their cases by the end of December. This timescale will depend on how quickly the further information is provided.

The review considered 1,697 cases which were refused under paragraph 322(5) on grounds relating to their character and conduct. We are not claiming these applicants are a threat to national security.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194749/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194750/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194752/>

The review referred to above can be read at

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1155/2018-11-22_Tier_1_General_paragraph_322_5_report.pdf

Doctors: Migrant Workers

John Woodcock (Independent) [194652] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if the Government will take steps to suspend from the medical register individuals who have been allowed to join that register because they claimed to have a qualification from another country which exempted them from taking the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board exam until that qualification has been independently verified.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: It is a function of the General Medical Council (GMC), the independent regulator of doctors across the United Kingdom, to maintain a register of doctors in the United Kingdom. Where appropriate, it is for the GMC to investigate complaints about doctors on their register and assess whether they should be referred to the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service, who determine whether any sanction should be applied with respect to their registration.

The GMC is currently reviewing the qualification of currently licensed doctors, who applied for registration via a route allowing graduates of medical schools in certain Commonwealth countries to obtain registration based on their qualification alone.

This route to registration ceased in 2003.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194652/>

Deportation: Windrush Generation

Caroline Lucas (Green) [181253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2018 to Question 178272, whether his Department has taken steps to inform the 49 people removed before the establishment of the Windrush Taskforce of the existence of that Taskforce and their right to contact that Taskforce after their removal from the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has not made a specific attempt to inform those 49 people of the Windrush Taskforce. The Home Office announcements relating to Commonwealth citizens can be found at www.gov.uk/Windrush. This website is regularly updated with information about how individuals who believe they qualify under the Windrush criteria can apply for status under the Windrush Settlement Scheme.

Assistance is also available through the Windrush Taskforce helpline on freephone 0800678 1925 or by email at

commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181253/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [194768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to apply the family immigration rules including income requirements to EEA nationals after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will publish a White Paper outlining proposals for the future border and immigration system later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194768/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

EU Nationals: Employment

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department has received from employer bodies on the right to work checks that they will be required to carry out on EU citizens when the UK leaves the EU in March 2019.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194145] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what date the digital portal through which employers will carry out digital right to work checks on EU citizens is planned to be rolled out.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information employers will be able to see through the digital portal through which they will be able to conduct right to work checks on EU citizens.

EU Nationals: Private Rented Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department has received from landlord bodies on the right to rent checks that they will be required to carry out on EU citizens when the UK leaves the EU in March 2019.

EU Nationals: Bank Services

Afzal Khan (Labour) [194139] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department has received from banks and banking bodies on the immigration checks that they will be required to carry out on EU citizens when the UK leaves the EU in March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has made clear that the current arrangements for conducting checks on EU nationals, involving the use of national passports and identity cards, will not change immediately when the UK leaves the EU in March, but will continue during any implementation period.

The Home Office has engaged with a wide range of groups, including UK

employers, landlords and financial service providers, on the design of the EU Settlement Scheme and the online service which will enable those granted leave under the scheme to demonstrate their status where required as part of the introduction of the future border and immigration system. We will continue to engage widely as we develop and implement other aspects of the future system. The Home Office launched a new on-line service for employers conducting right to work checks on 6 April this year, focused initially on checks of non-EU migrants holding biometric residence permits or biometric residence cards. The online service operates on the basis of the migrant first viewing their right to work status, then consenting for the employer to see the data. Employers in receipt of a 'share code' provided by the applicant will see the person's name, facial image and any information which is relevant to their right to work. During any implementation period, use of the new online service by EU citizens will be optional, but in the future border and immigration system this is intended to be the means by which they evidence their status when undergoing statutory immigration checks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194137/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194145/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194247/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194138/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194139/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [194213] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of granting an exemption to the continuance residence qualifications for Settled Status to non-UK EU citizens who are the current or former spouses or partners of service personnel who have been based outside the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is committed to the military covenant which ensures that military personnel, or their families, are not disadvantaged by virtue of their military service. We are therefore considering carefully how this should be reflected in the eligibility requirements of the EU Settlement Scheme. We will set out further details in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194213/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Diane Abbott (Labour) [194043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so, in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement. The scheme provides a simple, streamlined process for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain their new UK immigration status. The scheme is being implemented on a phased basis and will be fully open by 30 March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194043/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Diane Abbott (Labour) [194045] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to provide assurance to (a) users and (b) employers on the security of documents stored by cloud services for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office takes the security of all of our data extremely seriously, including digitised evidence provided by EU Settlement Scheme users. There are processes in place in the Home Office for the capturing and mitigation of risks and vulnerabilities to ensure appropriate control of our services. I can confirm this is the case for the EU Settlement Scheme

All Home Office systems including EU Exit applications undergo rigorous cyber strengthening prior to launch. This includes an independent security testing to ensure they are resilient to external attack.

Our IT systems hosting platform include a number of mechanisms to detect and respond to malicious intrusions.

All data is encrypted both in transit and at rest. Our IT staff are security cleared and your data will only be accessed by those who have a valid business reason to access it. The Home Office regularly monitors the systems for abuse and misuse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194045/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

EU Nationals: Private Rented Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [193616] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what right to rent checks landlords will be required to carry out on EU citizens during the period between March 2019 and December 2020 in the event of the UK leaving the EU (a) with and (b) without a deal.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [193617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether landlords will be required to distinguish between EU citizens who arrived in the UK (a) before March 2019 and (b) during the transition period between March 2019 and December 2020 to check a person's right to rent.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Landlords are already expected to conduct right to rent checks on EU citizens before the start of a tenancy, as they do with all prospective tenants. EU citizens may demonstrate their right to rent using a range of specified documentation, including their national passports or identity cards.

These current arrangements will continue for the entire duration of the planned implementation period. In the unlikely event that we reach March 2019 without a deal, the Government has been clear that landlords will not be expected to differentiate between EU citizens who arrived in the UK before or after March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193616/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193617/>

Asylum: Iran

Gill Furniss (Labour) [195646] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of rejected Iranian asylum seekers in the UK who have no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum Seekers whose claims and, if appropriate, appeals have been refused are no longer eligible for asylum support and are

expected to return home. We offer assistance to those who choose to do so by actively promoting the Home Office Voluntary Return Service. The Home Office continues to provide accommodation and support to those who are temporarily unable to leave the UK because of a practical or legal obstacle through the Section 4 provisions, and to families with children under the age of 18.

Information about asylum decisions, broken down by Country of Origin, is available in the published statistics here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to#asylum-applications-and-initial-decisions>

No Recourse to Public Funds is the default condition for grants of leave to remain in most categories, and is a separate issue to that of asylum seekers who are no longer eligible for support. Leave to remain in the UK is normally granted with a condition that prevents the person and their dependants from receiving welfare assistance from public funds. However, where the person qualifies for leave to remain on grounds related to their family or private life the condition is lifted if they or they or their dependent children would otherwise be destitute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195646/>

Asylum

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers reside in (a) the UK and (b) the North East, Yorkshire and Humber region.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

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

This does not include those asylum seekers who are accommodated with friends and family, and who are not in receipt of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193506/>

Asylum: Contracts

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment he has made of adequacy of the nine-month timescale for the (a) mobilisation of and (b) transition to the new asylum accommodation and support contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: 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, which is similar to the time that such activity took when the current contracts came into operation. The Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract(AASC) mobilisation 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.

As we move to the mobilisation phase we will increase our engagement with Local Authorities, where my officials will be happy to discuss and address any concerns that Local Authorities have with the transition plans:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193508/>

Asylum: North of England

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers his Department plans to accommodate in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber region under the new asylum accommodation and support contracts in each year from the commencement of those contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: To continue to meet UKVI's obligation to provide accommodation & support to destitute asylum seekers, the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation (AASST) project has been established to design, develop and procure the future model for asylum accommodation and support, replacing the existing COMPASS arrangements when they expire in Sept 2019.

UKVI cannot predict the number of asylum seekers who will need accommodation as intake is volatile and subject to change. However dispersal across the UK is carefully managed by the Home Office to ensure the best outcomes for asylum seekers and their host communities. We will continue to work with stakeholders within the existing and new contracting arrangements to manage and refine our dispersal arrangements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193510/>

Asylum: North of England

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many properties are currently maintained as part of the existing asylum accommodation and support contracts in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber region.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

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

This does not include those asylum seekers who are accommodated with friends and family, and who are not in receipt of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193511/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [194698] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the effect of the Legal Aid Scheme on the right to a family life for people seeking asylum.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Legal aid has always been and will continue to be available for asylum cases. For matters not within the scope of scheme, Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) may be available where there is a breach or risk of breach of ECHR rights, subject to means and merits tests.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194698/>

Asylum: Employment

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [193493] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of the restriction on asylum seekers' right to work on dependent children during the 12-month waiting period.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and this Government is committed to delivering a fair and humane asylum system.

Whilst the Government has not made such an assessment, our current policy is consistent with EU law and permits asylum seekers to work, in jobs on the

Shortage Occupation List, if they have been waiting for a decision on their claim for 12 months or more and the delay is through no fault of their own. We are tackling delays in decision-making and have plans in place to improve the speed at which outstanding claims are decided.

The Government is considering recent calls to change the policy. However, our current approach aims to protect the resident labour market so that any employment meets our needs for skilled labour and distinguishes between those who need protection and those who want to work in the UK, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. We need to avoid creating further incentives for migrants, particularly children or those with children, to come here illegally, risking their lives in the process, instead of claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach.

It is also important to focus on providing support for those who are recognised as refugees, to help them to integrate and find employment, so that they can rebuild their lives here.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193493/>

Asylum: Homelessness

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that asylum seekers are not made homeless if new asylum accommodation and support contracts are not in place before the expiry of the current contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The government will place the Entitlement to support under the forthcoming Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) will be based on the same principles as COMPASS: this means that all 'eligible Service Users' in receipt of support at the point of transition will become the responsibility of the AASC Provider; including those who have received a positive or negative asylum decision and who have not yet reached the end of the 28 and 21 day notice period.

We are confident that there will be contracts in place, and we have a comprehensive transition plan. A contingency plan has also been designed, if needed, to ensure that service users will not be affected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193512/>

Asylum: Housing

Imran Hussain (Labour) [193513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that asylum seekers accommodated as part of the asylum accommodation and support contracts are not placed in shared bedrooms with non-family members.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The forthcoming Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts will permit the use of room sharing for some service users, providing it complies with the strict criteria set out in the contracts Statement of Requirements. This includes compliance relevant national and local housing regulations including any advice from social services and primary and secondary care bodies on whether room sharing is inappropriate for individual cases.

In addition, Providers will be continue to be required to ensure that they take into account a service users individual characteristics and provide them with appropriate accommodation reflective of any changing needs, including adherence to religious practice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193513/>

Asylum: Housing

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [195601] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities have signed up to participate in the asylum dispersal scheme but have not had accommodation procured within their boundaries in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our records show that we have agreements in place with a total of 150 Local Authorities comprising 129 which are currently actively participating and 21 Local Authorities that have agreed to participate in dispersal but have not yet procured any accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195601/>

Asylum: Children

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [193502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to review the restriction on the ability of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to sponsor the visas of adult relatives for the purposes of family reunion.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is currently no provision in the Immigration Rules for children with refugee status in the UK to sponsor family members to join them. Allowing children to sponsor parents risks creating further incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK to sponsor relatives. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Government believes the best interests of children is reflected in staying with their families, claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety – and relying on safe and legal routes under the Immigration Rules or through resettlement schemes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193502/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Royston Smith (Conservative) [194754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's policy is on preventing illegal migrants from entering the UK via sea routes.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK takes a wide range of measures to maintain the security of the border and prevent migrants from entering the country illegally. We carry out 100% checks on passengers arriving on scheduled services at the border to identify any criminal, security and immigration concerns. Where we believe someone poses a risk, Border Force officers can and do refuse them entry.

Border Force works closely with domestic and international partners on an intelligence led approach to detecting and preventing unlawful maritime activity including attempts to enter the UK clandestinely, and uses a combination of cutters, radar and aerial surveillance to detect and stop small craft

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194754/>

Asylum: Human Trafficking

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [193379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the High Court judgment in respect of K & Anor, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department of 8 November 2018, whether all victims of trafficking who had their subsistence rates cut between March and November 2018 and subsequently exited the National Referral Mechanism will receive the full back payment.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to tackling the scourge of modern slavery and supporting those affected by this crime.

In 2017, Home Office Ministers agreed a comprehensive package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism, which included the introduction of places of safety for those leaving situations of exploitation, trebling the period of move on support to assist victims moving out of government funded support and aligning the subsistence rates paid to potential victims of modern slavery with those received by asylum seekers.

In light of the judgment in K and AM, we are currently putting in place processes to ensure that those who have been affected receive a full back payment as soon as possible. We will set out how we plan to respond in due course, including those who have left NRM support.

We are committed to reforming the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that as many victims of modern slavery as possible get the support they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193379/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2018/2951.html>

Slavery: Business

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [194192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress his Department on creating a registry of businesses that are obligated to produce a slavery and human-trafficking statement as outlined in Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government has commissioned an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Review will identify where the legislation is working well, how implementation can be improved and whether specific areas of the Act need to be strengthened including Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains requirements) of the Act.

The Review is due to report its recommendations to the Home Office at the end of March 2019. Further to these recommendations the Home Office will consider whether further measures are required to improve compliance with Section 54.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194192/>

Slavery and Trafficking Reparation Orders

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [194087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many orders have been issued under Section 9 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: To the end of the calendar year 2017, the latest period for which data is available, no slavery and trafficking reparation orders have been made. This data can be accessed via the link below.

We are pleased that the current Review of the Modern Slavery Act will be looking at the effectiveness of these powers and we look forward to receiving their findings in the spring.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733981/outcomes-by-offence-tool-2017-update.xlsx

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194087/>

Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [194088] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many orders have been issued under section 23 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In England and Wales, between July 2015 (when the

Modern Slavery Act came into force) and June 2018, 35 Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders were made.

This information is available in the 2018 Annual Report on Modern Slavery, available on gov.uk via this link:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194088/>

Human Trafficking

Siobhain McDonagh (Labour) [194596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether transport and other expenses payments which his Department introduced on 1 November 2019 for all potential victims of trafficking in the adult victim care contract have started in all safe houses.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In light of the judgment in K and AM, the Home Office has immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are also receiving support from the asylum support system, so that they receive a total of £65 per week.

In consequence of the reinstatement of the top up paid to potential victims who are also receiving support from the asylum support system, the staged introduction of the scheme for further financial assistance and assistance with travel costs within the Victim Care Contract has been paused. These changes were intended to come into operation on 1 November 2018 for potential victims who were also receiving support from the asylum support system, and on 1 February 2019 for others in the Victim Care Contract.

We will work through the implications of the judgment in respect to our future approach to financial support. We are committed to reforming the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that as many victims of modern slavery as possible get the support they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-22/194596/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.baillii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2018/2951.html>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL11567] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to sign the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration at the UN Intergovernmental Conference in Morocco on 10 and 11 December; and if so, what assessment they have made of the consistency of the Compact with their 2017 Manifesto commitment to reduce and control migration.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK Government is supportive of the UN's Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, both as a step forward in international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and as a framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our participation in the Global Compact will not affect our continued ability to determine and implement our own migration policy in the national interest. The Compact is a 'non-legally binding, cooperative framework', which reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy.

The Migration Compact aims to bolster international cooperation by providing a framework to implement regular and managed migration through effectively managing our borders and returning those with no right to remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-19/HL11567/>

The Global Compact for Migration, referred to above, can be read at <http://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.231/3>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench) [HL11500] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many overseas students attending (1) English, and (2) Welsh universities were delayed in starting their courses this autumn due to delays in visa processing.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold the data requested.

The most recent published data shows that 99.4% of straightforward Tier 4 applications were dealt with within service standards.

(Table Visa_02,

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

International Operations Transparency - Aug 2018

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-14/HL11500/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL11570] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether unaccompanied Syrian refugee children now in continental Europe are eligible for the vulnerable person resettlement scheme; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) offers a safe and legal route to the UK, prioritising the most vulnerable refugees from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This means those currently in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) resettles 'at-risk' refugee children and their families from the region.

Resettlement is one part of the UK's response to the refugee crisis and is complemented by the UK's significant humanitarian aid programme and diplomatic efforts to end the Syrian conflict. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries, whilst recognising that for some vulnerable people the only solution is to bring them to countries like the UK.

In addition, the Government has committed to relocate 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Over 220 have already been relocated to the UK and we are working closely with France, Greece and Italy to fill the remaining places as soon as possible

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-19/HL11570/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Bird (Crossbench) [HL11362] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied minors (1) are permitted to resettle, and (2) have been resettled, in the United Kingdom in each month since the introduction of the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme announced in April 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) resettles 'at-risk' refugee children from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including their families. Our aim is to resettle up to 3,000 people (children and families, where the child at risk is part of a family unit) through the scheme by 2020.

The scheme does not solely target unaccompanied children, but on UNHCR's advice also extends to vulnerable 'children at risk', such as those threatened with child labour, child marriage and other forms of abuse or exploitation. It is open to

all at risk groups and nationalities within the region. There is therefore no specific quota on the number of unaccompanied children who may be referred to, or resettled through, the scheme.

The numbers resettled in a particular period depend on a range of factors including the flow of referrals from UNHCR in the field and the availability of suitable accommodation and care packages in the UK

The latest quarterly Immigration Statistics show that, as of June 2018, a total of 883 people had been resettled through the VCRS. The statistics are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018>. (see table attached for further information).

[Sponsorship - June 2018 - Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11362/>

Asylum: Christianity

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL11536] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the UK is a safe place to offer asylum to those being persecuted for their Christian faith.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, including those who face persecution in their country for their faith, belief or lack of belief.

The UK is a safe, open and diverse country and has a long tradition of upholding individuals' rights to practise all faiths or none. This is a key part of the UK's values and will not change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-15/HL11536/>

The following four questions both received the same answer

Asia Bibi

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL11377] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received an application for asylum from Asia Bibi; and if so, what was their response.

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL11438] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to offer Asia Bibi asylum in the UK; and, in reaching any decision, what consideration they have given to the likelihood of civil unrest in the UK in the event of her being given asylum in the UK.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL11380] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received a request on behalf of Asia Bibi to be granted asylum in the UK; and if so, what was their response.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL11535] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have refused an application for asylum from Asia Bibi; and if so, why.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As the Prime Minister set out on 14 November, the release of Asia Bibi will be very welcome news to her family and to all those who have campaigned in Pakistan and around the world for her release. We welcome the assurances the Government of Pakistan has given on keeping her and her family safe and it is important that all countries seek to uphold the rule of law and afford security and protection for the rights of all citizens irrespective of faith or belief.

It is a longstanding Government policy not to comment on individual cases. In accordance to our duty of confidentiality, we cannot confirm whether an asylum claim has been received or the outcome of such a request. Departing from this policy may put individuals and their family members in danger.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11377/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11438/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11380/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-15/HL11535/>

The Prime Minister's comments referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-14/debates/C03B9E77-08F3-4B28-A9A9-3229779FCCF9/Engagements#contribution-842028EB-DF7B-429A-BEA8-4A2F78F383B8>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP) [HL11492] To ask Her Majesty's Government in what locations non-UK citizens attempting to enter the UK illegally were apprehended in (1) 2015–16, and (2) 2016–17.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is unable to disclose the requested information as it would substantially prejudice the operation of border controls by providing information to potential offenders allowing an opportunity for them to circumvent current systems and procedures used for the security of the UK border.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-14/HL11492/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL11381] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Home Office collects data on the number of immigration detainees referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking; and if not, why not.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency. This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community.

The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change. The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews and consequently, a change in circumstance may result in a different consideration. It is quite possible that an immigration detainee is referred to the National Referral Mechanism during a detention period and is released into the community at any point during that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11381/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL11382] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many immigration detainees were referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of trafficking in each year from 2014; and, of those, how many received a positive reasonable grounds decision in each year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency. This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community.

The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an

immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change. The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews and consequently, a change in circumstance may result in a different consideration. It is quite possible that an immigration detainee is referred to the National Referral Mechanism during a detention period and is released into the community at any point during that process.

As in the response to HL11381, the Home Office do not hold centralised records of immigration detainees referred to the National Referral Mechanism. As such, this information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11382/>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-12/HL11381/>

Deportation: West Africa

Caroline Lucas (Green) [195549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2018 to Question 174681, how many of the 60 individuals scheduled to be on the charter flight to Nigeria and Ghana from Stansted airport on 28 March 2017 have since been granted leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Of the 60 people due to be removed on that flight, 1 person was issued a residence card as a non-EEA national family member confirming their right to reside in accordance with EEA Treaty rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195549/>

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/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Slavery: Victims

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL11439] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the High Court Judgement in the case of K & AM v Secretary of State for the Home Department delivered on 8 November, by what mechanism they will pay back the amount of subsistence owed to each victim of modern slavery.

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL11440] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the High Court Judgement in the case of K & AM v Secretary of State for the Home Department delivered on 8 November, whether they plan to issue a formal apology to each victim of modern slavery affected by the reduction in the amount of subsistence allowance.

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL11442] To ask Her Majesty's Government which Minister was responsible for approving the reduction to subsistence allowances for victims of modern slavery; and whether the Prime Minister was advised of this decision.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to tackling the scourge of modern slavery and supporting those affected by this crime.

In 2017, Home Office Ministers agreed a comprehensive package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism, which included the introduction of places of safety for those leaving situations of exploitation, trebling the period of move on support to assist victims moving out of government funded support and aligning the subsistence rates paid to potential victims of modern slavery with those received by asylum seekers.

In light of the judgment in K and AM, the Home Office has immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are also receiving

support from the asylum support system, so that they receive a total of £65 per week.

We are currently putting in place processes to ensure that those who have been affected receive a full back payment as soon as possible, and will set out how we plan to respond in due course, including our communications with all those affected.

We are committed to reforming the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that as many victims of modern slavery as possible get the support they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11439/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11440/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11442/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/approved-judgment-k-am-co-2143-2294-2018.pdf>

Slavery: Victims

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL11441] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish the guidance about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery, in accordance with section 49(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises its obligations under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act to publish statutory guidance on the identification of and support for potential victims of modern slavery.

We have worked closely with stakeholders across the sector to draft statutory guidance since the Modern Slavery Act came into force, and will publish guidance as soon as we are able. We will announce a timetable in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-13/HL11441/>

Press Releases

Asylum seekers in Britain unable to access healthcare

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/asylum-seekers-britain-unable-access-healthcare>

Hard migration line continues to feature across the EU

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2018/hard-migration-line-continues-feature-across-eu>

New Publications

The lived experiences of access to healthcare for people seeking and refused asylum

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-122-people-seeking-asylum-access-to-healthcare-lived-experiences.pdf>

Access to healthcare for people seeking and refused asylum in Great Britain: a review of evidence

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-121-people-seeking-asylum-access-to-healthcare-evidence-review.pdf>

Making sure people seeking and refused asylum can access healthcare: what needs to change?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/people-seeking-asylum-access-to-healthcare-what-needs-to-change.pdf>

Updated: Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Updated: Summary of latest Immigration statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/summary-of-latest-statistics>

Updated: How many people come to the UK each year?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year>

Updated: Why do people come to the UK? (1) To visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-1-to-visit>

Updated: Why do people come to the UK? (2) To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-2-to-work>

Updated: Why do people come to the UK? (3) To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-3-to-study>

Updated: Why do people come to the UK? (4) For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-4-for-family-reasons>

Updated: How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

Updated: How many people continue their stay in the UK?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk>

Updated: How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Updated: Experimental Statistics: Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2018/experimental-statistics-asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation>

Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: November 2018

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/november2018/pdf>

Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality: July 2017 to June 2018

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/july2017tojune2018/pdf>

Long-term international migrants, UK: 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrantsuk/2017/pdf>

Long-term international migration estimates: 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrantsuk/2017/pdf>

Data tables

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/longterminternationalmigrationestimates2017>

Periodic data collection on the migration situation in the EU - November 2018

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-november-periodic-migration-report-highlights_en.pdf

News

UK migration: Fewer EU arrivals but overall figure stays the same

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46384417>

EU migration falls to lowest level since 2012

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/eu-migration-falls-to-lowest-level-since-2012-1-4836528>

EU net migration to UK falls to lowest level in almost six years

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/29/eu-net-migration-uk-falls-lowest-level-almost-six-years>

EU migration to UK hits six-year low in wake of Brexit vote, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-net-migration-uk-falls-brexit-figures-ons-a8657526.html>

Migration to Britain from outside EU hits highest level for 14 years – as exodus of EU migrants rises

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/11/29/migration-britain-outside-eu-reaches-highest-level-14-years/>

Migration from outside EU highest for 14 years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-11-30/news/net-migration-from-non-eu-countries-hits-astonishing-14-year-high-j22xf2d00>

Number of "ridiculous" visa rejections are increasing warns SNP MP

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17266986.number-of-ridiculous-visa-rejections-are-increasing-warns-snp-mp/>

Bar on low-skilled immigrants will hurt UK, say bosses

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/02/cbi-warns-low-skill-visa-cap-carolyn-fairbairn>

Government set to relax restrictions on non-EU doctors

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/nov/29/government-set-to-relax-restrictions-on-non-eu-doctors>

Fears of staffing crisis as NHS levy doubles for non-EU migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fears-of-staffing-crisis-as-nhs-levy-doubles-for-non-eu-migrants-c8d53xhvg>

Hostile environment leaves people too afraid to seek health care

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3373_hostile_environment_leaves_people_too_afraid_to_seek_health_care

Asylum seekers 'too afraid' to seek NHS care, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/28/asylum-seekers-too-afraid-to-seek-nhs-care-report-says>

Asylum seekers forced to choose between medicine and food, warns human rights watchdog

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-medicine-food-home-office-human-rights-equality-ehrc-a8655786.html>

Pakistan blasphemy case: UK prime minister asked about asylum bid

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46369981>

Windrush celebrated at London Jazz Festival

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-46296149>

Jewish refugees call for new Kindertransport

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-refugees-call-for-new-kindertransport-7zchh9p37>

Britain gave me refuge from the Nazis. We should do the same for today's young refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-11-30/news/britain-gave-me-refuge-from-the-nazis-we-should-do-the-same-for-today-s-young-refugees-8pdgg08xj>

Open your heart, Britain, as you once did for the Kinder

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/open-your-heart-britain-as-you-once-did-for-the-kinder-2g627bvl2>

To see ourselves – as new Scots see us: Scotland, by the people who have moved here

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17239302.to-see-ourselves-as-new-scots-see-us-scotland-by-the-people-who-have-moved-here/>

The truth about Govanhill, the most demonised neighbourhood in Scotland ... by the people who live there

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17270400.the-truth-about-govanhill-the-most-demonised-neighbourhood-in-scotland-by-the-people-who-live-there/?ref=mr&lp=4>

Huddersfield school refugee's sister 'also attacked'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-46379548>

Almondbury, the school in Jamal bully video, faces Ofsted inspection

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/almondbury-the-school-in-jamal-bully-video-faces-ofsted-inspection-5t0dxznfk>

Mum of 'school attack bully who abused Syrian refugee boy' is convicted race thug

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/mother-school-attack-bully-who-13674303>

Racist parents create racist bullies but recently they've had a lot of help

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-parents-create-racist-bullies-13674044>

Syrian boy attacked at school wrote to authorities begging for help before incident

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/syrian-boy-attacked-school-wrote-13670025>

Syrian refugee boy attacked at Huddersfield school in 'shocking' video being investigated by police

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syria-boy-school-video-attack-racist-bully-refugee-huddersfield-west-yorkshire-police-a8655346.html>

Attack on Syrian schoolboy exposes 'toxic environment' faced by refugees in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syrian-refugee-attack-huddersfield-school-hate-crime-children-asylum-immigration-a8657411.html>

Syrian refugee attack: Family plan to sue Tommy Robinson over allegations against teenage victim

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/syrian-refugee-school-attack-huddersfield-tommy-robinson-family-sue-victim-police-a8659921.html>

Bullied Syrian boy says thank you as £130,000 is raised for his family

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-11-30/news/bullied-syrian-boy-says-thank-you-as-130-000-is-raised-for-his-family-2r37nvff6>

Bullies have left Syrian schoolboy crying at night

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-11-29/news/huddersfield-bullies-have-left-syrian-schoolboy-crying-at-night-qtqrql7nc>

Bullying Syrian children is wrong, but using them to bully others is worse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/bullying-syrian-children-is-wrong-but-using-them-to-bully-others-is-worse-xhldmbn2b>

Attack on Syrian schoolboy exposes 'toxic environment' faced by refugees in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/syrian-refugee-attack-huddersfield-school-hate-crime-children-asylum-immigration-a8657411.html>

It's a matter of time before a migrant's body washes up on British shores

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/30/migrants-body-british-shores-channel-dinghies-hostile-uk-government>

Children fleeing unimaginable horrors are not getting enough help

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-11-28/news/children-fleeing-unimaginable-horrors-are-not-getting-the-help-they-need-l293mhph0>

Immigration detainee killed himself after self-harming, inquest hears

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/nov/27/branko-zdravkovic-killed-himself-uk-immigration-detention-inquest>

Frail OAP faces deportation after Home Office say he's not ill enough to stay with wife

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/frail-oap-faces-deportation-after-home-office-say-he-s-not-ill-enough-to-stay-with-wife-1-4835424>

Woman collapses at reporting centre after Home Office forces her to attend meeting despite severe pains

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-woman-collapse-reporting-centre-loughborough-manjit-kaur-a8661841.html>

Gay rugby player facing deportation allowed to leave holding centre

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/28/gay-rugby-player-facing-deportation-allowed-to-leave-holding-centre>

Gay rugby player Kenneth Macharia freed but could still be deported to Kenya

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/gay-rugby-player-deportation-kenya-kenneth-macharia-bail-home-office-bristol-bisons-a8657156.html>

Fight to change immigration laws to allow deported ex-UBS 'rogue' trader Kweku Adoboli to return to his Scottish home

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17247692.fight-to-change-immigration-laws-to-allow-deported-ex-ubs-rogue-trader-kweku-adoboli-to-return-to-his-scottish-home/?ref=mr&lp=9>

Deported rogue trader: 'The Home Office destroys lives'

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/nov/26/deported-rogue-trader-kweku-adoboli-first-time-free-seven-years-home-office-ghana>

Tastes from Home

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/support_us/fundraise/tastes_from_home

TOP

Community Relations

Press Release

Lord Bourne encourages schools to celebrate diversity and build inclusive relationships

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-bourne-encourages-schools-to-celebrate-diversity-and-build-inclusive-relationships>

New Publication

The Ground we Share

Many victims of the growing levels of racism and prejudice are people of faith. This hatred often comes from a lack of education and experience of having never met someone from another culture or faith. It also comes from having read false information online and prejudice towards another group. This new website provides resources to encourage not only respect for others who have beliefs different from our own but to encourage people to stand up to and report hate crimes towards minority groups.

<https://www.thegroundweshare.com/>

News

Young Asian poets in the UK share their stories

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-46217026/young-asian-poets-in-the-uk-share-their-stories>

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Mental Health

S5W-19934 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it monitors the mental health of (a) children and young people, (b) children in care, (c) care-experienced young people, (d) people over 65, (e) disabled people, (f) black and minority ethnic (BME) people, (g) trans people, (h) lesbian, gay and bisexual people, (i) Gypsy/Travellers, (j) prisoners and (k) prisoners' children.

Reply from Clare Haughey: The Scottish Government monitors the mental health of the population as a whole via the [Scottish Health Survey](#), with additional information available for some smaller groups from the [Scottish Survey's Core Questions](#). It is not possible to break the survey data down for all of the groups mentioned due to the relatively small size of some groups. The surveys cover the private household population and hence do not provide information in relation to prisoners.

Information collected by NHS boards, third sector organisations and other interest groups also inform the Scottish Government's understanding of the mental health of the population, especially when it comes to minority groups

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-19934>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Tech City UK: Ethnic Groups and Females

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [193468] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what progress Tech City has made in funding tech start-ups led by (a) women and (b) BAME people.

Reply from Margot James: Tech Nation (formerly Tech City UK) does not directly fund tech start-ups, though they do run programmes such as Rising Stars, Upscale, and Future Fifty, that help start-ups access funding. They have published a report that highlights the state of diversity in the UK tech sector, and the need to do more especially for female founders. The report is available at <https://technation.io/insights/diversity-and-inclusion-in-uk-tech-companies/>

They have also joined a consortium with Capital Enterprise, Your Startup, Your Story (YSYS) and Diversity VC, funded by JP Morgan, that aims to double the number of female and ethnic minority founders in three London boroughs by 2020. Meanwhile, as part of the Government's work to increase diversity and build a Britain in which small businesses continue to thrive, Alison Rose will lead a review into barriers to female entrepreneurship, and exploring what can be done to overcome them. The review will bolster the Government's work to make it easier for women to access the support they need to get their ideas off the ground and grow their businesses. The government will consider and respond to the findings of the review when it is published in the Spring.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193468/>

Tech City UK: Ethnic Groups and Females

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [193467] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what progress TechCity UK has made in promoting (a) women and (b) BAME people within that organisation.

Reply from Margot James: Tech Nation's (formerly Tech City UK) current executive team is now 75% women, and the "heads of" roles are 66% women.

Meanwhile, Government is addressing gender diversity in industry by supporting the Tech Talent Charter. The Charter is a private sector initiative designed to promote diversity in the tech workforce. Signatories of the Charter pledge to implement recruitment and retention practices that will address the gender imbalance of those in tech roles.

Over 290 companies, from international tech giants right through to start-ups, SME's and charities have already signed the Charter, and all government departments have agreed to sign the Charter.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193467/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Technology: Companies

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11588] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efforts of technology companies to improve the gender and racial diversity of their staff.

Reply from Lord Ashton of Hyde: The UK Digital Strategy set out our commitment to enabling a more diverse digital workforce. As the digital revolution progresses, many more jobs will require digital skills and many more tech roles will be created, both in technology companies and in the general economy. We cannot afford for certain groups of people, including women and people from ethnic minority backgrounds, to be excluded from or unable to progress within these roles.

While there is substantial progress that still needs to be made by technology companies to improve the gender and racial diversity of their staff, there are also significant industry-led initiatives aiming to solve the issue.

Over 290 companies, from international tech giants right through to start-ups, SMEs and charities have already signed the Tech Talent Charter - an industry led initiative, supported by Government. The Charter gives organisations tangible actions and principles they can adopt to change their hiring and retention practices to become more gender-diverse and commits signatories to measuring the diversity profile of their UK employees and to share this data for (anonymous) collective publication in an annual report.

There are also other industry-led programmes doing valuable and innovative work to help more women, ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups into tech, such as the #SheMeansBusiness initiative (by Facebook in collaboration with Enterprise Nation and FSB); the FDM Getting Back to Business programme; Fujitsu UK's work on developing diverse role models within their workforce, and Backstage Capital, which is committed to investing in start-ups with diverse founders.

We are also engaging with the work of organisations such as UK Black Tech and other organisations active in improving ethnic diversity in tech, and have recently convened an industry round table on inclusive technology in partnership with the Royal Academy of Engineers.

Under new Government legislation over 10,000 employers reported their gender pay gaps this year. We are now working with employers to help them understand their gender pay gaps, and support them to put plans in place to tackle gaps.

Government is also currently consulting on the Ethnic Pay Gap and consultation responses will inform future government policy on ethnicity pay reporting.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-19/HL11588/>

New Publications

Getting Rights Right: Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/EHRiC/2018/11/26/Getting-Rights-Right--Human-Rights-and-the-Scottish-Parliament-3/EHRiCS052018R6Rev.pdf>

Scottish Human Rights Commission videos: All Our Rights

Rights in Social Care
Right to Health
Right to Housing
Right to an Adequate Standard of Living
Rights and Community Development
The Right to Justice
Rights in Prison
Rights around the World

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLALRcjBE2VeHVKjmTb3pADGrmE6Y5H2nW>

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service Offender Equalities Annual Report

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760093/hmpps-offender-equalities-2017-18.pdf

News

UWE Bristol project to close race pay gap faced by graduates

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-46294589>

Literary spat over Scottish Review of Books writer's attack on 'black talent'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/literary-spat-over-scottish-review-of-books-writer-s-attack-on-black-talent-jdfj5bvvr>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Islamophobia and Antisemitism

Anas Sarwar (Labour): At a time when hate is on the rise, we got some hope. This week saw the Muslim and Jewish communities come together to sign a landmark joint communiqué to call out and challenge Islamophobia and antisemitism in Scotland. Together, Muslim and Jewish women born in Scotland are telling about how they have been called traitors, spat at and told to go home, and how they are scared of travelling on Scotland's public transport system. In the same week, we saw the horrific video of the young Syrian boy being racially abused and insulted at his school in Huddersfield.

Silence is no longer an option in the face of such hate. Does the First Minister agree that we cannot leave the fight against Islamophobia to the Muslim community, that we cannot leave the fight against antisemitism to the Jewish community, that we cannot leave the

fight against all forms of prejudice and hate to any individual community and that it must be a fight for all of us? [Applause.]

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Yes, I absolutely agree. I congratulate the Muslim and Jewish communities on the actions that they have taken this week. Their actions in doing what they have done this week are a better representation of Scotland than the actions of those who indulge in hate crime.

I absolutely agree that there is no place for silence. None of us should be bystanders when it comes to tackling and calling out hate crime; there is an obligation on all of us. I say very clearly but very strongly that an attack on any Muslim, any Jew or any member of any minority community should be seen as an attack on all of us, and that we should have solidarity and stand shoulder to shoulder at all times. I say that as First Minister and I hope that I am joined in that sentiment by every single member in the chamber. [Applause.]

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11811&i=106875#ScotParlOR>

The joint communiqué referred to above can be read at

https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xi_cpg/cpg.html

Sectarianism

James Dornan (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what action it is taking to tackle sectarianism. (S5O-02630)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): We continue to work towards a sectarian-free Scotland by supporting a wide range of activity in formal and informal settings. That includes supporting work by organisations such as Nil by Mouth, Supporters Direct Scotland and the sense over sectarianism campaign. We are supporting the delivery of Scotland's first national education resource for tackling sectarianism, which is freely available to all. That work builds on a record investment of £13.5 million over the past six years, which has supported 120 projects to deliver anti-sectarian education and activity across Scotland. We continue to see a positive impact in the communities that are benefiting from that work.

James Dornan: The cabinet secretary may be aware that, on Tuesday evening last week, I convened the first meeting of the cross-party group on combating sectarianism in Scottish society. It was great to be joined by fellow MSPs from the Scottish National Party, the Scottish Conservatives and the Greens, as well as by external members from the Church of Scotland, Nil by Mouth, the Scottish Women's Convention, the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council and others.

I am encouraged by the work of the Scottish Government in addressing sectarianism and I welcome last week's publication of the final report on the legal definition of sectarianism. However, does the cabinet secretary agree that the only way we can end sectarianism is by working together as a society? Will he commit to work with the cross-party group in the future?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Yes, I will commit to work with the CPG in the future.

I want to take a moment to put on record the outstanding work that James Dornan has done personally to tackle sectarianism. As is evident to those of us who are on social media, he has taken a huge amount of personal abuse for standing up to sectarianism in Scotland. He should be commended on that. He has dealt with that with a huge amount of dignity.

I am very pleased that James Dornan has convened the cross-party group and I am pleased to see that there is cross-party consensus that we must tackle the problem of sectarianism. I hope that he and the group will come to a view on how best to tackle the problem. The Government will work closely with him on that.

The Government is working on legislation on hate crime and we are considering sectarianism and whether to introduce a statutory aggravator of sectarian

prejudice. The consultation is currently under way and we will keep an open mind on that. Whenever we can assist in relation to the law or—as Mr Dornan suggests—education, I will be willing to consider any good ideas that come forward, whether from the CPG or from Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11811&i=106865#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Antisemitism: Prosecutions

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [195490] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been prosecuted for anti-semitic hate crime in each of the last three years.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Prosecutions data held by the department record information against offences defined in law. The law does not define an offence specifically of anti-Semitic hate crime, so the requested information is not held. Figures for whether Anti-Semitism was a motivation of other offences that have been prosecuted is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-26/195490/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's speech at antisemitism reception

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-at-antisemitism-reception-26-november-2018>

Lead Commissioner chairs discussion at Anti-Semitism Conference

<https://extremismcommission.blog.gov.uk/2018/11/26/leader-commissioner-attends-antisemitism-conference/>

Being black in the EU often means racism, poor housing and poor jobs

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2018/being-black-eu-often-means-racism-poor-housing-and-poor-jobs>

New Publications

Islamophobia Defined: The inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

Gendered Anti-Muslim Hatred and Islamophobia

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/Gendered%20anti-Muslim%20Hatred%20and%20Islamophobia%20-%20Tell%20MAMA%20Interim%20Report.pdf>

Being Black in the EU

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2018-being-black-in-the-eu_en.pdf

Antisemitic Discourse Report 2017

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/f/Antisemitic%20Discourse%20Report%202017.pdf>

A Shadow Over Europe: CNN poll reveals depth of anti-Semitism in Europe
<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/11/europe/antisemitism-poll-2018-intl/>

News

Jews and Muslims in 'landmark' stand against hate crime
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-46355210>

Working together to tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Scotland
https://www.scojec.org/news/2018/18xi_cpq/cpg.html

Jewish and Muslim leaders in Scotland agree to expand cooperation
<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/jewish-and-muslim-leaders-in-scotland-agree-to-expand-cooperation/>

Tory 'bigot' blasted after claiming Syrian refugees are 'not part of community'
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/tory-bigot-blasted-after-claiming-13639441>

SNP expels blogger over 'anti-Semitic' claim
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-46373363>

SNP expel blogger in 'anti-Semitism' row
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17261175.snp-expel-blogger-in-anti-semitism-row/?ref=mr&lp=16>

I'm proud to be a British, Jewish woman in public life and I'm not going anywhere
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/im-proud-to-be-a-british-jewish-woman-in-public-life-and-im-not-going-anywhere-fg28fdb9m>

Sometimes people just see your skin colour, says Labour leader candidate
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-46360582>

Muslims demand full legal protection from Islamophobia
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/01/muslims-demand-full-legal-protection-from-islamophobia>

Islamophobia driving belief in myths about Muslims in British society, MPs say
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/islamophobia-muslims-islam-uk-myths-economy-social-advantage-mps-government-a8653216.html>

Islamophobia is a form of racism – like antisemitism it's time it got its own definition
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/islamophobia-definition-muslims-racism-antisemitism-labour-conservatives-uk-a8653701.html>

British Muslim organisations rally for proposed definition of Islamophobia
<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/british-muslim-organisations-rally-for-proposed-definition-of-islamophobia/>

Gendered Anti-Muslim Hatred and Islamophobia, Street Based Aggression in Cases Reported to Tell MAMA Is Alarming
<https://tellmamauk.org/gendered-anti-muslim-hatred-and-islamophobia-street-based-aggression-in-cases-reported-to-tell-mama-is-alarming/>

Antisemitic Discourse Report 2017

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2018/11/29/antisemitic-discourse-report-2017>

Racism against black people in EU 'widespread and entrenched'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46369046>

Racism against black people widespread across EU in work, housing, and policing, watchdog warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/racism-black-people-eu-work-housing-policing-watchdog-a8656456.html>

Evidence of anti-black racism is a call for EU action

<https://www.enar-eu.org/Evidence-of-anti-black-racism-is-a-call-for-EU-action>

Record number of UK children excluded for racist bullying

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/nov/30/record-number-of-uk-children-excluded-for-racist-bullying>

I know all about being bullied by racists. That's the Britain I grew up in

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/01/i-know-all-about-being-bullied-by-racists>

Kick It Out reports rise in racist, antisemitic and other discriminatory abuse for sixth year in a row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/kick-it-out-report-racism-in-football-lord-ouseley-premier-league-epl-a8655546.html>

Falkirk football club probes racist abuse by its own fans

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-46351669>

Racist Falkirk fans abuse their own player Dennon Lewis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-falkirk-fans-abuse-their-own-player-dennon-lewis-68gnw7i6s>

South Korean student says she was beaten up in racist attack on London's Oxford Street while onlookers 'filmed on phones'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racist-attack-south-korean-student-london-oxford-street-hate-crime-petition-met-police-a8662436.html>

Facebook and its 'black people problem'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-46367677>

Ex-Facebook manager: black staffers face discrimination and exclusion

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/nov/27/facebook-race-black-employees-discrimination-accusation>

Former facebook employee reveals its 'black people problem'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/facebook-black-people-problem-race-mark-s-luckie-post-a8654816.html>

I've worked in tech for years – Facebook and similar companies really do have a 'black people problem'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/facebook-black-people-problem-mark-s-luckie-tech-industry-diversity-a8656316.html>

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Brexit

Scottish Government Press Release

Brexit deal 'damaging' to Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/brexit-deal-damaging-to-scotland/>

Scottish Parliament and Government Publications

Animation: Getting Scotland's laws ready for Brexit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GBMyGCPDuc&feature=youtu.be>

Scotland's place in Europe: assessment of UK Government's proposed future relationship with the EU

<https://tinyurl.com/yafm8l96>

The UK's Departure from the European Union - An overview of the Political Declaration

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2018/11/28/The-UK-s-Departure-from-the-European-Union---An-overview-of-the-Political-Declaration/SB%2018-79.pdf>

UK Government Press Release

PM promises deal which works for Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-promises-deal-which-works-for-scotland>

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New Publications

State of the Sector 2018: Scottish Third Sector Statistics

<https://scvo.org/projects-campaigns/i-love-charity/sector-stats>

Getting the most out of the new charity data hub

<https://scvo.org.uk/post/2018/11/26/getting-the-most-out-of-the-new-charity-data-hub>

The lived experience of loneliness and social isolation in Scotland

<https://vhscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/The-Zubairi-Report-VHS-Nov-2018.pdf>

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Other News

Scotland: a Sense of Place a Sense of Home

SHAREArgyll creative arts event on the theme of "Migration" to celebrate International Migrants Day. For information see <http://www.argyllshare.co.uk/events>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

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

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11797&i=106748#ScotParlOR>

Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Border Control Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

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

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

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

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/>

Shortage occupation list review 2018 (closing date 6 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754865/SOL_call_for_evidence_Final_Version_for_publication.pdf

Equality and Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan 2019 to 2022 (closing date 7 January 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work-have-your-say>

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

Preventing and tackling forced marriage (closing date 23 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756200/Forced_Marriage_Consultation.pdf

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

Social inclusion, loneliness and belonging in society (closing date not stated)

<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B397FBE3BAF0E3E2B3>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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

Cyber grants now available to Scottish charities

Closing date for applications: 18 December 2018

The cyber grants help charities to meet the costs of preparing for and receiving Cyber Essentials accreditation. Eligible organisations can receive up to £1,000 towards the costs of achieving Cyber Essentials accreditation. For information and to apply see

<https://scvo.org.uk/digital/evolution/cyber-resilience>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

4 December 2018 in Lockerbie (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y85utdlh>

6 December 2018 in Inverness (12.00-3.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yc4q8k4h>

16 January 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y7aqqavn>

17 January 2019 in Stornaway (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yczkv4gm>

22 January 2019 in Dundee (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y93w7aq4>

24 January 2019 in Galashiels (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9jlfzds>

31 January 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rygo77>

6 February 2019 in Aberdeen (12.00-3.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9a9x6h8>

7 February 2019 in Shetland (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yahlmwvm>

Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation meetings to provide information about the proposals, and enable individuals and communities to give their views. For information and to book a place, please click on the relevant link above.

**** this week!**

Scotland's Census 2021 Questions and Outputs

5 December 2018 (9.30-4.00)

National Records of Scotland event to provide an update on the development of questions and outputs for the 2021 census, including the ethnicity, national identity, and religion questions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ydyh6778>

**** this week!**

EU Citizens' Rights after Brexit

5 December 2018 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Scottish Government workshop to provide an understanding of upcoming changes to EU citizen rights after Brexit, including what we know about applying for the new settled status. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8po738g>

**** this week!**

Equalities and Hate Crime Public Awareness

6 December 2018 in Cupar (6.00-8.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities sessions to find out about the Equality Act 2010, learn about how to report hate crime and how to get advice and support, and to share any concerns you may have about something that has happened to you or someone you know. For information about the Kirkcaldy event see <https://tinyurl.com/ybszq9wv> and about the Cupar event see <https://tinyurl.com/ydedubvb>

Overcoming Unconscious Bias

11 December 2018 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training to help those in positions of leadership to understand hidden factors that contribute to the success or failure of organisational policy and strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y97ofh8b>

Discrimination Law in 2019

21 January 2019 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to provide authoritative guidance on important recent and proposed changes to discrimination legislation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y775nbkz>

**** Working with refugees and the asylum process**

22 January 2019 in Glasgow

28 February 2019 in Glasgow

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Working with Interpreters**

29 January 2019 in Glasgow

7 March 2019 in Glasgow

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision,

looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement**

5 February 2019 in Glasgow

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Working with unaccompanied refugee children**

14 February 2019 in Glasgow

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Age assessment awareness**

20 February 2019 in Glasgow

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Refugee rights to housing**

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Engaging with seldom heard voices**

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

**** Refugee community sponsorship**

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

Scottish Government <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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SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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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