



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 Answer

#### Deportation (Sbita Family)

**Emma Harper (SNP):** I have written to the Home Secretary and the Scottish Government minister responsible for migration seeking urgent intervention to prevent six of my constituents—the Sbita family—from being deported imminently from Dumfries to Tunisia. The family—four of whom are under 16—are being deported simply on the basis that they cannot afford to pay the almost £7,000 fee for the Home Office to process their application. The family are now reporting to the police every week until their deportation, and are unable to work, study or make money for themselves.

In the absence of any fast action from the local Tory MP, what advice can the First Minister offer me to support my constituents? Is there any action that the Scottish Government can take to help my constituents to remain in Scotland?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I thank Emma Harper for raising

the case. It is an illustration of Tory-run Britain; it is a shocking and appalling case—the Tories sitting in the Scottish Parliament should be ashamed.

I am hugely sympathetic to all those people—we are talking about many people—who have difficulties navigating the complex and increasingly restrictive immigration rules. The Scottish Government welcomes and hugely values people from all over the world who choose to build their lives here. Scotland is stronger because of our multiculturalism. Non-United Kingdom citizens are an important part not just of our present, but of our future.

The UK Government's immigration system is not fit for purpose. We want to see a less restrictive, more humane system that meets our needs and provides a welcoming environment for new Scots and their families. The Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development will make representations to the Home Office and respond to Ms Harper as soon as possible.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12027&i=108826#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-16672 John Mason (SNP): Migrant Numbers Down** – That the Parliament notes the recent National Insurance registration figures released by the DWP, which show that there was an 18% decrease in the number of registrations for overseas workers between 2015 and 2018; understands that more than half of Scotland's regions have seen a reduction of 20% or more in migrant numbers during this period, with Shetland experiencing a 69% decline; considers that these figures make it glaringly obvious that what it sees as the UK Conservative administration's anti-immigration rhetoric and complete disregard for Scotland is likely to put extreme pressure on many of Scotland's businesses and public services, particularly those already experiencing labour shortages; believes that, as Scotland's population has not grown naturally for decades, the country needs more working-age people to migrate here, and therefore welcomes continued migration to Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16672>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Modern Slavery and Victim Support

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-27/debates/EDF7F51F-F810-4AEF-B618-BC1F5EC2034F/ModernSlaveryAndVictimSupport>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### British Nationality: Naturalisation

**Jo Stevens (Labour)** [235403] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many M1N1 application forms have been submitted in each of the last three years; and what proportion were (a) refused and (b) withdrawn.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The available information relates to total grants and refusals of citizenship by general category, and are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics citizenship table cz\_01 and , latest available at

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

The large majority of cases decided in 2018 were grants (94%).

*The following seven questions all received the same answer*

**UK Visas and Immigration: Telephone Services**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233024]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the cost per minute is of telephoning UK Immigration Services from a (a) landline and (b) mobile phone.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233025]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average number of calls received by UK Immigration Services was in each of the last three years.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233026]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time was for a telephone call to UK Immigration Services in each of the last three years.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233027]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average cost of a telephone call to UK Immigration Services was, from a (a) landline, and (b) mobile phone.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233028]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the UK Immigration Services telephone line is not a free phone service.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233029]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department charges callers to the UK Immigration Services phonenumber in advance of being connected to an operator.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [233030]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to make the UK Immigration Services telephone service a freephone service.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) customer contact centres are in place to support customers seeking advice about making a visa related application and the options available to them based on their circumstance including navigating GOV.UK, guidance and immigration rules.

The customer contact centres can also help customers to get an update on their application if this is outside of the published service standards.

We constantly review the service delivery and our quality levels to ensure we are providing the right level of customer service and support to our customers.

The customer contact centres services delivered by Sitel UK LTD is one of a number of information channels available to applicants. For example, customers have access to the our Gov.uk website to access all relevant information at no cost. From within the UK there is no charge for contacting UKVI by e-mail, whilst phone calls are charged at the caller's standard network rate. Customers and agents who contact UKVI from outside the UK will be charged their standard network rate plus £1.37 per minute. A customer is only charged at the £1.37 per minute rate once they connect to an agent. We do not hold data on how a call was made (via Landline or Mobile)

The table(s) below shows the calls received by the Croydon Contact Centre (CCC); these are calls from Asylum support customers, DNA hotline and sponsors / educational establishments. All other customer calls are handled by Sitel and HGS; these figures are not available as they are commercially sensitive. Also outlined below is the average call length:

Average Call Length					
	CCC	SiTel	HGS	Overall With HGS	Overall Without HGS
2018	3:47	4:21	N/A	4:19	4:19
2017	3:36	4:19	4:09	4:11	4:12
2016	4:05	3:32	4:17	3:51	3:41
Calls Received/Demand					
	CCC	SiTel	HGS		
2018	74094				
2017	224273				
2016	416541				

The UK government believes it is right that those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs.

Those who use the services from outside the UK are predominantly prospective customers and in many cases no application will be made and no application fee collected

Customers who use the services from within the UK will often already have an immigration status with UKVI and have already paid an immigration fee. For applications made within the UK there is no charge for contacting us by e-mail, whilst phone calls are charged at the caller's standard network rate

There are currently no plans to change the pricing structure for the current contact centre services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233024/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233025/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233026/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233027/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233028/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233029/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/233030/>

### UK Visas and Immigration: Training

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [235301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2019 to Question 232000 on UK Visas and Immigration: Training, how many hours are required to complete that training; and how often is that training is refreshed.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Staff in UK Visas and Immigration are required to complete the two mandatory e-learning training courses entitled “Modern Slavery - Non Border Force” and “Modern Slavery - National Referral Mechanism Process”. The estimated duration of these courses are 1 hour and 30 minutes respectively. The training material was last updated in early 2017 following recommendations from the Chief Inspector for Borders and Immigration and the Anti -Slavery Commissioner

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235301/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232000/>

### **Immigration: Applications**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [235374] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he last reviewed the application form for Leave to Remain under the five-year partner route.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Applications for leave to remain under the five-year partner route are made on form FLR(M), which is available on GOV.UK. We continue to keep family application forms under review and will make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. On 13 December 2018, the current form was revised, which included launching an online version and withdrawing the paper form.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235374/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Visas: Human Rights**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [234704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office guidance Fee waiver: Human Rights-based and other specified applications, how many visa applications have been made in the categories (a) five-year partner and five-year parent route (ECHR Article 8 rights), (b) 10-year partner, parent or private life route (ECHR Article 8 rights), (c) extension of leave to remain where applicant was refused asylum or humanitarian protection and granted discretionary leave and (d) extension of discretionary leave for victims of trafficking or slavery, in each of the last five years.

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [234705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office guidance entitled Fee waiver: Human Rights-based and other specified applications, how many visa waivers have been issued in each of the last five years in the categories (a) five year partner and five year parent route (ECHR Article 8 rights), (b) ten year partner, parent or private life route (ECHR Article 8 rights), (c) extension of leave to remain where applicant was refused asylum or humanitarian protection and granted discretionary leave and (d) extension of discretionary leave for victims of trafficking or slavery, by (i) because the family is destitute and (ii) because they would be rendered destitute by payment of the fee.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Data on the number of applications for extension of Leave to Remain in the categories requested is not published in quarterly immigration statistics. Data on the number of fee waiver applications is not captured in a form that can be reported and to provide the data requested would require individual scrutiny of all applications within the scope of the question. This would incur disproportionate cost.

The department do publish the number of grants and refusals of in country leave to

remain applications by category as part of the quarterly immigration statistics.

This is available at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234704/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234705/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Visas: Research**

**Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru)** [234798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to exclude scientific research occupations from the cap on tier 2 visas.

**Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru)** [234799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of proposals for a salary threshold in the immigration White Paper on scientific research occupations.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government is committed to developing a future borders and immigration system that will cater for all sectors of the UK, including for those who make a very valuable contribution to our scientific community

As part of his Spring Statement on 13 March, my Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that PhD level occupations, which includes scientists and researchers, will be exempt from the Tier 2 (General) cap. In addition, he announced that those same occupations will be exempt from our rules on absences from the UK, ensuring that they can take part in research activities overseas without impacting adversely on settlement applications where absences from the UK are taken into account. The Government intends to give effect to this change later this year

The Migration Advisory Committee recommended retaining the minimum salary threshold at £30,000. However, we have been clear that we want to engage with businesses and employers as to what salary threshold should be set. Currently, graduate entry jobs are already subject to a lower salary threshold and we will continue with that approach – and we are considering whether some occupations, such as those recognised on the Shortage Occupation List, should be subject to a lower salary threshold.

We have launched engagement over 2019 with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including the science and research sectors, and we will be listening to their views on the key proposals in the White Paper before taking final policy decisions on the future system, which will be implemented after 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234798/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234799/>

*The Spring Statement, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-13/debates/5B9C772E-1769-437A-A4F0-06DEAC55D676/SpringStatement>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Nurses: Visas**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [235782] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans that the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visas announced on 7 March 2019 will (a) be maintained after the UK leaves the EU and (b) extended to EEA citizens.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The Immigration White Paper ‘The UK’s future skills-based immigration system’, published in December 2018, where it is workers’ skills that matter, not where they come from. Following the publication of the White Paper the Home Office is now engaging with businesses and other employers to discuss the measures proposed, including at what level any minimum salary threshold should be set.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235782/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

*The following seven questions all received the same answer*

### **Visas: Nurses**

**Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP)** [236400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to (a) retain and (b) extend to EEA citizens the Tier 2 visa salary exemption for nurses after the UK leaves the EU.

**Zac Goldsmith (Conservative)** [236441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Tier 2 visa salary exemption for nurses will (a) remain his policy after the UK leaves the EU and (b) be extended to EEA citizens.

**Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat)** [236257] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visas will be extended to EEA citizens.

**Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op)** [236545] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to (a) retain and (b) extend to EEA citizens the Tier 2 visa salary exemption for nurses after the UK leaves the EU.

**Clive Lewis (Labour)** [236569] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses on Tier 2 visas will remain his policy after the UK leaves the EU; and what plans he has to extend that exemption to EEA citizens.

### **Visas: Social Workers**

**Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP)** [236401] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to ensure that overseas care workers are exempt from the Tier 2 visa £30,000 salary cap and able to work in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

**Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op)** [236548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to ensure that overseas care workers are exempt from the Tier 2 visa £30,000 salary cap and able to work in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We have been clear that we want all EU nationals, including those working in the NHS and the care sector, to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds.

The Government has been clear that we will undertake an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236400/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236441/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236257/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236545/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236569/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236401/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236548/>

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

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

#### **Migrant Workers: Health Services**

**Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP)** [236399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure the recruitment of NHS and care workers from (a) EU and (b) non-EU countries to meet levels of demand after the UK leaves the EU.

#### **Migrant Workers: Social Workers**

**Zac Goldsmith (Conservative)** [236442] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that care workers from EU Member States can work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

**Clive Lewis (Labour)** [236570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that care workers from EU Member States can work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

#### **Migrant Workers: NHS and Social Workers**

**Clive Lewis (Labour)** [236568] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that (a) NHS workers and (b) care workers can be recruited from (i) EU and (ii) non-EU countries after the UK leaves the EU.

**Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat)** [236575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure effective recruitment from EU countries to meet demand for (a) NHS and (b) care workers after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in “the UK’s future Skills-based Immigration System” White Paper. The White Paper proposals include a new route for skilled workers which will be open to anyone at RQF level 3 and above, irrespective of where they are applying from. This route will not be capped allowing all of those who meet our requirements to come to the UK.

The White Paper also includes a transitional route for temporary workers which will be open to anyone from qualifying countries, wishing to fill positions at any skill



level, for up to 12 months. We do not intend to impose a cap on the number of people wishing to use the route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236399/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236442/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236570/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236568/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236575/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Immigration: Overseas Students**

**Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru)** [234800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending international students' post study leave period to find permanent skilled work.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** In 2017, the Home Office commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide an objective assessment of the impact of international students in the UK for the first time.

In line with the MAC recommendations, we announced in the Immigration White Paper published in December 2018 that we will increase the post-study leave period for postgraduate students to six months, and doctorate students to a year. We will also go further, by increasing the post-study leave period for all undergraduates studying at institutions with degree awarding powers to six months. These changes will benefit tens of thousands of students and will help ensure that our world-leading education sector remains competitive globally.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234800/>

*The MAC report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/739089/Impact\\_intl\\_students\\_report\\_published\\_v1.1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739089/Impact_intl_students_report_published_v1.1.pdf)

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Overseas Students: Visas**

**Gordon Marsden (Labour)** [236304] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on reintroducing post-study work visas for overseas students.

**Reply from Chris Skidmore:** The government has a strong offer for overseas students who graduate in the UK. International graduates can remain in the UK to work following their studies by switching to several existing visa routes, including Tier 2 (skilled worker) visas. The International Education Strategy, published on 16 March 2019, sets out actions to continue to provide a welcoming environment for

international students and includes our ambition to increase the number of international students we host to 600,000 by 2030. The actions include extending the post study leave period for students and considering where the visa process could be improved. The International Education Strategy can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth/international-education-strategy-global-potential-global-growth>.

Department for Education ministers have had discussions on the future immigration system with ministers from the Home Office. The immigration white paper proposes increasing the post study leave period for international students following completion of studies to: 12 months for those completing a PhD, and 6 months for all full time postgraduate and undergraduate students at institutions with degree awarding powers.

The Home Office has launched a 12 month extensive engagement programme to take views from business and other stakeholders from a wide range of sectors on the Immigration white paper. In addition, it will continue to work with other government departments, to hear their priorities, concerns and ideas about the future immigration system to ensure that it is efficient and able to respond to users' needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236304/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Immigration: Commonwealth**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [236432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of removing visa charges for Commonwealth armed forces personnel applying for indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We currently have no plans to exempt commonwealth nationals who have served in HM Forces from paying a fee when applying to settle in the UK.

The Home Office reviews fees on a yearly basis and income from fees charged for immigration and nationality applications plays a vital role in our ability to run a sustainable immigration and nationality system and minimize the burden on the taxpayer

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236432/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [236500] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support young EU nationals apply to the EU Settlement Scheme who may have difficulty in providing documentation proving their residency in the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** There is a range of support available to those who require assistance applying to the Scheme.

Generally, children under 21 applying as the dependent of their parent or guardian only need to provide evidence of their relationship to the parent or guardian to be granted the same status.

There is no need for them to prove their own UK residence.

The Home Office is willing to accept a broad range of evidence of applicant's residency in the UK. Applicants will need to provide one document only dated in

the last six months to be granted pre-settled status.

Guidance on the evidence EU citizens can submit is available on gov.uk ([www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence)).

If applicants do not have enough evidence, the Home Office's EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre will work with them to confirm when they have been resident in the UK based on all the evidence available.

For vulnerable applicants, caseworkers will be able to exercise discretion on compassionate grounds, based on the range of evidence available. There is also support available through community organisations supported by the Home Office's Grant Scheme funding.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236500/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [236486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Prime Minister of 21 January 2019, whether everyone who paid a fee during the pilot scheme for the EU Settlement Scheme has had that fee reimbursed as of 25 March 2019.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As my Rt Hon Friend the Prime Minister told the House of Commons on 21 January (col. 28) there will be no fee for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme when the scheme is rolled out in full on 30 March. If an applicant paid a fee during the testing phases they will receive a refund from 30 March. This will be an automated process. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236486/>

*The oral contribution referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-21/debates/0FBF8F8F-E4B4-47A2-BD0A-958EFC89BD7E/LeavingTheEU#contribution-99B39557-ED82-420D-B124-FF83FC72F686>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Children**

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [233556] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of foster carers and support workers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have received the training on caring for those children that was commissioned to be delivered by ECPAT(UK) and the Refugee Council since 2016 in each local authority area.

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [233557] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the training given to foster carers and support workers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by ECPAT(UK) and the Refugee Council on preventing unaccompanied children from going missing.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** Between November 2016 and February 2019, ECPAT(UK) and the Refugee Council have trained 2,086 foster carers and support workers on caring for the specialist safeguarding needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The training is equipping these carers with the skills they need to identify when a child is at risk of going missing to be onwards trafficked, of being exploited for economic, sexual, and criminal exploitation or of being exposed to radicalisation.

The information requested on the number of foster carers or support workers is not held centrally so we are unable to provide this as a proportion of the total foster

carers and support workers.

Since 2016, recipients of the training have generally reported high levels of satisfaction with its quality. For the current tranche of training, 99% of those trained who provided feedback rated the training 'good' or 'excellent'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-18/233556/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-18/233557/>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Helen Whately (Conservative)** [234854] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of children are unaccompanied asylum seeking children in each local authority area.

**Reply from Nadhim Zahawi:** The latest information on the number of looked-after children who were unaccompanied asylum seeking children, by local authority, can be found in table LAA4 of the statistical release 'Children Looked-After in England: Including Adoption: 2017 to 2018' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2017-to-2018>.

These figures show the numbers at 31 March 2018.

The available population estimates for the number of children in each local authority are mid-year estimates published by the Office for National Statistics and these are reproduced in the underlying data that accompany this release.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234854/>

### **Asylum: Religion**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [235380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the guidance given to his Department's decision-makers on refusal of an asylum claim on the basis of religion.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Detailed Home Office policy guidance on how to consider asylum claims, including claims based on a person's religion or belief, is already published on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/considering-asylum-claims-and-assessing-credibility-instruction>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235380/>

### **Asylum: Religion**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [235381] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refusals of asylum claims have included quotations from religious texts in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** This information is not recorded in a way that can be easily retrieved.

We are urgently investigating reports which indicate that some asylum decisions were not drafted in accordance with our policy.

Published Home Office policy guidance contains detailed instructions on how asylum decision makers are expected to approach religious based claims. Our policy makes clear that when assessing such claims, decision makers are expected to ask appropriate and sensitive questions based on an understanding of religious concepts, philosophical viewpoints and forms of persecution a person may suffer due to their religion, belief or lack of belief.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235381/>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/397778/ASSESSING\\_CREDIBILITY\\_AND\\_REFUGEE\\_STATUS\\_V9\\_0.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397778/ASSESSING_CREDIBILITY_AND_REFUGEE_STATUS_V9_0.pdf)

### **Asylum: Sexuality**

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op)** [235769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to review the content of the Asylum Policy Instruction: Sexual Orientation in Asylum Claims plan.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We remain committed to granting protection to all claimants who are found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in their country of origin because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The Home Office guidance for caseworkers on processing asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation will be reviewed later this year, following the publication of guidance for caseworkers on asylum claims based on gender identity and expression, which is scheduled for publication by summer 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235769/>

*The Asylum Claims plan referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543882/Sexual-orientation-in-asylum-claims-v6.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543882/Sexual-orientation-in-asylum-claims-v6.pdf)

### **Health Services: Undocumented Migrants**

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [233540] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the March 2019 editorial in Archives of Disease in Childhood entitled Charging undocumented migrant children for NHS healthcare: implications for child health.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The Department has no plans to make an assessment of the policy implications of the March 2019 editorial in Archives of Disease in Childhood entitled 'Charging undocumented migrant children for NHS healthcare: implications for child health'.

The National Health Service is a residency-based healthcare system, with a requirement to be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom in order to access NHS-funded healthcare. Providers of relevant NHS services are required to make and recover charges from overseas visitors where relevant services have been provided to them and no exemption applies.

Asylum seekers, refugees and children looked after by a local authority are all exempt from charging, as are victims, and suspected victims, of modern slavery and their children. Children will never themselves be expected to demonstrate their eligibility to free NHS healthcare. The parent or guardian of the child should expect to provide evidence that they and the child are ordinarily resident in the UK, or otherwise that an exemption category applies to the child, which usually stems from an exemption that the parent has. Where a non-resident child is being treated their parent or guardian will be liable to pay for their NHS care where no exemption applies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-18/233540/>

*The editorial referred to above can be read at*

<https://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2019/02/23/archdischild-2018-316474>

### **Detention Centres: Training**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [235300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2019 to Question 231999 on Detention Centres: Training, which (a) organisation provides the training to his Department's supplier staff on identifying adults at risk in immigration detention; whether that training is compulsory; how many hours are required to complete the training; and how often staff are required to retake the training during the course of their employment.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The training provided to supplier staff in Immigration Removal Centres was internally arranged and delivered by Home Office staff with expertise of the adults at risk (AAR) in immigration detention policy.

These two-hour training sessions have been supplemented by the issuance of further, operational instructions and guidance which includes, but is not limited to, AAR matters. The training is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. Refresher training will be provided as and when appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235300/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/231999/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**David Davis (Conservative)** [234093] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to minimise the length of time migrants are kept in detention.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government's strategic approach to detention recognises that the deprivation of liberty for immigration purposes is a significant use of state power, with life changing implications for those involved. Detention is only used when it is necessary and where we have a realistic prospect of removal in a reasonable timescale. At any one point, 95% of those liable to be detained are managed in the community, with the vast majority of those who are detained under immigration powers spending only short periods in detention.

The latest published statistics also show that in the year ending December 2018, there was a 30% reduction in the number of individuals detained when compared with a year earlier. This demonstrates our commitment to detaining only when it is necessary.

A series of detention safeguards have been introduced since 2016, with more support and focus for those considered potentially vulnerable. Included within these safeguards are the Detention Gatekeeper to make detention decisions independent of caseworkers. Case Progression Panels which review the appropriateness of detention, case progression and adherence to the various detention policies of those detained for 3 months and at 3 month intervals thereafter; Detention and Case Progression Reviews to ensure case progression remains at the forefront of ongoing detention decisions; Automatic Bail referrals at four months detention providing an independent consideration of detention by the Judiciary; and the introduction of the Adults at Risk policy in September 2016.

We are currently exploring additional detention safeguards, including further alternatives to detention; conducting a two month automatic bail referral pilot and the introduction of external independence to Case Progression Panels for those who have spent 6 months or more in detention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-19/234093/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Deportation: Children**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [234711] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been removed under immigration powers with their parents in the last 12 months; and how many of those children were British citizens.

#### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [234713] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been detained with their parents under immigration powers in the last 12 months; and how many of those children were British citizens.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office publish data on the number of children leaving detention by year and quarter. This shows 63 children leaving detention of which 22 were removed from the UK between January and December 2018 and confirms no children were British. (Found in the Detention Data Tables, dt\_09 and dt\_08 respectively).

The latest available data are published in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2018' at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018-data-tables>

Between August 2017 and July 2018, 478 families were returned from pre-departure accommodation. (Found in the Immigration Enforcement Data, PDA\_01).

This can be seen in the transparency data published on 28 February 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-february-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234711/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234713/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

### **British Nationality: Assessments**

**Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative)** [HL14599] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the recommendation of the Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement that the book Life in the UK should be revised, and to the undertaking by them to do so, when that review will take place; and when they plan to publish the revised text.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has announced that it will review and revise the Life in the UK test and associated text to give much greater prominence to and information on the shared values which we believe underpin society here in the UK. We are currently considering how this will be taken forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-15/HL14599/>

### **British Nationality: Children**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL14563] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the status and citizenship of children born while overseas to (1) British nationals, and (2) those with permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain in the UK, in particular where their mothers had left the UK for more than a short holiday or visit.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** A child who is of the first generation born overseas to a British citizen will be a British citizen by descent. A child of a

subsequent generation born over-seas will not automatically be a British citizen, but has a statutory entitlement to register as such where close ties to the UK are retained.

There are exceptions to this position where the parent is based overseas undertaking activities such as Crown Service.

A child born overseas to a person who holds either indefinite leave to remain or permanent residence will not acquire British citizenship. Where the child does not have the ability to return to the UK in their own right, then there are provisions under which a child can seek to accompany a settled or EEA parent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14563/>

### **Teachers: Migrant Workers**

**Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14711] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps schools, colleges and local education authorities are taking to ensure that teaching staff from EU countries are aware of what their citizenship status will be post-Brexit.

**Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The department continues to plan for EU Exit and to ensure that we are best prepared for all potential scenarios. As part of our planning, we are taking steps to ensure that our schools, further education and higher education institutions, and local authorities are similarly prepared.

The department published guidance to provide information and advice to our stakeholders on how to best prepare. The notices include information on the EU Settlement Scheme and on the arrangements that apply to EU, European Economic Area and Swiss citizens arriving after EU Exit. The notices form part of the government's public information campaign which can be viewed at this link: <https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/>. This campaign ensures that UK citizens and organisations, EU citizens living in the UK, and UK nationals living in the EU are well informed about how EU Exit will affect them and about the practical steps they will need to take to be ready for it.

The department has shared guidance with a large number of our stakeholders across the education sector. This includes the document 'EU exit: no deal preparations for schools in England', attached[1].

It also includes 'EU exit: no deal preparations for higher education institutions' guidance, attached,[2] and 'EU exit: no deal preparations for further education and apprenticeship providers' guidance', also attached[3].

The document 'EU Exit: No deal preparations for local authority children's services[4]', which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-schools-in-england>.

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-higher-education-institutions>.

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-further-education-and-apprenticeship-providers>.

[4] <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-exit-no-deal-preparations-for-local-authority-childrens-services-in-england>.

[HL14711 EU exit preparations for further education](#)

[HL14711 EU exit preparations for higher education](#)

[HL14711 EU exit preparations for schools](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14711/>



## Legal Aid Scheme: Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14475] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion; and if not, why not.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** We have committed to introduce legislation to bring non-asylum immigration matters into the scope of legal aid for separated migrant children.

Legal aid for family reunion may be available under the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme, where there is a breach or risk of breach of ECHR rights, and subject to means and merits tests. We recently committed to work with legal practitioners to review and simplify the ECF application forms and guidance and ensure that funding is provided in as timely a manner as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14475/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### Refugees

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14474] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether refugees will be afforded the same rights as now if the UK withdraws from the EU.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14476] To ask Her Majesty's Government what contingency plans are in place for refugees in anticipation of the UK withdrawing from the EU without a deal.

### Asylum

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14477] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have acted upon advice from humanitarian organisations regarding the protection of refugees and asylum seekers after the UK has withdrawn from the EU.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The rights of people granted refugee status in the UK are unchanged when we leave the EU. The UK will continue to be bound by the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights and will continue to provide protection to all those who need it in accordance with our international obligations.

Regardless of how the UK exits the EU, the rights and status of those who have been granted refugee status in the UK will remain unchanged, as the 1951 UN Refugee Convention is not contingent on EU membership.

The Government continues to work closely with relevant partners such as the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ensure the UK continues to meet our international obligations, and to facilitate the safe transfer of children under family reunification.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14474/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14476/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14477/>

### Asylum

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14473] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their projected forecast for the number of (1) refugees, and (2) asylum seekers they expect to accept in each of the next five years; and whether they expect

those projected figures to change if the UK (a) does, and (b) does not, leave the EU.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Population projections, including for different migration scenarios, are the responsibility of the independent Office for National Statistics.

The Home Office does not publish the projections indicated. As indicated in the report for the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), Evaluation of existing migration forecasting methods and models, there are many social, economic and political drivers which can impact migration flows, making forecasting migration an extremely difficult task. Migration is susceptible to shock events which are, by their very nature, hard to predict, such as economic cycles, military conflict and policy changes. Therefore, the probability of a single forecast being correct is low.

Notwithstanding this, we remain on track to deliver our commitment of resettling up to 23,000 vulnerable refugees under our resettlement schemes by 2020 and are confident that the outcome of EU Exit will not impact our ability to achieve this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14473/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/467405/Migration\\_Forecasting\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/467405/Migration_Forecasting_report.pdf)

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL14529] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the open letter of 25 June 2018 from nine British and French voluntary organisations, about the UK–France joint action plan on illegal migration across the Channel, published on 24 January, alleging that the plan ignored international law and asylum seekers' individual rights.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government rejects any suggestion that it has ignored international law or the individual rights of asylum seekers. We strongly advocate the principle that international protection should be sought, and is most effective when given, in the first safe country a refugee arrives in.

We also have a duty to secure our border. Close cooperation with partners such as France is designed to deter illegal migration and the organised crime that enables it, while encouraging and supporting effective access to protection in France by those who need it is entirely consistent with that approach. Our partnership with France is part of the Government's wider whole of route approach to migration, which includes supporting refugees and the countries that host them through aid and development funding and operating refugee resettlement schemes to provide a safe and legal route to the UK for the most vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-13/HL14529/>

*The action plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-france-joint-action-plan-on-illegal-migration-across-the-channel>

*The open letter referred to above can be read at*

<https://helprefugees.org/news/open-letter-home-offices-joint-action-plan-ignores-international-law/>

### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14552] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the findings in the report by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking and Missing People Still in Harm's Way: An update report on trafficked and unaccompanied

children going missing from care in the UK, published in December 2018, what plans they have to investigate the causes behind the rising number of child victims of trafficking going missing from care after referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The updated report by Every Child Protected Against Trafficking and Missing People, Still in Harm's Way, does not show a rising proportion of child victims of trafficking going missing from care. The report recognises the improvements in the identification of child trafficking victims over the last two years.

The Government is committed to protecting all children who go missing and recognises the specific needs of trafficked children, which is why we have announced a range of actions to better protect child victims and keep them safe. The Government has committed to expanding Independent Child Trafficking Advocates to one third of all local authorities by April 2019. The Child Trafficking Protection Fund which, as well as providing victim support and recovery, aims to reduce vulnerability to exploitation by preventing trafficked children from going missing and potentially being re-trafficked. In November 2017, the Department for Education published a Safeguarding Strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. The Strategy commissioned a further 1,000 training places for carers and support workers to equip them with the skills they need to identify when a child is at risk of going missing and of potentially being trafficked onwards. The Refugee Council are delivering this training and will have delivered 1,000 places by the end of March 2019.

The Home Office is also working with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) through the Home Office National Law Enforcement Data Programme (NLEDP) to deliver a National Register of Missing Persons (NRMP). This will enable real time information about police reported missing persons incidents to be accessed by police forces across England and Wales. Over time the NRMP will build a national picture of historic missing persons incidents. This will assist officers when they are looking for, or encounter a missing person, particularly if that missing person is outside their home force area. We are currently working towards the NRMP to be in use operationally in 2020/2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14552/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.ecpat.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=96016be0-cc60-48e0-ab9c-635b742f5b7f>

*The Safeguarding Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/656425/UASC\\_Safeguarding\\_Strategy\\_2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656425/UASC_Safeguarding_Strategy_2017.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Missing Persons**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14553] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 December 2018 (HL12231), when they plan to publish the updated version of the Government's Missing Children and Adults Strategy.

#### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14554] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 December 2018 (HL12231), whether the updated Government's Missing Children and Adults Strategy will include specific measures to prevent child victims of trafficking going missing shortly after referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Government is committed to protecting all people who go missing, but recognises that the needs of children, particularly vulnerable children such as trafficked children, are different to those of adults and we have an even greater responsibility to protect them.

Home Office is working with partners to address the issues faced by all children who go missing through its refreshed Missing Children and Adults Strategy which will be published in the coming months. The refreshed Strategy will include cross-Government commitments aimed to prevent victims of child trafficking from going missing by ensuring they are given appropriate information and support. This includes work to encourage police forces to adopt the Operation Innerste process which aims to build trust between a child and the UK authorities, reducing the likelihood of them running away or going missing after a referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14553/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14554/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-12/HL12231/>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf)

### **Children: Human Trafficking**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL14555]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relationship between cuts to children's support services and child victims of trafficking going missing shortly after referral to the National Referral Mechanism.

**Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton:** The government takes the issue of any child going missing extremely seriously.

Funding for children's services is an un-ring fenced part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, it is for local authorities to spend it in the way they think best to meet local needs and their statutory duties. Over the 5 year period to 2019-20, councils have access, through the Local Government Finance Settlement, to over £200 billion to deliver local services, including children's services. Core spending power has increased from £45.1 billion in 2018-19 to £46.4 billion in 2019-20. In addition to this, local authorities estimate that in 2019-20 the sector will keep around £2.5 billion in business rates growth. Local authorities have control over the way in which this money is used, and as such this growth can be directed to support existing services or to invest in further growth.

In the Autumn Budget, the government announced a further £410 million in 2019-20 for local authorities to invest in adult and children's social care services. It also announced £84 million of extra funding, over the next 5 years, to support local authorities to invest in initiatives that improve social work practice and decision making. The government will continue to work closely with the sector to consider long-term children's services funding as part of the upcoming Spending Review.

In order to address the particular vulnerability of these children, the government updated statutory guidance for local authorities on the 'Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery', attached, in November 2017. This includes guidance on preventing children going missing. Department for

Education data collection guidance has been revised to clarify to local authorities that all cases of looked after children who go missing – many of whom might be at heightened risk of being trafficked - are reported, including all children who have gone missing within the first 24 hours of coming to the attention of the local authority.

In addition, the government has awarded £2.2 million from the Child Trafficking Protection Fund to seven organisations to protect vulnerable children in the UK and overseas who are at risk of trafficking. The projects cover a range of areas including tailored support for trafficking victims from various cultures, developing skills and expertise in local areas, and a specialist accommodation pilot. The fund is in addition to the provision of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates for children who have been trafficked.

The cross-government Missing Children and Adults Strategy will be published in the coming months and will include commitments aimed to prevent victims of child trafficking from going missing by ensuring they are given appropriate information and support. This includes work to encourage police forces to adopt the Operation Innerste process which aims to build trust between a child and the UK authorities, reducing the likelihood of them running away.

[HL14555\\_Care\\_of\\_unaccompanied\\_migrant\\_children](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14555/)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14555/>

### **Human Trafficking: Children**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14556] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 13 December 2018 (HL12284), why data are not published on the time taken for victims of child trafficking to receive positive conclusive grounds decisions from the National Referral Mechanism.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The responsibility for the collection and publication of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data currently sits with the National Crime Agency (NCA). The NCA does not publish data about the time taken for victims of trafficking to receive positive conclusive grounds decisions, be they adults or children.

However, responsibility for NRM data will pass to the Home Office when the new Single Competent Authority for NRM decision making goes live in April 2019. We will then review what data we publish going forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14556/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Human Trafficking: Vietnam**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14370] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the publication of Precarious journeys: Mapping vulnerabilities of victims of trafficking from Vietnam to Europe by Anti-Slavery International, Every Child Protected Against Trafficking UK and Pacific Links Foundation on 7 March, what plans they have to introduce mandatory training for frontline professionals working with victims of child trafficking that include training on Vietnamese culture and specific control mechanisms such as debt bondage.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14373] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 21 December 2018 (HL12283), what proportion of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (1) have had training on Vietnamese culture, and (2) can speak Vietnamese.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office is leading a multi-agency review of First Responders to identify who should perform this role and how

they should be trained. As part of this review, the Government will consider what mandatory training First Responders should undertake, including mandatory training on child-specific material. The results of this review will be published in Spring.

In November 2017, the Department for Education published a Safeguarding Strategy (for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children). The Strategy commissioned a further 1000 training places for carers and support workers to equip them with the skills they need to identify when a child is at risk of going missing and of potentially being trafficked onwards. The Refugee Council has been commissioned to deliver this training and will have delivered 1000 places by the end of March 2019.

Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) receive training which includes awareness of the child's culture, customs, language, etiquette and history as this enables the ICTA to engage more effectively with the child. The ICTA Service also employs two Vietnamese nationals who speak Vietnamese, to help with appropriate and accurate translation as well as supporting the ICTA with being culturally relevant when supporting children and young people.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14370/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14373/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12283/>

*The safeguarding strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/656425/UASC\\_Safeguarding\\_Strategy\\_2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656425/UASC_Safeguarding_Strategy_2017.pdf)

### **Human Trafficking: Vietnam**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14371] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the publication of Precarious journeys: Mapping vulnerabilities of victims of trafficking from Vietnam to Europe by Anti-Slavery International, Every Child Protected Against Trafficking UK and Pacific Links Foundation on 7 March, whether they will recruit more Vietnamese translators to assist with the issues of child trafficking victims.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office recognises the ongoing high demand for Vietnamese interpreters across the department and has an ongoing recruitment campaign for all high demand languages, of which Vietnamese is a priority.

We will continue to explore and act upon potential recruitment avenues both regionally and nationally. Alongside the ongoing recruitment campaign, we will continue to work with stakeholders in assessing demand and have in place contingencies to ensure the available national resource is utilised as effectively as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14371/>

*The publication referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Precarious-Journeys-Mapping-vulnerabilities-of-victims-of-trafficking-from-Vietnam-to-Europe.pdf>

### **Human Trafficking: Vietnam**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14372] To ask Her Majesty's Government how

many Vietnamese children have gone missing from care shortly after referral to the National Referral Mechanism since the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Any child (including a trafficked child) who goes missing is a concern, particularly to those directly responsible for their care. The Government is fully committed to addressing this issue and the Home Office are actively working with partners to address the issue of all children who go missing from home and care through its updated Missing strategy, which will be published in the coming months.

We do not collate data on children who go missing through the National Referral Mechanism, such data is held at a local level. The National Crime Agency (NCA) regularly publishes National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data. Data Latest statistics on NRM referrals and decisions are available at the following link:

<http://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2018-nrm-statistics>

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2018-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14372/>

## Press Releases

**Home Office launches nationwide campaign for EU Settlement Scheme**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-launches-nationwide-campaign-for-eu-settlement-scheme>

**EU Settlement Scheme: application fee refunds**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-application-fee-refunds>

**The UK's future skills-based immigration system: engagement programme**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-future-skills-based-immigration-system-engagement-programme>

**Despite falling migration numbers problems remain**

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/despite-falling-migration-numbers-problems-remain>

**European Court of Justice:** A minor in the guardianship of a citizen of the EU under the Algerian kafala system cannot be regarded as a 'direct descendant' of that citizen

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-03/cp190041en.pdf>

## New Publications

**Settled status for EU citizens and their families: translations**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/settled-status-for-eu-citizens-and-their-families-translations>

**EU Settlement Scheme: current expected processing times for applications**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

### **EU Settlement Scheme: Assisted Digital service**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service>

### **Free Movement Rights: extended family members of EEA nationals**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/790935/extended-family-members-v7.0.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790935/extended-family-members-v7.0.pdf)

### **Free movement rights: family members of British citizens**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/790934/family-member-of-british-citizen-v4.0-ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790934/family-member-of-british-citizen-v4.0-ext.pdf)

### **EU Settlement Scheme: frontier workers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-frontier-workers-and-their-family-members/eu-settlement-scheme-frontier-workers>

### **Beyond The Peak: Challenges Remain, But Migration Numbers Drop**

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2019-beyond-the-peak-migration-annual-review-2018\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-beyond-the-peak-migration-annual-review-2018_en.pdf)

## **News**

### **Brexit: EU settled status scheme hit by technical problems on day of launch**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-settled-status-settlement-scheme-brexit-home-office-technical-error-a8846936.html>

### **EU citizens set to have rights 'stripped away' after Brexit, MPs warn**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-nationals-home-office-mp-committee-report-a8838746.html>

### **UK to vote in favour of ditching hardline stance on EU migrants' benefits**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/26/uk-accused-of-ditching-hardline-stance-on-eu-migrants-benefits>

### **Home Office limit on support for slavery victims may be unlawful, court rules**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/mar/29/home-office-limit-on-support-for-slavery-victims-may-be-unlawful-court-rules>

### **Overseas students in 'deportation threat' over unpaid fees**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17537956.overseas-students-in-deportation-threat-over-unpaid-fees/>

### **Judge rules £1/hr wages for immigration detainees are lawful**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/27/judge-rules-1hr-wages-lawful-for-immigration-centre-detainees>

### **Immigration detainees working for £1 an hour is lawful because it is to relieve boredom not earn income, High Court rules**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/27/immigration-detainees-working-1-hour-lawful-relieve-boredom/>



**Banning asylum seekers from working is both morally and economically unjustifiable**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/25/banning-asylum-seekers-working-morally-economically-unjustifiable/>

**Catalogue of failings led to death of 'gentle' man at detention centre**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/25/catalogue-of-failings-led-to-death-of-gentle-man-at-detention-centre>

**So much for 'taking back control of our borders' – most immigrants come from outside the EU**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/24/much-taking-back-control-borders-immigrants-come-outside-eu/>

**Family's asylum plea after being forced to flee Pakistan because they're Catholic**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17533321.familys-asylum-plea-after-being-forced-to-flee-pakistan-because-theyre-catholic/>

**'If you cut me open you'd see the British flag'**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-47741393/if-you-cut-me-open-you-d-see-the-british-flag>

**Invitation to Tender: Sharing Lives, Sharing Languages**  
[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/3423\\_invitation\\_to\\_tender\\_sharing\\_lives\\_sharing\\_languages](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3423_invitation_to_tender_sharing_lives_sharing_languages)

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## Community Relations

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Community Relations

**Viscount Waverley (Crossbench)** [HL14591] To ask Her Majesty's Government what initiatives they plan to implement to unite communities across the UK post-Brexit.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** In March 2018, the government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper which set out our ambitious goal to build strong integrated communities where people - whatever their background - live, work, learn and socialise together, based on shared rights, responsibilities and opportunities. This is especially important as we leave the European Union and seize the opportunity to create the kind of country we want to be: a global, outward-looking, connected nation. On 9 February 2019, we published the Integrated Communities Action Plan alongside the government's response to the consultation on the Green Paper. The Action Plan builds upon the proposals set out in the Green Paper and commits the government to deliver over 70 policy actions by the end of this Parliament.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-14/HL14591/>

*The Green Paper referred to above can be read at*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/777160/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Government\\_Response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/777160/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Government_Response.pdf)

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf)

## News

### Orange Order lifts Catholic church entry ban

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-26/scotland/orange-order-lifts-catholic-church-entry-ban-2335xc3v0>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Females: Ethnic Groups

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [234865] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of austerity on BAME women.

**Reply from Elizabeth Truss:** The Treasury, along with other relevant departments, carefully considers the impact of its decisions on those sharing protected characteristics - including at Budgets and other fiscal events - in line with both its legal obligations and with its strong commitment to promoting fairness.

The Prime Minister announced the Race Disparity Audit in August 2016 to uncover uncomfortable truths by publishing Government data about ethnic disparities onto one website. Government is delivering on its commitment to address ethnic disparities in all areas of society. Policies announced by the Prime Minister include tackling ethnic disparities in employment, school exclusions, higher education and mental health.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234865/>

The Race disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/686071/Revised\\_RDA\\_report\\_March\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf)

#### Curriculum: Equality

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [234838] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans his Department has to ensure that (a) history, (b) English literature and (c) other core curriculum subjects reflect diverse viewpoints and minority groups including (i) BAME groups, (ii) members of the Commonwealth, (iii) women and (iv) LGBT+ people.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Following reform of the national curriculum in 2014, schools have greater flexibility to ensure their school curriculum suits the individual needs of pupils. Within this framework, schools are free to choose texts that will stimulate and challenge their pupils, reflecting diverse viewpoints and minority groups, including reflecting their diverse viewpoints. More specifically:

The history programme of study explains that the purpose of the subject is to help “pupils to understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time”. It aims to ensure that pupils know and understand “how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider

world”.

The English programme of study for secondary schools sets out that pupils should read a wide range of high-quality, challenging, classic literature and extended literary non-fiction, such as essays, reviews and journalism.

The citizenship programme of study requires pupils to be taught about human rights and the “diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding”.

Although the content of the school curriculum is excluded from the Equality Act 2010, the way in which a school provides education, the delivery of the curriculum, is explicitly included. Thus, as set out in departmental advice to schools, they are free to include a full range of issues, ideas and materials in their syllabus, and to introduce pupils to thoughts and ideas of all kinds, however challenging or controversial. Schools are still required, however, to ensure that the way in which issues are taught does not subject individual pupils to discrimination.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-20/234838/>

### **Crime: Statistics**

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [235324]** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he has taken to improve data on religion within the criminal justice system since the publication of the report *Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: 2018 Update*.

**Rory Stewart:** We are committed on an ongoing basis to improving collection and publication of data to identify and tackle any disparities in the Criminal Justice System. Since publication of *The Lammy Review* (into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the Criminal Justice System) we have published brand new ethnicity data or analysis in 16 releases. Currently HM Prison and Probation Service do collect data on religious beliefs via prisoner records and for offenders in the community. The *Offender Equality Annual Report(1)* provides religious belief breakdown data on prison population, gender, Incentives and Earned Privileges status, those on Mother & Baby units and adjudications charged and proven. Prison population by religious belief is also published in *Offender Management Statistics quarterly (2)*.

HM Courts and Tribunal Service does not currently hold data on religious identity.

(1) [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/760093/hmpps-offender-equalities-2017-18.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760093/hmpps-offender-equalities-2017-18.pdf)

(2) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235324/>

*Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: 2018 Update*, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/747335/tackling-racial-disparity-criminal-justice-system-2018-update-web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747335/tackling-racial-disparity-criminal-justice-system-2018-update-web.pdf)

*The Lammy Review*, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf)

## New Publications

### 10 Point Action Plan to involve Gypsy / Travellers in Planning

<http://tinyurl.com/yxkhe2bh>

### Gypsy/Traveller Sites in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/y2kj5zhw>

### Gypsies and travellers: planning provisions

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07005/SN07005.pdf>

### Ethnic minority employment bulletin: February 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnic-minority-employment-bulletins/ethnic-minority-employment-bulletin-february-2019>

## News

### Black students do far worse at university

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/black-students-do-far-worse-at-university-65rvkjtfo>

### One man Sharia courts 'discriminate against women'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-25/news/one-man-sharia-courts-discriminate-against-women-muslim-jx7hww3c3>

### European Parliament milestone vote for the rights of Black people in Europe

<https://www.enar-eu.org/European-Parliament-milestone-vote-for-the-rights-of-black-people-in-Europe>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Misogyny, Racism, Harassment and Sexism Against Women

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12027&i=108840#ScotParlOR>

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Hate Crime

**S5W-22163 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason its publication, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, does not provide information on the (a) type of hate crime or aggravator disaggregated by local authority, (b) characteristics of people involved in the incident or reporting and (c) number of hate incidents that were reported but did not constitute a criminal offence.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** Statistical and social research publications typically provide a summary of the information available, and as outlined in the report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*', further information may be available on request.

We are able to provide a local authority disaggregation of the information made available in the report on police recorded hate crime by (a) aggravator and (b) type of crime, for 2014-15 to 2017-18. As this information requires 64 tables to produce, a copy has been placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. Number 60542).

The report also outlined that further information on the nature of each hate crime the police deal with is recorded in Police Scotland's Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD). This includes the characteristics of those involved and information on hate incidents that were reported to the police but did not constitute a criminal offence.

Prior to any dissemination of a wider range of data collected within the IVPD (e.g. characteristics of those involved), Police Scotland have been reviewing the process used by officers to enter this information into the database. This is with the aim of ensuring that should more detailed analysis on the nature of hate crime be regularly drawn from the IVPD, users can be assured of its quality.

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to engage with Police Scotland as they take this work forward, and will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network [1] of any new developments regarding the availability of hate crime information.

I have raised this issue directly with the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority and the Chief Constable.

[1] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics

(<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat> )

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22163>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qbru45>

*The local authority disaggregation referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.scojec.org/pad/2019/files/spice\\_bib\\_60542.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/pad/2019/files/spice_bib_60542.pdf)

### Hate Crime

**S5W-22164 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason its report, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, was published after the closing date for its consultation on hate crime legislation.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** Decisions on the timing of statistical and social research publications are a matter for the independent analysts producing these reports. The timetable for the Scottish Government's consultation on hate crime legislation was not a factor in the date chosen for publication of the report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*', which was published shortly after being finalised by analysts.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22164>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qbru45>

### Hate Crime

**S5W-22165 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government, regarding its publication, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, whether it is possible to determine how many of the crimes or offences counted as hate crimes with multiple aggravators had a race aggravation.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** The information requested has been provided in the following table.

**Table: Hate crimes recorded by the police with a race aggravator, 2014-15 to 2017-18**

Aggravator	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Total (Race)</b>	5,178	4,926	4,687	4,765
<b>Race (only)</b>	4,967	4,666	4,435	4,491
<b>Multiple Aggravators of which one is Race</b>	211	260	252	274
<b>Race &amp; Religion</b>	134	153	154	160
<b>Other (including Race)</b>	77	107	98	114

Source: Additional analysis of the extract of data from the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD) used to produce the report 'Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland'

(<https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22165>

### Hate Crime

**S5W-22166 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government, regarding its publication, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, and racist hate crimes, whether it is possible to determine how many crimes or offences were charged under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995.

**Humza Yousaf:** Table 3 (Hate crimes recorded by the police, by type of crime, 2014-15 to 2017-18) in the report 'Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland' shows the number of hate crimes recorded in the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD) under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (Racially aggravated conduct and Racially aggravated harassment). This is not the same as the number of charges reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). This information is published in Table 1a of the Hate Crime in Scotland 2017-18 Official Statistics [1] produced by COPFS (provided in the following table).

It should be noted that a very small number of the charges shown in the following table relate to Sections 18, 19 or 23(1)a of the Public Order Act 1986 (fewer than 10 in any single year). For disclosure reasons these have not been disaggregated, and as such the vast majority of the charges shown below will relate to Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995.

Table: Race crime charges reported under Section 50A of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 or Section 18, 19 or 23(1)a of the Public Order Act 1986

Financial year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Number of charges	2,574	2,792	2,376	2,300	1,969	1,757	1,462	1,370

Source: Hate Crime in Scotland 2017-18, COPFS

[1] <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/publications/equality-and-diversity>

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22166>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qbru45>

## Hate Crime

**S5W-22167 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason its publication, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, does not include protected characteristic information related to victims or perpetrators, as committed to in its publication, *National Statistics on Recorded Crime in Scotland 2017-2018*, and as previously available in the report, *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland*.

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** As outlined in the report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*', further information on the nature of each hate crime the police deal with is recorded in Police Scotland's Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD). For example, this includes the age, gender and ethnicity of those involved, and the perceived motivations of the perpetrator. It should be noted that a person does not need to be a member of a particular social group to be the victim of a hate crime. The law states that the identity of the victim is irrelevant as to whether something is a hate crime or not; the motivation of the perpetrator is the key factor in defining a hate crime. As such, Police Scotland do not generally collect information on whether or not a victim is a member of a particular social group in relation to the protected characteristics (with the exception of their ethnicity). Furthermore, the functionality of the IVPD does not currently allow victims to be distinguished from those reporting a hate crime to the police (where these are two different people). This is similar to the previous *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland* statistics.

Following publication of the *Recorded Crime in Scotland 2017-2018 National Statistics*, and while collaborating on the report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*', Police Scotland fed back that further work was required on the more detailed information recorded in the IVPD on hate crime, prior to its dissemination. Police Scotland have been reviewing the process used by officers to enter this information into the database, with the aim of ensuring that should more detailed analysis on the nature of hate crime be regularly drawn from the IVPD, users can be assured of its quality.

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to engage with Police Scotland as they take this work forward, and will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network [1] of any new developments regarding the availability of hate crime information.

I have raised this issue directly with the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority and the Chief Constable.

[1] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics

(<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22167>

"*Recorded Crime in Scotland*", referred to above, can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yx9yruzs>

## Hate Crime

**S5W-22168 John Finnie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason its publication, *Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*, does not include information on the (a) location of the crime or offence, (b) relevant date, (c) method of reporting the incident and (d) number of previous incidents reported by the victim/complainer, as previously available in the report, *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland*.

**Humza Yousaf:** As outlined in the report '*Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland*', further information on the nature of each hate

crime the police deal with is recorded in Police Scotland's Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD).

Prior to any dissemination of a wider range of data collected within the IVPD, Police Scotland have been reviewing the process used by officers to enter this information into the database. This is with the aim of ensuring that should more detailed analysis on the nature of hate crime be regularly drawn from the IVPD, users can be assured of its quality.

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to engage with Police Scotland as they take this work forward, and will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network [1] of any new developments regarding the availability of hate crime information.

[1] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics

(<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat> )

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22168>

### Hate Crime

**S5W-22190 Daniel Johnson (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason Police Scotland has not published a disaggregation of hate crime incidents since 2013-14, and when it will resume doing so.

**Humza Yousaf:** Police Scotland have never published a regular disaggregation of hate crime incidents. When the Scottish Government last published Official Statistics on Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland [1], we outlined for users our plan to investigate the availability of information on a wider range of hate-related activity – which covered other groups beyond race.

In February 2019, following joint work by Scottish Government statisticians and Police Scotland, the Scottish Government published a progress report on this topic titled 'Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland' [2]. This included summary information on hate crime recorded by the police for each of the four years from 2014-15 to 2017-18, in relation to race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity.

The report also outlined that further information on the nature of each hate crime the police deal with is recorded in Police Scotland's Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD), for example the characteristics of the people involved.

Prior to any dissemination of a wider range of data collected within the IVPD, Police Scotland have been reviewing the process used by officers to enter this information into the database. This is with the aim of ensuring that should more detailed analysis on the nature of hate crime be regularly drawn from the IVPD, users can be assured of its quality.

Scottish Government statisticians will continue to engage with Police Scotland as they take this work forward, and will inform users through the SCOTSTAT network [3] of any new developments regarding the availability of hate crime information.

I have raised this issue directly with the Chair of the Scottish Police Authority and the Chief Constable.

[1] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/racist-incidents-recorded-police-scotland-2013-14/>

[2] <https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>

[3] Network for users and providers of Scottish Official Statistics

(<https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat> )

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22190>



## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Prime Minister's Questions

**Afzal Khan (Labour):** This weekend *The Guardian* reported that 15 Tory councillors who were suspended for Islamophobia or racism had been quietly reinstated. The Conservative party has so far failed to quell fears that it is in denial about Islamophobia. Since I asked the Prime Minister about this issue in June 2018, there has been no concrete action. Will she instruct her party chairman to respond to the three letters that I have sent him on this subject, and when will the Tory party adopt the definition of Islamophobia set out by the all-parliamentary group on British Muslims, as the Labour party, the Lib Dems, Plaid Cymru, the Mayor of London and councils across the country have done? [910070]

**Reply from the Prime Minister:** The Conservative party has a complaints process that deals with complaints of Islamophobia and of any other sort against councillors or other members of the party. It is absolutely clear that discrimination or abuse of any kind is wrong. We take action where there are cases of discrimination or abuse. The hon. Gentleman says that we have not acted since he raised this issue in 2018. We have acted on cases. The party chairman takes very seriously any allegations that are brought before the party and we will continue to do so.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-27/debates/E4CA38A1-A238-4A0E-AB13-F85E09C043ED/Engagements#contribution-120F4ACC-D8B5-4E1E-B773-E10536BCC44C>

### Point of Order

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour):** On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am sure that the whole House will join me in condemning the abhorrent racist abuse directed at England footballers during their match last night. I know that you will agree that we must do everything we can to stamp out this vile behaviour. Can you advise me whether it would be reasonable to expect the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to come to the House and make a statement on what the Government are doing to protect our players abroad and what action they are taking to push for the strongest possible punishments?

**Mr Speaker:** It is certainly perfectly reasonable for the hon. Lady to hope for a statement. Whether the Secretary of State has a plan to do so imminently—in truth, I do not know. It may be intended. There are other ways in which the House can air its concerns on the matter. I share entirely the hon. Lady's view. Any and all racist abuse is to be utterly and unreservedly condemned, and all of us who have public voices—if I may put it that way—should take the opportunity to make it clear that there can be no justification for that behaviour by anyone, anywhere and at any time. A huge amount of work has been done by anti-racist organisations in football and more widely across sport to try to change behaviour and change the attitudes that underlie abhorrent behaviour. It is only a pity to note that, despite some fantastic work—of which the hon. Lady will also be well aware—much still remains to be done.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-26/debates/C523FEA1-5429-41F1-A8BA-1737220E5A2D/PointsOfOrder#contribution-42CEDED0-9FA3-48CA-AB12-8C72F99958FD>

### Business of the House

**Jim Shannon (DUP):** Two weeks ago, 50 innocent people were killed in Christchurch simply for practising their faith. It is clear that the rise of the far right is a growing threat to freedom of religion or belief across the world. Indeed, the Minister for Security and Economic Crime, the right hon. Member for Wyre and Preston North (Mr Wallace), speaking in his role as the security Minister, said that a similar far-right shooting could absolutely happen here in the United Kingdom. After the fact, the New Zealand Prime

Minister, Jacinda Ardern, called for a global fight to root out racist right-wing ideology. I believe that the UK must join that fight. Will the Leader of the House therefore agree to a statement or a debate on this extremely important issue?

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** We were all shocked and appalled at the horrifying attack in New Zealand, and I reiterate that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of New Zealand. The Home Secretary has been very clear that the far right has absolutely no place in Britain. The British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right, which is the antithesis of the values that this country represents: decency, tolerance and respect. Through our CONTEST policy and our counter-extremism strategy, we are dealing with the threat of extreme right-wing terrorism and the wider harms caused by the far right, including seeking to deal with community tensions, hate crime and public order issues. This is of course about keeping our communities safe and secure, and there will be many opportunities to discuss this with Ministers in the coming weeks and months.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-28/debates/1ABC698E-B6D2-4AEA-A439-D757138DEC50/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-A9FE79CE-2128-4ECE-B2C2-262ECB6957F8>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Religious Buildings: Security

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [235759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to help safeguard mosques since the attacks on mosques in Birmingham on 20 March 2019; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Police continue to protect places of worship as part of their core activity particularly in relation to hate crime. Following the events in New Zealand and the attacks on mosques in Birmingham, local police have increased patrolling and security measures around mosques and other places of worship to enhance safety and reassure the public.

Last week, we announced an uplift of funding for the next year of the Places of Worship Protective Security Fund to £1.6 million. This is double the amount awarded last year. Under the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan, we committed £2.4m over three years to provide protective security measures to places of worship who have been victim of or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks, and so far we have awarded grants to just under 50 mosques. The Government has also just announced a new £5 million fund over 3 years to provide security training for Places of Worship. We will be working closely with communities and faith leaders to develop this new scheme and deliver it effectively.

Protective security advice is provided by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). NaCTSO have published sector specific protective security advice and guidance for owners and operators of crowded places sites such as places of worship, to allow them to identify key risks and consider what steps to take. Government continues to work closely with community groups, including Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group and Tell MAMA, as well as through counter extremism coordinators in local authority areas, to provide reassurance to communities and develop understanding of tensions and issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235759/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

The security advice and guidance referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/701910/170614\\_crowded-places-guidance\\_v1a.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701910/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1a.pdf)

### **Religious Buildings: Security**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [236530]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will allocate additional funding for the security and protection of mosques and Muslim faith schools.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Last week, we announced an uplift of funding for the 2019/20 Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to £1.6 million. This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19. Under the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan, we committed £2.4m over three years to provide protective security measures to places of worship which have been subject to or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks, and so far we have awarded grants to just under 50 mosques. The 2019/20 scheme was announced as a fourth year of funding in October 2018.

The Home Office also announced last week a new £5 million fund over 3 years to provide security training for Places of Worship in England and Wales. This will enable staff and volunteers to develop the security understanding necessary to make physical security measures work effectively.

We are already engaging with faith representatives and organisations including the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, Tell Mamma and the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, and will open a consultation shortly to review what more can be and should be done to protect faith communities more widely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-25/236530/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Racial Discrimination**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL14721]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking following comments by the Prime Minister of New Zealand calling for a global response to tackle racism.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** The shocking attack by a terrorist, who targeted Muslims in Christchurch while they were praying, underscores the need for us all to continue our work to tackle hatred head on. As the Prime Minister has said, there can be no place in our societies for the vile ideology that drives and incites hatred and fear. The events in New Zealand must strengthen our resolve on this issue.

On racism, the Government is committed, both domestically and internationally, to eliminating any form of racial discrimination. At home, our focus is on creating a fair society where all people, regardless of ethnic origin or background, are valued and able to participate fully and realise their own potential. Internationally, we believe that one of the most effective ways to tackle injustices and advocate for respect amongst different ethnic groups is to encourage countries to uphold their human rights obligations, including by working with international institutions, such as the United Nations. For example, the UK strongly supports the work of UN special procedure mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and we encourage other States to also support their work. The UK continues to engage on resolutions which consider racism, and work with member states at a ministerial

and official level.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-20/HL14721/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) (2230) Tackling racism in football** – That this house condemns the racist abuse directed at players in the England football team in their Euro 2020 qualification match in Montenegro on 26 March 2019; supports UEFA's quick and decisive action in opening disciplinary proceedings against Montenegro; and agrees with footballer Raheem Sterling that any racist chanting should be collectively punished with stadium bans.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52747/tackling-racism-in-football>

## Press Releases

**Confronting sectarianism**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/confronting-sectarianism/>

**All Society 'Diminished' When People Are Attacked over Their Ethnicity, Beliefs, Secretary-General Says at Event on Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sqsm19513.doc.htm>

**End racist discrimination against Afro-European people in the EU**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190321IPR32133/end-racist-discrimination-against-afro-european-people-in-the-eu>

## New Publications

**Hate Crime Statistics**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/CBP-8537.pdf>

**Counter-Islamophobia Kit**

<https://cik.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2018/09/2018.09.17-Job-44240.01-CIK-Final-Booklet.pdf>

## News

**Groups tackling 'toxic bigotry' of sectarianism to share £530,000**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17538803.groups-tackling-toxic-bigotry-of-sectarianism-to-share-530000/>

**Groups tackling 'toxic bigotry' of sectarianism to share £530,000**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/groups-tackling-toxic-bigotry-of-sectarianism-to-share-530-000-1-4898627>

**Three arrested in Labour anti-Semitism probe**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47734704>

**Police arrest three in Labour antisemitism case**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/28/police-arrest-three-in-labour-antisemitism-case>

**Three arrested in Labour Party antisemitism investigation**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/three-arrested-in-labour-party-antisemitism-investigation-sw2x7c8fv>

**Former Tom Watson adviser accuses Labour of racial discrimination**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/26/former-tom-watson-adviser-accuses-labour-of-racial-discrimination>

**Corbyn aide Laura Murray halted ban on 'anti-semite' Patricia Sheerin**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/corbyn-aide-laura-murray-halted-ban-on-anti-semite-patricia-sheerin-6qmg9z87v>

**Labour expels Jackie Walker for leaked antisemitism comments**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/27/labour-expels-jackie-walker-for-leaked-antisemitism-comments>

**Tory Islamophobia row: 15 suspended councillors quietly reinstated**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/24/tory-islamophobia-row-15-suspended-councillors-quietly-reinstated>

**MSPs raise concerns over social media abuse**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47638446>

**Andrew Bowles: Row as Tory council leader's suspension is lifted**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47699841>

**George Galloway radio show breaches Ofcom rules**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47697817>

**Is Police Scotland 'institutionally sectarian', asks SNP councillor**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/is-police-scotland-institutionally-sectarian-asks-snp-councillor-1-4897137>

**Confronting racism is not about the needs and feelings of white people**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/28/confronting-racism-is-not-about-the-needs-and-feelings-of-white-people>

**Islamophobia to be tackled by new project in Scotland**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17527110.islamophobia-to-be-tackled-by-new-project-in-scotland/>

**After Christchurch: battling Islamophobia in Scotland**

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/after-christchurch-battling-islamophobia-in-scotland>

**Islamophobia has 'seeped into the public consciousness' as British Far-Right movement grows, polling shows**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/25/islamophobia-has-seeped-public-consciousness-british-far-right/>

**Christchurch mosque shootings: Attack 'could have happened in UK'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-47687171>

**Newcastle Bahr Academy: Second vandal attack on Islamic school**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-47720238>

**Police Arrest Six Teenagers After Newcastle Mosque Attack Where Qurans Were Ripped Up**

<https://tellmamauk.org/police-arrest-six-teenagers-after-newcastle-mosque-attack-where-qurans-were-ripped-up/>

**Hard-hitting film on Islamophobic attacks 'promotes fear'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/mar/30/islamophobic-attacks-film-promotes-fear-the-martyrs>

**Boy cautioned over Huddersfield school refugee attack video**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-47740767>

**Syrian refugee 'attack': 16-year-old boy given police caution over incident at Huddersfield school**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/syrian-refugee-attack-huddersfield-almondbury-school-jamal-caution-police-latest-a8844436.html>

**National Action trial: Accused 'posted about lesser races online'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-47710419>

**Suspect 'had special copy of Mein Kampf'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/suspect-had-special-copy-of-mein-kampf-twhqg5q2g>

**Football told to root out 'vile cancer' of sectarianism**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47750125>

**NI fans condemned for sectarian song**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47699713>

**Should football clubs be shown the red card for sectarianism?**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/insight-should-football-clubs-be-shown-the-red-card-for-sectarianism-1-4894686>

**Racist abuse will only continue while Uefa and referees leave it to players to make a stand**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/03/27/racist-abuse-will-continue-uefa-referees-leave-players-make/>

**Stadium bans, fines, banners: How Uefa has dealt with racism over the last decade**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/03/26/stadium-bans-fines-banners-uefa-has-dealt-racism-last-decade/>

**BBC accused of normalising 'white supremacist language' by European Parliament MPs after Tory 'Grand Wizards' coverage**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bbc-grand-wizards-tory-white-supremacist-kkk-mep-complaint-a8843221.html>

**Facebook to ban white nationalism and separatism**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-47728471>

**Facebook bans white nationalism posts**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/facebook-bans-white-nationalism-posts-scmm63spp>

**Facebook accused of fueling anti-semitism after refusing to take down hate posts**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/31/facebook-accused-fueling-anti-semitism-refusing-take-hate-posts/>

**Twitter allowed Christchurch trolling after shooting**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/twitter-allowed-christchurch-trolling-after-shooting-n2v7zdgsb>

**Google profits from users' antisemitic comments on YouTube**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-29/news/google-profits-from-users-antisemitic-comments-on-youtube-szdvclcsq>

**Islamic bigotry has been fuelled by the left**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/islamic-bigotry-has-been-fuelled-by-the-left-fqtvhq9p>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Slave Trade**

**S5W-22254 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the report, *Slavery, Abolition and the University of Glasgow*, by the university, how it will encourage other Scottish public institutions to undertake studies on Scotland's role in the slave trade.

**S5W-22257 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the findings of the report, *Slavery, Abolition, and the University of Glasgow*, by the university, which acknowledges the ways in which it has benefited financially from slavery and estimates the present-day value of all monies given to it, which were fully or partly derived from slavery.

**S5W-22258 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider undertaking a study, similar to that undertaken by the University of Glasgow in its report, *Slavery Abolition and the University of Glasgow*, to understand how Scotland benefited financially from involvement in the slave trade.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** In December 2017 we published the [Race Equality Action Plan](#) outlining more than 120 actions we will take over the course of this Parliament to secure better outcomes for minority ethnic communities in Scotland. One of the commitments made is to mark the International Decade for People of African Descent over 2018-2019 with an innovative programme of events. We have noted the publication of the report by Glasgow University, "Slavery, Abolition and the University of Glasgow", and the interesting approach it takes to quantifying and addressing the historic implications of slavery for the institution. While we have no plans to directly replicate this for the whole of Scotland, we will

consider how the report, and the approach it sets out, can inform our plans for the International Decade as we take these forward.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22254>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22257>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22258>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_607547\\_en.pdf](https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_607547_en.pdf)

### **Slave Trade: Education**

**S5W-22255 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-21243 by Christina McKelvie on 24 January 2019, how it supports local authorities and schools to incorporate the study of Scotland's role in the transatlantic slave trade into school history curricula.

**Reply from John Swinney:** As set out in the answer to S5W-21243, it is up to teachers and schools to determine what is taught in classrooms. Curriculum for Excellence provides opportunities for young people to learn about current and past attitudes and values and historical events and their impact on society today. This can include learning about Scotland's role in the transatlantic slave trade. Learning about the transatlantic slave trade is an option in both the National 5 and Higher History national qualification courses. Education Scotland has published resources for teachers on slavery and human trafficking. These includes resources to support teaching and learning about the transatlantic slave trade in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with an emphasis on the Scottish perspective and impact.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22255>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21243>

### **Slave Trade: Education**

**S5W-22256 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government whether education about Scotland's role in the slave trade is part of initial teacher training or continuing professional development for history teachers.

**Reply from John Swinney:** Initial teacher education (ITE) programmes in Scotland are offered at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. For undergraduates aspiring to become history teachers, the University of Stirling offers a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) degree programme. This allows students to study the practice of teaching (pedagogy) and two specialist subjects simultaneously. History is included in the suite of subjects offered and Scotland's role in the slave trade is covered within the course content.

The universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde offer ITE programmes at postgraduate level for history graduates. These focus on developing theoretical and practical knowledge in how to teach rather than subject knowledge, given the degree level requirement that is set for entry to these programmes.

In relation to the professional development of history teachers, I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-22255 on 27 March 2019. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search



facility for which can be found at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx> ”.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22256>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22256>

## Scottish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee

**Evidence session: “A Volunteer Charter: 10 Principles for assuring legitimacy and preventing exploitation of workers and volunteers”**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12014&i=108716#ScotParlOR>

*The Charter referred to above can be read at*

[https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1475885/volunteer\\_charter\\_-\\_10\\_principles.pdf](https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1475885/volunteer_charter_-_10_principles.pdf)

## Press Releases

**Crime falls by more than 40% in a decade**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/crime-falls-by-more-than-40-percent-in-a-decade/>

**Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017-18**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-crime-and-justice-survey-2017-18/>

## New Publication

**Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017/18: Main Findings**

<https://tinyurl.com/yxu8l769>

## News

**MSPs spend thousands on security as abuse escalates**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-25/scotland/msps-spend-thousands-on-security-as-abuse-escalates-nnq60rt0j>

**Ross Thomson accused of 'shocking misjudgment' over meeting with far-right party**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17535255.ross-thomson-accused-of-shocking-misjudgment-over-meeting-with-far-right-party/>

**Law change risks organ donations 'scandal'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/law-change-risks-organ-donations-scandal-d86qz0cw5>

**Cross-party Holyrood call to back assisted dying**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/cross-party-holyrood-call-to-back-assisted-dying-mb3gigp2p>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

#### **Meat: Ritual Slaughter and Religious Freedom**

**Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat):** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of developments including the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 26 February *Œuvre d'assistance aux bêtes d'abattoirs v Ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation*(C-497/17) that meat prepared according to the rules of religious slaughter cannot be classed as organic, what plans they have to encourage a wider debate about the space for practice in accordance with religious rights that respects human rights and equalities laws.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth):** My Lords, the Government note the judgment that EU law does not authorise the placing of the EU organic production logo on products derived from animals that have been slaughtered in accordance with religious rites without first being stunned. The ruling will apply in the UK but, in any event, since January all UK organic control bodies ceased to certify meat from non-stunned animals as organic.

**Baroness Ludford:** I thank the Minister for that Answer. This ECJ judgment effectively means that those in the Jewish and Muslim communities who wish to purchase kosher or halal meat legally slaughtered without pre-stunning will be unable to buy products with the organic label. I am secular, but I think it is important that religious communities have the right to practise their religion, not just the right to religious belief, as long as human rights and equalities laws are respected. We are seeing not only attacks on places of worship but on matters of dress, male circumcision and time off for religious observance as well as animal slaughter. Room for religious practice is being squeezed. How will the Government promote an honest, open debate in our society about where this is going and where a reasonable settlement lies?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The first point I make to the noble Baroness, which I made in my Answer, is that prior to the judgment it was already not possible to buy organic halal or kosher meat from un-stunned animals. That was the practice from January. On her general point about religious freedoms, in this country we have some of the best protections in the world with the Equality Act and the convention on human rights. It is something of which we can be justly proud.

**Lord Forsyth of Drumlean (Conservative):** My Lords, I draw the noble Baroness's attention to yesterday's *Hansard*, where the noble Lord, Lord Hannay, is reported as saying that, "if the Prime Minister's deal goes through ... rulings of the European Court of Justice will be directly applicable in this country ... So we had better get used to it".— [Official Report, 27/3/19; col. 1854.]

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, my noble friend has already drawn the noble Baroness's attention to that point. As I have said, this was the pre-existing practice in this country anyway, and there is no proposal to change the law in this regard.

**Lord Trees (Crossbench):** My Lords, in the UK a substantial amount of meat and meat products from animals killed without stunning and meant for the consumption of certain religious groups finds its way into the general food chain. What are the Government doing to prevent that or to ensure that there is adequate labelling of meat and meat products so that consumers can make an informed choice about what to eat?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has indicated that it will look at labelling in the

round to ensure that we take account of consumer demand. Therefore, that is something that we can ensure. It has been perfectly legal to sell kosher and halal meat since the 1930s and that position remains unchanged. The only change is that since January this year—this is not to do with the judgment—it has not been possible for it to be classified in this country as organic.

**Lord Polak (Conservative):** My Lords, I would like to register an interest in that I eat only kosher meat. I understood that labelling meat as organic is about how the animal is reared or fed, not about how it is killed. However, does the Minister agree that mechanical stunning methods are not fool-proof? Why does he think that campaigners often concentrate on shechita, for example? According to Defra, mis-stunning, which can cause an animal distress, affects about 1% of the total poultry slaughtered per annum—9.5 million—when the total number of poultry for the kosher market is just 1 million a year.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, I note what my noble friend says and he is absolutely right: the number of mis-stunning incidents in abattoirs is very low, and that has been the case over a period of time. As I said, there is a delicate balance to be struck here between what might be desirable from an animal sentience point of view and what is desirable from a religious rights point of view. It is a very delicate balance but I think that we have it right in this country. Certainly, my department has had very few representations on this issue; I do not think that it is a major issue with the public.

**The Lord Bishop of Worcester:** My Lords, the noble Baroness's Question is about much more than meat. It was Lord Acton who wrote that religious freedoms are the foundation of political freedoms. Is it not true that the debate for which the noble Baroness is calling is very relevant, despite the record to which the Minister has drawn attention and of which we can be proud? Religious groups are feeling caught between the views of the majority in all sorts of situations and their own religious observance and conviction.

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the right reverend Prelate makes a relevant point about the general issue and about having a debate. A debate may well be something that we should have, although I find it difficult to have it on a question of this nature. I draw the right reverend Prelate's attention to the report of the Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2015—some three years ago—which indicated a general satisfaction with the balance that we have at the moment. However, I accept that there are issues to be addressed and I personally would welcome such a debate.

**Lord Palmer of Childs Hill (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the organic farming of animals has nothing to do with religious slaughter. I take on board what the Minister has said but, when he goes round mosques and synagogues, how will he explain to the worshippers that this Government and this country have agreed with European legislation that is both illogical and unfair?

**Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** My Lords, the noble Lord knows that I have the utmost respect for him, but I have already made the point that this judgment does not alter practice in this country; that was altered in January when the last organic body indicated that it would not certify as organic products that were not pre-stunned. I have to say to the noble Lord that I have been to hundreds of synagogues and mosques over the last three years and this has not been raised once.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-28/debates/BA865B8E-E080-45A3-8366-8C5C5DE02012/MeatRitualSlaughterAndReligiousFreedom>

*The European Court of Justice ruling referred to above can be read at*

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=6B91D3B9C53647F7671A7F1E4EBB2191?text=&docid=211049&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=6555121>

Lord Hannay's comment, referred to above, can be read at [https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2019-03-27/debates/9DBCE6DB-DFC2-4ED9-9229-78C64C2B9196/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Act2018\(ExitDay\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2019#contribution-9F5017AD-CB85-47FD-AA85-786AFEE33A39](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2019-03-27/debates/9DBCE6DB-DFC2-4ED9-9229-78C64C2B9196/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Act2018(ExitDay)(Amendment)Regulations2019#contribution-9F5017AD-CB85-47FD-AA85-786AFEE33A39)

The EHRC report referred to above can be read at <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-97-review-of-equality-and-human-rights-law-relating-to-religion-or-belief.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Prosecutions

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL14396] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many prosecutions there have been for (1) coercive and controlling behaviour, (2) stalking, (3) forced marriage, (4) female genital mutilation, and (5) revenge pornography since 2015.

**Reply from Lord Keen of Elie:** The number of prosecutions in England and Wales for (1) 'Engaging in coercive/ controlling behaviour in an intimate/ family relationship', (2) stalking, (3) forced marriage, (4) female genital mutilation, and (5) 'Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress' (revenge pornography) since 2015 can be found in the attached table.

Data for 2018 will be published in May 2019.

**Table: Number of prosecutions for offences in England and Wales, year ending December 2015 to year ending December 2017<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2015	2016	2017
Engaging in coercive/ controlling behaviour in an intimate/ family relationship <sup>(2)</sup>	-	155	468
Stalking	1084	870	1206
Forced marriage	4	11	9
Female genital mutilation	-	1	-
Disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress	82	267	294
PQ HL14396			
Source: MoJ Court Proceedings database			

Notes:

(1) The figures presented relate to defendants for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe  
(2) Engaging in coercive/ controlling behaviour in an intimate/ family relationship was made a specific offence in the Crime Act 2015. New offences take time to feed into the courts, explaining why prosecution data begins in 2016

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14396/>

### Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

**Lord Morris of Aberavon (Labour)** [HL14468] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 7 March (HL Deb, col 711), whether they will ask the Attorney General to invite the views of inspectorates of the police and the Crown Prosecution Service on the problems of prosecuting cases of FGM.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice which can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls. We strengthened the law in 2015, including through the introduction of Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs), which are often issued with the purpose of preventing FGM from happening. 296 FGMPOs were issued between October 2015 and September 2018. The Government works closely with the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to ensure a robust and effective response to FGM.

Cases of FGM involving very young and vulnerable victims are among the most complex referred to the CPS. The CPS has appointed lead FGM prosecutors, and local investigation and prosecution protocols between the police and CPS are in place to ensure that robust cases for prosecution are built. A joint police and CPS focus group for so-called honour-based abuse (HBA), forced marriage and FGM is pushing for continuous improvement in the handling of HBA cases and an increased level of support for complainants and witnesses.

There are a number of specific issues with the prosecution of these crimes. They can involve victims being hurt and coerced by members of their own families and communities, making it difficult for them to feel confident to report the crime. Additionally, in many instances when cases are referred to the CPS, it does not have jurisdiction to prosecute, if the procedure was carried out overseas before the victim moved to the UK. Further, medical evidence alone cannot prove all the elements of the offence.

In 2015 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary published a report – "The depths of dishonour – Hidden voices and shameful crimes" into the police response to so-called honour-based violence, forced marriage and FGM. This made 14 recommendations for improvement. Progress against those recommendations is monitored by the Home Office, including at a meeting on 27 February 2019 of the National Oversight Group for Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, chaired by the Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability.

The Government is working with communities and stakeholders to emphasise the adverse health consequences of FGM and the fact that it is illegal, including through a recent awareness-raising campaign and through ongoing outreach work by the Home Office's FGM Unit.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-12/HL14468/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-07/debates/358265FF-ACC4-4309-96E8-8E2C984D7B7B/FemaleGenitalMutilation>

## Press Release

**Brokenshire gives £375,000 for councils to raise awareness of FGM**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/brokenshire-gives-375000-for-councils-to-raise-awareness-of-fgm>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

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

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

### **\*\* Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill**

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

Supplementary Financial Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20\(Criminal%20Evidence\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill34AFMS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20(Criminal%20Evidence)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill34AFMS052019.pdf)

## **UK Parliament**

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2)**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontoworkno2.html>

### **Border Control Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/bordercontrol.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 and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

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

Joint Committee on Human Rights report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/569/569.pdf>

### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

## **Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill**

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

**\*\* closes this week!**

**Scottish charity law** (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

**\*\* closes this week!**

**Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

(closing date 4 April 2019)

[www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108\\_Gil\\_Paterson\\_Consultation\\_document.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf)

**\*\* closes this week!**

**Defamation in Scots law** (closing date 5 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7dv8tu>

**The Law of Succession** (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act** (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/111249.aspx>

**Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

## 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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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Scottish Parliament Family Day**

6 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

13 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Parliament free drop-in science activity days in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. For information see <https://www.visitparliament.scot/family-days/>

### **Interfaith Youth Conference: What is Justice**

13 April 2019 in St Andrews (11.00-4.00)

St Andrews Coexistence Initiative conference with Interfaith Scotland conference. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4lmggyw>

### **Inclusion Cultivation**

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

### **BAME Disabled People Peer Group**

17 April 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-3.30)

Glasgow Disability Alliance peer group for people from minority ethnic communities who are disabled or living with a long term condition. For information see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1xnCROW0AEavwf.jpg> or contact 0141 556 7103 / text: 07958 299 496 / [info@gdaonline.co.uk](mailto:info@gdaonline.co.uk)

### **Working with Interpreters**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Working with unaccompanied refugee children**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Age assessment awareness**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **\*\* Meet the Charity Regulator**

14 May 2019 in Srathpeffer (9.30-12.15)

29 May 2019 in Aberdeen (1.15-4.00)

25 June 2019 in Troon (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2019 in Dunfermline (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.15-4.00)

1 October 2019 in Fort William (9.30-12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and board and ask questions. For information see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator-2019/>

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

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](mailto: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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training) or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

## **Refugee rights to housing**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

## **Engaging with seldom heard voices**

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](mailto: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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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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