



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

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

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**The UK Parliament is in recess until 4 June 2019.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### **Brexit (Immigration Discussions)**

**Stewart Stevenson (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the impact that Brexit could have on immigration to Scotland. (S5O-03258)

**The Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development (Ben Macpherson):** I have met the United Kingdom Minister of State for Immigration, Caroline Nokes, twice to discuss the profoundly positive impact that migration has on Scotland's economy and society, and there have been several other meetings between Scottish Government ministers and UK ministers to emphasise that,

including between the First Minister and the Prime Minister.

Migration is crucial to Scotland's future prosperity, and any reduction would damage our labour market, economic growth, demographic profile and local communities. The independent report from the expert advisory group on migration and population, which was published in February, states that the UK Government's immigration proposals could lead to a reduction of between 30 per cent and 50 per cent in net migration to Scotland over the next two decades, which would lead to a decline in our working-age population of up to 5 per cent.

Therefore, in all relevant meetings and correspondence, the Scottish Government has emphasised—and will keep on emphasising—the deep concerns that exist across Scotland about the proposals in the UK Government's white paper on immigration after Brexit.

**Stewart Stevenson:** I do not often join with the Confederation of British Industry, but I do so in criticism of the plans for the immigration system in Scotland. Particularly in respect of people coming to Scotland to work and to contribute economically—in fishing in my constituency, in farming elsewhere, and throughout our economy—is not it important that we have devolved powers so that we can fine tune immigration to meet our specific needs?

**Reply from Ben Macpherson:** Yes. As Stewart Stevenson, the CBI and other business organisations have emphasised, the UK Government's proposals in its white paper on immigration would be catastrophic for Scotland. They would send our working-age population into decline and would have a significantly negative effect on many sectors, including those that have been mentioned by Stewart Stevenson, as well as social care, tourism, construction, financial services and several others.

In opposing many of the proposals in the UK Government's white paper on immigration, and considering Scotland's distinct demographic challenges, we recognise that there is growing support for the Scottish Parliament to obtain additional powers as part of a UK framework, in order to tailor migration policy to meet Scotland's needs, so that Scotland remains attractive to migrants and so that we can deliver new solutions.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12115&i=109572#ScotParlOR>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/yxk7ryvj>

*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)

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Immigration Policy

**S50-03271 Gordon MacDonald (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the UK Government's immigration policy is having on the Edinburgh festivals.

**Reply from Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government has longstanding concerns around how readily artists and performers can come to Scotland for the Edinburgh Festivals, and the problems that delays visa processes and indeed refusals that are overturned on appeals and after a late stage can cause festival organisers of all sizes. The internationalism of the Edinburgh Festivals programme is at the heart of the city's continuing appeal as the world's leading festival city and we intend to continue to spread the message that we remain open. For artists and wider cultural exchange.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-03271>

### **Asylum Support**

**S5W-23003 Linda Fabiani (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-00979 by Angela Constance on 3 August 2016, whether it will provide an update regarding what progress it has made with the UK Government in relation to the recommendations in the Smith Agreement concerning devolving the operation of asylum support.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** Further to 3 August 2016, Scottish Government and Home Office officials held further discussions on the Smith Commission's proposals on asylum up to July 2017. Unfortunately no further progress has been made on devolving the operation of asylum support. The Scottish Government and Home Office remain in regular contact on a range of asylum issues.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23003>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-00979>

### **Asylum: Age Dispute Cases**

**S5W-23004 Linda Fabiani (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how many times in the last 12 months personnel from South Lanarkshire Council have been involved with age dispute cases involving asylum seekers held at the Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** This is a matter for South Lanarkshire Council. The Scottish Government does not routinely collect this information.

The Scottish Government is seeking clarity from the Home Office regarding the detention of children in Dungavel.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23004>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Young Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers**

**S5W-23009 Anas Sarwar (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what statutory support it offers to young unaccompanied asylum seekers who have been dispersed to Scotland and who are challenging an age assessment on them that has been carried out in another part of the UK.

**S5W-23011 Anas Sarwar (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what procedures local authorities follow to support young unaccompanied asylum seekers who have been dispersed to Scotland and who are challenging an age assessment on them that had been carried out in another part of the UK, and whether this includes the councils considering carrying out their own age assessment.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** Where a child arrives in Scotland unaccompanied and separated from their family, they are safeguarded under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 which affords them Looked After Children status and they have access to further services under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. Support and care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Scotland is provided by local authorities.

There are four routes for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people to be resettled in Scotland:

1. Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS);

2. Dublin III regulations;
3. The Dubs Amendment (s67 Immigration Act 2016); and
4. National Transfer Scheme (s69 Immigration Act 2016).

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people who are resettled in Scotland through any of the above schemes will already have completed an age assessment, including any dispute settlement procedures, and been assessed as being under the age of 18.

Scotland also receives a number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children through 'spontaneous' arrivals, and in these cases an age assessment may be required to ensure the right level of support is provided to the young person and they are given appropriate accommodation.

The Scottish Government's revised Age Assessment Practice guidance, which was published in March 2018, states that in circumstances in Scotland where the age of a young person or child is uncertain, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are a child (under 18 years of age), local authorities should presume that they are under the age of 18. Similarly, in cases, where a young person states they are under 18, they should be given the benefit of the doubt and should remain in the care of social services, until their age is formally established.

Asylum seeking young people whose age is being disputed are still entitled to care and support under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. If the young person does not agree with the outcome of an age assessment they can appeal with the help of a solicitor.

The process for carrying out age assessments sits within a wider policy framework relating to children and young people in each local authority, including child protection, looked after children and data protection considerations.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are also eligible for a guardian through the Scottish Guardianship Service, which is funded by the Scottish Government, and delivered by the Scottish Refugee Council and Aberlour Trust. A Guardian will support a child or young person to be actively involved in decisions that affect their lives, including possible age assessment disputes, and will also help them to plan for their future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23009>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23011>

#### **Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre**

**S5W-23005 Linda Fabiani (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how many times in the last 12 months personnel from South Lanarkshire Council have been involved with (a) asylum seekers and (b) the children of asylum seekers held at the Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** In the last 12 months, personnel from South Lanarkshire Council have not been involved with any asylum seekers or children of asylum seekers held at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23005>

#### **Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre**

**S5W-23006 Linda Fabiani (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how many times in the last 12 months personnel from Police Scotland have been involved with asylum seekers held at the Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre.

**Reply from Ash Denham:** This is a matter for Police Scotland. The Scottish

Government does not hold this information centrally.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-23006>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Whitsun Adjournment Debate

*The Adjournment Debate is an opportunity for MPs to speak about, and therefore raise awareness of, any issue they choose*

col 890 **Jessica Morden (Labour):** ... The Government announced the EU settlement scheme in June last year to regularise the immigration status of EU nationals and their family members who are lawfully living in the UK according to their free movement rights. That scheme has been opened fully since March this year. A number of constituents and community groups have raised problems with the scheme, with many being put off from applying so far. I do not think that that has shown up in the Government's reports on the testing they have undertaken so far, but a lot of people are slightly wary of the process. The first issue is the language barrier. Although some people may have exceptional spoken English, not all of them will be confident in reading and their written English. This is leading to a misinterpretation of some parts of the process, which seems, as it is described to me, to be quite complicated. People are therefore providing the wrong information. Those who are less confident are not likely to have rushed to complete the process so far, and there is a worry that older people, or those who are more vulnerable and with more complex circumstances, might be very reluctant at this point and may need help.

Representatives from the Polish community association in Newport tell me that only a very small percentage of the residents they support have attempted to fill out the application as their understanding is that if they make a mistake, their future in the country may be in jeopardy. Some have informed me that a number of people have paid £40 or more for someone to do the application for them, and a representative from the Polish community told me that one of their major concerns is the lack of friendly and trustworthy information in Polish. This needs to be addressed.

I have also heard concerns in Newport that people who have been here for more than five years are being granted pre-settled status due to errors in the automatic checks, or issues linked to people being unable to provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Home Office to prove their five years or more of residence. Those people are finding the document-gathering quite difficult as what they need to provide is not clear. This could mean that people may need to apply again in the future and end up having different rights, even when they have lived here for five years or more.

Another issue is that people still do not know about the settlement scheme. Some people in my communities worry about this, and local authorities are concerned as well. The Home Office talks about widely communicating information, but clearly much more needs to be done. The Home Office needs to keep in mind those who are more isolated and vulnerable, and to do more to reach out to people in this group so that they are aware that they need to apply and of what steps they need to take.

There are volunteers out there helping—particularly volunteers from the 3million in my area—but local advice and digital assistance for those who need it must be put in place as soon as possible. The applications are almost entirely digital, which can present barriers to those without digital skills. Community associations have provided me with a number of examples of applicants being unable to upload documents and being removed from the system at various stages due to technical difficulties. The system does not appear to be easy to navigate. I understand that an announcement was made yesterday on grants for



organisations that can provide help, but they will need time to prepare and the services might not be available until the summer. Also, the announcement did not include smaller community groups, and it would be really helpful if the Minister would ask the Government whether a separate announcement could be made on this.

One piece of feedback that I would urge the Home Office to take notice of is that the first three stages of the application are in English, whereas the remaining stages are available in EU languages. If all the stages were available in EU languages for those who want them, that would go some way towards removing these barriers. I hope that it will be possible to get more information from the Home Office about that. The Government clearly have confidence in how the scheme is running so far, but they need to be aware of the fear and uncertainty among those who were not first off the line to try the application, and among those who have tried it and struggled. Please can these comments be passed on to the Home Office so that we can improve the system and help those who are struggling? ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-23/debates/C997660F-B2EE-4DE5-8DC0-2AEE3A7F704F/WhitsunAdjournment#contribution-678E2B32-4C8B-49A4-B38A-87C6A4318007>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Visas: EU Countries

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [254211] To ask the Department for Exiting the European Union, by which date he plans to have completed negotiations with EU27 countries on the reciprocal mobility agreements for workers in the creative industries that require short-term visas.

**Reply from Robin Walker:** The Government understands the importance of mobility to the creative industries. That is why we have proposed reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU that support businesses to provide services and move their talented people. We also want to discuss how to facilitate the temporary mobility of self-employed professionals and employees providing services.

The Political Declaration agreed between the UK and the EU negotiating parties specifically acknowledges the importance of mobility for cultural cooperation. The detail of our reciprocal mobility arrangements will be discussed in the next phase of negotiations. In line with procedure under Article 50, these negotiations will not commence until after the UK leaves the EU and we will aim to have arrangements in place at the end of the Implementation Period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254211/>

*The Political Declaration referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/759021/25\\_November\\_Political\\_Declaration\\_setting\\_out\\_the\\_framework\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_relationship\\_between\\_the\\_European\\_Union\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759021/25_November_Political_Declaration_setting_out_the_framework_for_the_future_relationship_between_the_European_Union_and_the_United_Kingdom_.pdf)

### Visas: Arts

**Daniel Zeichner (Labour)** [254210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with which EU countries he has (a) started and (b) completed negotiations on reciprocal mobility agreements for workers in the creative industries who require short-term visas.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The White Paper on the UK's future relationship with the EU stated that we want to agree reciprocal mobility arrangements with the EU that support businesses to provide services and move their talented people and discuss how to facilitate the temporary mobility of self-employed professionals and

employees providing services.

Our proposals for future mobility arrangements with the EU are reflected in the Political Declaration on the future relationship, which sets out that the Government wants to continue to enable cooperation in the cultural sector. The details for future mobility arrangements between the United Kingdom and the EU will be discussed in the next phase of negotiations. These negotiations will not commence until after the United Kingdom leaves the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254210/>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/786626/The\\_Future\\_Relationship\\_between\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_and\\_the\\_European\\_Union\\_120319.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786626/The_Future_Relationship_between_the_United_Kingdom_and_the_European_Union_120319.pdf)

*The Political Declaration referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/759021/25\\_November\\_Political\\_Declaration\\_setting\\_out\\_the\\_framework\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_relationship\\_between\\_the\\_European\\_Union\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759021/25_November_Political_Declaration_setting_out_the_framework_for_the_future_relationship_between_the_European_Union_and_the_United_Kingdom_.pdf)

### **Visas: Overseas Students**

**Paul Farrelly (Labour)** [255294] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Tier 4 visa applications are treated equitably in respect of (a) country of application and (b) intended place of study.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Tier 4 visa applications are assessed in accordance with the Immigration Rules. Applicants are treated equitably and must meet the same requirements to qualify for leave under a given Tier 4 route and type of sponsor. Nationals of countries listed in Appendix H are subject to reduced documentary requirements although they must meet the same substantive requirements as other nationals. This list is kept under review and we may add or remove countries and competent authorities based on objective criteria. Applicants intending to study at Tier 4 Visa Pilot Scheme institutions are also subject to reduced documentary requirements.

We will keep the visa application process for international students under review, with the aim of improving the customer journey both for students and their sponsoring institutions. This will include reviewing processes for conducting interviews to ensure that these are appropriately focussed and to minimise any inconvenience for applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255294/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: Applications**

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour)** [255366] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was in days for decisions to be made on Indefinite Leave to Remain applications in the UK in each of the last five years.

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour)** [255369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Indefinite Leave to Remain applications made in each of the last five years in the UK took longer than (a) six months, (b) one year, and (c) two years for a decision to be made.

### **Immigration: Barnsley**

**Stephanie Peacock (Labour)** [255367] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was in days for decisions to be made on Indefinite Leave to Remain applications in Barnsley in each of the last five years.

### **Immigration: South Yorkshire**

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [255368] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken was in days for decisions to be made on Indefinite Leave to Remain applications in South Yorkshire in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We do not publish this specific data for all applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), however the vast majority of such cases are dealt with within the service standard of six months (which applies to straightforward applications, where the customer has met all their obligations). Where an application is defined as non-straightforward, due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next. The published statistics on leave to remain applications that have been processed within service standard can be found in the migration transparency data release <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2019> at: InC\_02: Percentage of In-Country visa applications, for each Route, processed within Service Standards

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255366/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255369/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255367/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255368/>

### **Seasonal Workers: EEA Nationals**

Jim Shannon (DUP) [255331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that EEA nationals are able to carry out seasonal work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

**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 employ seasonal workers. Our proposals in the immigration White Paper, the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System, include a temporary short-term workers route which will be open to people at any level, including seasonal workers.

As the Government has been clear, we are launching a twelve month engagement process in order to listen to businesses and organisations. As part of this, there has already been engagement with employers a broad range of sectors. We will consider the feedback from this process before making final decisions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255331/>

### **Overseas Students: EU Nationals**

Catherine West (Labour) [257033] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans he has to support the attendance of EU students at UK universities after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Chris Skidmore:** EU students and staff make an important contribution to our universities and it is testament to our system that so many students from abroad choose to come and study here.

I know that students, staff and providers are concerned about what EU exit means



for study and collaboration opportunities. To help give certainty, in July 2018, we announced guarantees on student finance for EU nationals. These guarantees are not altered if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

EU nationals who start a course in England in the 2019/20 academic year or before will continue to be eligible for 'home fee' status and student finance support from Student Finance England for the duration of their course, provided they meet the residency requirement. We recognise how important it is that students and institutions have information on eligibility for student support before applications for courses open.

Applications for courses starting in academic year 2020/21 do not open until September 2019. We will provide sufficient notice for prospective EU students on fee arrangements ahead of the 2020/2021 academic year and subsequent years in the future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-21/257033/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to publish service standards for the applications for the EU Settlement Scheme comparable to those published for the (a) UK Visas & Immigration and (b) Passport Office.

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the processing time standards for applications for the EU Settlement Scheme that (a) are straightforward, (b) require additional information and (c) require the applicant to post passports to his Department.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We have committed to publishing quarterly statistical reports on the EU Settlement Scheme as a whole, alongside our Immigration Statistics from August 2019. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content and will be taking into account the views of statistics users.

The Home Office publishes estimated processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>, giving applicants a guide to the current level of service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252830/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252831/>

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

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

### **Immigrants: EU Nationals**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254812] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 December 2018 to Question 196233 and with reference to page 14 of the Memorandum of Understanding between HMRC and the Home Office on the EU Settlement Scheme, what is defined as a genuine business need to access data.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** A genuine business need means only staff at the Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs who require access to the data to carry out their duties will be granted access.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254812/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252821] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration Status: EU Nationals, what role he plans for the EU Immigration Users' Representative Group on deciding which statistics will be published.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** It is absolutely our intention to continue to engage regularly with our stakeholder user groups, including the EU Immigration Users' Representative Group on matters of EU Settlement Scheme. These groups are vital to help us develop and implement a sound engagement activity that reaches out to all eligible EU citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252821/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246930/>

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

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

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration Status: EU Nationals, whether the quarterly statistics published on the EU Settlement Scheme will include the number of applicants granted Pre-Settled Status in each category for approval of that status.

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration Status: EU Nationals, whether the quarterly statistics published on the EU Settlement Scheme will include the number of applicants initially granted Pre-Settled Status that are converted to Settled Status.

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration Status: EU Nationals, whether the quarterly statistics published on the EU Settlement Scheme will include data on the demographic characteristics of applicants.

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration Status: EU Nationals, whether the quarterly statistics published on the EU Settlement Scheme will include data on the number of applications by (a) region and (b) nation of the UK.

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252829] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 29 April 2019 to Question 246930 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether the quarterly statistics published on the EU Settlement Scheme will include the number of applicants that are refused (a) Settled Status and (b) Pre-Settled Status by reason for that refusal.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The specific data that will be included in the future reporting of the EU Settlement Scheme is still being considered and is yet to be finalised. I thank the Rt. Honourable Member for the points raised in his questions and will take them into consideration as part of that process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252822/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252825/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252827/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252828/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252829/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-24/246930/>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252832] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the process for requesting feedback from applicants includes asking whether applicants understand the difference between (a) Settled Status and (b) Pre-Settled Status.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As part of our commitment to improving the application process for customers, feedback is sought via a voluntary online survey. We do not collect feedback specifically on applicants' understanding of the difference between Settled Status and Pre-Settled Status. We do however provide guidance on the differences between the two statuses on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-settled-and-presettled-status-means>.

We have also made improvements to the application process to make it clear to applicants the scope for them to provide additional evidence of their eligibility for settled status before they accept a grant of pre-settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252832/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254182] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will manually check for a system error where an application to the EU Settlement Scheme receives a wholly or partially unsuccessful result from the automated residency check.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page 21 of the Memorandum of Understanding between HMRC and the Department on the EU Settlement Scheme, for what reason the exchange of data between HMRC and his Department will continue until April 2026.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the algorithm applied by his Department during automated residency checks.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254186] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the automated residency check for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme will check applicants' records on (a) working tax credit and (b) child tax credit.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As set out in the MoUs with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), if the automated check is unsuccessful or the person cannot be found during the initial check made during the online application, a Home Office caseworker may instigate the check again following the submission of the application if there is reason to believe a successful match is possible and it will benefit the applicant.

Information on how the automated checks calculate periods of UK residence as well as the tax and benefit records that are included in the automated checks has been published on gov.uk and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-uk-tax-and-benefits-records-automated-check>.

Page 27 of the published MoU with HMRC indicates this agreement will be in place until April 2026. The date of April 2026 was considered appropriate to account for all applications to be received under the scheme – including those granted pre-settled status at first application with limited UK residence and would therefore need several years more time in the UK before qualifying for settled status. The exchange of data will only occur when an application is received under the scheme. The MoU is also subject to biennial review to ensure it remains accurate and fit for purpose.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254182/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254183/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254185/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254186/>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/790661/Home\\_Office\\_-\\_HMRC\\_API\\_EU\\_Exit\\_MoU.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790661/Home_Office_-_HMRC_API_EU_Exit_MoU.PDF)

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration will have a remit to inspect (a) HMRC and (b) the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of the processing of the data of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The UK Borders Act 2007 (section 48) already allows the Independent Chief Inspector to inspect the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided by any person acting in relation to the discharge of immigration, nationality, asylum and customs functions.

The EU Settlement Scheme is primarily an immigration regime. The Independent Chief Inspector, therefore, already has the necessary powers to inspect activities undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, in support of the EU Settlement Scheme application process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-14/254184/>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Hilary Benn (Labour)** [252826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date applicants will be able to convert from Pre-Settled Status to Settled Status using the (a) app and (b) website.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We are currently working hard on a number of enhancements to the EU Settlement Scheme including the functionality to support individuals who currently hold pre-settled status to apply for settled status once they become eligible. The process we are developing will allow applicants to apply either through the app or the website. We are working on this as a matter of absolute priority and expect this feature to go live in the next six weeks once we have thoroughly tested the technical functionality.

In the meantime, the rights and status of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK will remain the same until 30 June 2021, if the UK leaves the EU with a deal. Those who have been granted pre-settled status can continue to demonstrate their right to reside at any time. Status is linked to the passport or biometric residence card that was used to apply to the scheme and online status can be viewed using the online service at

<https://view-and-prove-your-rights.homeoffice.gov.uk>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252826/>

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

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

### **Refugees: Children**

**Jim Cunningham (Labour)** [255653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that unaccompanied child refugees will continue to be transferred under the Dubs scheme in the next twelve months.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We remain fully committed to fulfilling our commitments under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Over 220 children were transferred to the UK under section 67 when the Calais camp was cleared in late 2016. Since then we have been making further progress with participating States to refer and transfer more eligible children to move closer to the commitment to transfer 480 children.

Relocation of eligible children to the UK is dependent on the availability of appropriate local authority care placements. The Home Office recognises the highly valuable work that local authorities undertake in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) which is why we have significantly increased the funding paid as a contribution to their costs. It is hoped that this will enable more local authorities to feel able to offer placements for vulnerable UASC, and we will be working with them and partners to encourage this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-17/255653/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Religion**

**Ivan Lewis (Independent)** [254745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to improve his Department's ability to assess asylum applications made on the grounds of religious or belief-based persecution.

**Ivan Lewis (Independent)** [254747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training is provided to all asylum decision-makers on how to assess religious and belief-based persecution claims.

### **Asylum: Humanism**



**Ivan Lewis (Independent)** [254746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to improve his Department's ability to assess asylum applications made on the grounds of humanist beliefs.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office has been working closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Asylum Advocacy Group (AAG) for many years, to help improve their approach to religious based claims and have recently worked with them recently to develop and produce a specialist training package.

The Asylum Learning and Development Team started to deliver the specialist training package on religious claims on Monday 8 April 2019, which will be mandatory for all asylum decision-makers.

The aim of this course is to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence in accordance International, European & Domestic law and Home Office policy, when interviewing asylum seekers and making decisions on their claims.

In order to alleviate any concerns about the way in which vulnerable claims are dealt with, a review has been commissioned to investigate the way claims based on religious grounds and LGBT+ are assessed. The aim and approach of the Review will be to ensure that empathy and religious literacy is considered by Decision Makers when assessing these highly complex claims, acknowledging the impact of their decision whilst ensuring appropriate rigour is applied as these routes can be open to fraudulent claims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254745/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254747/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254746/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254813] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information contained in medical records from an individual in immigration detention can be shared with National Referral Mechanism Competent Authorities for purposes other than law enforcement.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [254814] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data collected by Immigration Removal Centre staff on an individual in immigration detention can be shared with National Referral Mechanism Competent Authorities for purposes other than law enforcement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Home Office Immigration Removal Centre staff have a duty to refer potential victims of modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism.

Only data that is required to enable the Single Competent Authority to make a reasonable grounds decision may be shared. All data, including that held within medical records, can only be shared with an individual's consent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254813/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254814/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat)** [254712] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is his Department's policy not to release the location of the immigration removal centre where a person has been detained to the direct family of the detainee.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office has no specific policy precluding the release of information relating to an individual's location within the immigration detention estate.

Data protection legislation however may prevent the release of such personal information should there be no legal basis to share it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254712/>

### Immigrants: Detainees

**Jim Cunningham (Labour)** [256243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of survivors of torture detained in the UK for immigration purposes.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Rule 35(3) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 is the primary method by which the Home Office is informed that an individual within immigration detention may be a victim of torture.

The number of Rule 35 reports raised under the Detention Centre Rules is published quarterly in Immigration Enforcement Transparency data. The latest publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-november-2018>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-20/256243/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### British Nationality: Fees and Charges

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL15565] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the UK citizenship application fee in (1) 2000, (2) 2010, and (3) 2015, for both children and adults in each such year.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The fees for UK citizenship applications were as follows:

Route	Calendar Year	Dates each fee applicable	Fee
Naturalisation	2000	01/01/00 to 31/12/00	£150 per applicant
	2010	01/01/10 to 05/04/10	£640 per applicant / Spouse or Civil Partner additional £50
		06/04/10 to 20/11/10	£655 per applicant / Spouse or Civil Partner additional £115
		21/11/10 to 31/12/10	£700 per applicant / Spouse or Civil Partner additional £150
	2015	01/01/15 to 05/4/15	£826 per applicant
		06/04/15 to 31/12/15	£925 per applicant

Adult Registration Fees	2000	01/01/00 to 31/12/00	£120 per applicant
	2010	01/01/10 to 05/04/10	£460 per applicant
		06/04/10 to 20/11/10	£470 per applicant
		21/11/10 to 31/12/10	£500 per applicant
	2015	01/01/15 to 05/4/15	£743 per applicant
		06/04/15 to 31/12/15	£833 per applicant
Child Registration Fees	2000	01/01/00 to 31/12/00	£120 per applicant
	2010	01/01/10 to 05/04/10	1st Child £460/ each subsequent child £50
		06/04/10 to 20/11/10	1st Child £470 each subsequent child £97
		21/11/10 to 31/12/10	1st Child £500/ 2nd Child £100/ each subsequent child £150
	2015	01/01/15 to 05/4/15	£669 per applicant
		06/04/15 to 31/12/15	£749 per applicant

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-07/HL15565/>

### **British Nationality: Fees and Charges**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL15566] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of asylum-seeking children who are unable to apply for UK citizenship due to the cost of the application fee.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office have not made any estimation of the number of asylum seeking children unable to apply for UK citizenship due to the cost of the application fee.

In line with international law, the UK does not charge for asylum applications. Those granted refugee status can then apply for indefinite leave to remain at the end of their limited leave period. This application is also free of charge.

Applying for British nationality is not mandatory and many individuals who have indefinite leave to remain (ILR) status choose not to apply. This is because, in addition to lawful permanent residence in the UK, a person with ILR enjoys the benefits of full access to the UK labour market, state education and healthcare and the ability to sponsor family members' residence in the UK. Fees for citizenship applications apply equally to all applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-07/HL15566/>

### **Migrant Workers: Football**

**Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru)** [HL15753] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the UK's departure from the EU, there will be any limit on the right of association football clubs in the UK to hire overseas nationals to work for them in circumstances where there is an adequate number of UK nationals seeking such employment.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the Government set out in the

Home Office White Paper, published on 19 December 2018, our future immigration system will continue to make provision for international quality sportspersons. As now, we will continue to work with our sports governing bodies to ensure we strike the right balance between enabling top level international sportspeople to come to the UK and protecting opportunities for resident sportspeople.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-14/HL15753/>

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)

### Visas: Overseas Students

**Lord Ouseley (Crossbench)** [HL15603] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many students have had their visas revoked or curtailed for allegedly cheating in Government-approved English proficiency tests in each year since 2014; how many were detained or forcibly removed in that period; how many students made challenges to decisions; and how many cases are awaiting decision by the Court of Appeal.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The exact information requested is not held centrally by the Home Office. UKVI transparency data provides details of refusal, curtailments and removal decisions on those linked to the abuse of secure English language testing. A link to the most recent available data is provided here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

The table in SELT\_02 is the closest match to the information requested.

The data was last published in February 2017 and only contains data to the last quarter (December 2016). ETS data is no longer published after this date.

[UKVI TM PM Transparency Data - Q4](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-08/HL15603/>

### Asylum: Eritrea

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL15702] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum claims were made in each of the past three years by Eritreans; whether more illegal migrants were smuggled into the UK last year from Eritrea than from any other country; and what assessment they have made of religious persecution in Eritrea as a driver of Eritrean migration.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications for asylum in the UK, broken down by nationality, in its quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The number of applications made by Eritreans in each year are available in table as\_01 (Main Applicants; Asylum, volume 1). Latest edition available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781299/asylum1-dec-2018-tables.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781299/asylum1-dec-2018-tables.ods)

Year	Total applications
2016	1,230
2017	1,085
2018	2,158

The Home Office is unable to report on whether more illegal migrants were smuggled in to the UK last year from Eritrea than from any other country, as the method of entry for those who entered the UK clandestinely and subsequently claimed asylum, is recorded on individual Home Office files and to obtain this information would require a manual trawl and could only be obtained at

disproportionate costs.

All asylum and human rights applications from Eritrean nationals are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw. The [Country Policy and Information Note Eritrea: Religious groups](#) published in February 2018 (available on Gov.uk) outlines our position.

[Eritea Religious Groups](#)

[Asylum 1 - Dec 2018 Tables](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-14/HL15702/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL15567] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether funding currently dedicated to asylum matters will be ring-fenced following the UK's departure from the EU.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are currently no plans to apply a ring fence to asylum payments in this financial year.

Any new restrictions to departmental spending would be agreed with HM Treasury.

Any further changes would form part of the Spending Review discussions taking place this year for financial year 2020-21 onwards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-07/HL15567/>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL15630] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 May (HLWS1504), whether they expect local authorities will offer extra placements to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC); and whether offers from individual British families to adopt or to foster UASC will be taken up.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office recognises the highly valuable work that local authorities undertake in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and that is why we significantly increased the funding paid as a contribution to their costs. It is hoped that this will enable more local authorities to feel able to offer placements for vulnerable UASC, and we will be working with them and partners to encourage this.

It is unlikely that adoption will be an appropriate option for unaccompanied children. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, as well as other humanitarian charities, advise that no new adoption applications should be considered in the period after a disaster or fleeing from war. It is not uncommon for children in these circumstances to be temporarily separated from their parents or other family members who may be looking for them. Efforts to reunite children with relatives or extended family should therefore be given priority.

Foster parents are recruited by fostering services which include local authorities or independent fostering agencies. The decision to let someone foster a child, including UASC, is a very important one to get right. Anyone who wants to become a foster parent must undergo a full assessment and be approved by a fostering service before any child can be placed in their care. Regulations set out in detail the requirements of the approval process, including the information that must be collected in the assessment and the requirement for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. In 2013 Department for Education streamlined and strengthened the assessment and approval process for foster carers, introducing a two-stage process to ensure efficiency and transparency.



Existing foster parents may also be able to provide suitable homes for unaccompanied children and over the past two years the Department for Education has funded over 2000 training places for existing foster parents and support workers who wish to care for UASC, with places being prioritised for local authorities participating in the National Transfer Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-09/HL15630/>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2019-05-08/HLWS1504/>

### **Deportation: China**

**Lord Morrow (DUP)** [HL15734] To ask Her Majesty's Government on what grounds Wen Li (Jaiwen Li), who is reported to be held at Brook House immigration removal centre, is being deported to China; and what assessment they have made of any potential risks to him in China.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not routinely comment on individual cases. The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who need our protection and each case is assessed on its merits and individuals have the right to appeal to an independent immigration court.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, removal is only enforced when we and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return. We monitor the situation in countries of origin and update our positions regularly and make decisions on returns on a case by case. Guidance used by UK Visas and Immigration to make decisions on asylum and human rights applications is published and can be found on gov.uk

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-14/HL15734/>

## **Press Releases**

### **Concern as migration growth slows**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/concern-as-migration-growth-slows/>

### **Non-UK population of Scotland broadly stable between 2017 and 2018**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2019/non-uk-population-of-scotland-broadly-stable-between-2017-and-2018>

### **Investigation into the response to cheating in English language tests**

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/investigation-into-the-response-to-cheating-in-english-language-tests/>

## **New Publications**

### **Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2018**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/pop-cob-18/pop-cob-nat-18-publication.pdf>

### **Infographic: Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2018**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/nrs-visual/pop-cob-18/pop-cob-nat-18-info.pdf>

**Investigation into the response to cheating in English language tests**

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Investigation-into-the-response-to-cheating-in-English-language-tests.pdf>

**Migration Statistics Quarterly Report: May 2019**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/may2019/pdf>

**Immigration statistics, year ending March 2019: data tables**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019-data-tables>

**Migrant journey: 2018 report**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/803754/migrant-journey-report2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803754/migrant-journey-report2018.pdf)

**Updated: Overview of the immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

**Updated: Summary of latest immigration statistics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/summary-of-latest-statistics>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-1-to-visit>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-2-to-work>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-3-to-study>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-4-for-family-reasons>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk>

**Updated: How many people are detained or returned?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2019/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

**Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015: Final Report**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/803406/Independent\\_review\\_of\\_the\\_Modern\\_Slavery\\_Act\\_-\\_final\\_report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803406/Independent_review_of_the_Modern_Slavery_Act_-_final_report.pdf)

## News

**UK government misses net migration target for 37th time in a row**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/24/uk-government-misses-net-migration-target-for-37th-time-in-a-row>

**Net EU migration rises amid uncertainty over Brexit**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/24/net-eu-migration-rises-amid-uncertainty-brexit/>

**Brexit: More EU citizens still arriving in UK than leaving but immigration at lowest level since 2013**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-immigration-levels-eu-citizens-theresa-may-uk-a8928496.html>

**Channel migrants: Migrant crossing figure reaches new high**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-48408471>

**Students 'may have been unfairly deported' over English test cheat claims**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48394001>

**Migrants accused of cheating in tests may have been wrongly removed**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/migrants-accused-of-cheating-in-tests-may-have-been-wrongly-removed-1-4933599>

**Thousands of people accused of cheating in English language tests win right to stay in UK**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/23/thousands-people-accused-cheating-english-language-tests-win/>

**Home Office failed to ensure innocent students were not wrongly detained in cheating scandal, report finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-students-english-language-tests-toeic-detained-deported-theresa-may-a8927781.html>

**Home Office 'failed to protect innocent students in cheat case'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-failed-to-protect-innocent-students-in-cheat-case-tw5dc3xhk>

**English test students may have been wrongly accused, says watchdog**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/24/english-test-students-may-have-been-wrongly-accused-says-watchdog>

**Facing destitution: the student accused by UK of cheating at English**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/24/facing-destitution-the-student-accused-by-uk-of-cheating-at-english>

**'I became suicidal': students accused of cheating by UK tell of 'living hell'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/may/21/international-students-accused-cheating-english-toeic-windrush>

**Home Office condemned for 'inhumane' treatment of teenage asylum seekers in Glasgow**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/home-office-condemned-for-inhumane-treatment-of-teenage-asylum-seekers-in-glasgow-1-4930256>

**Age test for asylum seekers ruled unlawful**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/age-test-for-asylum-seekers-ruled-unlawful-xfn65htxd>

**Club Together: The Middlesbrough team bringing refugees together**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-tees-48358102/club-together-the-middlesbrough-team-bringing-refugees-together>

**Welcome u-turn on Chief Exec's father's visitor visa**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/3440\\_welcome\\_u-turn\\_on\\_chief\\_execs\\_fathers\\_visitor\\_visa](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3440_welcome_u-turn_on_chief_execs_fathers_visitor_visa)

**Home Office grants father a visa to attend Sabir Zazai's Glasgow University doctorate ceremony**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17657850.home-office-grants-father-a-visa-to-attend-sabir-zazais-glasgow-university-doctorate-ceremony/>

**Home Office grants father visa to see son collect doctorate**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/22/home-office-grants-father-visa-to-see-son-collect-doctorate>

**Refugee jailed for smuggling injured niece into UK reunited with family**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/25/refugee-najat-ismail-jailed-injured-niece-uk-reunited-with-family>

**Church wins case to evict asylum seekers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-wins-case-to-evict-asylum-seekers-dj9vzc0kq>

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## Community Relations

### News

**'Divided Oldham'? Inside the school that defies Farage's narrative**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/may/21/divided-oldham-inside-school-defies-farage>

**Sturgeon believes Church remains 'at the centre of Scottish life'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-48356110>

**Kirk ‘steps in and plays vital role’ in Scotland says First Minister**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/kirk-steps-in-and-plays-vital-role-in-scotland-says-first-minister-1-4932776>

**Hold your horses: Appleby divided over ‘lawless’ gypsy livestock fair**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/appleby-divided-over-lawless-annual-gypsy-livestock-fair-m5ftn777m>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Higher Education: Admissions**

**Gordon Marsden (Labour)** [255277] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with representatives of (a) universities and (b) the education sector on sharing data on an applicant's (i) pupil premium status and (ii) ethnicity directly with universities for the purpose of widening access and participation in higher education.

**Gordon Marsden (Labour)** [255278] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with (a) the Office for Students and (b) UCAS on the transmission of data on an applicant's (i) pupil premium status and (ii) ethnicity directly to universities for the purpose widening access and participation in higher education.

**Gordon Marsden (Labour)** [255279] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make an assessment of how additional indicators of a pupil's disadvantage and under-representation in higher education can be made accessible to universities in order to widen participation and help such pupils access work.

**Gordon Marsden (Labour)** [255280] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the extent to which sharing data on additional indicators of an applicant's disadvantage and under-representation in higher education, including pupil premium status, free school meals eligibility and ethnicity can enable universities to make further progress on widening access and participation in higher education.

**Reply from Chris Skidmore:** Widening access and participation in higher education is a priority for this government. This means that everyone with the capability to succeed in higher education should have the opportunity to participate, regardless of their background or where they grew up.

We have made real progress in ensuring universities are open to all, with record rates of disadvantaged 18 year olds in higher education. However, we know that more needs to be done to maximise the potential of the talent of future applicants to higher education courses, so it is vital that we build on this progress.

Higher education providers need to use good quality and meaningful data to identify disadvantage in order to effectively address disparities in access and participation in higher education. We encourage institutions to use a range of measures to identify disadvantage, including individual-level indicators, area data (such as POLAR, Index of Multiple Deprivation or ACORN), school data, intersectional data such as the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service's (UCAS) multiple equality measure and participation in outreach activities.

To this end, we are working with the Office for Students, UCAS and sector representatives to further explore how we can support universities to improve and enhance access to data.

We want institutions to consider a broad range of information in their offers,



including the context in which a student's results were achieved. We are committed to helping universities progress in their efforts to improve access and successful participation for under-represented groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255277/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255278/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255279/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255280/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Students: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Boateng (Labour)** [HL15795] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the role of the Office for Students Evidence and Impact Exchange in promoting best practice in universities to address the attainment gap between BAME and other students.

**Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie:** The government has asked the Office for Students to set up an Evidence and Impact Exchange to help transform our understanding of what works in driving access and successful participation among disadvantaged and underrepresented students. The new centre, known as the Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO) in higher education (HE), is an affiliate what works centre, and part of the UK government's what works movement.

TASO will commission, share and support the take-up of evidence on 'what works' to improve access and participation in HE in different settings and for different groups of students, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students. It will act as a central hub for a wide variety of evidence, helping to ensure that HE spend to widen access and participation by under-represented and disadvantaged students has as big an impact as possible.

TASO has already made its first call for evidence, inviting providers to submit examples of impact evaluation across the student life-cycle.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-16/HL15795/>

### Students: Ethnic Groups

**Lord Boateng (Labour)** [HL15796] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of the Race Disparity Audit in addressing inequalities in higher education.

**Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie:** At the launch of the Race Disparity Audit in October 2017, the government committed to "explain or change" the ethnic disparities on the audit's Ethnicity facts and figures website.

Since October 2017 the government has taken action, including on tackling disparities in access to and participation in higher education (HE) for ethnic minority students.

The audit's ethnicity facts and figures website has been continually updated and extended to allow the public to see if ethnic disparities are improving or not, across over 160 important areas of public life. This has included the publication of data on

undergraduate degree results and entrants at different HE providers with high, medium and low entry tariffs.

On February 1, the government announced action to tackle disparities in access to, and successful participation in, HE for ethnic minority students; and disparities in recruitment and progression for ethnic minority academics. This included plans to work with league table compilers on how they might consider performance on tackling inequalities between ethnic groups in university rankings, promoting the new transparency condition, and encouraging HE providers to make use of tools such as the Race at Work charter and the Race Equality Charter in their efforts to address inequality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-16/HL15796/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-must-do-more-to-tackle-ethnic-disparity>

*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)

*Information about the Race at Work Charter, referred to above can be read at*

<https://race.bitc.org.uk/issues/racecharter>

*Information about the Race Equality Charter, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/race-equality-charter/about-race-equality-charter/>

### **Students: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Boateng (Labour)** [HL15797] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications for university funding of the disparity of outcomes for BAME students in higher education.

**Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie:** Improving access and outcomes in higher education (HE) for students from disadvantaged or under-represented groups is a priority for the government. Through the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, the government has introduced sweeping reforms to tackle equality of opportunity.

All HE providers in England that register with the Office for Students (OfS) who want to charge more than the basic annual amount for tuition (£6000+) (known as approved fee cap providers), must have an access and participation plan approved by the OfS. Through these plans providers set out what activities they intend to take to ensure students from disadvantaged backgrounds or under-represented groups — such as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students — can access, participate in, succeed in and progress from higher education. Guidance provided to the OfS, by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, identified ensuring BAME students can not only access, but succeed in higher education as a priority.

This year HE providers will, for the first time, be required to publish applications, offer, acceptance, dropout and attainment rates of students by ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-16/HL15797/>

## New Publication

### Unemployment by ethnic background

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06385/SN06385.pdf>

## News

### Identity politics is dividing Britons, warns equality commission chief

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/25/identity-politics-dividing-britons-says-equality-chief>

### The mayor who wears a hijab

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-48401923/the-mayor-who-wears-a-hijab>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

#### First Minister's Questions: Places of Worship (Attacks)

**Jamie Halcro Johnston (Conservative):** The First Minister will be aware that, a few nights ago, the outside of Elgin mosque was daubed with a swastika and offensive language. It is not the first time that an attack of that nature has been brought to Parliament's attention, and I fear that it will not be the last. Will the First Minister join me and politicians across all parties in Moray in condemning that attempt to intimidate the Muslim community in Elgin? Will she also give a clear commitment that the Scottish Government will ensure that resources are in place to protect Scotland's places of worship, and that when they are targeted in such a manner, no stone will be left unturned in bringing to justice those who are responsible?

**The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I whole-heartedly endorse Jamie Halcro Johnston's comments. I know that Richard Lochhead, as the local MSP for Elgin, has already expressed similar sentiments. I unreservedly condemn every attack on a mosque, or on any other church or place of worship.

I suspect that my constituency has more mosques than any other constituency in the country, so I know the impact that an attack on or threat to any mosque has on our Muslim community. That, of course, applies to everybody of any faith and at any place of worship.

This morning, I had the honour of addressing the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. All Scotland's faiths have a proud record of coming together and standing against intolerance, prejudice and bigotry, and we should all stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they do so.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12117&i=109600#ScotParlOR>

### UK Parliament Debate

#### Intimidation in Public Life

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-21/debates/19052166000001/IntimidationInPublicLife>

## UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

### **Inquiry into Islamophobia: evidence session**

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/islamophobia/oral/102491.html>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### **Religious Hatred: Christianity**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [254766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of trends in the level of hate crimes against Christians.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Home Office has collected on a mandatory basis the number of religious hate crimes where the targeted religion was Christian since 2017/18. Data for 2017/18 can be found in 'Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2017/18' which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2017-to-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254766/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative)** [254765] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons why there has been an increase in hate crimes towards the Jewish community.

**Reply from Heather Wheeler:** The Government is determined to confront hate crime wherever it occurs. Police recorded religiously motivated hate crime has increased in recent years despite a backdrop of a longer-term downward trend in the experience of hate crime overall, according to the Crime Survey of England and Wales. We know that there have been trigger events for increases in hate crime, such as the EU Referendum and the terror attacks in 2017, though data shows that these have been temporary. A significant driver for this overall increase is general improvements in police recording, and through our work with the National Police Chiefs' Council and third party services such as the Community Security Trust, police are better at identifying whether a crime is a hate crime and victims may be more willing to come forward.

The Government has a comprehensive plan to tackle hate crime in all its forms, as set out in the refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan published in October 2018, which sets out a programme of work across Government and by the police.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254765/>

The Crime Survey referred to above can be read at <http://www.crimesurvey.co.uk/en/SurveyResults.html>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Antisemitism: Arrests**

**Nigel Evans (Conservative)** [252844] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of arrests for antisemitic hate

crimes in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) 2018.

**Nigel Evans (Conservative)** [252845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of arrests for violent antisemitic hate crimes in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) 2018.

**Reply from Nick Hurd:** The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of arrests, conducted by each police force in England and Wales, on an annual basis.

Data are held at the offence group level only (for example 'Violence against the person' and 'Public order' offences). Information on the number of arrests for hate crimes – and further details of the nature of an offence – are not held centrally.

Data are published in the 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales' statistical bulletin, the latest of which can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252844/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-10/252845/>

## News

**Racism rising since Brexit vote, nationwide study reveals**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/20/racism-on-the-rise-since-brexit-vote-nationwide-study-reveals>

**'Always the easiest excuse': is racism rising in the UK's most diverse area?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/20/always-the-easiest-excuse-is-racism-rising-in-the-uks-most-diverse-area-dollis-hill>

**Fight against terror could be undermined by new Islamophobia definition, warns police chief**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/22/fight-against-terror-could-undermined-new-islamophobia-definition/>

**Man held after swastika graffiti sprayed on Scottish mosque**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/man-held-after-swastika-graffiti-sprayed-on-scottish-mosque-1-4932823>

**Offensive Elgin Mosque vandalism investigated**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-48349021>

**'This should shame us all: How many officers does it take to police an anti-Catholic march'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17650545.this-should-shame-us-all-how-many-officers-does-it-take-to-police-an-anti-catholic-march/>

**Four loyalist marches to be re-routed from Catholic church in Glasgow following police concerns**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17662835.four-loyalist-marches-to-be-re-routed-from-catholic-church-in-glasgow-following-police-concerns/>



### **UK's first black police chief asks why there have been no others**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/25/uks-first-black-police-chief-michael-fuller-memoir-hay-festival>

### **White teachers like me should not be policing black pupils' hair**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/22/white-teachers-policing-black-pupils-hair-uk-schools>

### **We recognise racism on the football pitch. Why do we fail to see it in the workplace?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/23/racism-football-workplace-racist>

### **Rabbi Julia Neuberger: 'I'm furious – Corbyn is being anti-Semitic'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/rabbi-julia-neuberger-furious-corbyn-anti-semitic/>

### **GP under investigation for racism after asking Muslim woman to remove face veil**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/05/20/gp-invested-racism-asking-woman-remove-veil-attracts-20000-online/>

### **What happened when I met my Islamophobic troll**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/may/23/what-happened-when-i-met-my-islamophobic-troll>

### **Expecting me to explain racism is exploitative – that's not my job**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/22/racism-tv-debate-exploitative>

### **Telegram app suggests people use 'money bag' emoji when they mention the word Jews**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/telegram-jews-money-bag-emoji-app-messaging-antisemitism-a8927371.html>

### **Newcastle fan gets banning order for racially abusing Liverpool players**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/may/24/newcastle-fan-banning-order-racial-abuse-liverpool>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **New Publication**

#### **Strengthening protection from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Analysis of Consultation Responses**

<https://tinyurl.com/y4gwztx6>

### **News**

#### **Scottish citizens' assembly 'must be representative of society'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17654674.scottish-citizens-assembly-must-be-representative-of-society/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Prisons: Ministers of Religion

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [255249] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) prisoners and (b) chaplains employed within prisons there are of each religion or belief.

**Reply from Robert Buckland:** The Prison Act 1952 enshrines in law the statutory duties of a prison chaplain. These tasks, which must be undertaken daily, are incorporated into Prison Rules and Young Offender Rules. They are explained in detail in Prison Service Instruction 05/2016 Faith and Pastoral Care for Prisoners. We recognise and respect the right of prisoners to register and practice their faith while serving their prison sentence. Chaplaincy plays a critical and unique role in the work of prisons and life of prisoners. It provides not only faith advice but pastoral care in support of HM Prison and Probation Service's commitments to decency, safety and rehabilitation.

A breakdown of prisoner population by religion is provided in the quarterly Offender Management statistics publication on GOV.UK. The latest publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/offender-management-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2018>. The relevant extract of those statistics is provided in the following table:

**Table 1.5: Prison population by religion and sex**

	31-Mar-18	30-Jun-18	30-Sep-18	31-Dec-18	31-Mar-19	Percentage change March 2018 to 2019
Males and Females	83,263	82,773	83,005	82,236	82,634	-1%
All Christian	39,839	39,541	39,784	39,293	39,515	-1%
Anglican	13,971	13,808	13,755	13,496	13,480	-4%
Free Church	776	764	782	758	737	-5%
Roman Catholic	14,334	14,277	14,246	14,094	14,160	-1%
Other Christian	10,758	10,692	11,001	10,945	11,138	4%
Muslim	12,847	12,894	12,868	12,894	13,008	1%
Hindu	379	354	350	361	343	-9%
Sikh	625	632	634	638	611	-2%
Buddhist	1,517	1,518	1,569	1,575	1,619	7%
Jewish	480	488	477	482	477	-1%
Other religious group	1,724	1,777	1,782	1,838	1,876	9%
Non recognised	10	11	12	6	7	**
No religion	25,711	25,393	25,413	25,053	25,034	-3%
Not recorded	131	165	116	96	144	10%

Chaplains may work on a full-time, part-time, sessional or voluntary basis. A breakdown of Chaplains in employed in prisons and by faith, is provided below.

**Number of chaplains (headcount) employed by HM Prison and Probation Service<sup>1</sup>, as at 31 March 2019.**

		Headcount
Prison Service establishments	Religion	Number of chaplains
	Christian	242
	Muslim	118
	Sikh	12
	Hindu	3
	Unknown <sup>2</sup>	99
<b>Total</b>		<b>474</b>

**Notes to Table**

1. A substantial amount of Chaplaincy services within the public sector Prison Service are provided by non-employed staff on a sessional basis, which are not included in the figures presented in this table. Chaplains fill roles in bands 5 and 7 or above under the Fair and Sustainable structures.
2. These are mostly managing Chaplains where the religion of the post is not specified.
3. Only includes chaplains working in prisons and therefore will not match published data which includes Chaplains who work in other areas of HMPPS, such as at Headquarters.
4. Information on the private estate is not held centrally. The total number of chaplain staff since 2010 can be found in the HMPPS Workforce Statistics Bulletin. The latest publication on the number of Chaplains can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hm-prison-and-probation-service-workforce-quarterly-march-2019> Information on the religious affiliation of chaplains is not published.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-16/255249/>

**Forced Marriage: Young People**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [254768]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to protect young adults from arranged and forced marriages.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims, sending a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK. In 2017 we also introduced lifelong anonymity for victims of forced marriage to encourage more victims of this hidden crime to come forward.

An “arranged marriage” is one where parents or other relatives choose a potential suitor, but both parties involved have the final say and can withdraw at any point. As such, it is not illegal. If a person changes their mind during that process and then is not allowed to stop the marriage – this becomes a forced marriage and is unacceptable.

The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims, those at risk, and professionals. The support offered ranges from providing information and guidance to organising rescue and repatriation to the UK for victims overseas. In November 2018 we also launched the Forced Marriage Awareness Campaign, which highlights that forced marriage is a crime and directs victims to contact the helpline for support

Border Force officers at UK ports and airports are trained to look for those at risk of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), including forced marriage. Border Force conducts

regular joint operations ('Operation Limelight') with the police at airports across the country to raise awareness with potential victims of HBA.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254768/>

### **Trials: Ethnic Groups**

**Yasmin Qureshi (Labour)** [254792] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of (a) BAME and (b) white defendants who enter guilty pleas.

**Reply from Edward Agar:** The proportion of guilty pleas (where plea was known) has slowly been declining, from 74% in 2014 to 69% for white defendants, and from 61% in 2014 to 57% for BAME defendants in 2018.

Data is only available for defendants dealt with at Crown Court (not all defendants) for indictable offences.

The proportion of defendants who entered a guilty plea by ethnicity (2008 – 2018) can be found in the Crown court data tool at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/802313/crown-court-tool-2018.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/802313/crown-court-tool-2018.xlsx)

- Remove the 'Values' field from Rows
- Drag the 'Ethnicity' field into Rows
- Drag the 'Total for Trial' field into Values
- Filter to '01: Guilty Plea' in the 'Plea at Crown Court' field for the number of defendants that entered a guilty plea
- Filter to '01: Guilty Plea' and '02: Not Guilty plea' in the 'Plea at Crown Court' field number of defendants that entered a plea overall (where plea was known)
- The number of BAME defendants can be defined by combining '02: Black', '03: Asian', '04: Mixed' and '05: Chinese and other' rows. The number of white defendants who entered a guilty plea each year can be found in the '01: White' row.
- The proportion of defendants who entered a guilty plea can be found by dividing the number of guilty pleas by the number of overall pleas for the relevant ethnicity rows.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-15/254792/>

## **UK Parliament Petition**

### **Non-stun slaughter**

[P002456] *The petition of residents of the UK*, Declares that animals killed by having their throats cut while fully conscious is unacceptable; further that animals should not be made to suffer such profound trauma in the name of religion; further that this method of slaughter runs counter to any belief in compassion and mercy; further that animals should be stunned before they are slaughtered; further that, Shechita slaughter does not allow animals to be stunned before they are slaughtered; further that, when the Holy Prophet was alive, modern stunning methods did not exist; further that the Food Research Institute states that killing an animal before it is bled out by high voltage electrical stunning does not affect the amount of blood from the carcass; and further that this petition relates to e-petition 131591. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-22/debates/19052229000011/Non-StunSlaughter>

The e-petition referred to above can be read at  
<https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/131591>

## Press Release

**Prime Minister's statement in Downing Street: 24 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-in-downing-street-24-may-2019>

## New Publications

**Updated Guidance: Forced marriage**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

**Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2018**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/804044/Forced\\_Marriage\\_Unit\\_Statistics\\_2018\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/804044/Forced_Marriage_Unit_Statistics_2018_FINAL.pdf)

**Female Genital Mutilation January-March 2019**

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/january-to-march-2019>

## News

**Theresa May quits: UK set for new PM by end of July**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48395905>

**Theresa May resigns as Prime Minister**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17662202.theresa-may-resigns-as-prime-minister/>

**New Prime Minister in place by mid-July after Theresa May resigns**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/new-prime-minister-in-place-by-mid-july-after-theresa-may-resigns-1-4933731>

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## European Parliament Elections

### Press Release

**EU citizen votes**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/eu-citizen-votes/>

### News

**European elections 2019: EU citizens turned away from UK polls**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48384000>



### **EU citizens 'turned away at polling stations' in European elections**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17660662.eu-citizens-turned-away-at-polling-stations-in-european-elections/>

### **Brexit: 'Democratic disaster' as hundreds of EU nationals denied a vote**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit-democratic-disaster-as-hundreds-of-eu-nationals-denied-a-vote-1-4933514>

### **European elections: EU to examine organisation of poll after citizens denied votes**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/european-elections-2019-eu-uk-brussels-votes-denied-a8928671.html>

### **European elections: Government could face court action after hundreds of EU citizens 'denied vote', experts warn**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/european-elections-vote-eu-citizens-problems-court-action-a8928071.html>

### **EU citizens denied vote in European elections to sue UK government**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/25/eu-citizens-denied-vote-in-european-elections-to-sue-uk-government>

### **#deniedmyvote: EU citizens turned away at European election polling stations**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-23/news/deniedmyvote-eu-citizens-turned-away-at-polling-stations-22wbr9sms>

### **EU chief demands inquiry after expats are denied vote**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-25/news/eu-chief-demands-inquiry-after-expats-are-denied-vote-nskf5k006>

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## **Other News**

### **Black and Asian parents are more ambitious in applying for good schools, study finds**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2019/05/22/black-asian-parents-ambitious-applying-good-schools-study-finds/>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

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

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

### **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>

## **Banknote Diversity**

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

## **Border Control Bill**

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

proposed amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/amend/immigration\\_rm\\_rep\\_0522.1-7.html](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0309/amend/immigration_rm_rep_0522.1-7.html)

## **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>

### **\*\* Unauthorised Encampments**

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

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-22/debates/CCA7B7E5-BFB6-4DE9-9565-8099348D2E64/UnauthorisedEncampments>

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## Consultations

**\*\* new or updated this week**

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

**Improving Disability Assistance** (closing date 28 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/improving-disability-assistance/>

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

**EU Settlement Scheme: Call for evidence** (closing date 31 May 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-settlement-scheme-call-for-evidence>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan** (closing date 28 June 2019)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

**Online Harms White Paper** (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

**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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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Investing in Communities fund**

*Closing date 14 June 2019*

Scottish Government funding to empower communities, enabling them to tackle poverty, inequality and disadvantage on their own terms, in turn supporting inclusive growth. This new fund supports a range of activity through a staged funding approach, enabling communities to:

- build community capacity and strengthen community anchor organisations
- better understand and identify their local aspirations and priorities
- increase active inclusion and develop opportunities for enhanced engagement for groups who are more vulnerable and harder to reach
- create local plans and proposals in collaboration with partners
- prioritise local budgets and access funds
- develop local assets, services and projects that respond to the needs of the people in their communities
- deliver community-led solutions that tackle priorities that matter most to communities; and/or
- develop local interventions which offer opportunities and pathways for social and community integration.

For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

and for application forms and guidance see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-application-form-and-guidance/>

### **Diversity Week Activity Fund – Fife**

*Closing date not stated*

Fife Centre for Equalities funding of up to £100 for groups hosting a one-off activity that will take place during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 2-8 September 2019, and will encourage people to celebrate the diverse population in Fife. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/y45jmk92>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

28 May 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Meet the Charity Regulator**

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/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence**

30 May 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid training to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for BME women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2lp7pfz>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Women in Politics**

30 May 2019 in Stornoway (6.30-8.30)

31 May 2019 in Benbecula (6.30-8.30)

Workshop for women who want to make a difference in their community and represent them in a local council or the parliament. For information about the event in Stornoway see <https://tinyurl.com/y594e234>, and the event in Benbecula see <https://tinyurl.com/y4o93qpe>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Volunteers' Week Scotland 2019**

1-7 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a time to say thank you for the fantastic contribution volunteers make, and recognise their invaluable and diverse contribution to the UK. For information see <https://www.volunteersweek.scot/>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

11 June 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Home Office event to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, offer practical information about the Scheme, and provide information about how to make a claim. For information see [www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi\\_windrush.pdf](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi_windrush.pdf)

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

11 June 2019 in Glasgow

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current immigration status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

**\*\* Scotland's Census 2021**

11 June 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

13 June 2019 in Aberdeen (10.00-4.00)

18 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

20 June 2019 in Dundee (10.00-4.00)

National Records of Scotland events to update users about their on-going programme of output development, including geography, microdata, origin-destination data, plans for updating our Scotland's Census website, and the different ways in which they will present data and analysis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yvd3j23w>



### **Introduction to Race Equality**

12 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.30)

CRER training to increase understanding of race and racism in the Scottish context, including how racism operates on personal, social and institutional levels, the impact of everyday racism, and rights and responsibilities under equality law. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3n428wy>

### **Scotland Welcomes Refugees Gathering 2019**

15 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scotland Welcomes Refugees Coalition event connecting welcome groups, grassroots movements, like-minded individuals, and refugees. It will be a family-friendly showcase of international art, music, storytelling, and much more, celebrating the variety of backgrounds that refugees bring to our communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4q2hk57>

### **Refugee Festival Scotland**

20-30 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland celebrates the contribution refugees make to life in Scotland, and offers people from different backgrounds the chance to meet and celebrate together. For information and the full programme see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

### **Launch of Refugee Festival Scotland**

20 June 2019 in Glasgow (12.00-2.00)

Celebrate the launch of Refugee Festival Scotland 2019, mark World Refugee Day, and show solidarity and support for people who have been forced to flee their homes. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyomj8bk>

### **The Global Compacts – A New Vision for the Future of Migrant and Refugee Protection?**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-12.00)

UNHCR event providing a short overview of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration, both adopted by a majority of UN member states in December 2018. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yywm2bqj>

### **So you say you come from ...? Prove it!**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.00)

Interactive event by The Asylum Project highlighting how easy it can be to fall through the cracks and end up stateless in a hostile environment. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/so-you-say-you-come-from-prove-it/>

### **Collecting Around Migration: A Glimpse Behind the Scenes at Glasgow Museums**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-5.00)

Glasgow Museums event highlighting refugee stories at the heart of Glasgow's story. Come along to discover more about how this is being done, or if you or your organisation would like to be a part of shaping this ongoing process. You are invited to bring an object or story that you find meaningful. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3lfm9v4>

### **Trafficking and Displacement – Intersections, Gaps and Solutions**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.00-6.00)

UNHCR event to explore the link between displacement and trafficking, highlighting initiatives and gaps to addressing vulnerability to exploitation experienced by asylum-seekers and refugees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3r6te6k>

### **The Great Get Together**

21-23 June 2019 (Scotland wide)

The Great Get Together is inspired by Jo Cox, who was killed on 16 June 2016. The organisers believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance. For information and resources see <http://www.greatgettogether.org/take-part/>

### **Movement of Identity**

22 June 2019 in Edinburgh (1.00-4.00)

Young Academy of Scotland event to hear stories of movement, work being carried out by integration networks in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yah53w>

### **\*\* Talking Prejudice**

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Youthlink Scotland event for youth workers and other practitioners in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2prbudt> and for the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y2f8wnqv>

### **Home on the Move: the Impact of Immigration Policy on Participation and the Possibilities for Practice**

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.30)

Workshop to present research findings about the meaning and importance of 'home' to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5utxt84>

### **Author and Subject – People Seeking Asylum and Refuge Affecting Change**

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

Event to explore the different ways asylum seekers and refugees use their experiences and voices to positively affect change in their own lives and in the lives of others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y44krodd>

### **Housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Europe**

26 June 2019 in Edinburgh (5.00-7.00)

Presentation of research by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow into housing for refugees and asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y43fjpsb>

### **Come As You Are #Berlin, and Klezmer Ceilidh**

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (7.00-10.30)

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-10.30)

Contemporary dance performance from Berlin-based dance company TOTAL BRUTAL. It explores what happens when three refugees from Syria try to find their way into the Berlin art landscape: their hopes, dreams and nightmares. For information about the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yjggc4>, and about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y42q8yfr>

### **Gesturing Refugees**

27 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-8.00)

Interactive performance by Palestinian dancer and choreographer, Farah Saleh and collaborators to archive hidden stories of refugeehood using the bodies of refugee artists and audience members, while playing with other archive material, testimonies and imagination. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy5xgocf>

### **Refugee Cycle**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

UNESCO cycle ride. At regular intervals along the route, there will be informative performances and activities. Central themes are (forced) migration, community building and hospitality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ualhd9>

### **Challenging The Hostile Environment**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-5.00)

Stand Up to Racism Scotland event about injustices such as the Windrush scandal, and Serco's threat to evict refused asylum seekers in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5sbt7fa>

### **Asylum Seeker and Refugee Scholarships**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (4.00-8.00)

Africa Future conference about the benefits for young people and asylum seekers to study in higher education. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y23w6odp>

### **Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament**

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-4.00)

Football tournament to stimulate the integration of the local community with people from a refugee background. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yygx75mm>

### **Lives in Transit: Written Accounts and Artistic Expressions of Refugee Stories**

30 June 2019 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00)

Opening night of an exhibition presenting the experiences of refugees through a display of interviews with refugees now resettled in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5emrnew>

### **We Are One – Citizenfest**

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

Festival asserting and celebrating diversity and equality with a programme of events in a variety of city centre venues: celebrating our rights – ethnic, political, minority, and common human rights – through music, seminars, food, drama, talks, art, and much more. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/citizenfestweareone>

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

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)

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

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)

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

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/zy436qr> 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)

### **Age assessment awareness**

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)

### **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)

### **Refugee community sponsorship**

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)

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## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

**BBC News** <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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**SCoJeC**

The Scottish Council of  
**Jewish Communities**

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

**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/>



**gov.scot**

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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