



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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The Supreme Court ruled that the prorogation of the UK Parliament was unlawful, so the 2017-19 parliamentary session resumed on 25 September 2019.

Because of the Jewish Festivals of Yom Kippur and Succot, the next three issues of MEMO will be published midweek on 10, 17, and 24 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Devolved Powers (Immigration)

Maureen Watt (SNP): The First Minister will have seen a new report from the David Hume Institute, which recommends that the Scottish Government should be given greater powers over immigration, irrespective of the outcome of Brexit. Does the First Minister agree that the United Kingdom Government should heed the advice of that report and devolve powers over immigration to the Scottish Parliament as a matter of urgency, so that we can tailor

our immigration system to meet Scotland's needs and aspirations?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I agree with that and I welcome the report from the David Hume Institute. I hope that this is one issue—perhaps the only issue—on which there can be unanimous support across the Parliament. Many members—I hope all members—understand that one size does not fit all when it comes to immigration and that Scotland has particular demographic challenges and needs, which makes it essential that we have the ability to tailor our immigration policy to suit our needs. I hope that all parties will come behind that call and that the UK Government will listen to that and devolve immigration powers to the Scottish Parliament as quickly as possible.

Of course, when Scotland becomes an independent country, immigration powers—and all other powers—will lie in the hands of the Scottish Parliament, where they will be far better used than they are currently by the Tory Government at Westminster.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12279&i=111017#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59b82ed532601e01a494df34/t/5d8bcc2cae3f54211d02ea1b/1569442863091/Who+Will+Do+The+Jobs+260919.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Immigration Detention

S5W-25264 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the (a) Home Office and (b) new immigration ministerial team with responsibility for detention, and what the outcome was of these discussions.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I wrote to the former Minister of State for Immigration about immigration detention issues, including the need for a time limit and community-based alternatives, on 1 April 2019. Following changes in Ministerial responsibilities, it is not yet clear who leads on this for the UK Government, so I wrote again on this issue to the new Home Secretary this month.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25264>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Detention

S5W-25265 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether Scotland would be a good location for one of the pilot alternatives to detention (ATDs) announced by the former Home Secretary, and whether it has discussed with the Home Office the potential for it to work with the UK Government on ATDs.

S5W-25266 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what response it has received from the Home Office regarding Scotland being a location for implementing alternatives to detention (ATDs), and what steps it is taking in light of this response.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: Our policy is that the current immigration detention system is inhumane and needs to be overhauled.

Scottish Government Ministers have offered to explore the feasibility of undertaking a pilot on alternatives to immigration detention in Scotland on a number of occasions. To date, the Scottish Government has not received a response from the

Home Office on the possibility of Scotland being a location for implementing alternatives to immigration detention or taken up our offer to discuss further.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25265>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25266>

UK Parliament Debate

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid for Separated Children) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2019

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-01/debates/840A9842-29E3-49A8-B499-0859DB4A60AD/LegalAidSentencingAndPunishmentOfOffendersAct2012\(LegalAidForSeparatedChildren\)\(MiscellaneousAmendments\)Order2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-01/debates/840A9842-29E3-49A8-B499-0859DB4A60AD/LegalAidSentencingAndPunishmentOfOffendersAct2012(LegalAidForSeparatedChildren)(MiscellaneousAmendments)Order2019)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Asylum seekers: permission to work

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) When the Chancellor was Home Secretary, he told me and other More United MPs that officials were looking into the potential economic benefits of lifting the ban on asylum seekers working, which the Lift the Ban coalition says would bring £42 million into the economy. Now that he is Chancellor of the Exchequer, will he lift that ban in order to allow asylum seekers such as those in my constituency to contribute to the economy and to have the dignity that they deserve?

Reply from Sajid Javid: The hon. Lady makes an important point, and I am glad that she has brought my attention to it again. As Chancellor, I want to ensure that across Government every Department is doing its bit for the economy. Some of the people she is talking about will be vulnerable people and the current rules are worth looking at again. It is something that the Home Office is taking very seriously.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-01/debates/634E6487-76E3-4C6B-90F0-DDE0ED32B06C/TopicalQuestions#contribution-B5443817-486D-400A-BD8D-B536947EEB15>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Overseas Students

Helen Goodman (Labour) [291290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the effect on international student numbers by country of the decision to extend UK work visas for foreign graduates to two years after completion of their studies.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The launch of the Graduate immigration route demonstrates our support for the UK's world-leading education sector and ensures that it remains competitive internationally. No estimate has been made of the number of students by country who will take advantage of it.

The International Education Strategy sets out our ambition to increase the number of international higher education students to 600,000 by 2030 and this change will contribute to that goal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291290/>

Immigration Controls: EU Nationals

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [290357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what instructions UK Border Force staff have been given on EU citizens travelling to the UK on ID cards after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Immediately after exit, EU citizens can continue to cross the border using their passport or national identity card.

During 2020, the UK will phase out the use of EEA national identity cards for travel. We will make an announcement on when this will happen and will give notice so that EU citizens and carriers can prepare. Swiss national identity cards will continue to be valid for travel in line with the citizens' rights agreement between the UK and Switzerland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-24/290357/>

Immigration Controls

Janet Daby (Labour) [290470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to avoid potential delays to passengers because of increased immigration checks at UK borders in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Immediately after exit, EU citizens can continue to cross the border using their passport or national identity card. They will be able to use e-Gates if they are travelling on a biometric passport, and they will not be routinely questioned about their status in the UK.

During 2020, the UK will phase out the use of EEA national identity cards. We will make an announcement on when this will happen and will give notice so that EU citizens and carriers can prepare. Swiss national identity cards will continue to be valid for travel in line with the citizens' rights agreement between the UK and Switzerland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-24/290470/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [291110] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to establish a dedicated enquiry line for members' offices to discuss applications made by constituents to the EU Settlement Scheme; and whether the staff of the UKVI enquiry line will be given access to EU Settlement Scheme applications to discuss such applications with members' offices.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There are no plans to establish a dedicated enquiry line. Members and their offices have access to their dedicated MP Account Management Team where they can raise queries by email and phone. Enquiry lines are open Monday to Friday and staff have access to the EU Settlement Scheme application records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/291110/>

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

Patrick Grady (SNP) [290391] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the proportion of applications for settled status that have resulted in (a) an award of pre-settled status and (b) a request for further information.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on EU Settlement Scheme conclusions by outcome type can be found in the Home Office's fifth 'EU Settlement

Scheme statistics', monthly statistics tables, table 2, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-august-2019>.

The Home Office is committed to publishing more detailed quarterly statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content of the next quarterly release and will take into account the views of statistics users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-24/290391/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [291034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the level of take-up of the EU Settlement Scheme among naturalised EU citizens of non-EU origin.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [291035] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of the EU Settlement Scheme among (a) EU citizens of Somali origin and (b) other large communities of EU citizens of non-EU origin.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is vital that the estimated three million EU citizens and their non-EU family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

When the scheme fully opened in March, the Home office delivered a £3.75m marketing campaign to raise awareness of the scheme and encourage applications. As of 31 August 2019, 1.3 million people have now applied to the EU Settlement Scheme. Of these, approximately 66,700 are non-EU family members. EU citizens and their families have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply, and the Home Office will continually monitor interest and intake to the scheme throughout its lifetime.

Further advertising and stakeholder communications are underway to continue to raise awareness of the scheme. All available channels will be used to reach our audiences – such as direct marketing, radio, video-on-demand and outdoor advertising, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars to name a few – to direct all eligible cohorts towards reliable sources of information on GOV.UK and the application itself.

No-one will be left behind which is why we are also working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make everyone knows what they need to do and has the right level of support. We have awarded up to £9 million to 57 voluntary and community sector organisations across the UK to help us reach an estimated 200,000 vulnerable or at-risk EU citizens and their family members.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/291034/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/291035/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2019 to Question 282339, in what circumstances would a prisoner serving a sentence be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290874] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2019 to Question 282339, how many prisoners have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [290875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2019 to Question 282339 on Young Offenders: EU Nationals, whether EEA national prisoners' relatives who are third country nationals are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: A person's continuity of residence in the UK for the purposes of eligibility under the EU Settlement Scheme is broken when they serve a sentence of imprisonment. They will therefore not generally be eligible to apply to the scheme while they are serving that sentence.

Only where a person has already acquired the right of permanent residence under EU law, or has already completed a continuous qualifying period of five years' residence in the UK, will a sentence of imprisonment not affect their eligibility, or that of their third country national family members, to apply under the scheme and only then if the sentence is not serious enough to lead to their deportation. Official statistics – 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, August 2019' – providing detailed information regarding operation of the scheme were published on 22 August 2019. These can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-august-2019>

The Home Office is committed to publishing more detailed quarterly statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content of the next quarterly release and will take into account the views of statistics users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290873/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290874/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290875/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-07-25/282339/>

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) [290877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government guidance entitled How the automated check calculates the period of residence, for what reason caseworkers are not shown information about an applicant's employment, pension or benefits.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The automated checks conducted where an applicant

under the EU Settlement Scheme chooses to provide their National Insurance number have been designed to make the application process as quick and straightforward as possible. They greatly reduce the need for applicants to upload documentary evidence of their residence in the UK.

Caseworkers are not shown information from the checks about an applicant's employment, pension or benefits as this is not relevant to their eligibility for status under the scheme, which is generally based on continuous UK residence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290877/>

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

Maria Eagle (Labour) [290692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to extend the eligibility for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens who have been in the UK for many years and can financially sustain themselves but do not work.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The EU Settlement Scheme has been designed to make it simple and straightforward for resident EU citizens, and their family members, to obtain UK immigration status. Applicants only need to complete three key steps: prove their identity and nationality, demonstrate their UK residence and declare any criminal convictions. They are not required to be in employment, self-sufficient or otherwise exercising Treaty rights under EU law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290692/>

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

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [291107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 September 2019 to Question 284212, how her Department plans to treat late applications to the EU Settlement Scheme from people who do not have reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has made clear that EU citizens resident in the UK before we leave the European Union on 31 October 2019 will have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. We will publish guidance in due course on the scope for a late application to be made by those with reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.

We will also set out in due course the requirements to be met, from 2021, under the new points-based immigration system, by EU citizens and their family members who wish to remain in the UK and who have not applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme or, for EU citizens moving to the UK after a no deal Brexit, under the European Temporary Leave to Remain Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/291107/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/284212/>

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 Williams (Labour) [284212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status of EU (a) nationals and (b) doctors working in the UK will be if they do not apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 31 December 2020.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Individuals working in the UK who are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme but fail to do so by 31 December 2020 in a no-deal EU-exit scenario will not have lawful status under UK immigration legislation. The Government has made clear that we will accept late applications to the scheme from those who have reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-02/284212/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Education: EU Nationals

Gavin Shuker (Independent) [290780] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the eligibility of EU citizens without settled status to receive state-funded education up to the age of 18.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Schools and local authorities cannot take into account nationality or immigration status when deciding which pupils to admit, and there will be no change to this after exiting the EU. Parents or carers of pupils who are EU, EEA or Swiss citizens will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 2020.

The Department has issued advice for schools on how to prepare for exiting the EU, which includes information on the EU Settlement Scheme and on accessing school places after exiting the EU. The guidance is available at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290780/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Patrick Grady (SNP) (2723) Joint All Party Parliamentary Group report on visa problems for African visitors to the UK – That this House welcomes the publication of the joint All-Party Parliamentary Group Report by the APPG for Africa, the APPG for Diaspora, Development & Migration and APPG for Malawi entitled Visa problems for African visitors to the UK; understands that the report is the culmination of an investigation in to the high level of visa refusals for African nationals wishing to visit the UK for professional or business reasons; recognises that the report concludes that African nationals face persistent and pervasive problems in obtaining visas to visit the UK; acknowledges that Home Office data shows that African applicants are over twice as likely to be refused a visa than applicants from any other part of the world; reflects that these problems not only damage the UK's relations with many African countries but also impact on the UK's economic and social interests; further notes that the report makes recommendations for improvements including expedited application processes for those who have to travel to a neighbouring country, clearer information on visa requirements, and greater availability of visa processing centres and document scanning in the country of application; further notes that the report calls for improvements in the standard of

decision-making to ensure that supporting evidence is fully taken in to account and that reasons for refusal are not based on prejudicial, biased or financially discriminatory assumptions; and calls on the Government to reflect on the findings of the Report and take immediate steps to improve the experiences of African visa applicants.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53283/joint-all-party-parliamentary-group-report-on-visa-problems-for-african-visitors-to-the-uk>

Chris Stephens (SNP) (2722) Musicians in Exile – Award for Race, Faith and Religion at the National Diversity Awards – That this House congratulates Musicians in Exile, a community project for asylum seekers and refugee musicians formed by The Glasgow Barons, an orchestra in Govan, on winning the Community Organisation Award for Race, Faith and Religion at the National Diversity Awards 2019 at a prestigious black-tie ceremony at The Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool on Friday 20 September 2019; notes the award is recognition of the work been done to engage and recruit musicians seeking asylum through city-wide leafleting in many languages including Kurdish, Arabic, Farsi and English; further notes that the award recognises that the organisation helps its service users, most who have fled without their instrument, by purchasing and providing long-term loans of instruments; pays tribute to the work being done with partner agencies, such as the Red Cross and Govan Community Project, to identify interested musicians; welcomes the efforts to bridge cultural and language barriers facing those who arrive in Glasgow seeking asylum by providing them with a place they can contribute to their local community through the universal language of music; and wishes Musicians in Exile continued success in the coming years.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53282/musicians-in-exile-award-for-race-faith-and-religion-at-the-national-diversity-awards-2019>

Kate Green (Labour) (2749) Suspension of NHS overseas visitors charging regime for maternity care – That this House is concerned by the growing body of evidence, including research reports by Doctors of the World, Maternity Action and the BMA, that the NHS England overseas visitors charging regime is deterring vulnerable migrant women living in the UK from seeking essential maternity care, and is resulting in some women being wrongly denied maternity care and wrongly told that they have to pay in advance; is further concerned by the conclusion of Maternity Action's September 2019 report, Duty of care: midwives' experience of the NHS charging regime, that charging has a pronounced effect on midwives' ability to look after women in their care; notes that in December 2018, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the Faculty of Public Health published a joint statement calling for the suspension of the charging regime; further notes that in March 2019, the heads of the Academy of Royal Colleges, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Midwives and others wrote jointly to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to urge him to suspend the charging regime pending a full independent review of its effect on individual and public health; and urges the Government to respond positively to Maternity Action's call, supported by the Royal College of Midwives, for the immediate suspension of charging for NHS maternity care.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53309/suspension-of-nhs-overseas-visitors-charging-regime-for-maternity-care>

Press Release

Home Secretary launches Windrush Advisory Group

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-windrush-advisory-group>

New Publications

Updated: Immigration Rules

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules>

Guidance: Windrush scheme: prove your right to be in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/windrush-prove-your-right-to-be-in-the-uk>

House of Commons Library Briefing: British citizenship by naturalisation

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8580/CBP-8580.pdf>

Towards best practice in educating and supporting separated children in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/9353/Towards_Best_Practice_report.pdf

Lessons Not Learned: The failures of asylum decision-making in the UK

https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/FFT_LessonsNotLearned_Report_A4_FINAL_LOWRES_1.pdf

News

Scotland takes twice UK average of refugees

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland-takes-twice-uk-average-of-refugees-1-5009079>

Scotland needs a say over immigration policy to tackle looming labour shortage, think tank says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/scotland-immigration-labour-policy-workers-brexite-uk-canada-a9121611.html>

Wealth of the Nation report says Scottish government should have control of immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-26/scotland/wealth-of-the-nation-report-says-scottish-government-should-have-control-of-immigration-l2wvlt985>

Rise in number of world's rich buying UK 'golden visas'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/sep/27/number-of-foreigners-buying-uk-golden-visa-rises>

Eight migrants in 'small boat' picked up in Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-49785100>

People smugglers run mass boat launches to beat Channel patrols

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/28/smugglers-send-migrant-surges-across-channel-to-beat-patrols>

English channel migrant smuggler told to pay back £138k

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-49896294>

Brexit: Kent schools prepare for 'rise in child migrants'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-49890629>

130 lock-change evictions paused by Glasgow Sheriff Court

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3487_130_lock-change_evictions_paused_by_glasgow_sheriff_court

Temporary Reprieve for Glasgow's Asylum seekers as Sheriff Court Puts Hold on 130 Lock Change Evictions

<http://www.paih.org/reprieve-for-glasgow-asylum-seekers-as-130-lock-change-evictions-are-put-on-hold/>

Asylum seekers granted temporary reprieve

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/asylum-seekers-granted-temporary-reprieve>

Scandal-hit G4S pulls out of running Brook House immigration centre to shift focus onto prisons

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/g4s-brook-house-contract-immigration-removal-centre-a9117956.html>

G4S to leave immigration sector after Brook House scandal

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/sep/24/g4s-to-leave-immigration-sector-after-brook-house-scandal>

GP surgeries deny care to vulnerable people without ID documents

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/sep/24/gp-surgeries-deny-care-to-vulnerable-people-without-id-documents>

Britain claims it protects girls from FGM. So why are we deporting them?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/sep/25/britain-girls-fgm-female-genital-mutilation-asylum-immigration>

Making Tyneside Home: Photos reflect Tyneside immigration

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-49826255>

Settled Status: 'I'm angry to be treated as a second-class citizen'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-49837322>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Fostering a sense of pride in the British Nigerian experience

<https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/fostering-a-sense-of-pride-in-the-british-nigerian-experience-1-5011570>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Diversity in the Workplace

Clare Adamson (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to encourage diversity in the workplace. (S5O-03579)

Reply from the Minister for Business, Fair Work and Skills (Jamie Hepburn):

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing diversity in the workplace as part of our ambition for inclusive growth. We aim to encourage diversity in the workplace through the implementation of actions across a range of activity, including those in the “Fair Work Action Plan”, “A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People: Employment Action Plan”, “A Fairer Scotland for Women: Gender Pay Gap Action Plan” and “A Fairer Scotland for All: Race Equality Action Plan 2017-21”. Those actions, which include extending the workplace equality fund and promoting the benefits of diversity in the Scottish business pledge, will help to make Scotland a better and fairer place to live and work.

Clare Adamson: Does the minister agree that schemes such as the CRER—Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights—political shadowing scheme and the disability internship programme in the Parliament are an excellent way to engage with underrepresented groups in our workforce? Would he encourage other members to take part in such activities, as I have done?

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Yes, I would. I have taken part in those programmes in the past, and I have found them to be invaluable to me. I hope that those who have participated in them, working with me, have found them useful, too. I think that they are of great benefit. That is why the Government provides funding to the equal representation coalition to do things such as produce the toolkit to help political parties to improve the diversity of their membership; it is why we fund Inclusion Scotland to operate internships in the Scottish Government; and it is why I would encourage others to take part in the CRER shadowing scheme, as Clare Adamson, I and other members have done in the past.

Rhoda Grant (Labour): How can the Scottish Government encourage diversity when one of its agencies, Marine Scotland, aided by the Scottish Government’s personnel department, continues to abuse my constituent, a whistleblower who stood up against abusive sexist behaviour in a male-dominated workplace? That case alone discourages women from applying for work in male-dominated sectors.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: I will not comment on the specific case, because I believe that it could be the subject of on-going activity and I do not think that the Presiding Officer or anyone else would want me to do that. However, I have laid out the range of activity that we are utterly serious about in relation to the fair work action plan, at least halving the disability employment gap, the gender pay gap action plan and the race equality action plan. The agenda is one that we are very serious about.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12277&i=110984#ScotParlOR>

The Action Plans referred to above can be read at

<https://economicactionplan.mygov.scot/fair-work/>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/y69d7cpt>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/y4zq6v9h>

and

<https://tinyurl.com/y6nr7s4q>

Press Release

Speech by Equality and Human Rights Commission Chair, David Isaac

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/speech-john-cass-lecture-2019>

Race equality and justice in the charity sector

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/race-equality-and-justice-charity-sector>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Definition of Antisemitism

S5W-25296 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to evaluate the full implications of its decision to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

Aileen Campbell: There is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives. The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism helps to bring some much needed clarity to what is often a complex issue and helps to send a clear message that anti-Semitism of any kind will not be tolerated in Scotland. The definition was adopted as part of our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action plan and, although there are currently no plans for an evaluation of the definition, the action plan is due for review in 2020.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-25296>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yy4b7xht>

Scottish Parliament Petition

Evidence session: Hate Crime (Security Funding Scheme) (PE1737)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12272&i=110909#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [287449] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress has been made on the review of hate crime legislation in England and Wales.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Law Commission were invited to review the law on hate crime and to make recommendations for its reform. The review began in March 2019 and will also consider which characteristics (for example gender, age, disability) deserve enhanced protection by the criminal law and on what basis.

The Law Commission plan to issue a consultation on this matter in early 2020. Further information on the review can be found on the Law Commission webpage

at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-05/287449/>

Hate Crime

Paul Williams (Labour) [291470] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to prevent a potential rise in hate crime in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement.

Reply from Luke Hall: We are clear that there is no excuse for using the British people's decision to leave the EU to target people of any faith or background, and that includes EU nationals. All forms of hate crime are completely unacceptable and this country has one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime. We are funding hate crime reporting platforms, including Tell MAMA and True Vision who seek to increase hate crime reporting, helping communities unearth and challenge such behaviour.

More broadly, we are continuing our work to ensure that Britain remains a country where people live, work, learn and socialise together and share rights and responsibilities, whatever their background. We are engaging with communities of all faiths and background, to make sure that we understand any concerns communities may have and can provide targeted support. We have also worked with community and local partners to develop and publish guidance to support local authorities to engage effectively with all communities during this period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291470/>

Press Release

UK statement on hate crime at Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-on-hate-crime-at-hdim-2019>

New Publication

Fol release: 'Dear Haters Campaign' implementation

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-19-02031/>

News

Diane Abbott: Tories think they can win with "dog-whistle racism"

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/diane-abbott-tories-think-they-can-win-with-dog-whistle-racism-1-5008980>

Tory MP says blackface is an 'entirely acceptable bit of fun' after admitting wearing racist makeup

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/desmond-swayne-blackface-tory-mp-racist-james-brown-justin-trudeau-a9123006.html>

Uzma Mir: Is it wrong to 'black up' for a laugh? Well, let me tell you a story...

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17921837.uzma-mir-wrong-black-up-laugh-well-let-tell-story/>

Fresh Labour antisemitism row after controversial cartoon awarded as prize at event where Corbyn's wife spotted

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-labour-antisemitism-cartoon-prize-event-chris-williamson-jackie-walker-a9118471.html>

Richard Leonard tells media to stop asking about Jim Dempster's race slur
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-23/scotland/richard-leonard-tells-media-to-stop-asking-about-jim-dempsters-race-slur-xt8qdw0v>

Brexitteer jailed for inciting racial hatred
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/billy-charlton-sunderland-justice-rape-campaign-tommy-robinson-brexit-a9123376.html>

Anti-racism event hosted by Edinburgh University bans white people from asking questions
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/09/27/anti-racism-event-hosted-edinburgh-university-bans-white-people/>

Anti-racist event softens ban on white people asking questions
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-09-28/scotland/anti-racist-event-softens-ban-on-white-people-asking-questions-gt6fk9z96>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament First Minister's Statement and Q&A

Supreme Court Judgment (Response)

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): We have witnessed some astonishing developments in the three years since the Brexit referendum in June 2016. The previous Prime Minister resigned after losing three House of Commons votes on her Brexit deal, one of which was lost by a record margin. The work of the Westminster Parliament has ground to a halt. It is important to note that that has had significant implications for this Parliament in areas—such as social security and no-deal preparations—in which we require co-operation to deliver our own commitments.

In recent weeks, the United Kingdom Government has also lost control of the House of Commons and now, even with the support of the Democratic Unionist Party, it has no workable majority. The Prime Minister has yet to win a single vote in the Commons since he took office.

All of that is extraordinary and unprecedented, but none of those extraordinary events compares with what has happened today. Today's judgment of the Supreme Court may be about the prorogation of another Parliament, but the circumstances giving rise to it, and the implications of it, are of enormous significance to this Parliament and the people of Scotland. Indeed, that is why the Lord Advocate intervened in this case, on behalf of the Scottish Government. ...

This is not a technical or narrow defeat for the UK Government. It is not just about, for example, the detail of an act of Parliament. It is a defeat on justiciability, on lawfulness and on remedy, and it is in terms that call into question the UK Government's commitment to basic democratic values and the rule of law. ...

After today, we need a clear and unambiguous statement that the law will be respected, and that the UK Government will ask for an extension to prevent a catastrophic no-deal Brexit on 31 October. Ultimately, this is—of course—about the fundamentals of our democratic system. However, it is also—never let us forget—about people's jobs and living standards, the health and wellbeing of our communities and our place in the world. It is about maintaining the hard-won and precious peace in Northern Ireland, and it is about respecting the wishes of the people of Scotland and the views of this Parliament. It is also

about avoiding the disruption that we know will take place, and that the UK Government knows will take place, in both the short and long term, if any Brexit—but especially a no-deal Brexit—is allowed to happen. ...

This is an important time to take action but also to reflect. Our Scottish Parliament has been reconvened for 20 years. Its reconvening was a vital step in restoring Scotland's political voice. Today in this chamber, we need to make it clear that all of us, regardless of party, stand up for democratic values, that we condemn a Prime Minister who was prepared to act unlawfully to shut down Parliament and that we will continue to do everything that we can, as a Parliament, to make Scotland's voice heard and to protect our citizens from the damage of Brexit.

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): Today's judgment by the Supreme Court is as profound as any made by any court in my political lifetime. I start by saying that the rule of law is the foundation of our system of government. The judgment of the courts must be respected by Government, all the more so when it may not like the result. The judgment clearly upholds the principle that Government is subject to the will of Parliament and that Parliament is therefore not subject to the will of Government. That is an important consideration for each of us in every Parliament.

The Prime Minister has stated that the House of Commons and the House of Lords will now return, as confirmed by the Speakers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and that, in consequence, Westminster will now have further opportunities to continue the debate on Brexit and other business. In a parliamentary democracy—and, not least, in light of the court's judgment—it is right that our Westminster Parliament will now determine what comes next. That overall priority is unchanged: the possibility of a deal to leave the EU on 31 October in an orderly way is still there. Members of Parliament must redouble their efforts to find that resolution and support a fresh arrangement if that is achieved with our European partners. ...

Alex Rowley (Labour): The Supreme Court position shows that the Prime Minister has acted wrongly, in contempt of democracy, and that that is an abuse of power by the Prime Minister. Does the First Minister agree that, regardless of our political colours, we need to unite in this Parliament to send a clear message that the current Tory Government at Westminster must obey the law and take no deal off the table? ...

Patrick Harvie (Green): The First Minister is quite right to say that Boris Johnson must be held personally responsible for this action. ...

However, is it not the case that the whole UK Government must be held responsible as well? Those people chose to serve under him; his Cabinet and his adviser team include people who were deeply complicit when the leave campaign broke the law in order to secure the referendum result. ...

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat): Thanks to the UK Supreme Court, parliamentary democracy has prevailed today. When the Prime Minister speaks at the United Nations this evening, he will not be speaking for our country. His unlawful actions have diminished him—if that was at all possible—and humiliated our country once again. The Prime Minister should resign; he is not a fit and proper person, and no person in this chamber, including the Conservatives, should support him. ...

To read the full statement, and question and answer session see

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12273&i=110931#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-19046 Emma Harper (SNP): Supreme Court Ruling – That the Parliament wholeheartedly and unanimously welcomes the judgement of the highest court in the UK,

the Supreme Court, that the decision taken by the UK Government to prorogue the UK Parliament is unlawful and frustrates the ability of the UK Parliament to carry out its constitutional role in scrutinising and voting on decisions taken by the UK Government; agrees with the statement by the Supreme Court President, Lady Hale, that, in relation to the prorogation decision, "The effect on the fundamentals of our democracy was extreme"; notes the statement by the Speaker of the House of Commons that the UK Parliament must convene without delay; reaffirms the importance of the rule of law in the UK, and welcomes what it sees as the restoration of parliamentary sovereignty and democracy by the Supreme Court, which it considers will allow MPs from across the UK to make the voices of their constituents heard, and to hold the UK Government to account.
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-19046>

Press Releases

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2018-19

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2018-19/>

New national taskforce starts work on human rights

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-national-taskforce-starts-work-on-human-rights/>

First Minister's Jewish New Year message

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-ministers-jewish-new-year-message/>

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2018-19

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2018-19/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Census: Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [291409] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate his Department has made of the number of Sikhs who did not identify themselves as either religious or ethnically Sikh in the 2011 census.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply:

... I am able to provide the following information based on the data we hold: In the 2011 Census of England and Wales, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated the number of persons who identified themselves as Sikh at 430,020. There were 423,158 persons who identified as Sikh in the religion question, and 83,362 persons who identified as Sikh in the ethnic group question. Of the 83,362 persons who identified as Sikh in the ethnic group question, 6,862 did not also identify as Sikh in the religion question.

For the 2021 Census, the ONS has made a number of recommendations in the

White Paper (*Help Shape Our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales*¹) to ensure that the need for high-quality data, for those who identify as Sikh, is met. The recommendations fully recognise the need for good data on the Sikh community, both in terms of the need for high-quality data from the Census and also more widely across all public services. I want to assure you that everyone who wishes to identify as Sikh will be able to do so under the published proposals for the 2021 Census.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-26/291409/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Census: Jainism

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [290594] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether he will hold discussions with the Office of National Statistics on the potential merits of introducing alternatives to the write-in option and search box to be used in the 2021 Census to ensure more accurate data on the Jain community in that census; and if will he make a statement.

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [290595] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what plans he has to promote to the Jain population in the UK the ability to identify as a Jain in the 2021 census, and if he will make a statement.

Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op) [290596] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what discussions he has had with the Office of National Statistics to ensure that the religious classification of Jainism is not confused with the term Hindu; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government will be guided by the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) recommendations, to Government and Parliament, regarding the demand for particular questions in the next census.

These recommendations were published in the White Paper 'Help Shape our Future: The 2021 Census of Population and Housing in England and Wales' in December 2018 (Cm 9745).

Under the ONS proposals, everyone who wishes to identify as being of the Jain religion in the 2021 Census will be able to do so using the write-in option and the new online search-as-you-type facility.

The ONS will work with local groups and organisations to ensure anyone who wishes to identify as Jain knows that they can use these options to do so. The ONS has been in discussions with the Institute of Jainology (IoJ) about how best to reach and work with Jain communities, as well as working with local authorities to identify areas with Jain communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290594/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290595/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-09-25/290596/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765089/Census2021WhitePaper.pdf

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Douglas Chapman (SNP) (2735) Dunfermline Central Mosque success at British Beacon Mosque Awards – That this House congratulates Dunfermline Central Mosque and Islamic Centre on winning three awards at this year's British Beacon Mosque Awards; understands that the Dunfermline-based mosque won awards for Best Outreach Programme, Most Impactful Imam and Best Run Mosque; pays tribute to Imam Habib, winner of the Most Impactful Imam award, for the outstanding community outreach work he has done during his time at the mosque; notes that Imam Habib has now left Dunfermline to pursue his Islamic studies in Egypt and wishes him well for the future; and applauds the whole Dunfermline Central Mosque team on their inclusive approach towards engaging the Muslim and non-Muslim communities across West Fife.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53295/dunfermline-central-mosque-success-at-british-beacon-mosque-awards>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's intention to request the current session of Parliament be prorogued

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pms-intention-to-request-the-current-session-of-parliament-be-prorogued>

Scottish Secretary responds to Supreme Court judgement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-responds-to-supreme-court-judgement>

Prime Minister's Rosh Hashanah 2019 message *(video)*

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1178202819234615296>

Foreign Secretary's Rosh Hashanah 2019 message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-rosh-hashanah-message>

New Publication

The Value of the Charity Sector

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835686/Value_of_Charity_-_Oct_19_-_published.pdf

News

Supreme Court: Suspending Parliament was unlawful, judges rule

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49810261>

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New Publication

Empowering young people in Scotland to be FEARLESS

<https://actiononprejudice.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2019/09/Fearless-Scotland-Guide-min.pdf>

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Other News

Code of Fundraising Practice

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/code-of-fundraising-practice/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

**** Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

Bill as introduced

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Civil%20Partnership%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill57S052019.pdf

Policy Memorandum

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Civil%20Partnership%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill57PMS052019.pdf

Explanatory Notes

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Civil%20Partnership%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill57ENS052019.pdf

Financial Memorandum

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Civil%20Partnership%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill57FMS052019.pdf

Delegated Powers Memorandum

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Animals%20and%20Wildlife%20Bill/SPBill57DPMS052019.pdf

Equality impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/civil-partnership-scotland-bill-equality-impact-assessment/>

Business and regulatory impact assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/civil-partnership-scotland-bill-business-regulatory-impact-assessment/>

Press Release: Civil Partnership Bill introduced

<https://www.gov.scot/news/civil-partnership-bill-introduced/>

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

**** Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.aspx>

Stage 1 evidence session, Equalities and Human Rights Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12269&i=110899#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament

Following the Supreme Court's judgment that the prorogation of the UK Parliament was unlawful, the 2017-19 parliamentary session resumed on 25 September, and all Bills in progress before the prorogation ceremony remain live.

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

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>

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>

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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Strategic police priorities for Scotland (closing date 4 October 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y5qo62n3>

Children (Scotland) Bill (closing date 15 November 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/112981.aspx>

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (closing date 17 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/looked-after-children-unit/independent-child-trafficking-guardians/>

Freedom of Information extension of coverage (closing date 22 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/freedom-of-information-extension-of-coverage/>

Widening the scope of the current victim statement scheme (closing date 24 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/current-victim-statement-scheme/>

Financial Redress for Historical Child Abuse in Care (closing date 25 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

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

Glasgow Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 20 October

Glasgow City Council funding of between £20,000 and £200,000 per year for up to three years for community and Third Sector organisations in Glasgow. The Fund aims to tackle poverty and inequality through building the skills, capacity and resilience of individuals and communities, and supporting activities and services that will enable and empower communities to become involved in the social, economic and cultural life of the city.

The Fund has the following overarching outcomes:

- People and communities have access to services, support and opportunities that improve their lives and well-being
- People and communities are more self-reliant and are better able to identify ways to improve and take control of their lives and well-being
- People are better able to gain the skills, capacity and confidence to play an active role in their communities
- People and communities are better able to influence and participate in decision making and service development
- People and communities are better able to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs

For information see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/glasgowcommunitiesfund>

and for Guidance and application forms see

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/24983/Application-Process>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Black History Month

1 to 31 October 2019

Black History Month illuminates Scotland's 'hidden history', and brings into sharp relief the various strands of suffering, humiliation, exploitation and denigration of African, Caribbean and Asian people, as well as being about solidarity and the building of allies in relation to

experiences of racism in Scotland. To read the full programme of events see https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/7ec2e5_bee1dd34a1e849af9dba0c7afc3112d5.pdf

**** this week!**

Islam in Scotland - Teacher's Toolkit Training

3 October 2019 in Aberdeen (1.00-4.30)

Training by Amina and the University of Edinburgh's Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World to expand on topics covered in "From Mecca to Musselburgh", including an introduction to Islam as a religious tradition and lived reality across history and the Scottish context. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y68zzcqd>

**** this week!**

Supporting Refugees

6 October 2019 in East Calder

Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees events to explore the situation of refugees in Scotland, consider what refugee integration looks like, and find out how to get involved in supporting refugees. For information about the Gordon event see <http://www.sfar.org.uk/supporting-refugees-in-gordon/> and for East Calder see <http://www.sfar.org.uk/6-october-supporting-refugees-in-east-calder/>

**** this week!**

Introduction to Fundraising

8 October 2019 in Benbecula (9.30)

15 October 2019 in Kirkintilloch (9.30)

23 October 2019 in Tranent (9.30)

Institute of Fundraising introduction to the rules governing fundraising and how it has to be carried out legally and ethically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3ebmqeb>

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

9 October 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

23 October 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

20 November 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explore fundamental issues of settled and pre-settled status, welfare and housing entitlements of EEA nationals. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

9 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

23 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

20 November 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, 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>

Festival of Politics

10-12 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament

Scottish Parliament festival that includes debates on the political and social issues that matter most to you, and a programme of free entertainment. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/>

The Macpherson Report at 20

11 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament (1.15-2.45)

Festival of Politics debate about whether Britain and its public bodies have changed in acknowledging and tackling racism since the publication of the Macpherson Report into the police's handling of the death of Stephen Lawrence. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/the-macpherson-report-at-20>

Islamophobia – does it exist?

11 October 2019 at the Scottish Parliament (3.30-5.00)

Festival of Politics discussion on the blurred lines on religion, race and freedom of speech and the issue of Islamophobia in the UK today. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/islamophobia>

Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities 2019

15 October 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

BEMIS and Police Scotland follow up to last year's Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities conference. The 2019 conference will return to last year's key outcomes and will include presentations and practical discussion opportunities with key stakeholders on these critical approaches to helping to shape a Scotland that is responsive, just, and cognisant of our ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y33z6h2k>

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

16 October 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider the wide-ranging influence of cultural background on people's behaviour, expectations and beliefs, consider responses to the behaviour of others, and improve communication skills with people from other cultures. For information about the August event see <https://tinyurl.com/y374w8md> and the October event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4r8ed8f>

Challenging the Hostile Environment

25 October 2019 in Glasgow (11.00)

Positive Action in Housing AGM Conference and workshops to discuss the challenges for refugee, migrant and EU citizens rights, the impact of poverty and discrimination, and ways to further develop crisis services for destitute and homeless people from BME, refugee and migrant communities. For information see <https://paih.typeform.com/to/O2yYFH>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

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

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

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

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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

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

Refugee community sponsorship

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

No Recourse to Public Funds

11 December 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

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

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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>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

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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