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

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**The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 17 February 2020.
The UK Parliament is in recess until 24 February 2020.**

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Migration and Scotland

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-11/debates/4FBD16D7-9994-48DB-83CB-ADAD421D0112/MigrationAndScotland>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

“Migration: Helping Scotland Prosper”

Stephen Flynn (SNP): [Will the Minister] hold discussions with the Scottish Government

on their report “Migration: Helping Scotland Prosper”, published on 27 January 2020. [900678]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster): Immigration is and will remain a reserved matter. This Government will introduce a points-based immigration system that works in the interests of the whole of the United Kingdom, including Scotland. Applying different immigration rules to different parts of the UK would significantly complicate the immigration system.

Stephen Flynn: The Australian Immigration Minister stated last November that regional visas “can play an important role in helping to address regional skills gaps and grow local economies.” As migration is the only reason Scotland’s population continues to grow, does the Minister agree that Scotland would benefit from this Australian approach to immigration, rather than the one-size-fits-all one of this UK Government?

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee on several occasions to look at the case for applying different immigration arrangements to different areas of the UK. It has consistently recommended against this, and I think Members in this House will realise why it would make no sense, for example, for a plumber from Gretna to be unable to take on jobs in Carlisle.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): New Zealand, Switzerland and Canada are just some of the other countries that, like Australia, operate a tailored regional immigration system without any need for internal borders, so what possible rationale is there for claiming, as the Prime Minister did last week, that to operate a Scottish visa would require a hard border between Scotland and England?

Reply from Kevin Foster: Again, we have made it very clear: the independent Migration Advisory Committee has set out in its report why it does not recommend this type of approach. Ultimately, we do not want to see borders at Berwick just to satisfy a separatist obsession. Our goal would be to have a system that works and drives success in Scotland, and that means being part of a wider, stronger United Kingdom.

Joanna Cherry: ... Let us try again on this mythical hard border, shall we? The United Kingdom has an open land border and shares a common travel area with the Republic of Ireland, which operates an entirely distinct and independent system. That does not necessitate a hard border, so why should a modest Scottish visa mean a hard border between England and Scotland? Let us have an answer to the question for a change.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Let us be very clear: the Migration Advisory Committee has advised against such a system. It would create complexity, with businesses having to work out which staff were on one visa and which were on another. Ultimately, we will be guided by independent advice, but I will be absolutely clear: this Government will create a migration system that works for Scotland and drives success in Scotland, but will not drive separation for Scotland.

David Duguid (Conservative): Can the Minister confirm that this Government will indeed design and implement a new, fit-for-purpose global immigration system that works for all regions and nations of our United Kingdom, and that, of course, Members on the SNP Benches have as much right as any Member in this place to work with the Government to help to achieve that?

Reply from Kevin Foster: Absolutely, and the suggestion from the Scottish Government that it would be implemented via the Scottish tax code is rather defeated by the fact that Scottish Members of Parliament are on the Scottish tax code but work across our United Kingdom, and rightly so. So, yes, we will work with interest groups across Scotland to make sure this system works for Scotland as part of our United Kingdom, on a points-based basis. Again, we will focus on what works and what is successful, not on what pleases the separatist grievance agenda.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/F114CE0E-EFBA-4D3C-B944-853D9C632079/%E2%80%9CMigrationHelpingScotlandProsper%E2%80%9D>

The Scottish Government report referred to above can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/vgkhr6p>

The Migration Affairs Committee report referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

Points-based Immigration System

Michael Fabricant (Conservative): What plans [does the Minister have] to introduce a new points-based immigration system; and if she will make a statement. [900682]

Jamie Wallis (Conservative): What plans she has to introduce an Australian-style points-based immigration system. [900690]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The Government will introduce a points-based immigration system that works in the interests of the United Kingdom, and that is fair and prioritises the skills people have to offer wherever they come from.

Michael Fabricant: I for one welcome this, particularly the fact that we will be able to get the brightest and the best not only from Europe but from other nations as well, such as the US, Australia and New Zealand, and Canada. But Lichfield is a rural constituency ... and we have a need not just for people with great skills but for part-time horticultural workers. What can my right hon. Friend do to assure people they will come to the UK?

Reply from Priti Patel: ... Of course, in order to take back control we are effectively bringing in these changes, and with that I am doubling the number of people who can go through the seasonal agricultural workers scheme, and more information will follow on that in due course.

Jamie Wallis: Can my right hon. Friend confirm that such a points-based system will take account of the needs of communities across all regions of the United Kingdom, including my Bridgend constituency in Wales?

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank my hon. Friend for his question on the applicability of the points-based system, including to his beautiful Bridgend constituency, and of course he is absolutely right to raise that. We want the brightest and the best; we want to control immigration, but of course we want to bring that equalisation so that anybody from around the world—not just from the EU—who wants to come to the UK, including Bridgend, and has the skills to offer will be welcome.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour): Will the Secretary of State provide some clarification regarding the proposed immigration system? It has been called Australian-styled, but the Minister will be aware that the Australian system is actually a permissive system designed to encourage migration, and as the hostile environment rages on surely that is not what this Government aim to do—raise migration. So will the right hon. Lady clarify exactly what the system is, and confirm whether the Government will scrap the net migration target, which was dreamed up without evidence and has never once been met?

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank the hon. Lady for her question, and of course she will know that the hostile environment, as she called it, dates back to previous Governments. The point about the points-based system is of course that we want a simpler, faster, firmer, better system—one that fulfils our promises to the British people, where we seize that once-in-a-generation opportunity to take back control of our borders and end free movement, which I appreciate Opposition Members simply do not want. We will restore democratic control of our immigration, which is effectively what the British people voted for.

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op): It is important to remember that it was the Labour Government who introduced a points-based system. It is important to remember, too, that

many of the workers we need in this country cannot come in under the immigration cap of £30,000. The Home Secretary has looked at that for some professions, but will she widen it to ensure we get the workers we need?

Reply from Priti Patel: Immigration legislation will come before the House in due course. With regard to the labour market and the skills this country needs, decisions on the points-based system will be based on the needs and skills that this country requires. That is incredibly important, so that no Member is deceived under that. It recognises the fact that we need good people with the skills our economy needs, which will enable and facilitate growth in our economy. We want to encourage the brightest and the best to come to this country not just from the EU, but from outside the EU.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/76D9A0DB-29D0-4ED6-8352-E48412BE79FC/Points-BasedImmigrationSystem>

Topical Questions: Home Department: EU Settlement

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour): How many EU citizens who have been living here for more than five years, entirely legally, and have applied for settled status have been given only pre-settled status?

Reply from the Minister for Security (Brandon Lewis): Pre-settled status is granted to people who have not been in the country for five years. By definition, an EU citizen who has been living in the country for five years or more and can evidence that will be granted full settled status. For clarity, according to the most recent set of official figures, I think only five people have been refused status, all on the grounds of criminality.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/768628C7-C90F-407E-B83E-A76AF2DE583F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-109532D7-4381-4227-96C0-D6389C9F4D1C>

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Family Reunion

Liz Twist (Labour): What plans [does the Minister have] to maintain the legal route to family reunion for refugees and asylum seekers in the EU with family in the UK after the transition period. [900673]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The UK has a long and proud tradition of offering protection to vulnerable people who are fleeing war and persecution, and this Government take the welfare of vulnerable children extremely seriously. We support the principle of family unity wholeheartedly.

Liz Twist: ... rather than waiting for the outcome of negotiations, will the Home Office not get on the front foot and make some much-needed changes to domestic legislation? The changes could be made tomorrow and provide certainty for the many hundreds of families who can currently be reunited through the Dublin regulation.

Reply from Priti Patel: The hon. Lady will be more than aware of the work that we do to provide safe and legal routes for family reunion, and for vulnerable persons and children. She has heard me say that we are fully committed to supporting the most vulnerable children and the principle of family reunion. It is a fact that we are about to negotiate with the European Union. I set out the Government's position clearly in communications and correspondence with the European Commission at the end of last year, and that is the route we will be pursuing.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Home Secretary will be aware of the conditions that many refugee children endure in refugee camps all over Europe. She will also be aware that the public do not want us to let these children down. Will she confirm that unless law and practice are changed, we run the risk of breaking up families and leaving children abandoned with no relative to care for them?

Reply from Priti Patel: The right hon. Lady has touched on a very important point,

namely the conditions that children and families endure in refugee camps outside the United Kingdom. That could be in Europe, but also in countries outside Europe. It is important that we reflect on the priorities and standards that we, as a country, provide for those refugees through our work in international development and aid. We should not overlook the fact that there are a great deal of associated issues—reunion, the protection and settlement of refugees, and vulnerable children—that come together internationally, but we are leading the way on this in the UK.

James Gray (Conservative): Does the Home Secretary agree that by far the best way of reuniting families is to find vulnerable children in refugee camps in Syria, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and that by simply accepting those who turn up at Dover, we risk encouraging the vicious people traffickers who thereby make a lot of money? Does she agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury, no less, who said recently: “The resettlement of thousands of the world’s most vulnerable refugees over the past four years is something the UK can be proud of”? I hope that she is proud of that.

Reply from Priti Patel: I thank my hon. Friend for his comments. The House should be under no illusions; we have a strong and proud record of helping vulnerable children, and we have protected more than 41,000 children since the start of 2010. He is right; there are a number of points here about the criminality associated with illegal migration. I am afraid that we have seen far too much of that, whether people are being trafficked in small boats, in lorries or through other vehicle movements. That is wrong, and it is something that we are also determined to stamp out.

Natalie Elphicke (Conservative): Does my right hon. Friend agree that, given the action that the Government are taking to protect vulnerable children through legal routes, more action needs to be taken to slow down and stop activity on the illegal people trafficking routes, particularly those between Calais and Dover?

Reply from Priti Patel: My hon. Friend the Member for Dover (Mrs Elphicke) speaks with a great deal of knowledge and insight about this issue. We must absolutely clamp down on the illegal routes that are being exploited, many of which are upstream—outside the United Kingdom—and on the appalling amount of human trafficking. There are many safe and legal routes that are supported by the British Government, and we will continue to support them.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): Why do we not simply say unilaterally that we will continue to consider take charge requests on behalf of unaccompanied children from Europe? Why should children’s rights be subject to negotiations at all?

Reply from Priti Patel: The hon. Gentleman must recognise that any future agreement is a matter for negotiation, and it is not within the gift of the United Kingdom alone. We can work bilaterally, but this is about the reciprocal arrangements that we undertake with our EU counterparts. That is the approach that has been outlined by the Government, and it is the right approach.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/40401A08-ED68-4F90-8EC1-D70269FF3AE2/RefugeesAndAsylumSeekersFamilyReunion>

Topical Questions: Home Department: Asylum

Edward Leigh (Conservative): Over the weekend, a large number of illegal migrants were detained trying to cross the channel. Last summer, the Prime Minister warned migrants crossing the channel that the United Kingdom would “send you back”. I have read that few of these migrants are actually sent back, because they have claims for asylum, but surely if they leave a perfectly safe country such as France and try to enter our country illegally, they should not be able to claim asylum. Will the Home Office get a grip and send these people back, in order to stop this illegal trade? [900707]

Reply from Kevin Foster: I share my right hon. Friend’s concerns, and we have been clear that people should make their asylum claim in the first safe country they reach. We work under the Dublin regulations and we will continue to discuss our

future participation in that regard, post-Brexit, but we will be tackling this because we want to end the scourge of trafficking that puts so many lives at risk.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/768628C7-C90F-407E-B83E-A76AF2DE583F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-BABB3F09-C257-430E-9566-4B7D5A111A48>

Topical Questions: Home Department: Deportation

Diane Abbott (Labour): Does the Home Secretary appreciate the widespread concern about the Jamaican deportation flight due tomorrow? Is she aware that Stephen Shaw, in his review of detention, suggested that we should not be deporting people who came here as children, but that many of the proposed deportees came here as children and have no memory of Jamaica? Does she accept that these deportations constitute double jeopardy, because the persons have already served an appropriate sentence for their crime? Is she aware that more than 170 Members of Parliament from all political parties have written to the Prime Minister calling for the deportation flight to be halted?

Reply from Priti Patel: I am sure that the right hon. Lady is aware that under the UK Borders Act 2007 a deportation order must be made in respect of foreign criminals sentenced to 12 months or more in prison. Every person on the flight was convicted of a serious offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. That means that, under the Act, which was introduced by the Labour Government in 2007, a deportation order must be made.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/768628C7-C90F-407E-B83E-A76AF2DE583F/TopicalQuestions#contribution-D99140C0-7EEC-404A-B04B-BC3F563AB731>

Urgent Question: Deportation Flight to Jamaica

David Lammy (Labour): To ask the Home Secretary, as she leaves the Chamber, if she will make a statement on the suppression of the Windrush lessons learned review and its implications for the deportation flight that is set to leave the country on Wednesday.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster): Righting the wrongs suffered by the Windrush generation has been an absolute priority for this Government. People who arrived in this country as little more than infants, and who built lives and raised families here, were told they were no longer welcome. That should never have happened, and it was a terrible mistake by successive Governments and by the Home Office. Since these injustices came to light, the Government have moved swiftly to give those affected the certainty they need. That is why we set up a taskforce to help people confirm their status. I can confirm that over 8,000 people have been granted some form of documentation, including over 5,000 grants of citizenship, under the scheme.

We have also launched a compensation scheme to address the financial hardship suffered by those left unable to work or unable to access other support systems. To ensure nothing like this ever happens again, the previous Home Secretary commissioned an independent lessons learned review.

In recent days, news coverage has referenced extracts of a draft report, which were leaked in June 2019, in the context of a planned deportation charter flight to Jamaica. I am not going to comment on leaks, but let me be very clear that the lessons learned report has not been suppressed. The report has yet to be submitted to Ministers by the independent adviser, Wendy Williams. It will be for the Home Secretary to publish her report once it has been received.

It is vital that we allow Wendy Williams the time and space to produce her report without political interference. When it is available, the Home Office is committed to publishing it as soon as practically possible and will take its findings and any recommendations very seriously.

With regard to tomorrow's charter flight, the Home Secretary is required by law to

issue a deportation order for anyone who is a serious or persistent foreign national offender. It does not matter what part of the world they are from. Whether it is the United States, Jamaica, Australia or Canada, it is criminality, not nationality, that counts.

That legal requirement is set out in the UK Borders Act 2007, which was introduced under a Labour Government, and I remind the right hon. Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) that he was a member of that Government and did not, as far as I can recall, raise objections at the time to the Act's provisions.

We cannot breach the Act, and we will not allow foreign nationals who are convicted of the most serious offences, including rape and child sexual abuse, to remain in Britain. Tomorrow's flight is about keeping the public safe, and it cannot and should not be conflated with the wrongs suffered by the Windrush generation.

David Lammy: I regret the tone with which the Minister has responded to this urgent question. It is two years since there was consensus in this House on how the Windrush generation had been treated in this country. This is a generation of people, thousands of them, who came to this country after the second world war and gave so much but took so little.

Let me just remind the Minister: 164 people were detained and deported, which the Government say they got wrong. On the back of that, 5,000 people were denied access to public services, healthcare, pensions and education—all that they were entitled to. Against that backdrop, he is correct that the Government rightly set up the independent lessons learned review led by Wendy Williams. In the wake of that, they suspended flights to Jamaica. The question today is why have the Government resumed those flights?

In light of the scandal of people who arrived in this country as children, how can the Minister guarantee to the House that there are not people on this flight who are actually British nationals? In the wake of the leak, in which Wendy Williams herself says Ministers should not deport people under the age of 13, can he confirm that there are people on that flight who arrived in this country aged two, three, five or 11? He gives the House the impression that they are murderers and rapists, but he knows that many of them were convicted of non-violent offences.

We in this House cannot condemn county lines and those who would pimp young black children in this country and, at the same time, send those same children back to Jamaica for such drug offences. So I ask the Minister: when will we see this lessons learned review? It was promised in March last year. It was then delayed until September. We are almost two years on now, and people watching see the way in which this Government hold in such disrespect the contribution of West Indian, Caribbean and black people in this country. When, when will black lives matter once again?

Reply from Kevin Foster: Let us start with the review and when it will come. Ultimately, this is an independent review and the timing is in the hands of the reviewer. Ministers cannot compel it to be produced by a particular date. Let us be clear: on the status check, there are no British nationals on that flight. Let us also be clear that the foreign national offenders on the flight have been sentenced to a total of 300 years in prison. As we said, the offences relate to everything from sex offending to serious drug trafficking offences, violent offences and firearms offences. That is what is happening in this instance and, aside from two cases, it is based on legislation passed under a Labour Government, in 2007. To define the Windrush generation by this particular group of offenders is truly wrong. The Windrush generation should be defined by the midwife who delivered hundreds of babies; the person who travelled thousands of miles, worked hard and provided for their family for decades. The line being adopted by the Opposition now is remarkable: that somehow that generation is defined by serious or persistent criminal offenders who are being deported from this country. ...

Given the provisions of the law that have been in place for the past 13 years, many

will expect that when someone is convicted of a type of offence that many of those on this flight have committed, deportation may well proceed. Let us be clear: drugs are not a victimless crime; we need only look at the death rates, particularly the tragic figures we had last year in Scotland, to see their impact. As I say, the law is there and the law is clear, and it is not a “might”, a “may” or a “could”; it was legislated in 2007 that it was a “must” issue a deportation order.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The public will note the very dismissive attitude that the Minister has taken to the serious urgent question from my right hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy). One problem with this deportation flight is that it is not clear how many people on it came to this country as children. The Minister said he will not comment on leaks from the Windrush lessons learned review. Will he accept that the Stephen Shaw review of detention suggests we should not deport people who came here as children? Is the Minister aware that some of the proposed deportees have, in effect, been held incommunicado because of problems with the mobile signal in their detention centre? Is he aware that one thing the Windrush scandal teaches us is that, when we deport people in this way, we need to be absolutely certain about their immigration status? Clearly, none of them are of the Windrush cohort, but some of them may be the children and grandchildren of the Windrush cohort, which would have made it difficult for them to establish their nationality. Is the Minister aware of the very real concern in the community about this mass deportation flight? His dismissive attitude suggests an altogether dismissive attitude to the concerns of the community and what is problematic about this mass deportation flight.

Reply from Kevin Foster: I agree with the shadow Home Secretary that it is right that extensive checks are made before people are listed for deportation on a flight such as the one we are discussing. Let us be clear: these are offenders who have been through the courts and sentenced. There will have been opportunities to make representations against their removal and, as the right hon. Lady will know, there are exemptions in the 2007 Act that apply in respect of, for example, the refugee convention or the European convention on human rights. Those matters have been considered and many of the offenders have lodged appeals. Again, I am clear that the public would look at this debate and say that these are persistent or serious criminal offenders. The law is clear and it is a statutory “must” that the Home Secretary make a deportation order. The law is applied based on the criminality, not the nationality, of the offender. There are regular deportations to many other countries around the world. We will consider the review, but we will also be clear that victims and the public have a right to be protected from serious criminals. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... It is totally unacceptable that this charter flight could proceed before all the lessons of Windrush are learned. Windrush should change everything; instead, the Home Office carries on as if nothing has changed.

Will the Minister admit that the flight will include people who were entitled to British nationality—including one individual who was in the care system—but could not access it because of complicated and expensive nationality procedures? When will access to British citizenship finally be made affordable and simple? Does the Minister accept that many on the flight have a far stronger connection to Britain than to Jamaica? ...

Reply from Kevin Foster: Again, I am clear that we have checked that there is no one on the flight who would be eligible for British citizenship or nationality. ...

Desmond Swayne (Conservative): What is the most trivial offence that has been committed by those who have been put on this flight?

Reply from Kevin Foster: ... those on board include people who have been convicted of rape—rape of children—firearms offences, and serious drug offences. ...

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat): The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants says that it has become aware that potential victims of trafficking have also been served with

removal directions. Will the Minister please confirm with a clear yes or no whether there will be victims of human trafficking on this flight?

Reply from Kevin Foster: Any claims made for the protection routes will have been assessed, but, again, we are talking about a plane full of people who have been sentenced to a total of 300 years in prison and have committed serious offences. ...

Clive Lewis (Labour): "Never again" we were told by those on the Government Benches when they were dragged to this place over the first Windrush scandal. Now we are hearing that lessons learned in that report are again falling on deaf ears. Ultimately, we on the Labour Benches know that this Windrush case is state-sanctioned racism, and it has given permission to racists across this country to attack people day in, day out. When will the Minister understand that this flight must be stopped ...? ...

To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/CA8268EA-7EBF-4DA9-B46D-2EB86F6236BD/DeportationFlightToJamaica>

Prime Minister's Questions: Windrush Generation

Jeremy Corbyn (Labour): The Government have learned absolutely nothing from the Windrush scandal. This cruel and callous Government are trying to mislead the British people into thinking that they are solely deporting foreign nationals who are guilty of murder, rape and other very serious offences. This is clearly not the case. Take the example of a young black boy who came to the UK aged five and is now being deported after serving time for a drugs offence. If there was a case of a young white boy with blond hair who later dabbled in class A drugs and conspired with a friend to beat up a journalist, would the Prime Minister deport that boy; or is it one rule for young black boys from the Caribbean and another for white boys from the United States?

Reply from the Prime Minister: Quite frankly, I think the right hon. Gentleman demeans himself and besmirches the reputation of the Windrush generation, who came to this country to work in our public services, to teach our children and to make lives better for the people of this country. He has no right to conflate them with the foreign national offenders we are deporting today.

Jeremy Corbyn: The Windrush generation have been disgracefully treated by a Government who deliberately created a hostile environment.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-12/debates/A4C63228-5E27-41B0-9299-E7F1ED892919/Engagements#contribution-4B41179C-1711-47A2-87BA-834654BB9F4C>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [12220] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's definition is of a complex immigration case; and what the criteria are for designating a case as complex.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There is no prescribed test or definition for when a case is deemed to be complex. Each case is dealt with on its own merits and, while reviewing an application, a trained caseworker will make an assessment of whether the particular circumstances of that application would deem it to be classed as complex. If a case is classed as complex the Home Office will write to the customer explaining why.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12220/>

Immigration

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [12221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many immigration cases have taken longer than (a) six months and (b) one year to be resolved in each of the last five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12221/>

Visas: Domestic Service

Kate Green (Labour) [10372] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people in the UK on a six month domestic work visa and who entered the National Referral Mechanism received a reasonable grounds decision after their visa expired in the last two years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-quarter-3-2019-july-to-september> and the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>. In addition Home Office statistics on domestic work visas can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics>

Visa information and NRM information are held on separate databases. Cross matching data between the two databases is not straightforward as the two datasets do not contain a common unique identifier.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10372/>

Migrant Workers: Veterinary Medicine

Roger Gale (Conservative) [12833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of UK-trained overseas Veterinary Surgeons working in the UK under the current visa regulations that will be required to leave the UK in the next five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Veterinarians from outside the EU can apply to come to the UK under Tier 2 (General), our main route for skilled workers. Tier 2 is a route to settlement and so no Veterinary Surgeons who are in the UK on this route would be required to leave as long as they meet the settlement requirements. As Veterinarians are on the UK Shortage Occupation List, they are exempt from having to meet the settlement salary threshold.

The EU Settlement Scheme makes it easy for Veterinary Surgeons who are EU citizens and want to stay in the UK to get the UK immigration status they need in order to continue living and working here as they do now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12833/>

Immigration: Sports

Ben Bradley (Conservative) [12987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with (a) the Premier League, (b) the English Football League and (c) other national sports governing bodies on ensuring that the new immigration system meets the requirements of elite sports.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Home Office officials are in regular contact with each of the recognised Sports Governing Bodies, annually reviewing the criteria that

applies to each sport. This process of review ensures we strike the right balance between enabling top level international sportspeople to come to the UK, whilst protecting opportunities for resident sportspeople.

The Home Office approved Sports Governing Bodies are listed at Appendix M of the Immigration Rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-m-sports-governing-bodies>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12987/>

Visas: EU Countries

Lord Mawson (Crossbench) [HL1277] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will alert UK citizens travelling in the EU to new visa requirements that will apply to them after the end of the implementation period.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) will be communicating with UK travellers through a Public Information Campaign to alert them to future changes and provide advice on any actions they may need to take to travel to the EU after 31 December 2020.

The FCO will continue to provide advice on entry requirements for foreign travel within its travel advice on GOV.UK. Travel advice pages will be updated to reflect any future changes to visa policy for travelling to the EU after 31 December 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-03/HL1277/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [14689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the answer of 1 November 2019 to Question 6360 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether she plans to maintain the funding allocated to voluntary and community organisations throughout the UK to enable them to mobilise services targeted at vulnerable EU citizens beyond the end of March 2020.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The current grant funding scheme continues until the end of March 2020, and the Home Office is currently exploring options for the financial year of 2020/21.

As well as providing funding for charities which have supported hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people, there are more than 1,500 Home Office staff working on the EU Settlement Scheme and 250 Settlement Resolution Centre staff providing assistance to applicants with any questions about the scheme or who need help applying.

Additional support is also available to those EU citizens in the UK who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply. This includes over 300 assisted digital locations across the UK where people can be supported through their application.

There have been more than 3 million applications and 2.7 million granted status under the EU Settlement scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14689/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6360/>

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

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

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Clive Betts (Labour) [13944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to replace EEA regulations on immigration with alternative arrangements; and what those arrangements will comprise.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following the UK's exit from the European Union and the end of free movement, we will deliver on the people's priorities by introducing a new points-based immigration system from 2021 to attract the brightest and best talent from around the world, with decisions based on what you have to offer, not where your passport is from.

We will set out the details of this firmer and fairer new system in the near future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/13944/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [14691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people granted (a) pre-settled status and (b) settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme have requested a share code in each month since the that scheme became operational.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [14692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with (a) settled and (b) pre-settled status have cited (a) work in the UK, (b) get hospital treatment, (c) claim benefits or tax credits, (d) get homelessness assistance or council housing, (e) open a bank or building society account, (f) get a loan or credit card, (g) another reason as their reason for requesting a share code to prove their status in each month since the EU settlement scheme became operational.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Individuals granted pre-settled or settled status have had the option within the 'view and prove your settled or pre-settled status' service to share their status information for a variety of reasons since 30th September 2019. This is done by generating a 'share code' which can be given to a third party to provide them with time-limited access to the data. One of these options ('work in the UK') takes users to a separate Home Office service, which can also be used by individuals who have not been through the EU Settlement Scheme (holders of Biometric Residence Permits (BRP) and Biometric Residence Cards (BRC)).

The ability to share information via the online service(s) is entirely optional; EEA nationals can continue to rely on their passports or national ID cards until at least December 2020 to evidence their rights in the UK but can choose to use the online service if they wish. Those with a BRP/C can also continue to rely on their physical cards.

Data is collected on usage of the service for internal purposes, to help us make improvements to the service, and to inform how it is performing. Data relates to number of views on the service, rather than unique users, and it is not currently possible to identify whether those who go on to share their status have settled or pre-settled status.

Data on usage on the 'view and prove' service more generally will be published later this year, as part of the Home Office Transparency Data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14691/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14692/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [12343] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU citizens over the age of 65 living in the UK that have not applied for settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications and concluded applications by the applicant's age to 31 December 2019, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', statistics tables, tables EUSS_02 and EUSS_04 respectively, available at:

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

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EUSS and cannot be directly compared with Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published EUSS figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in ONS estimates of the resident EU population. Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12343/>

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

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [12894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department holds figures on the number of looked-after children who are (a) eligible for settled status and (b) have applied successfully for settled status.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [12895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department holds figures on the number of vulnerable adults who are (a) eligible for settled status and (b) have applied successfully for settled status.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [12896] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to support local authorities make applications to the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of looked-after children.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The available published information on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications and concluded applications by the applicant's age and nationality to 31 December 2019, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', statistics tables, tables EUSS_01, EUSS_02 and EUSS_04, available at:

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

The Home Office has been engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of looked-after children and care leavers and ensure they are supported.

To support this, guidance about the EUSS to help local authorities and Health and Social Care Trusts understand their responsibilities for supporting looked-after children and care leavers and how to apply has been created and issued.

A New Burdens Assessment has been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders representing local authorities and children's social services to ensure they are adequately funded to support looked after children and care leavers who are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Home Office has been holding monthly teleconferences for local authority staff

who are undertaking this work. The teleconferences provide a forum to obtain information, ask questions and raise issues. A designated help line number has also been made available for local authority staff to contact trained caseworkers in the Home Office should they need to discuss any aspect of the EU Settlement Scheme, be it a specific case issue, or a matter of general information.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12894/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12895/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12896/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-local-authorities-toolkit>

and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-local-authorities/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-local-authorities>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799889/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Local_authority_introduction.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

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [13511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of (a) applications and (b) different individual applicants there have been to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There have been more than three million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme according to the latest internal management information.

The milestone was reached less than a year after the scheme was fully launched to the public, with more than 2.7 million people already granted status. The Home Office publishes regular statistics relating to the EU Settlement scheme on a monthly basis and more detailed statistics each quarter, the latest edition being released 6th February,

The EU Settlement Scheme is designed to make it straightforward for EU citizens and their family members to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021.

To apply they only need to complete three key steps – prove their identity, show that they live in the UK and declare any criminal convictions.

Our initial analysis of applications suggest that repeat applications currently represent less than two per cent of applications. This is a small percentage of the over 3 million applications we have received. We will continue to investigate this number and plan to report further as part of our regular statistical publications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-06/13511/>

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

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [12352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2020 to Question 3789 on Immigration: EU Nationals, how many people that applied for settled status have been granted pre-settled status.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [12353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2020 to Question 3789 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what assessment her Department has made of the accuracy of decision-making on granting pre-settled status to EU citizens that applied for settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) 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-december-2019>.

Applicants to the EUSS who choose to provide their National Insurance Number as part of the application process are asked to confirm whether they agree with the status that the automated checks with the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs confirm they are eligible for.

In cases where the applicant does not agree the level of status offered, caseworkers work with the applicant to identify the evidence needed to be granted the status they claim to be eligible for. Nobody has been granted pre-settled status without first being offered the opportunity to submit evidence that they qualify for settled status.

With regard to the accuracy of decision making, all cases in which an applicant is being granted a status other than that claimed are subject to a secondary supervisory check.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12352/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12353/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-15/3789/>

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

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [12232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on circulating information on the EU Settled Status Scheme to EU citizens and communities in rural and other hard to reach areas of the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In order to ensure that resident EEA nationals and their family members understand how and by when to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, the Home Office has put in place a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, using all available channels to reach our audiences – such as marketing, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars.

The Home Office has delivered a £4 million marketing campaign to encourage resident EEA nationals to apply and further campaign activity is planned. Alongside this campaign activity, we have also undertaken extensive engagement and outreach with stake-holder groups, including employers, local authorities and community organisations. No-one will be left behind, which is why we are working in partnership with representatives of vulnerable groups and other experts to make sure everyone knows what they need to do and has the right level of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12232/>

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 Controls: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [12355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of a single location in Wales for scanning settled status application documents on vulnerable applicants in Wales.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [12356] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect on vulnerable people of charging a fee for scanning supporting documents for Settled Status at a single location in Wales.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so and over 3 million people have now made applications, to which more than 2.7 million have been granted status.

The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme is straightforward and user-friendly, and is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

There are multiple ways to have identity documents checked, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office. There are also over 100 locations nationwide, provided by local authorities, where applicants have their passport scanned and verified.

The ID document scanning service is provided at the discretion of each local authority. The viability and cost of offering the ID document scanning service in each location is a matter for each local authority. There are currently seven local authorities participating in Wales; Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Ceredigion, Conway, Gwynedd and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Home Office would encourage as many local authorities as possible to offer this service, and we continue to work with local government bodies across the UK to increase the provision of this service.

Participating local authorities do not receive funding from central Government to provide this service. Charges for using this service, payable directly to the local authority, can be set to cover the cost of providing the service. Some local authorities have elected to provide the service for free to residents, whilst others have elected to set a fee.

The Home Office has a range of structures in place nationally to support the most vulnerable people in making their application to the EU Settlement scheme, including up to £9 million grant funding for 57 voluntary and community organisations. This includes funding allocated to charities in Wales.

The EUSS Grant Scheme was set up as a result of extensive engagement with voluntary and community sector organisations representing different vulnerable groups. We continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure appropriate support is in place for vulnerable applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12355/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12356/>

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

Undocumented Migrants: Employment

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [10369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been prosecuted under section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 since July 2016.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Since July 2016, under section 21 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 there have been 3 people prosecuted.

Immigration Enforcement will review investigations into employers on a case by case basis to see whether a civil penalty is a more appropriate course of action rather than a criminal prosecution. Where there are no aggravating factors, it is more likely that civil penalty action will be undertaken to enforce compliance.

Data on the number of penalties issued under section 15 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, and the total value of those penalties are published on gov.uk. A total of 5,856 civil penalties were issued between July 2016 and June 2019, with a total value of £100.1m.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10369/>

Asylum

Kate Green (Labour) [11509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 22 May 2019 to Question 254747 on Asylum: Religion, when she plans to update the house on the progress of the review into the way asylum claims based on religious grounds and LGBT+ grounds are assessed.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The review into the way asylum claims on the basis of religious and LGBT+ grounds are assessed has been completed.

An action plan has been formed and we will ensure that this is acted upon appropriately. We do not have any plans to publish the findings of this internal review.

We continue to work to improve the quality and accuracy of decision-making to ensure that we get decisions right first time. This includes assuring that we properly consider all evidence provided by applicants in order to reduce the proportion of allowed appeals, analysing the reasons for allowed appeals and using this to inform and further improve guidance and training for decision making staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11509/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum: Employment

Steve Double (Conservative) [9728] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on her Departments review of the restrictions that prevent asylum seekers from working.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue and it is crucial we take the time to get this right. We are listening carefully to the arguments and considering the evidence put forward on the issue. Work on the review is ongoing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9728/>

Asylum: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [9718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applied for asylum from detention in 2019.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Migrants, including asylum claimants, may be detained for immigration purposes only in accordance with Home Office detention policy, as set out in Detention general guidance and adults at risk in immigration detention. The detention decision must always be made on the basis of the individual's particular circumstances and eligibility for detention.

If at any time it is concluded that a particular detainee's ongoing detention would not be appropriate, the individual must be released, with bail conditions appropriate to their particular circumstances.

Most people detained under immigration powers spend only short periods in detention. At any one time, 95% of those liable to be detained, are instead managed in the community.

We do not currently hold the data in the format you have requested, however published data on the number of Asylum claims made can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

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

The great majority of asylum claims are processed in the non-detained system, with claimants living in the community. Only a small minority of claimants are detained whilst their claim is considered.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-29/9718/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people detained at immigration detention centres disclosed that they were victims of torture in 2019.

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people detained in immigration detention centres were assessed for being victims of torture in 2019.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Individuals who disclose they are victims of torture whilst in an Immigration Removal Centre are managed under Rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001. Data on the number of reports made by a medical practitioner under Rule 35 is published quarterly in the Immigration Enforcement transparency data (table DT_03) online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

The Home Office does not however hold central records which make the distinction between those accepted and not accepted as being victims of torture within the Rule 35 process. We cannot therefore report on the number of individuals referred for a Rule 35 assessment that were subsequently accepted as victims of torture without reviewing individual case files, which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11653/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11654/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [11656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people detained at an immigration detention centre attempted suicide in 2019.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Staff at all immigration removal centres are trained to identify those at risk of self-harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. All incidents of self-harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self-harm procedures in every IRC, which are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and Detention Services Order 06/2008 Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

The Home Office requires immigration removal centre suppliers to record management information on the number of detainees being monitored in line with self-harm and suicide prevention procedures (ACDT) and the number of incidents of self-harm that have required medical treatment. The intent of a self-harm attempt, if disclosed by an individual, is not recorded centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11656/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Planned Deportation Flight to Jamaica

Baroness Williams of Trafford repeated the first answer given by Kevin Foster to the House of Commons “Urgent Question: Deportation Flight to Jamaica” which has been included above.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): When will the Windrush lessons learned review be published? Why are there delays in getting this report to the Home Office? Can she tell the House what the Government’s position will be when the report is published if it comes to light that, as a consequence of recommendations in the report, individuals on the flight tomorrow, or on other deportation flights, include people in categories that would not be recommended for deportation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As the noble Lord will know, I cannot pre-empt what the report will say, nor would he expect me to. As to when it will be published, the lessons learned review was commissioned by the Government but we would not wish to interfere in the process and tell Wendy Williams when to hand it over to us. ...

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): ... Will the Minister tell us specifically whether reports are true that those facing deportation tomorrow include the vulnerable and those with medical conditions, such as a former UK soldier who was medically discharged and a blind man who has been told that his elderly grandmother can take care of him? Reports from those who have tried to legally represent these people claim that there are potential victims of human trafficking among the 50. Can the House be reassured that victims of human trafficking are not among them? What assessment has been made of those with disabilities and medical conditions, who are vulnerable, of their fitness to fly and whether they should be deported? Should there not be a proper assessment before they are deported tomorrow?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... None of them is a British citizen. Those who have been detained and will be removed on the flight are not eligible for the Windrush scheme. ...

The Lord Bishop of Southwark: ... will the Minister consider whether or not it is appropriate for this country to seek to deal with the offences and aftermath of those brought up here as children, rather than expel them to countries of which they know little, save in the most exceptional circumstances?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, all those who will be on the charter flight are foreign national offenders convicted of serious offences. They have had their cases fully reviewed to ensure that no outstanding legal barriers would prevent their removal from the UK. Careful assessment is made of the Article 8 claim of a foreign national offender who is subject to deportation to a family and/or private life, including the length of time that they have lived in the UK, which is an important consideration, but not the only one when weighed against their offending. ...

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-10/debates/A9E8F09D-E6E7-464A-BA94-3DB06B772F1A/PlannedDeportationFlightToJamaica>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL949] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 28 January (HL424) and the absence of such a stipulation in the Immigration Rules, how they ensure that these assessments are not open to abuse.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Higher Education Providers with a track record of compliance are the only sponsor type who can make an assessment of the English language ability of students studying at degree level and above, and must have demonstrated compliance for a minimum of 4 years before gaining this privilege.

Compliance is demonstrated to UKVI by annual assessments and sponsors must also gain independent educational oversight from the Office for Students. UKVI can audit sponsor records in the course of their assessment. If sponsors fail to adhere to their sponsorship duties and fail to demonstrate a sufficient level of compliance, action will be taken by the Home Office which can include revoking their Tier 4 licence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-29/HL949/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL424/>

Visas: EU Countries

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL1316] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Statement by the Lord Privy Seal on 3 February (HLWS83), whether "short-term business trips to supply services" will apply to (1) the creative industries, and (2) IT services.

Reply from Lord Duncan of Springbank: We are ending free movement of people. However, we still want to support our businesses in moving their talented people to provide services in both the UK and the EU, as quickly and as easily as possible.

The UK's creative and digital industries comprise around 20% of the UK's total exports in services and have grown rapidly in recent years. DCMS has engaged extensively with union bodies, artists and cultural organisations to help understand the needs of the creative and cultural sector, including freelancers who make up a significant proportion of people in these sectors.

As set out in the Political Declaration, both the EU and the UK will aim to provide

for visa-free travel for short-term visits, and agree provisions on temporary entry and stay of natural persons, allowing businesses to move their talented employees and provide services.

The scope and detail of this will be subject to negotiations with the EU.

During the Transition period, until the end of 2020, there will be no changes to rules to provide services or work temporarily in the EU and UK Nationals can continue to travel to the EU as now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-04/HL1316/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Lords/2020-02-03/HLWS83/>

The Political Declaration referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840656/Political_Declaration_setting_out_the_framework_for_the_future_relationship_between_the_European_Union_and_the_United_Kingdom.pdf

Visas: EU Countries

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL1317] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are seeking to negotiate with the EU a visa-waiving treaty for UK workers in the creative industries, resident in the UK, seeking to market their services in the EU.

Reply from Lord Duncan of Springbank: We are ending free movement of people. However, we still want to support our businesses in moving their talented people to provide services in both the UK and the EU, as quickly and easily as possible.

As set out in the Political Declaration, both the EU and the UK will aim to provide for visa-free travel for short-term visits, and agree provision on temporary entry and stay of natural persons, allowing businesses to move their talented employees and provide services.

The scope and detail of this will be subject to negotiations with the EU.

During the Transition period, until the end of 2020, there will be no changes to rules to provide services or work temporarily in the EU and UK Nationals can continue to travel to the EU as now.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-04/HL1317/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Carey of Clifton (Crossbench) [HL1192] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to increase the proportion of Christians accepted under the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our resettlement schemes prioritise the most vulnerable refugees regardless of race, religion or ethnicity – we do not discriminate in favour of, or against, any particular group. This is why we work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which has well-established procedures and criteria for identifying and resettling the most vulnerable refugees. Apart from the criteria we set for each scheme, we do not seek to influence which cases are referred to us by UNHCR.

However, we recognise how important it is that UNHCR is accessible to the most vulnerable refugees, including members of minority religions, and this is why we are working with UNHCR and their partners to intensify their outreach to groups that might otherwise be reluctant to register. This includes people in formal refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities. The efforts undertaken by

UNHCR include mobile registration teams, outreach teams, and helpdesks for areas where different minority groups are concentrated to facilitate registration and access to services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-30/HL1192/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Nadia Whittome (Labour) (30) Deportations ahead of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review Publication – This House deplores the Government's ongoing use of deportation flights to Commonwealth countries against the recommendations of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review; notes that while the publication of the Review has been much delayed without explanation, it is expected to recommend the cessation of all deportations of people who have lived in the UK since childhood; notes that the Government has sought to justify recent deportations on the basis of the serious nature of the offences perpetrated by deportees, where this is not borne out in many cases; believes that where deportations are enforced on Foreign National Offenders who have served their sentences, this amounts to double punishment on arbitrary grounds; further believes that long-term residents should be rehabilitated in an equal fashion to their British-passport-holding peers; fears that the characterisation of all deportees as serious criminals exacerbates anti-migrant sentiment, increases racial tensions and exposes those deported to greater risk upon return; remains concerned that the Government's approach demonstrates a failure to appreciate the significant damage to trust in immigration enforcement that the Windrush Scandal represented; and calls on the Government to immediately suspend all deportations of residents who have been in the UK since childhood, and to publish and implement in full recommendations of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review as a matter of urgency.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/54643/deportations-ahead-of-the-windrush-lessons-learned-review-publication>

UK Parliament Petition

Refugee family reunion

Patrick Grady (SNP): Glasgow University's Student Action for Refugees recently hosted the Museum Without A Home exhibition, displaying everyday objects in solidarity with migrants and refugees around the world. At the same time, it collected more than 600 signatures for the Families Together petition, calling for refugee children to have the right to be reunited with their parents in their home. A smaller number have signed the petition that I am now presenting in the House of Commons style, which makes the same demand. The petition states: The petition of residents of Glasgow North, Declares that under current family reunion rules adult refugees can only sponsor their partners and children under 18 years old to join them in the UK; further that child refugees in the UK have no family reunion rights so they can't bring their parents to join them; further that the lack of opportunities for refugees to reunite with family members forces people to turn to smugglers and exacerbates the humanitarian crises in Southern Europe; and further that, for refugees already living safely in the UK, the enforced separation from their families and constant anxiety about their wellbeing can be devastating, preventing them from rebuilding their lives and undermining their successful integration into their new communities. The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to expand the criteria of who qualifies as a family member for the purposes of refugee family reunion, including by allowing adult refugees in the UK to sponsor their adult children,

their siblings that are under the age of 25, and their parents; further to give unaccompanied refugee children in the UK the right to sponsor their parents and siblings that are under the age of 25 to join them under the refugee family reunion rules; and further to reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion cases. [P002555]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-11/debates/20021156000480/RefugeeFamilyReunion>

Press Release

More support for hard-to-reach EU citizens living in Wales

<https://gov.wales/more-support-for-hard-to-reach-eu-citizens-living-in-wales>

New Publications

A Site of Resistance An evaluation of the Stop Lock Change Evictions Coalition

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Stop-Lock-Changes-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

Migration and Scotland

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2020-0030/CDP-2020-0030.pdf>

EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, January 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/865367/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2020.pdf

Policy paper: Home Office response to a reinspection of failed right of abode applications and referral for consideration of enforcement action

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-a-reinspection-of-failed-right-of-abode-applications/home-office-response-to-a-reinspection-of-failed-right-of-abode-applications-and-referral-for-consideration-of-enforcement-action>

Defining and measuring international migration

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/definingandmeasuringinternationalmigration/2020-02-14/pdf>

Will I ever be safe? Asylum-seeking women made destitute in the UK

<https://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/WRW-Will-I-ever-be-safe-web.pdf>

News

PM's new Cabinet backs introducing points-based migration system to cut low-skilled numbers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18237558.new-cabinet-presses-ahead-points-based-migration-system/>

EU migrants must earn £23,000 to work in Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-migrants-must-earn-23-000-to-work-in-britain-22krtdpj2>

Windrush: Government defends Jamaica deportation flight

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51443195>

Windrush: 170 MPs call on PM to halt Jamaica deportation flight

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51443189>

Jamaica deportation: Home Office flight leaves UK despite court ruling

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51456387>

Jamaica deportation flight leaves without some detainees after court ruling

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18225908.jamaica-deportation-flight-leaves-without-detainees-court-ruling/>

Home Office deportation flight to Jamaica leaves UK despite outrage and court ruling

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jamaica-deportation-flight-uk-home-office-immigration-windrush-latest-a9328556.html>

This government's relentless betrayal of Windrush descendants proves it – we need a completely new immigration system

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/deportation-flight-jamaica-home-office-boris-johnson-windrush-a9328046.html>

690 EU citizens apply for settled status in East Dunbartonshire

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/690-eu-citizens-apply-for-settled-status-in-east-dunbartonshire-1-5088779>

Women seeking asylum in UK being made homeless and attempting suicide, chilling report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/women-homeless-asylum-seeks-sexual-violence-home-office-a9328126.html>

Grays lorry deaths: Migrants died of overheating

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-51461739>

Bedfordshire immigration centre detainee cleared of assaulting guards

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-51466267>

Conference will boost work with asylum seekers and refugees

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/conference-will-boost-work-with-asylum-seekers-and-refugees>

Remarkable journey from refugee to Rhodes scholar

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51420370>

Ipswich girl, 12, puts experience as refugee into poetry

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-suffolk-51462996/>

I was sexually assaulted in my home country - and again when I was made destitute in the UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/sexually-assaulted-home-country-made-destitute-uk/>

Refugee boy gets a kick out of rugby

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugee-becomes-a-rugby-star-39zd6xhl3>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Media Diversity

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-11/debates/13948B92-5AF5-4AD5-A7C2-01F9C2216056/MediaDiversity>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Unemployment: Ethnic Groups

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [13518] To the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to tackle levels of unemployment among the BAME community.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Government is committed to levelling up skills and opportunity across the country. Using data from the Race Disparity Audit, first published in October 2017, and the Department for Work and Pensions own analysis we are helping those underrepresented in the labour market. Since 2010, 1,223,000 more people from ethnic minority backgrounds are in employment - that's a 45 per cent increase in the number of ethnic minority people employed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-06/13518/>

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL1307] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are carrying forward work on the Race Disparity Audit.

Reply from Earl Howe: The Race Disparity Unit (RDU) continues to collate and publish data about ethnicity in the UK. The RDU also continues to publish reports on ethnicity, the most recent being on the Black Caribbean, Indian and Chinese ethnic groups. In addition to this, the RDU published 9 updates

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/dashboards/whats-new>

to existing data in January 2020 across a range of topics including school teacher workforce, pupil exclusions, judges and non-legal members of the judiciary, Prison officer workforce, and NHS workforce

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-04/HL1307/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Travellers: Trespass

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL1230] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in their recent consultation Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments, the Home Office took note of the Government's Consultations Principles Guidance 2018; and whether the Home Office intends to review its consultation in order to ensure that the views of Gypsies and Travellers can be reflected.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL1231] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they took to ensure that their consultation Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised

encampments was available in a form which it accessible to people with limited educational attainments.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL1232] To ask Her Majesty's Government why the Home Office did not include an Equality Impact Assessment in their recent consultation Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments; and what plans they have to conduct such an assessment.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Home Office officials have worked with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community (GRT) to agree a bespoke consultation response system to ensure they are able to fully contribute to the ongoing consultation.

This bespoke system is now in operation and provides an opportunity for the GRT community to submit their views in a simplified format on the general proposals contained in the consultation. Since its launch last month, over 1700 responses have been received by the Home Office through this method. The views of respondents will be captured in the consultation response.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-30/HL1230/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-30/HL1231/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-30/HL1232/>

The consultation referred to above (which closes on 4 March 2020) can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-police-powers-to-tackle-unauthorised-encampments>

Press Release

MSPs launch inquiry into employment opportunities for minority ethnic communities in Scotland

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/114558.aspx>

New Publication

Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: 2020 Update

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864509/tackling-racial-disparity-cjs-2020.pdf

News

Holyrood probes job barriers for minorities

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18234420.holyrood-probes-job-barriers-minorities/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Antisemitic Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Robert Largan (Conservative): What steps the CPS is taking to improve the prosecution rate for antisemitic hate crime. [900807]

Reply from the Solicitor General (Michael Ellis): The proper disclosure of unused material is vital if there is to be a fair trial, and we will continue to focus on these issues, including on the issue of better meeting the disclosure obligations. We will work with investigators to pursue all reasonable lines of inquiry.

Robert Largan: The CPS does not currently publish figures on hate crime prosecution rates disaggregated by racial and religious bias. Will the Solicitor General join me in urging the CPS to make that data available so that we can judge its performance on antisemitism and properly tackle this most hateful form of crime?

Reply from the Solicitor General: The issue of antisemitism, which my hon. Friend rightly raises, is one of very considerable concern. Just last week, I visited the Community Security Trust in north London; the work that the trust does with the Jewish community to combat antisemitism is significant and very much appreciated. My hon. Friend is right that it is important that proper records are kept by the CPS in respect of these matters, and we are constantly discussing with the CPS how better it can review its statistics and keep these things properly in the mind of the general public.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-13/debates/9BCE7564-4909-4609-8E87-C7F4BE6715CA/AntisemiticHateCrimeProsecutions>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Chinese

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [13587] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to tackle hate crime directed at the British-Chinese community.

Reply from Luke Hall: The Government takes hate crime and discrimination of any kind very seriously. We are a tolerant and welcoming multicultural society. There is no excuse for targeting British Chinese communities or anyone of any other background in this country. We have one of the strongest legal frameworks in the world to report, record and prosecute hate crime. I would encourage anyone who experiences hate crime to report it to the police.

Government's Hate Crime Action Plan published in October 2018 sets out a comprehensive programme of work across Government and the police. We fund hate crime reporting platforms, including True Vision, and we continue to engage and support communities of all backgrounds and origins.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-06/13587/>

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

The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at

http://report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

Religious Hatred

Naz Shah (Labour) [14833] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding his Department allocates to the Government adviser on (a) Antisemitism and (b) Islamophobia; and how many members of staff does each adviser have to support their work.

Reply from Luke Hall: John Mann was appointed as an independent adviser on Antisemitism by the Prime Minister in July 2019. The Department has not allocated staff or funding to John Mann.

We continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred and recognise the importance of this matter. We will continue to explore and interrogate the issue of publishing a definition of Islamophobia in further detail.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14833/>

Hate Crime: Religious Buildings

Sarah Owen (Labour) [11666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime at places of worship were recorded in each year since 2010.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of religious hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. However, information on the location of these offences is not collected.

The latest 'Hate Crime, England and Wales' statistical bulletin is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-03/11666/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [12881] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will make an assessment of whether drivers born outside the UK pay higher car insurance premiums than drivers born in the UK.

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [12880] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to ensure that car insurance premiums do not discriminate drivers because of their ethnicity.

Cars: Insurance

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [12304] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Conduct Authority on safeguarding against discrimination in the car insurance market.

Reply from John Glen: The Equality Act 2010 prohibits firms from discriminating against consumers with most protected characteristics, one of which is race. Insurers can only discriminate based on a limited range of characteristics if they can provide objective, accurate, and reliable evidence that the consumer is at a higher risk of making a claim, and if the information they used to assess the application was used in a reasonable way.

Furthermore, firms are required to treat consumers fairly under the Financial Conduct Authority's rules. The FCA is empowered to address misconduct, and where this has occurred it can undertake full investigations, and as a result impose financial penalties or even order firms to cease certain activities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12880/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12881/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-04/12304/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Islamophobia

Lord Sheikh (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards the adoption of a formal definition of Islamophobia.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Viscount Younger of Leckie): My Lords, the Government remain committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of hate crime. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practising their religion. We continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to Islamophobia. The definition proposed by the APPG is not in line with the Equality Act 2010 and could have consequences for freedom of speech. We recognise the importance of this matter and will interrogate it in further detail.

Lord Sheikh: ... Islamophobia is of great concern to the Muslim community. I have raised this subject before in your Lordships' House. Can the Minister assure the House that the process to be undertaken will not involve any preconditions such as recognising Islamophobia as a form of racism? Does he agree that any definition proposed by the Government must have the support of the Muslim community and Muslim representative groups, without which it will have little value? If so, can he confirm that this will be done?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I agree with my noble friend that Islamophobia, while a hate crime, is not a form of racism as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Section 9 of the Act defines race as comprising "colour, nationality" and "ethnic or national origins", none of which would encompass a Muslim or an Islamic practice, so conflating race and religion in conflict with any definition could cause confusion.

On the second question, it is important for the Government to listen to and engage with Muslim groups and communities, which we will continue to do.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, emotive definitions such as Islamophobia are simply constraints on freedom of speech. A phobia is a fear, and the best way to combat irrational fear or prejudice suffered by all religions and beliefs is through healthy, open discussion. Will the Minister endorse the commitment given last week by Heather Wheeler, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, to protect all religions and beliefs without fear or favour?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord is right. As I said, it is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practising their religion and the Government will never allow prejudice and discrimination of any kind against the Muslim or any other community. We take a zero-tolerance approach and recognise the importance of this matter.

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, the definition of Islamophobia proposed by the APPG, like the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, is not a legally binding working definition, so there is no conflict with the Equality Act. My noble friend will recognise that the Government and the Conservative Party rightly criticised the party opposite when it felt that it could make the definition better and amend it, despite the Jewish community saying, "This is our definition"; that party was wrong for doing so. Does he further recognise the irony and hypocrisy of the Government's position on Islamophobia, as opposed to the position that we took on anti-Semitism?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: There are a couple of points there. The IHRA definition is widely accepted internationally and, by adopting this non-binding definition, we underline the UK Government's determination to tackle anti-Semitism wherever it occurs. On my noble friend's other point, as she will know, Islamophobia is a complex matter and there are different views in this House on the issue. There has been strong opposition to the adoption of the all-party definition from a wide range of organisations, including Civitas, Policy Exchange, the Barnabas Fund and the Henry Jackson Society. It is an ongoing issue and discussions are continuing.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, there are some appalling examples of the Muslim community being harassed and suffering racial abuse. Why will the Government not adopt this definition when it has been adopted by hundreds of organisations, including many local authorities and police forces and, I think I am right in saying—perhaps the Minister can confirm it—by the Conservative Party in Scotland? We need to hear much more from the noble Lord and his party about how they will deal with this appalling abuse.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord has picked up on what I just said: it is a challenging issue. I can reassure him that we intend to move as quickly as possible to come to a definition. As I said, it is important to discuss this fully and make sure that we get it right.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, we on these Benches deplore all attacks on any religious groups and we note particularly the huge rise in the deeply concerning issue of attacks on Muslims. The Minister will be aware of the media reports on Imam Asim of Makkah mosque in Leeds and his comments on free speech. Does the Minister agree with me and the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury that Muslims and all religious groups deserve better media? Does he further agree that, alongside law, we need to seriously address this through education?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The right reverend Prelate is right. I had brief sight of the abhorrent hate crime addressed to Qari Asim and I condemn it utterly. He is also right that we need to work harder on the schools and education policy to be sure that young people are not ingrained in any of this despicable stuff.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, at a time when anti-Muslim and Islamophobic hate crime has spiked by over 500%, and given that the APPG definition was arrived at after widespread consultation with hundreds of academic organisations and now has the support of most mainstream political parties, chief police officers, councils, trade unions and the Scottish Conservatives, why have the Government decided to appoint two advisers to come up with a different definition? Can the Minister not see that doing that, and delaying coming to a non-binding position on this, leads to the community losing confidence in the Government even further because they appear to be kicking something as important as this into the long grass and not taking it seriously?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Not at all—we take it very seriously. The question asked by the noble Baroness is very similar to that from the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy. I say again that the definition goes against not only the Equality Act 2010 but international human rights law, which treats race and religion separately. Criticising somebody because of their race is regarded in international law as unacceptable, but criticising religions or beliefs is permitted. This remains a challenging issue, and we want to move quickly to resolve it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-13/debates/D2C6CF82-DDBD-4AB5-949D-C1205E3AF0A4/Islamophobia>

Information about the APPG definition of Islamophobia, referred to above, can be read at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599c3d2febbd1a90cffdd8a9/t/5bfd1ea3352f531a6170ceee/1543315109493/Islamophobia+Defined.pdf>

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

The commitment from the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-06/debates/39461207-892D-4E68-A5F0-F772500BB2A6/PersecutionOfChristians#contribution-376471B0-7D08-47F0-810B-2137674207DD>

Hate Crime: Anti-Semitism

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to address antisemitic hate crime.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, the Government are committed to combating all forms of antisemitism. Our cross-party working group ensures that we are alive to Jewish community concerns and can respond effectively, alongside the advice of the noble Lord, Lord Mann, as our independent adviser. We have spent nearly £860,000 this year on projects tackling religiously and racially motivated hatred, including almost £150,000 to tackle anti-Semitism online.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: I thank the noble Baroness for her Answer. According to the Community Security Trust, the number of anti-Semitic instances has risen for each of the past four years. It is a growing problem. We in the churches have been exploring with Jewish groups any role that we may have played in the past with any stereotyping. Recently, the entire College of Bishops of the Church of England signed up to the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Education will be key. I am grateful for what the noble Baroness has said, but can she tell us not only about the funds but which projects and resources Her Majesty's Government are making available so that we can address, through education, the stereotyping and the troping of Jewish people to address this scourge.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: I am pleased to note that the right reverend Prelate said that the bishops have adopted the definition. In 2016, this Government were the first to do so. The Department for Education specifically teaches on the Holocaust in schools through programmes such as lessons on Auschwitz and the work of the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education. It is the only compulsory named topic in the history curriculum. We agree that the effective teaching of pupils can help them understand the possible consequences of anti-Semitism. I am sure that the right reverend Prelate is taking his experience back to the many schools that the Church of England runs in our country.

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated): ... As well as the bishops, six football clubs—Chelsea, West Ham United, Newcastle United, Bournemouth, Brighton and Crystal Palace—have all adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Does the Minister agree that if it is good enough for the Church and football clubs, then it should be good enough for employers, trade unions, universities and other institutions of civil society?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: I agree with the noble Lord. He will be aware that the relevant Ministers have written to local authorities and universities asking them to adopt this definition. Noble Lords will be aware that I answered this question on behalf of the Department for Education not many months ago. The rate of take-up is not what the Government want. There is now a proposal that information about those universities and local authorities which have not signed up to the definition will in some form be made public.

Lord Pickles (Conservative): ... Given that anti-Semitism is often an open gateway to violent extremism, does the Minister think that now is an appropriate time for the Government to incorporate anti-Semitism into their Prevent strategy?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I am unfortunately not aware of whether that has been proposed although, as noble Lords will know, we have recently reviewed the Prevent strategy. I will take my noble friend's suggestion

back, write to him and put the letter in the Library.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, anti-Semitism is evil and should be combated in every possible way, but will the Minister make it clear that the Government are equally committed to tackling hate crimes against all communities, even those of non-Abrahamic faiths?

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, the Government abhor all hate crimes committed on the basis of religion or of lack of religious belief. In relation to the legislative framework in this area, I am pleased to tell the House that, due to the prevalence of these offences online, the Law Commission is currently looking at the Malicious Communications Act and will shortly be announcing a consultation on hate crime legislation to see whether it sufficiently covers all religious groups. There are peculiarities in relation to the legislation when a religious group is also a racial group.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, I agree with others in this House that anti-Semitism is an evil prejudice and that we must do everything to drive it out. Will the Minister agree to speak to the Cabinet Office Minister Chloe Smith to look at the possibility of changing the nomination process for all public elections, to require candidates to confirm their opposition to anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all other race and hate crimes, as well as changing our code of conduct in this House? If anyone falls short of their commitments, swift action can be taken by the relevant authorities, up to and including expulsion from the relevant House, Parliament, Assembly or local authority.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: I thank the noble Lord for his suggestions. In relation to the Cabinet Office, I am sure that officials are listening to today's debate and will act upon it. The code of conduct is for the authorities here, but the noble Lord will be aware that the APPG has been asking all MPs to sign the declaration; 641 out of 643 have signed the definition. Unfortunately, two sitting MPs and seven Sinn Féin MPs—who do not take up their places—have not signed.

Baroness Burt of Solihull (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, we have just marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, but this shocking report referred to by the right reverend Prelate shows that levels of anti-Semitism have never been higher. I fear that we have not learned the lessons of the past. What will the Government do right now to stem this tide of what the Home Secretary herself has called this shameful stain on our society?"

Reply from Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I have outlined some of the actions that the Government are taking. However, it is for all of society to take responsibility: families, communities and faith groups. Yes, the Community Security Trust figures are the highest on record; they match the Home Office figures, which show that a greater proportion of religiously motivated hate crime is against the Jewish community. The Government have now announced funding of half a million pounds to take 200 university students to Auschwitz so that they can then go back to their campus and educate others.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-11/debates/B70471E8-75CF-414D-805A-A6A1DD1A9081/HateCrimeAnti-Semitism>

The CST report referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/0/IncidentsReport2019.pdf>

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/reform-of-the-communications-offences/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL1341] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 3 February (HL187), whether it is possible that a hearsay remark, if construed by a bystander as offensive, could be reported as a hate crime and the perpetrator interviewed by the police as a result; and if so, what steps they intend to take to protect freedom of speech.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: It is an operational matter for the police to determine whether to investigate all incidents reported to them. When investigating allegations of hate crime it is for the police to apply the relevant legislation, including the freedom of expression defence contained in section 29J of the Public Order Act 1986.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-04/HL1341/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-07/HL187/>

Universities: Antisemitism

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL914] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decision by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick not to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism following reports of antisemitic incidents at that University and the call by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for cuts to funding of those universities that fail to adopt the definition.

Viscount Younger of Leckie: There is no place in our society - including within higher education - for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism, including antisemitism.

In October this year the Communities Secretary wrote to all universities to urge them to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This followed a letter from the Universities Minister in May regarding antisemitism in higher education.

We expect all Higher Education Providers to discharge their responsibilities fully and to have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and swiftly address hate crime, including any antisemitic incidents that are reported. We will continue to work with universities to ensure we stamp out antisemitism in all its forms.

That is why we will be providing an additional £500,000 of government funding to allow 200 university students each year to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, to hear from the last Holocaust survivors and to help educate students on the importance of continuing to tackle antisemitism on campuses.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-29/HL914/>

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

News

How to Argue with a Racist

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000f6sp>

Multi-faith event held in Glasgow to tackle hate crime

<https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-news/multi-faith-event-held-glasgow-17718270>

Church of England is 'deeply institutionally racist' - Welby

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51469566>

Church of England 'deeply institutionally racist', admits Archbishop of Canterbury

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/justin-welby-church-of-england-windrush-racism-christianity-a9330606.html>

Justin Welby says he is 'sorry and ashamed' over church's racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/11/justin-welby-tells-synod-he-is-sorry-and-ashamed-over-churchs-racism>

Welby condemns church's 'institutional racism' at synod

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/welby-condemns-churchs-institutional-racism-at-synod-gkc0p5rvr>

Medical schools are 'failing to deal with racism' towards students

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/medical-schools-bme-students-racism-university-british-medical-journal-a9334251.html>

BAME trainee doctors in 'climate of fear' over racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/14/bame-trainee-doctors-in-climate-of-fear-over-racism>

Ethnic minority doctors face 'systematic disadvantage', says leading GP as study finds white doctors 50% more likely to be deemed fit for the job

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/12/ethnic-minority-doctors-face-systematic-disadvantage-says-leading/>

Ruby Williams: No child with afro hair should suffer like me

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-45521094>

Schoolgirl repeatedly sent home by her school for having an afro wins £8,500 discrimination payout

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/10/schoolgirl-repeatedly-sent-home-school-due-afro-wins-8500-discrimination/>

Gypsy funeral leads to racism row after town's pubs shut their doors

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/14/town-partial-lockdown-funeral-big-fat-gypsy-wedding-stars/>

Oxford English Dictionary adds antisemitic slurs in update

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dictionary-adds-antisemitic-slurs-in-update-2qlt2bj00>

Rangers media chief Jim Traynor 'subjected to sectarian attack in street' as police launch probe

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/rangers/rangers-media-chief-jim-traynor-subjected-to-sectarian-attack-in-street-as-police-launch-probe-1-5091193>

Rangers hit out at 'media, journalists and pundits' they claim trivialised 'racist abuse' against Morelos

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18225349.rangers-hit-media-journalists-pundits-claim-trivialised-racist-abuse-morelos/>

Rangers accuse media outlets and journalists of 'trivialising abusive behaviour' in statement following racist charge

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/rangers/rangers-accuse-media-outlets-and-journalists-of-trivialising-abusive-behaviour-in-statement-following-racist-charge-1-5088663>

Boy, 12, charged over racist chants against Alfredo Morelos

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-51449162>

Schoolboy charged over racist chant towards Rangers player during Old Firm

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18224507.schoolboy-charged-racist-chant-towards-rangers-player-old-firm/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

Scottish Conservatives: Jackson Carlaw succeeds Ruth Davidson as leader

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-51458319>

Jackson Carlaw elected new Scottish Tory leader

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18235654.jackson-carlaw-elected-new-scottish-tory-leader/>

Jackson Carlaw wins Scottish Tory leadership race to succeed Ruth Davidson

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jackson-carlaw-wins-scottish-tory-leadership-race-to-succeed-ruth-davidson-1-5090597>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, Point of Order

Abena Opong-Asare (Labour): On a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It has come to my attention that I have again been mistaken for another black MP—this time on parliamentary TV. My name is Abena Opong-Asare. I would like to know what you are going to do about this, because it is unacceptable.

Reply from the Deputy Speaker (Nigel Evans): I think the hon. Lady has made her point, quite rightly, and I am sure that broadcasters and others will take note. I hope that they will pay a lot more attention and ensure that people are properly identified in this House. I thank her very much for her point of order; I appreciate it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/3B559959-250F-4E32-9BCF-5E38CDF4F56D/PointOfOrder>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op): What steps the CPS is taking to improve the rate of prosecution of people responsible for female genital mutilation. [900796]

Carolyn Harris (Labour): What steps the CPS is taking to improve the rate of prosecution of people responsible for female genital mutilation. [900800]

Reply from the Solicitor General (Michael Ellis): The Crown Prosecution Service is determined to bring those responsible for female genital mutilation to justice. These are complex cases, usually involving very young and vulnerable victims. When expert medical evidence confirms that an offence has been committed, CPS prosecutors work closely with the police from the outset to build robust cases. This Government regard FGM as a serious criminal offence of child abuse, and we are committed to tackling this appalling crime.

Alex Norris: I am grateful to the Minister for that answer. In Nottingham, we are really proud to be the first community in the country to declare ourselves a zero-tolerance area for FGM, but we cannot do this alone. We need other parts of the system to work, too, so can the Minister assure me and the campaigners in my community that the Crown Prosecution Service is adequately resourced to do all the good things that he has just described and that it is focused on doing them as a priority?

Reply from the Solicitor General: I commend the hon. Gentleman and the city of Nottingham for what they are doing in this area. I have been told that piloting and trialling are taking place in some Nottingham schools. The CPS is working very hard to fight the scourge of female genital mutilation. We have lead FGM prosecutors in each CPS area, and there is a stakeholder group for so-called honour-based abuse and forced marriage, as well as FGM. That met twice in 2019, and it is already helping to improve investigation and prosecution performance.

Carolyn Harris: The lack of services to support the victims of female genital mutilation is often seen as a reason why so many cases are left unreported. What effect does the Attorney General—whoever that might be—think the cuts to the Crown Prosecution Service have had on the reporting of FGM cases?

Reply from the Solicitor General: I am pleased to say that £85 million has just been allocated by this Government to the Crown Prosecution Service. That enormous sum has been very well received. The reality is that FGM is a complex criminal offence. It is difficult to prosecute, but when these matters are made the subject of a complaint, every effort is made to gold-standard the process to make proceeding as easy as possible. I say again that the joint police-CPS taskforce—the stakeholder group—was established in order to make progress across this range of areas, including pre-prosecution.

Tom Tugendhat (Conservative): My hon. Friend has spoken a lot about FGM in the UK, but does he agree that a lot of the problems come when children go abroad? At the moment, the Gambian Government are rewriting their constitution and there is a question mark as to whether they will maintain the clause banning all forms of FGM. Will he reach out to his opposite number in Gambia, through the Foreign Office, and support them in drafting a constitution that is appropriate in this area? Will he also support the work that people such as Nimco Ali are doing to ensure that our voice and the voices of women around the world are heard?

Reply from the Solicitor General: Nimco Ali is doing some great work in this area. We will liaise with the Foreign Office, where appropriate, to offer our views. I can also say that the point my hon. Friend makes has a tendency to raise jurisdictional issues, which is one of the points of complexity that we have in prosecuting these cases. However, every effort is—rightly so—being made to tackle this appalling crime.

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

House of Lords: Catering

Baroness Walmsley (Liberal Democrat) [HL958] To ask the Senior Deputy Speaker what steps the House of Lords administration is taking to increase the availability of halal food in its cafeterias.

Reply from Lord Lanning: The Senior Deputy Speaker has asked me, as Chair of the Services Committee to respond on his behalf. Following careful consideration, the provision of halal products when weighed against demand, is unfortunately not viable in terms of costs, logistics and supplier management.

Upon request for events, the Catering and Retail Service (CRS) can provide pre-stunned halal meat and poultry from certified and trusted suppliers that meet the standards for recognised accreditation schemes such as the RSPCA's Freedom Food and Red Tractor.

CRS fully understand that all its customers do have wider individual requirements which it aims to cater for. In doing so CRS provide weekly changing menus in our cafeterias and table service restaurants offering an increased array of vegan and vegetarian options which continue to grow in popularity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-29/HL958/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Out-of-school Education: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL1377] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 4 February (HL646), how many madrasas in the UK are teaching for less than 18 hours per week; and how they assess whether extremist ideology is being taught in them.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL1414] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 4 February (HL646), what estimate they have made of the number of pupils that are taught in madrasas in the UK.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: A madrasa operating for fewer than 18 hours per week would generally be considered to be an out-of-school setting. The department does not hold data on the number of out-of-school settings in the UK and therefore does not collect data on the number of children who are attending these settings.

As indicated in the answer I gave on 4 February 2020, out-of-school settings are not captured by a regulatory framework, therefore they are not subject to any assessment regarding their teachings. However, as set out in my previous answer, the department is taking forward a package of measures to enhance safeguarding in out-of-school settings – safeguarding children from all forms of harm, including extremism.

If the department became aware of a setting where extremist activity was taking place resulting in children being at risk of harm, we would work closely with the local authority, police and other relevant agencies to take action. For guidance that covers both out-of-school settings and unregistered schools setting out how the department, Ofsted and local authorities can work collaboratively to help ensure that children attending unregistered independent schools and out-of-school settings, are safe and are receiving a suitable education is attached and available from:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/690495/La_Guidance_March_2018.pdf
[HL1377 HL1414 guidance](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-05/HL1377/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-06/HL1414/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-21/HL646/>

News

Cabinet reshuffle: Who is in Boris Johnson's new cabinet?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-49043973>

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Other News

Sikh Federation ramps up pressure over census recognition

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/sikh-federation-ramps-up-pressure-over-census-recognition-97zvlbvd8>

Court of Appeal judges rule Islamic marriages not legally binding, leaving Muslim women in 'legal limbo'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/14/court-appeal-judges-rule-islamic-marriages-not-legally-binding/>

Judges reject bid to make Islamic marriages legally binding

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sharia-marriage-islamic-wedding-nikah-court-appeal-divorce-union-a9335946.html>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/2020/2/13/Civil-Partnership--Scotland--Bill/SB%2020-15.pdf>

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>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylumseekerspermissiontowork.html>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylumsupportprescribedperiod.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageapprovedorganisations.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugeesfamilyreunion.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

**** Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/windrushcompensationschemeexpenditure.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/2689E446-2379-4EFE-8B10-8E1E0CEC7466/WindrushCompensationScheme\(Expenditure\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-10/debates/2689E446-2379-4EFE-8B10-8E1E0CEC7466/WindrushCompensationScheme(Expenditure)Bill)

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (closing date 13 March 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114208.aspx>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2020)

<https://tinyurl.com/sxarzv4>

Harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education (closing date 27 March 2020)

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/76f6bdd3-bb14-4956-b089-cd1598323d55/consultation-on-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-in-higher-education.pdf>

**** Race equality, employment and skills inquiry** (closing date 17 April 2020)
<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

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

Scottish Refugee Council Small Grants Scheme

Closing date for applications: 8 March 2020

Grants of up to £1,000 to help community groups across Scotland involved in providing integration projects and services for refugees and asylum seekers, to deliver an event or activity which will help the group to strengthen connections, partnerships and networks with other communities in their local area. For information and an application form see <https://tinyurl.com/qgh6klq>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

The Gathering

19 and 20 February in Edinburgh

Scotland's largest free voluntary sector event in the UK, a place for everyone working in the sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020>

**** this week!**

Strengthening Scotland's charity sector

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (10.00–11.00)

Discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Maureen Mallon OSCR and Anna Fowlie SCVO about how, together, we can strengthen the brand of charity, its role and potential in an ever changing world. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/strengthening-scotlands-charity-sector/>

**** this week!**

Counting Scotland: the census, the population and the future

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (2.00–3.00)

National Records of Scotland presentation to highlight how Scotland's population is changing; how we think it will change further and the implications this has for the third sector and others. We will be highlighting the various statistical information we publish, free of charge, which is available to the third sector. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/counting-scotland-the-census-the-population-and-the-future/>

**** this week!**

Brexit & the voluntary sector

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (9.30–10.30)

Civil Society Brexit Project session to provide insight into the main changes, challenges & concerns around Brexit for organisations in Scotland. For information see

<https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/brexit-the-voluntary-sector/>

**** this week!**

Telling your charity's story with impact

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (11.15–12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator event to explore the benefits of a good trustee annual report and how charity trustees can plan for and prepare an excellent report that helps the charity in many ways. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/telling-your-charitys-story-with-impact/>

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

10 March 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity to explore how cultural background influences behaviour, values, and beliefs, and how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Sanctuary in Scotland**

14 March 2020 in Edinburgh (10.00-3.30)

Church of Scotland, ACTS and CTBI conference to develop and support a shared commitment between the Churches on issues relating to migration, especially with those who are asylum seekers. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-in-scotland-tickets-82607101063>

Researching migrant and ethnic minority communities in Scotland

18 March 2020 in Aberdeen (12.00–3.30)

School of Nursing and Midwifery at Robert Gordon University Symposium to discuss the influence of policy on research with migrant and ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/stry5vl>

**** Talking Prejudice**

23 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–4.00)

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working 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/uq4antk> for Inverness see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for Stirling see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politic. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

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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
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/>*



*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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