



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

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

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**The UK Parliament returns from recess on 24 February 2020.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Scottish Visa

**Richard Lyle (SNP):** In light of the widespread criticism by Scottish industry and employers of the United Kingdom Government's immigration proposals, will the First Minister outline what response UK ministers have made to proposals for a Scottish visa?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** Shamefully, UK ministers have at this stage dismissed out of hand the constructive proposals that the Scottish Government has made on a Scottish visa. The proposals on immigration that were published yesterday are wrong in principle. They brand as low-skilled people who care for us in our care homes and hospitals, farm our land, process our fish, build our houses and look after our tourists in our restaurants and hotels, and imply that those people are not welcome here. That is shocking and shameful, and it should

be opposed.

The UK Government's proposals are also devastating for the future of our economy. Our demographics mean that we need to continue to attract people here, and those proposals will make it much harder. The proposals will make Scotland poorer in future. They are the biggest risk to our economic prosperity that we face. I read in the newspapers this morning that the Scottish Tories are "livid" about the proposals, and so they should be. However, rather than being quietly livid, should the Scottish Tories not be standing up for Scotland and doing something about it?

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12525&i=113207#ScotParlOR>

*The proposals referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

### **Asylum Seekers (Right to Vote)**

**Andy Whightman (Green):** I am pleased that the First Minister agrees that the language and the policy on immigration from the United Kingdom Government this week have been deeply damaging. Does she agree that it would be a clear signal that Scotland is more welcoming if we gave those who seek asylum here the right to vote through the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Bill, which we will consider today?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** Obviously, Parliament will debate those issues later this afternoon. The Scottish Government has set out its careful and considered position on that. We come from the perspective of wanting asylum seekers to be welcomed here and given the right to work here and play a full part in our society. We carefully consider all those issues.

I am proud that, in Scotland, we have—I hope—cross-party consensus that, generally speaking, the people who live here, no matter where they come from, should have the right to vote in our elections and to make a full contribution to the kind of country that we are and the one that we want to be.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12525&i=113208#ScotParlOR>

## **Scottish Parliament Motions**

**S5M-20972 John Mason (SNP): Points-based Immigration System** – That the Parliament notes with dismay the points-based immigration system that the UK Government has proposed; challenges the notion that the 8.5 million economically inactive people in the UK could or should be put to work, given that this group includes disabled people, and considers this an attack on people's right to social security; believes that the 70 points required would be a barrier to many people who could offer skills and employment to the benefit of the Scottish economy; understands that, under the current proposal, the UK Government has created some flexibility around jobs in occupations that are deemed to have a shortage, but questions whether the UK Government understands the needs of the Scottish economy and whether it would relax immigration visas for those seeking work in a sector in Scotland that is experiencing a shortage where no such shortage exists at the UK level, and calls on the UK Government to devolve immigration powers to Scotland so that the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government can seek to design an immigration system that works for Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20972>

**S5M-20961 Patrick Harvie (Green): 1,000 Bikes for Refugees** – That the Parliament recalls motion S5M-03605, which was lodged in January 2017 and celebrated the charity, Bikes for Refugees (Scotland), on its achievement of giving 100 donated and refurbished bicycles to asylum seekers and refugees; applauds the project further on the news that, on 19 February 2020, it gave out its 1,000th bike; acknowledges that the bikes are both a symbol of friendship and are of hugely practical benefit, enabling people to travel freely, participate in the life of their community and maintain a social life; thanks all who have made donations, including members of the public, universities, housing associations, ScotRail and Police Scotland; applauds the charity's volunteers, many of whom themselves are refugees and asylum seekers, and believes that, without their longstanding commitment, this extraordinary positive impact could not have been achieved.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20961>

*The 2017 Motion referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03605>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Immigration: EU Nationals

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [648]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain on the grounds of long residency her Department received in each month over the last two years; and how many of those applications submitted prior to 30 June 2019 are yet to be processed.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We do not publish this data for this specific group of applicants but as per the In-Country migration statistics published in August 2019, 98.2% of settlement applications were decided within the six-month service standard. This figure will include applications made by those seeking Indefinite Leave to Remain on the grounds of long residency.

The data can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-august-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-11/648/>

### Asylum: Deportation

**Scott Benton (Conservative) [682]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many failed asylum seekers have been deported in each of the last 10 years.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office publishes data on returns from the UK in the

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data on the number of returns, by year, type of return and asylum and non-asylum related returns are published in table Ret\_05.

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality). Therefore not all 'asylum' cases will relate to failed asylum seekers.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are

enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published statistics refer to all enforced returns. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2019.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-11/682/>

### **Asylum: Deportation**

**Scott Benton (Conservative)** [683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to locate failed asylum seekers who have absconded prior to deportation.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office takes a number of steps to re-establish contact with Failed Asylum Seekers (FAS) who have absconded. Our dedicated tracing team conducts a full range of checks which cannot be detailed for security reasons.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-11/683/>

## **Press Releases**

**Home Secretary announces new UK points-based immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-uk-points-based-immigration-system>

**Scottish Government response to UK Government's immigration proposals**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/response-to-uk-goverments-immigration-proposals/>

**Call for meeting on immigration proposals: First Minister writes to Prime Minister**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/call-for-meeting-on-immigration-proposals/>

**Government response: Douglas Ross comment on new points-based immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/douglas-ross-comment-on-new-points-based-immigration-system>

**Immigration system will support Scottish economy**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/immigration-system-will-support-scottish-economy>

**10,000 workers to boost British farming sector**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10000-workers-to-boost-british-farming-sector>

## **New Publications**

**The UK's points-based immigration system: policy statement**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

**Guidance: New immigration system: what you need to know**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know>

**Updated Guidance: Employing EU citizens in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/employing-eu-eea-and-swiss-citizens-and-their-family-members-after-brexit>

**Guidance: Coronavirus: immigration guidance if you're unable to return to China from the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-immigration-guidance-if-youre-unable-to-return-to-china-from-the-uk>

**Welsh Government: Access to social services and other care and support for destitute asylum seekers with no recourse to public funds**

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/access-to-social-services-and-other-care-and-support-for-destitute-asylum-seekers-with-no-recourse-to-public-funds.pdf>

**Migration: Key fundamental rights concerns - Quarterly bulletin 1 - 2020**

[https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2020-migration-bulletin-1\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-migration-bulletin-1_en.pdf)

## News

**UK immigration plans 'devastating' for Scotland, says Sturgeon**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-51558830>

**Nicola Sturgeon: Tory migration system will 'devastate' Scotland**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-tory-migration-system-will-devastate-scotland-1-5093152>

**Nicola Sturgeon: UK Government's immigration plans are devastating and offensive**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18245721.nicola-sturgeon-uk-governments-immigration-plans-devastating-offensive/>

**Scottish Tories urge rethink over points-based immigration**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/20/scottish-tories-urge-rethink-over-points-based-immigration>

**Scots Tories seek concessions on immigrant rules**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scots-tories-seek-concessions-on-immigrant-rules-kqqm66jc0>

**Good quality of life 'is key to success' of Scottish visa plan**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/good-quality-of-life-is-key-to-success-of-scottish-visa-plan-1-5094603>

**Immigration: No visas for low-skilled workers, government says**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51550421>

**How could a UK points-based immigration system work?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51550421>

**Brexit visa changes to block low-skilled EU migrants from entering UK**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit-visa-changes-to-block-low-skilled-eu-migrants-from-entering-uk-1-5092660>

**Tory migration plan will shut out 140,000 EU workers**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-citizens-immigration-rules-work-home-office-a9342766.html>

**UK to close door to non-English speakers and unskilled workers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/18/uk-to-close-door-to-non-english-speakers-and-unskilled-workers>

**New immigration rules mean Home Office – not companies – decides on skills shortages**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/02/19/business-warns-critical-worker-shortages-new-immigration-rules/>

**Explained: UK Government's new immigration proposals**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18247351.explained-uk-governments-new-immigration-proposals/>

**Post-Brexit immigration plans: the government's proposed "points-based" immigration system explained**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/post-brexit-immigration-plans-the-government-s-proposed-points-based-immigration-system-explained-1-5092891>

**What is in the government's controversial new immigration plan?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-new-immigration-rules-explained-eu-citizens-work-points-system-a9344061.html>

**Priti Patel says it's 'right' workers speak English before entering UK ahead of immigration announcement**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-immigration-brexit-english-boris-johnson-points-based-a9343301.html>

**Priti Patel defends new immigration points system as she insists it's 'not the end of the Polish builder'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/19/boris-johnson-brexit-news-latest-immigration-eu-workers/>

**Immigration crackdown will create a 'perfect storm' for Scotland**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18247592.immigration-crackdown-will-create-perfect-storm-scotland/>

**Tory immigration plans are short-sighted and counterproductive**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18254102.herald-view-tory-immigration-plans-short-sighted-counterproductive/>

**Points-based immigration system will stop businesses relying on cheap low-skilled foreign workers**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/18/businesses-use-cheap-low-skilled-migrant-workers-ended/>

**Weaning Britain off low-skilled immigration will change the economy for the better**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/19/weaning-britain-low-skilled-immigration-will-change-economy/>

**Talented younger migrants could be allowed into UK without a job offer**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/19/talented-younger-migrants-could-allowed-uk-without-job-offer/>

**What's a skilled worker? And other immigration questions**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-uk-leaves-the-eu-51572789>

**This sensible response to the demand for migration control deserves our support**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/19/sensible-response-demand-migration-control-deserves-support/>

**Immigration: New rules would see 'severe' carer shortage**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-51560150>

**Government's new immigration plan denounced as 'absolute disaster' for care sector**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/priti-patel-immigration-system-policy-social-care-nhs-a9344056.html>

**Social care leaders criticise plans for immigration salary threshold**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/19/social-care-leaders-criticise-plans-for-immigration-salary-threshold>

**Immigration proposals: Short term visas hope for EU carers**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-proposals-short-term-visas-hope-for-eu-carers-vf0z5wq7t>

**Calls for rural pilot scheme go-ahead after 'catastrophic' immigration policy announcement**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18255222.calls-rural-pilot-scheme-go-ahead-catastrophic-immigration-policy-announcement/>

**Hotel chain owner says immigration plan will cripple firm**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18247548.hotel-chain-owner-says-immigration-plan-will-cripple-firm/>

**Immigration rules post-Brexit could fuel modern slavery, say charities**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/21/immigration-rules-post-brexit-could-fuel-modern-slavery-say-charities>

**Record number of people born abroad working in UK in 2019, says ONS**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/record-number-of-people-born-abroad-working-in-uk-in-2019-says-ons-qvn9nhp8f>

**Labour MPs warn ministers not to water down Windrush review**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/21/labour-mps-government-windrush-review-institutionally-racist>

**Windrush draft 'branding Home Office institutionally racist was watered down'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-racism-home-office-caribbean-deportation-generation-scandal-a9348776.html>

**Windrush draft report that called Home Office institutionally racist 'was watered down'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/21/windrush-draft-report-called-home-office-institutionally-racist/>

**Home Office is 'institutionally racist', said report into Windrush scandal**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-is-institutionally-racist-said-report-into-windrush-scandal-76w9mrw2w>

**What is the Windrush review?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/21/what-is-the-windrush-review-scandal>

**Helping refugees for longer 'could save UK money'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51540744>

**Refugees and prisoners given right to vote**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refugees-and-prisoners-given-right-to-vote-6g09ghg53>

**Serco: Home Office hands private firm contract to run removal centres despite allegations of abuse against immigrants**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/serco-removal-centre-immigrants-home-office-brook-house-yarls-wood-a9346061.html>

**Home Office deports asylum seekers on charter flight to EU countries despite warnings of 'inadequate access to justice'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/charter-flight-asylum-seekers-deportation-home-office-trafficking-victims-a9345816.html>

**Torture victims who endured slavery escape deportation by matter of hours after lawyers intervene**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/torture-slavery-asylum-seekers-deport-charter-flight-home-office-eritrea-a9348186.html>

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## **Community Relations**

### **News**

**'It's fun – everyone is different': the Jewish school that unites all faiths**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/22/london-jewish-primary-school-open-to-children-of-all-faiths-and-none>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-20955: Adam Tomkins (Conservative) Everyone Anyone Charter Launch** – That the Parliament applauds Rangers FC on the launch of a new Fans Charter, which is an extension of its diversity and inclusion campaign, “Everyone Anyone”; welcomes that the

Charter emphasises the importance of fans setting a positive example at matches and highlights that, as ambassadors for the club, fans must be respectful, tolerant and inclusive at all times and that there can be no place for bigotry, racism, sectarianism or homophobia at football matches; acknowledges that the Charter encourages respect to be shown to supporters or groups who share different views or beliefs and for fans to be an ally to those who may experience discrimination; congratulates the Club on highlighting how the use of language impacts on others, and commends it for proactively encouraging fans to report such behaviour if witnessed as a means of making everyone feel safe, welcome and wanted at Rangers' matches.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20955>

*The Charter referred to above can be read at*

<https://rangers.co.uk/news/headlines/everyone-anyone-fans-charter/>

### New Publications

**Briefing: Inequalities Faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2020-0061/LLN-2020-0061.pdf>

**Briefing: Unemployment by ethnic background**

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

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Football: Racial Discrimination

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL1308] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they supporting work to combat racism at football grounds (1) with the English Football League, and (2) more generally.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** Racism or any form of discrimination has no place in football or society, and we must confront this vile behaviour.

The Government supports the steps the football authorities, including the English Football League, have taken for the current season to combat discrimination. This included actions targeted at and around football grounds such as: improving reporting systems; providing better training and support for referees and stewards; and improving the quality of CCTV around stadia.

However it is clear there is more to do. The Minister for Sport recently held meetings with both the English Football League and the Football Association in which he discussed their action on discrimination. He has asked the football authorities to

report back with a more detailed update about their work on this important issue before considering future government support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-04/HL1308/>

## News

**More than half of Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) MPs asked by ITV News have experienced racism in Parliament**

<https://www.itv.com/news/2020-02-17/more-than-half-of-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-bame-mps-asked-by-itv-news-have-experienced-racism-in-parliament/>

**Most BME MPs have experienced racism in parliament, study finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/feb/17/black-minority-ethnic-mps-racism-in-parliament-study>

**Majority of ethnic minority MPs have experienced racism at Westminster, survey suggests**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mp-racism-ethnic-minority-parliament-westminster-bame-a9340616.html>

**Labour accused of allowing anti-Semitism to fall through the gap due to lengthy leadership campaign**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/02/21/labour-accused-allowing-anti-semitism-fall-gap-due-lengthy-leadership/>

**'Shameful' data reveals NHS treatment of minority ethnic staff**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-staff-racism-bme-ethnic-england-data-a9340601.html>

**Glasgow SNP leader hits out at 'vitriolic sectarian slurs' after being cleared of 'anti-Rangers bias'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18243531.glasgow-snp-leader-hits-vitriolic-sectarian-slurs-cleared-anti-rangers-bias/>

**Apology demanded for gypsy traveller 'Tinker Experiment'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-51545113>

**Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary slammed for 'abhorrent' remarks on Muslims**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18254525.ryanair-boss-michael-oleary-slammed-abhorrent-remarks-muslims/>

**Michael O'Leary: Ryanair boss criticised for Muslim profiling comments**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51596125>

**Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary wants extra checks on Muslim men**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/ryanair-boss-michael-oleary-wants-extra-checks-on-muslim-men-hj50qwzlb>

**Muslim leaders' fury at Michael O'Leary 'profiling' comments**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/ireland/muslim-leaders-fury-at-michael-oleary-profiling-comments-smnft8wnr>

### **UK left activists attended events with far right antisemites**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/feb/22/uk-left-activists-at-far-right-events-antisemites-holocaust-deniers>

### **Fashion Institute apologises for 'clearly racist' show**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-51564215>

### **Cambridge don apologises to black student who was 'physically prevented' from entering a college**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/21/cambridge-don-apologises-black-student-physically-prevented/>

### **Amazon fails to remove 'vile, racist' Nazi propaganda books from sale**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/amazon-nazi-propaganda-antisemitic-book-der-giftpilz-a9351471.html>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Press Release**

#### **Cabinet Appointments**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/cabinet-appointments/>

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## **Other UK Parliament and Government**

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

#### **Legal Systems: Islam**

**Philip Davies (Conservative)** [14645] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department has allocated funding from the public purse to sharia councils in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Lucy Frazer:** The Ministry of Justice has not funded the operation of sharia councils in the last three years, as these organisations are not part of the justice system. Community organisations may apply to various Government Departments for a range of grants for particular purposes. A list of grant schemes run by government departments can be found at gov.uk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-10/14645/>

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

#### **Female Genital Mutilation**

**Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green)** [HL1434] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Sugg on 6 February (HL Deb, col 1885), how many claims for asylum have been made by (1) women and girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), and (2) anti-FGM campaigners, in each of the last 10 years; and how

many such claims (a) have been accepted, (b) have been rejected, and (c) are awaiting a decision.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not record the basis of claims in a way that can be easily aggregated so cannot provide figures on how many asylum claims have been made by (1) women and girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), and (2) anti-FGM campaigners, in each of the last 10 years; and how many such claims (a) have been accepted, (b) have been rejected, and (c) are awaiting a decision.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number of cases concluded by gender. This data can be found at [Asy\\_05/06/06q/07](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019), of the published Transparency data: August 2019:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019)  
[Asylum Transparency Data - August 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-august-2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-07/HL1434/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-06/debates/67E5A06F-A21F-4DFB-9E05-1EF2D53B42AD/FemaleGenitalMutilation#contribution-9229C74A-7BAC-4863-B7EC-017203DA688A>

## New Publication

**Briefing: Islamic marriage and divorce in England and Wales**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8747/CBP-8747.pdf>

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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>

#### **\*\* Disclosure (Scotland) Bill**

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

Stage 1 evidence session: Education and Skills Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12523&i=113175#ScotParlOR>

#### **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/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigration-control-gross-human-rights-abuses.html>

## **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriage-approved-organisations.html>

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugees-family-reunion.html>

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-legal-advice-and-appeals.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/windrush-compensation-scheme-expenditure.html>

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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/parliamentary-business/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/qqh6klq>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

### **\*\* BAME women in Scottish Politics**

3 March 2020 in Glasgow (10.00–12.00)

In the 20 years since the opening of Scottish Parliament, no minority ethnic woman has been elected. The Parliament Project and Amina, Muslim Women's Resource Centre want to create a safe space for 12 women of colour, visibly Muslim women and minority ethnic women to come together to explore their political pathway, and demystify the process of standing for elected office. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wlfnr3l>

### **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](mailto: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 the Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event 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](mailto: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](mailto: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** 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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