



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.

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Other Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

**The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 20 April 2020, and the UK Parliament is in recess until 21 April 2020.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigration Controls: Scotland**

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [21337] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effects on the health and social care sector in Scotland of the Government's proposed implementation of a points-based immigration system.

#### **Immigration: Scotland**

**Martyn Day (SNP)** [21338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether she has undertaken an impact assessment of the potential short-term effects of the proposed immigration policy on the Scottish economy.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government published “The UK’s Points-Based System: Policy Statement” on 19 February.

The new system will ensure we can attract the brightest and best and deliver for the whole of the UK, whilst protecting our union.

To facilitate the migration of skilled workers to support the NHS, we will create a fast-track NHS visa for certain medical professionals with NHS job offers – reducing their visa fees and providing support to come to the UK with their families. Senior care workers who meet the criteria will be able to come to the UK through the points-based system.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee’s (MAC) has been clear immigration is not the solution to addressing staffing levels in the social care sector. In delivering on its manifesto commitments for a new Australian style points-based system, the Government has considered relevant views, evidence, and analysis. We will also keep labour market data under careful scrutiny.

The Home Office will publish further detail on the points-based system in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-26/21337/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-26/21338/>

*The policy statement 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>

### **Immigration: Wales**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [20635] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has conducted an impact assessment of the potential short-term effects of the Government's immigration policy on the Welsh economy.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Government published “The UK’s Points-Based System: Policy Statement” on 19 February, following the report of independent Migration Advisory Committee in January.

The Migration Advisory Committee advised against regional variations, hence we will deliver a system which works for the whole of the UK.

In delivering on its manifesto commitments for a Australian style new points-based system, the Government has considered relevant views, evidence, and analysis. We will also keep labour market data under careful scrutiny.

The Home Office will publish further detail on the points-based system in due course and will continue to engage with stakeholders across Wales on it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-25/20635/>

*The policy statement 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>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [27592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Corona virus (Covid-19) immigration guidance on travel restrictions and China, published by her Department on 17 February 2020, if she will extend that

guidance to other non-EEA countries that have isolation measures in place.

#### **Overseas Visitors: Coronavirus**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [27588] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support will be provided to non-EEA nationals who are at risk of over-staying their short term visas as a result of self isolating in response to covid-19.

#### **Foreign Nationals: Coronavirus**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [28033] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that foreign nationals will not be regarded as breaking their continuity of residence where their continued absence from the UK results from a restriction on international travel due to covid-19.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Due to travel restrictions because of coronavirus, some individuals may be facing uncertainty in relation to the expiry date of their current visa or leave to remain in the United Kingdom. We are taking steps to ensure foreign nationals will not be regarded as breaking their continuity of residence as a result of coronavirus and related travel restrictions.

Visas for Chinese nationals which were due to expire between 21st January and 30 March 2020 have already been automatically extended until 31 March 2020. We continue to monitor the situation in all countries and we are keeping this under constant review. A dedicated coronavirus immigration helpline

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents#helpline> has been set up for those who wish to discuss their circumstances. The freephone number is 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27592/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27588/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-11/28033/>

*An updated version of the guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [10483] To the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2020 to Question 6772 on Devolution: Northern Ireland, what steps she is taking to ensure that immigration status offered to family members of people in Northern Ireland will not reduce the rights conferred under EEA regulations.

**Claire Hanna (SDLP)** [10484] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her Answer of 28 January 2020 to Question 6772 on Devolution: Northern Ireland, whether the immigration route to be offered to the family members of people in Northern Ireland will come into force before the end of the transition period.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office intends to change the Immigration Rules to enable eligible family members of the people of Northern Ireland to apply for UK immigration status on broadly the same terms as the family members of Irish citizens in the UK. This route will be opened in the near future.

Any rights held by such individuals by virtue of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016 will be unaffected by the implementation of this route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10483/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-30/10484/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6772/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Marion Fellows (SNP)** [13048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to extend the contract with Sodexo for the provision of Aspen cards to asylum seekers.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** A new supplier will provide payment card services following transition from the current provider, Sodexo. Timelines are currently being finalised.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/13048/>

### **Asylum: Human Trafficking**

**Dan Jarvis (Conservative)** [13983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average waiting time is for a decision on an asylum case where the asylum seeker claims to have been a potential victim of human trafficking in the latest period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not publish data on the average waiting time for a decision on an asylum case where the asylum seeker claims to have been a potential victim of trafficking.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration. This data can be found at Asy\_04, of the published Immigration Statistics September 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

The Home Office are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal. Whilst we take steps to increase capacity and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality decisions more efficiently, we have moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required. The intention is for this approach to bring balance back to the asylum system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/13983/>

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

### **Visas: Migrant Workers**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL2830] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy towards migrants who are in the country beyond their visa

expiration date but who are unable to travel due to global travel restrictions.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Due to travel restrictions because of coronavirus, some individuals may be facing uncertainty in relation to the expiry date of their current visa in the United Kingdom.

We are taking steps to ensure foreign nationals will not be penalised as a result of coronavirus and related travel restrictions, outside of their control.

A coronavirus immigration mailbox [CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk) has been set up and there is a freephone number 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) for those who wish to discuss their individual circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2830/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat)** [HL2942] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refusals they have made to provide information to a data subject by using the exemption in Schedule 2, paragraph 4 to the Data Protection Act 2018 in connection with (1) applications for settled status under the EU Settled Status Scheme, and (2) grants of pre-settled status when settled status has been applied for.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We do not hold data on specific types of applications, therefore cannot provide information pertaining to EUSS applicants who made a Subject Access Request.

The immigration exemption can only be applied where it is necessary and proportionate to do so, and where to uphold a data subject request would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of effective immigration control.

The immigration exemption is not a blanket measure, and its use is justified on a case by case basis. In nearly all cases the immigration exemption applies to a limited amount of data and the majority of data held is disclosed to the requestor.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-25/HL2942/>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL2862] To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they are making for asylum applicants whose cases are pending where a decision may be affected by restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and in particular for applications from survivors of torture.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those in the asylum system who are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. We are monitoring the situation closely and making adjustments to our processes and procedures where necessary and appropriate.

We will continue to provide accommodation and financial support to those who would otherwise be destitute.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-24/HL2862/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL2955] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to suspend all terminations of asylum support temporarily as part of their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Following public health guidance, we have put in place a number of measures to support people in the asylum system who are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, including working closely with providers to make sure the most vulnerable people within the system receive the support they need.



<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-25/HL2955/>

## Press Release

**Scottish Human Rights Commission disappointed with Supreme Court decision on Serco appeal**

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/commission-disappointed-with-supreme-court-decision-on-serco-appeal/>

## New Publications

**Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme: community support for vulnerable citizens**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-support-for-vulnerable-citizens#history>

**Updated Guidance: EU Settlement Scheme: EU, other EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/878326/main-euss-guidance-v4.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878326/main-euss-guidance-v4.0ext.pdf)

## News

**Coronavirus: Petition demands automatic citizenship for foreign frontline health workers**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18366633.coronavirus-petition-demands-automatic-citizenship-foreign-frontline-health-workers/>

**Give foreign nationals in NHS indefinite leave to remain, say MPs**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/07/foreign-nationals-nhs-indefinite-leave-remain-coronavirus-covid-19>

**Tory hypocrisy on NHS migrant workers is shameful**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18371539.tory-hypocrisy-nhs-migrant-workers-shameful/>

**While 'low-skilled' migrants are saving us, the government is cracking down on them**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/11/low-skilled-migrants-government-cracking-down>

**Quarantine illegal Channel migrants for 14 days to prevent spread of quarantine, says MP**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/09/quarantine-illegal-channel-migrants-14-days-prevent-spread-quarantine/>

**Essex lorry deaths: driver pleads guilty to manslaughter of 39 migrants**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/08/essex-lorry-deaths-driver-pleads-guilty-to-manslaughter-of-39-migrants>

**Maurice Robinson admits killing 39 Vietnamese migrants found in back of lorry**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/maurice-robinson-admits-killing-39-vietnamese-migrants-found-in-back-of-lorry-jzvbk32xr>

## Supreme Court denies Ali vs Serco lock-change appeal

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/supreme-court-denies-serco-lock-change-appeal/>

## Supreme Court Rejects Appeal in Serco Lock Change Evictions Case – But What Effect Has the Human Rights Challenge Already Had?

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/04/08/supreme-court-rejects-appeal-in-serco-lock-change-evictions-case-but-what-effect-has-the-human-rights-challenge-already-had/>

## Political asylum seeker left in limbo: ‘My family faces danger in Yemen if Home Office doesn’t act’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-uk-home-office-yemen-jordan-amnesty-ali-tujan-al-bukhaiti-a9450531.html>

## ‘I’ve already lost my home in Syria. I don’t want to lose another’: Refugee starts new job as NHS hospital cleaner to fight coronavirus pandemic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hassan-akkad-coronavirus-nhs-cleaner-east-london-syria-refugee-a9459591.html>

TOP

## Community Relations

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Schools: Community Relations

**Nickie Aiken (Conservative) [29294]** To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to promote community cohesion in (a) local authority schools, (b) free schools and (c) academies; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Schools are at the heart of our communities and they have a crucial role to play in promoting integration and bringing families from all walks of life together. All schools must promote community cohesion; and are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. These values are an important part in ensuring our children and young people understand how, as citizens, they can play a positive role in shaping cohesive and integrated communities; and providing them with the skills, and knowledge that will prepare them for life in a modern, diverse Britain.

Promotion of these values is part of Ofsted’s inspection framework, and the Department has published guidance to schools on promoting these important values as part of pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In 2016, the Department also launched the Educate Against Hate website, through which we continue to provide free resources for teachers and school leaders to support their promotion of these values. This includes the Department’s Respectful School Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline, helping to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind.

The Department is also introducing compulsory relationships education for all primary aged pupils, relationships and sex education for all secondary aged pupils, and health education for all pupils in state funded schools from September 2020. These subjects are designed to give pupils the knowledge they need to lead happy, safe and healthy lives and to foster respect for other people and for difference.

As part of our commitments in the Government’s Integrated Communities Action Plan, the Department has also funded an expanded national school linking

programme, which seeks to encourage meaningful social mixing between different types of schools, and foster understanding of those with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. In the last year, The Linking Network has worked with over 540 schools, leading to over 22,500 pupils taking part in activities to support integration and community cohesion.

As part of this same package, the Department has also strengthened expectations for all new free schools on the promotion of community cohesion and integration, to make sure they are doing all that they can to ensure children and young people are able to participate fully in life in modern Britain. To support this, the Department has introduced updated application criteria, and as part of our assessment process are considering the potential impact on integration and community cohesion, including the intake of neighbouring schools, before approving a new school.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-13/29294/>

The *Educate Against Hate* website, referred to above, can be read at <https://educateagainsthate.com/>

The *Action Plan* referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf)

TOP

## Equality

### Press Releases

**Persistent Roma inequality increases COVID-19 risk, human rights heads say**

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2020/persistent-roma-inequality-increases-covid-19-risk-human-rights-heads-say>

**International Roma Day: Joint Statement by Vice-President Věra Jourová and Commissioner Helena Dalli**

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT\\_20\\_615](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_20_615)

### New Publication

**Ethnicity, Race and Inequality in the UK : State of the Nation**

<https://www.oopen.org/download?type=document&docid=1007875>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme**

**Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23613]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to ensure equitable access to security funding for places of worship.



**Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23486]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to ensure equitable access to security funding for religious institutions.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** All places of worship, other than the Jewish community, have access to the Places of Worship Scheme that funds protective security measures to counter hate crime. The Jewish community has access to separate funding that was put in place following a series of terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish targets in Europe. The Government regularly considers the range of threats to our places of worship from hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23613/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23486/>

*Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

*Information about the separate funding for the Jewish community, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-grants-14-million-funding-for-security-at-jewish-institutions>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme**

**Zarah Sultana (Labour) [26191]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many places of worship have made unsuccessful applications for funding from the Places of Worship Security Funding scheme in each category of place of worship in (a) England and (b) Wales.

**Zarah Sultana (Labour) [26192]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of each category of place of worship have applied for funding through the Places of Worship Security Funding scheme in (a) England and (b) Wales.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Over the first three years, the Places of Worship scheme has received 431 applications in total. Of the applications received, 134 were successful and 297 were unsuccessful.

In England, there have been 253 applications from Christian communities, 108 applications from Muslim communities, 19 applications from Hindu communities, 34 applications from Sikh communities and 1 application from Jain communities.

Of those applications, there have been 193 unsuccessful applications from Christian communities, 60 unsuccessful applications from Muslim communities, 14 unsuccessful applications from Hindu communities, 17 unsuccessful applications from Sikh communities, and 1 unsuccessful application from Jain communities.

In Wales, there have been 14 applications from Christian communities, 1 application from Muslim communities, 1 application from Hindu communities and 0 applications from Sikh and Jain communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-06/26191/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-06/26192/>

*Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

## New Publication

### Coronavirus and the Plague of Antisemitism

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/d/9/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20plague%20of%20antisemitism.1586276450.pdf>

## News

### Sir Keir Starmer did more on anti-Semitism in 'four days' than Jeremy Corbyn, claim Jewish leaders

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/07/sir-keir-starmer-did-anti-semitism-four-days-jeremy-corbyn-claim/>

### Jewish leaders praise Keir Starmer for pledges on Labour antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/apr/07/jewish-leaders-praise-keir-starmer-for-pledges-on-labour-antisemitism>

### Owner of Edinburgh's Bross Bagels tells of 'shock' after landlord brands her request to get rent break 'typical Jewish behaviour'

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/owner-edinburghs-bross-bagels-tells-shock-after-landlord-brands-her-request-get-rent-break-typical-jewish-behaviour-2534655>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

#### Scottish Parliament to hold Leaders' Virtual Question Time

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/114963.aspx>

#### First Minister's Easter Message

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-ministers-easter-message/>

#### First Minister's Passover Message

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-ministers-passover-message/>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Children in Care: Female Genital Mutilation

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL2843] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been taken into care as a result of the introduction of female genital mutilation safeguarding in 2015.

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL2848] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether,

after a child has been taken into care to safeguard against female genital mutilation (FGM), written reports on that child's wellbeing are completed; and if so, whether those reports are reviewed to ensure that FGM safeguarding is in the child's best interest.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) has been illegal in the UK since the Female Circumcision Act of 1985, later the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, so safeguarding girls from FGM has been a responsibility of relevant services from much earlier than 2015. In 2015, the mandatory reporting of known cases of FGM was introduced.

Data on the children who enter care does not identify the cases where FGM was the reason for a child being taken into care. Any such cases would be included in the broader category of "abuse or neglect". Therefore, the department cannot say how many girls entering care had undergone FGM or were at risk of FGM.

Every looked after child, whatever the reason for them entering care, must have a care plan that is regularly reviewed and updated, which sets out the plan for their day-to-day care and how decisions about them will be made. The child is assisted to put forward their views, wishes and feelings as part of the review process.

There is no discrete requirement relating to FGM, but reviews would, where relevant, take this into account. The best interests of the child should always be paramount.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2843/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2848/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Female Genital Mutilation: Education**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL2844] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received about female genital mutilation education being taught in schools; and from whom.

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL2845] To ask Her Majesty's Government how female genital mutilation education is taught in schools.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is child abuse and it is illegal. Services, including schools, should safeguard children from this abuse as from any other form of abuse.

Schools are able to teach about FGM as part of non-statutory personal, social, health and economic education.

By the end of secondary education, pupils should have been taught about FGM. Schools should address the physical and emotional damage caused by FGM. Pupils should be taught where to find support and that it is a criminal offence to perform or assist in the performance of FGM or fail to protect a person for whom one is responsible from FGM. Pupils may also need support to recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are unhealthy or abusive (including the unacceptability of neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse, honour-based violence and forced marriage) and strategies to manage this or access support for oneself or others at risk. All teaching for these subjects should be age and developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the pupil, including ensuring that no pupil feels stigmatised. Schools should work closely with the local community and key partners, such as school nurses, and draw on local health data when planning their teaching for any aspect of these subjects. Teaching about FGM will not be in isolation but as part of a wider context of positive relationships, health and mental wellbeing. The focus on ensuring pupils know how to get further help should be threaded throughout these subjects.

The statutory guidance for these subjects was developed as part of a call for evidence and public consultation, and the government's response is attached and available here:

[https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting\\_documents/180718%20Consultation\\_call%20for%20evidence%20response\\_policy%20statement.pdf](https://consult.education.gov.uk/pshe/relationships-education-rse-health-education/supporting_documents/180718%20Consultation_call%20for%20evidence%20response_policy%20statement.pdf).

The summary of the public consultation includes a list of the organisations engaged within Annex A, which is attached and available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/780768/Government\\_Response\\_to\\_RSE\\_Consultation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/780768/Government_Response_to_RSE_Consultation.pdf).

[HL2844 HL2845 RSHE consultation response](#)

[HL2844 HL2845 RSHE consultation organisations](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2844/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2845/>

## Press Release

**Prime Minister's Passover message**

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1247805181137285120>

TOP

## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

#### **NHS (England and Wales)**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### Scottish Government

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's statement 12 April 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretary-12-april-2020/>

### **First Minister COVID-19 update**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-minister-covid-19-update-8/>

### **Coronavirus in Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **Where to find additional support**

<https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/where-to-find-additional-support/>

### **Public urged to stay at home**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/public-urged-to-stay-at-home/>

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Guidance on preparation for burial or cremation for religious organisations, faith and cultural groups**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-religious-organisations-faith-and-cultural-groups---preparation-for-burial-or-cremation-of-covid-19-deceased/>

### **COVID-19 Response Planning Supporting Gypsy/Traveller Communities: A framework to support local authorities and their partners in local decision making**

<https://tinyurl.com/trvlahn>

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

### **Coronavirus: Disease Control**

**Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated)** [HL2725] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have provided, and plan to provide, in relation to religious gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Government has introduced social distancing guidance which should be implemented across all sectors including religious gatherings, this will help reduce the transmission of COVID-19. A copy of *Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK* is attached.

Additionally, a scientific evidence-based review on the impact of mass gatherings on an influenza pandemic has been published. A copy of *Impact of Mass Gatherings on an Influenza Pandemic: Scientific Evidence Base Review* is attached.

[Guidance on social distancing](#)

[Mass gatherings evidence review](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-18/HL2725/>

### **Coronavirus: Disease Control**

**Lord Ahmed (Non-affiliated)** [HL2726] To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they have provided to the Muslim Council of Britain about (1) Friday prayers, and (2) the celebration of Ramadan, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** The Muslim Council of Britain continues to follow the Government's and National Health Service COVID-19 advice as well as publishing their own guidance for the Muslim community. This guidance includes plans for likely suspension of congregational activities, advice for congregation members to keep good hygiene and support for the socially vulnerable and isolated. A copy of *Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for mosques/madrasas and Umrah Pilgrims* is attached.

There is information on how Ramadan may be affected and whether United



Kingdom mosques must similarly prepare for the very likely possibility of suspending iftar programs and congregational tarawih prayers.

[Guidance for mosques madrasas and Umrah pilgrims](https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-18/HL2726/)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-18/HL2726/>

*Note that the funerals guidance referred to below applies only in England and Wales, not in Scotland. A link to the Scottish guidance is included above under the heading of "Scottish Government" in this section of MEMO.*

#### **Funerals: Coronavirus**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL2923] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is timely, accessible advice available to religious communities concerning rules relating to (1) funeral services, (2) burials, and (3) cremations, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist:** The government issued guidance on closure of business and venues on 23 March:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance>. This sets out that funerals may continue to take place in places of worship and crematoria. On 31 March, Public Health England (PHE) published further guidance to ensure funerals are conducted safely, consistent with social distancing principles:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-advice-for-safe-funerals-after-discussions-with-faith-leaders>. Faith leaders were consulted and worked with PHE to ensure that communities, the funeral industry and the NHS are protected.

Government is working with partners, including leaders and members of faith and belief communities, to communicate relevant guidance and to understand the issues faith communities are facing at this difficult time. We continue to value the input of our faith and belief communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-25/HL2923/>

#### **Local Government: Coronavirus**

**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative)** [HL2924] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have established a hotline service to (1) advise on faith and secular gatherings, (2) provide information to the public, and (3) receive relevant information from members of the public, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist:** The Government has issued guidance on social distancing on 16 March:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings>. In line with this guidance, large gatherings should not take place. Further guidance was published on 23 March on the closure of businesses and venues, including places of worship:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance>.

The guidance is clear that all places of worship should be closed. This includes for the holding of faith and secular gatherings and solitary prayer. However, services are encouraged to take place with congregations online.

Government continues to have regular discussions with faith and belief groups to ensure that guidance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic is communicated clearly and effectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-25/HL2924/>

## UK Government

### **COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection**

Guidance available in English, Easy-read English, Arabic, Bengali, Traditional Chinese – Cantonese, Simplified Chinese – Mandarin, French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, and Welsh

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

### **COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people**

Guidance available in English, Easy-read English, Arabic, Bengali, Traditional Chinese – Cantonese, Simplified Chinese – Mandarin, French, Gujarati, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Urdu, and Welsh

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people>

## Other Organisations

### **Doctors of the World in partnership with the Red Cross**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for patients based on the latest NHS guidelines, and available in all of the following languages:**

English, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Czech, Dari, Estonian, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hausa, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Kiswahili, Krio, Kurdish Sorani, Lithuanian, Oromo, Malayalam, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Sindhi, Slovak, Spanish, Somali, Tamil, Tigrinya, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Wolof, and Yiddish.

<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

### **Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network**

BEMIS initiative to support ethnic minority communities across Scotland that may need additional support to access support agencies and emergency relief, or make contact with broader community support initiatives.

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrn/#resources>

### **YouthLink Scotland: COVID-19 Guidance**

<https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/covid-19-guidance/>

### **Young Scot: The Answers to Common Coronavirus (COVID-19) Questions**

<https://young.scot/get-informed/national/coronavirus-your-frequently-asked-questions-answered>

### **Viral Kindness Scotland**

Bringing communities across Scotland together to spread kindness and help anyone who is vulnerable and struggling with self-isolation.

<https://www.viralkindness.scot/>

### **Glasgow Helps Volunteers**

Registration form for people interested in supporting the community by answering calls on the Glasgow COVID Response Helpline. We are particularly looking for people who speak languages other than English in order to help as many people as possible across the city.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HTTNXP2>

## News

**Coronavirus: UK Parliament still set to return on 21 April**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52260757>

**BBC unveils plans to support and represent faith communities during unprecedented times**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/religion-coronavirus>

**Coronavirus: Ethnic minorities 'are a third' of patients**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52255863>

**Are minorities being hit hardest by coronavirus?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52219070>

**Inequality means BAME and working class communities are suffering more from this pandemic**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/coronavirus-uk-lockdown-police-social-distancing-jewish-chronicle-a9459766.html>

**Coronavirus: Religious festivities may have proved deadly to community**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/coronavirus-religious-festivities-may-have-proved-deadly-to-community-rtvsqkffh>

**Religion goes digital as churches, mosques, synagogues turn to video conferencing apps**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2020/04/10/religion-goes-digital-churches-mosques-synagogues-turn-video/>

TOP

## New Publications

*The current COVID-19 situation has resulted in many groups currently using online conference applications for meetings and events. With local communities increasingly reliant upon Zoom and similar technologies, there is every likelihood that internet trolls, criminals and political extremists will seek to exploit the current situation. Sadly, there are numerous examples of extremists seizing upon the Coronavirus pandemic as a vehicle to spread their hate, incitement and conspiracy theories. The following resources provide information and advice to protect users against attack.*

**Guidance for Secure Livestreaming**

[https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/20iv\\_cst\\_safe\\_livestreaming.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/20iv_cst_safe_livestreaming.pdf)

**National Cyber Security Centre Advice**

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/information-for/individuals-families>

TOP

## Other News

**IBM and Cisco partner to support remote teaching and charity work across the UK**  
<https://www.ibm.com/blogs/think/uk-en/ibm-and-cisco-partner-to-support-remote-teaching-and-charity-work-across-the-uk/>

TOP

## 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>

### 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 and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.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>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Race equality, employment and skills inquiry** (closing date 17 April 2020)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

**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>

TOP

## Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Grants online: Coronavirus**

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

### **Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus



pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

### **Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020**

*Closing date not stated*

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

TOP

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Faith and COVID-19: Staying Connected at a Time of Physical Distancing**

19 April 2020 online via 'Zoom' (2.00 – 4.00)

Interfaith Glasgow dialogue event to hear from diverse community leaders about how they are responding to the challenges facing religious communities during COVID-19 when they can't meet at a time when they are in special need of the solace and support they get from their communities. For information and to register see <https://tinyurl.com/uh98fno>

### **Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities**

*Interfaith Scotland is looking at ways of putting their training courses onto an online format. If you have signed up for any of their training courses please contact Jamie Spurway at [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org) for further details.*

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)

### **Talking Prejudice**

*These are now likely to be run as online events. Further details will be available in due course.*

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 Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

### **Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue**

*Interfaith Scotland is looking at ways of putting their training courses onto an online format. If you have signed up for any of their training courses please contact Jamie Spurway at [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org) for further details.*

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 politics. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

[TOP](#)

## 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>

TOP

**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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