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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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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Immigration: Coronavirus

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [106945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the decision to allow biometric information submitted as part of a person's previous immigration application to be reused in further applications will continue following the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has begun to reuse previously enrolled biometrics in limited circumstances where they are suitable for such use. This includes some students who apply for visas under the new points-based immigration system, to manage the specific demand placed on our resources and to free up biometric enrolment facilities for other applicants. We will consider how best to widen our use of previously enrolled biometrics in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106945>

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [106944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the electronic submission of accompanying evidence for asylum applications electronically will continue following the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Covid-19 has created both challenges and the opportunity to explore new working practices for the Home Office. Whilst certain documents have been accepted electronically, we consider it is likely we will still need to see certain original document where appropriate in the future.

However, business practices are kept under review and new ways of working which have been implemented to cope with current restrictions, where they have been successful, may be continued beyond the current Covid-19 related restrictions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106944>

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [104224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will suspend evictions for people who have been refused asylum in response to the three-tier covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office has started cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within the asylum system. This means moving people out of Home Office accommodation and ending subsistence payments from the Home Office.

For those whose asylum claims have been rejected and appeal rights exhausted, they will be expected to leave the country, assistance is available to those who opt to leave voluntarily. The Voluntary Returns Scheme will pay for travel and provide a cash amount, and this can and should be utilised whenever possible.

People who are awaiting a Covid test result should not be asked to leave their current dwelling until they receive a negative test result and are symptom free and that those self-isolating due to a positive test result should adhere to the full 14-day self-isolation period for close contacts.

These factors, applied to an individual case, might mean that a failed asylum seeker continues to be eligible to receive support because they are unable to leave the UK or take the necessary practical steps to enable them to leave (for example by attending an interview for the purposes of obtaining a necessary travel document).

We continue to consult public health officials in relation to the application of relevant guidance for supported asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104224>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Interviews**

**Cat Smith (Labour)** [103558] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential effect of using third-party suppliers for asylum interviews on the level of outstanding asylums (a) claims and (b) interviews.

**Cat Smith (Labour)** [103559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the ability of third party suppliers to conduct asylum interviews effectively.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum Operations are exploring many options to reduce the number of outstanding asylum claims. Alongside seeking temporary resource from within the Home Office and other government departments, we are also exploring with third-party suppliers, through a proof of concept, to test the viability of whether they can deliver the support required as a temporary, short term measure. An eight-week controlled mobilisation of testing has been confirmed. Once we have completed the proof of concept exercise, an evaluation will be completed, and this will inform any further recommendations or actions.

Asylum interviews have not been outsourced, and at this stage we are only exploring the potential feasibility. The increased interview throughput will help rebalance the system, but also speed up decision making, reduce the number of outstanding cases and support costs.

Asylum Operations will be looking to source resource with the right competency and recent experience in conducting sensitive interviews. To ensure external suppliers are suitably equipped to carry out the role, third-party interviewing officers will complete a bespoke training package, delivered by the qualified asylum operations training team, that has been designed specifically to meet their needs. Anyone who conducts asylum interviews receives thorough training to ensure they are fully equipped for the role.

To guarantee governance and accountability, mechanisms are in place for the oversight of third-party interviews, the department has a quality assurance process which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103558>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103559>

### **Asylum: Offenders**

**Stephen Farry (Alliance)** [102208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the tweet on foreign national offenders published by her Department on 9 October 2020, what representations she has received on the potential conflation of the UK's asylum system and the deportation of offenders from EU countries (a) in that tweet and (b) in her Department's social media strategy.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office makes no apology for deporting Foreign National Offenders; it is right that we do so.

This tweet referred to two different groups.

The first group were foreign national offenders who broke our laws and abused our values, who we successfully returned to Lithuania. We are grateful for the ongoing close cooperation of our Lithuanian partners in tackling crime, and for their specific cooperation in this instance which was essential for the removal of the foreign national offenders mentioned in the tweet.

The second group was made up of migrants from outside the European Economic Area who had already claimed asylum in Italy, and who we planned to return under the Dublin Regulation. The Italy leg of the flight did not take place and our efforts to return those who arrived on small boats via illegally-facilitated routes were frustrated by legal claims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102208>

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

### **Asylum Seekers**

**Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the deaths of at least four people in the English Channel, what steps they are taking to protect asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking who are fleeing persecution and seeking refuge in the UK.

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** My Lords, this tragic event highlights the grave dangers of channel crossings and the pressing need to stop the callous criminals who are exploiting vulnerable people. The UK has a proud history of granting protection to those who need it, but it is an established principle that people should claim asylum in the first safe country that they enter. We continue to work

closely with our neighbours to discourage people from making these dangerous and unnecessary journeys.

**Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale:** My Lords, I have four grandchildren under the age of 10, and I cannot imagine being so scared of what might happen to them on land that I put them in an unsafe boat to cross the English Channel. Yet this week, Rasoul Iran-Nejad and Shiva Mohammad Panahi put their three children, Anita, aged nine, Armin, aged six, and 15 month-old Artin, in a boat. Two of the children are dead, along with their parents, and one is still missing. Surely in this day and age, France and the UK, the fifth and seventh-largest economies in the world, with some of the most professional armed forces and diplomatic services in the world and a history of public service administration, can find a way of coming together with the International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR to find a safe route for families fleeing persecution to come to France and this country, and to have their applications determined in a safe and legal manner?

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** The noble Lord will appreciate that because there is an ongoing investigation, I am unable to go into much detail on the names, identities and ages of the people that he mentioned, but I have seen the reports, as I am sure we all have, and the details are heart-wrenching. This tragic case underlines the importance of breaking the criminal business model, which is exploiting the desperation of vulnerable people who, as he says, are in fear. We are working very closely with the French. Our National Crime Agency is assisting the French authorities in their investigation. The Home Secretary has appointed a former Royal Marine, Dan O'Mahoney, as the clandestine channel threat commander, to tackle the problem there. However, the noble Lord is also right that we must have safe methods for people to claim asylum without making that journey, which is why our vulnerable persons resettlement scheme works with the organisations that he mentions, to ensure that people do not undertake these perilous journeys.

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** As an agreement with the EU on family reunion is unlikely to be reached by the end of December, will the Government, as a matter of urgency, seek the co-operation of the French authorities to identify people, especially children, who are eligible for family reunion or who have other connections with the UK, in order to expedite their safe passage to this country and avoid another tragedy?

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** The noble Lord is a respected and tenacious campaigner on these issues. I know that he has an amendment to the Immigration Bill which the other place will have the opportunity of examining next week. Tragically, this incident has happened while we still have the Dublin convention, so it is important to make a distinction between those regulations and the actions that we must all undertake to deter people from making these dangerous journeys. Nobody should be crossing the channel in this dangerous way.

**Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, if there is a so-called pull factor that is resulting in desperate families dying in the channel, it is that many of those who make the crossing are given asylum in the UK because they are genuine asylum seekers, yet the only way that they can find out if their claim will be accepted once they are on the European mainland is by making the crossing. Why do the Government not allow applications from those on the European mainland, and, if they do not qualify, tell them unequivocally that they will be deported if they make the crossing? Surely letting them know what will happen before they make the perilous crossing is the decent and humane thing to do.

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** My Lords, we want to deter people from undertaking dangerous journeys at every stage, whether that is across the channel or further upstream. We have seen terrible cases in the Mediterranean too. That is why our vulnerable persons resettlement scheme is working directly in affected areas so that people do not need to travel across the world putting themselves and their families in danger, but instead can apply. We can then give

people the protection that they need directly from source, rather than after they have endangered themselves.

**The Lord Bishop of Bristol:** My Lords, as we have already heard, the death of anyone trying to reach the UK in search of safety is tragic, and the tragedy is multiplied when it is the death of a family. Save the Children is right to say that the English Channel must not become a graveyard for children. With that in mind, can the Minister update the House on the resumption of the refugee resettlement programme which was suspended in March?

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** The right reverend Prelate is right that this is a particularly heart-wrenching case. As she says, the resettlement scheme was paused in March because of the Covid pandemic, but as per their statement in June, the International Organization for Migration and the UNHCR are beginning to resume some of their functions, although with limited capacity. The UK's visa application centres are also beginning to resume some of their functions, again with limited capacity. The same applies for the Home Office teams who are processing applications. We hope to help people as swiftly as possible.

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench):** My Lords, does the Minister agree that any attempt to process asylum applications abroad would be rapidly overwhelmed by a huge number of claimants? Failed applicants might well head for Calais, thus making a very bad situation even worse. Have the Government considered joint maritime border controls with powers to return migrants to their point of departure?

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** I agree that we want to deter people from making dangerous journeys to the European continent, whether by land or sea. Dan O' Mahoney is today in France meeting the French authorities and continuing the deep engagement that we have with them to tackle this problem in the channel.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-29/debates/D81FA8F8-3A91-4141-93C6-F2EFA29B7ECE/AsylumSeekers>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Immigration: Reform

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9065] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for reforming immigration procedure; when they last reviewed those procedures; and what plans they have to undertake another such review.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** In 2016, and again in 2019, the British people voted to take back control of our borders and introduce a new points-based immigration system that will work for the whole UK.

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Exit) Bill delivers on these votes by ending the automatic right to live and work in UK for EU migrants and, when the Transition period with the EU ends, we will have control of our immigration system for the first time in decades.

We will be free to implement the changes we need to restore trust in the immigration system and deliver our new fairer, firmer, skills-led system from 1 January 2021.

We will continue to review the system and the underpinning Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9065>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Immigration: Employment

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL9273] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of young workers overseas who would

qualify as "new entrants" to the UK labour market under the planned criteria for their points-based immigration system.

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL9274] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of young workers from overseas who will be recruited by British employers to work in the UK as "new entrants" as part of their points-based immigration system.

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL9275] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to limit the number of "new entrant" workers permitted to migrate to the UK for work; and if so, what is that limit.

#### **Immigration: Kickstart Scheme**

**Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench)** [HL9277] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan for the proposed "new entrant" aspect of their points-based immigration system to interact with the Kickstart Scheme.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government set out its plans for the UK's Points-Based Immigration System in the February Policy Statement and the July Further Details document, including the salary requirement for new entrants to the UK's labour market, the definition of which is based on the advice of the Migration Advisory Committee.

An impact assessment was published to accompany the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, and a further impact assessment will be published to accompany the Immigration Rules for the new Skilled Worker route when they are laid. There will be no numerical limit on the number of new entrant workers who can be sponsored; however, the offer is limited in length and new entrants must meet mandatory Skilled Worker route requirements.

The Government encourages employers to look to recruit resident workers wherever possible. The Kickstart scheme offers financial support to employers who create jobs for young Universal Credit claimants. This support is not available for sponsoring migrant new entrants. Employers will need to meet the full wage costs of their sponsored new entrants, as well as paying the Immigration Skills Charge. This provides a double financial incentive to recruit unemployed young people who are already in the UK, rather than looking to overseas recruitment

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9273>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9274>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9275>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9277>

*Information about the Points-Based Immigration System, 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>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-further-details-statement/uk-points-based-immigration-system-further-details-statement>

*The Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/885682/2020-05-18\\_IA\\_ImmSSC\\_Bill\\_v21\\_with\\_Signature.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885682/2020-05-18_IA_ImmSSC_Bill_v21_with_Signature.pdf)

#### **Immigration: Appeals**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9064] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many, and (2) what percentage of, immigration decisions were overturned on appeal in 2019.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** HM Courts and Tribunals Service publish appeal outcomes data on a quarterly basis. A link to the data for the last quarter of 2019 is provided here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2019>

The table in FIA\_3 contains the information requested.

[Tribunal Stats - Oct-Dec 2019](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9064>

### **Skilled Workers: Clergy and Sports**

**Lord Moynihan (Conservative)** [HL9054] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include (1) clergy, (2) sports players, and (3) sports coaches, instructors and officials, as classified under the Standard Occupational Codes system, in their new proposed definition of a skilled worker.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The provisions within the Immigration Rules for both Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting) will continue in the future immigration system. These routes will be amended to accommodate applications from elite sportspersons and coaches from the European Economic Area and Switzerland, along with those from the rest of the world, from 1 January 2021.

The UK Government does not have any plans to include clergy, sportspersons, coaches, instructors or officials under the new Skilled Worker route. The current provisions of Tier 2 (Ministers of Religion) and Tier 5 (Religious Workers) for clergy, and Tier 2 (Sportsperson) and Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting) for sportspeople, are dedicated routes for such activities.

The UK's immigration arrangements for professional sportspersons seek to strike a balance between ensuring that UK sports can access top-end talent that will enhance sport in the UK, whilst at the same time protecting opportunities for resident players and supporting grassroots sport. The Government works with Sports Governing Bodies to set bespoke criteria, with every sport's criteria reviewed annually, ensuring that it continues to meet the changing needs of the individual sport. The success of UK sports clearly demonstrates that this system is one which works well.

The system of endorsement is operated by the Sports Governing Bodies to ensure that an objective assessment is made of each individual sportsperson. Individual clubs are asked to fulfil their sponsorship duties, in a dual-level of assurance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9054>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration**

**Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9034] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons stated for the refusal of settled status or pre-settled status for the 16,600 applicants who have been refused to up to September; and how many failed applicants fall into each category of refusal used by the Home Office.

**Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9035] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many of the persons who have been granted pre-settled status will become eligible for settled status by meeting the condition of five years residence, in each month between now and 30 June 2021; and how many would become eligible, in the absence of any disqualifying reasons, in each month following June 2021.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The latest published information to the end of June 2020 shows that of 3,060 EU Settlement Scheme refusals, 99% were refused on eligibility grounds and 1% were refused on suitability grounds. The latest figures can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics'

web page available at:

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

Further analysis of EU Settlement Scheme refusals to the end of September 2020 will be published in the upcoming quarterly release in November 2020.

Many of the eligibility refusals relate to cases that had been under consideration for several months and, in most cases, had been subject to repeated unsuccessful attempts to obtain missing information or evidence from the applicant.

The Home Office cannot assess a person's eligibility for settled status until they make an application to the scheme, and therefore cannot state how many of those granted pre-settled status will be eligible in the periods sought.

A person granted pre-settled status can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for this. They will be eligible for settled status once they have completed five years' continuous residence or where other criteria for eligibility for settled status without that length of continuous residence are met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9034>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9035>

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

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

### **Illegal Immigrants: English Channel**

**Lord Adonis (Labour)** [HL8999] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement made by the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander on Twitter on 11 October that 'I'll do whatever it takes to stop these crossings'; whether legal advice was sought about that statement; and whether such statement accords with the law.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has been clear that we will do everything we can to stop these crossings and make this route unviable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl8999>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/CCTCommander/status/1315257463109750784>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Resettlement**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9220] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 5 October (HL Deb, col 407), whether they have revised their aim of resettling 5,000 refugees in 2020/21 under the UK's new resettlement scheme as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and, if so, what is the revised aim for resettlement this year.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9222] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the final 232 refugees within the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will be resettled in the UK when it is safe to do so.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9223] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce their long term refugee resettlement commitment beyond 2021.

### **Refugees: Coronavirus**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL9221] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 September (HL7752), what discussions they have held with local authorities about their capacity to restart refugee resettlement as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and whether any local authorities have confirmed that they are ready to restart resettlement.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and our refugee resettlement schemes



enable us to give the opportunity of a new start to those who have been forced to flee their homes. In June 2019, the Government reaffirmed the UK's commitment to refugee resettlement by announcing a new, global UK Resettlement Scheme. While we hoped to have both met our commitment to resettle 20,000 vulnerable refugees through the VPRS, and started the new scheme earlier this year, the unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has meant this has not yet been possible. We continue to evaluate how to respond to these ongoing restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe to do so.

We maintain regular dialogue with a variety of resettlement stakeholders, including local authorities, Strategic Migration Partnerships and other support providers. To date, our resettlement schemes have been supported by over 300 local authorities across the UK, and we are extremely grateful for this support.

Ultimately the number of refugees we resettle every year depends on a variety of factors including local authorities' capacity for supporting refugees and the extent to which Community Sponsorship continues to thrive. We look forward to working with local communities to welcome more of those in need in the years to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/hl9220>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/hl9222>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/hl9223>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/hl9221>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-05/debates/97A02583-03AD-4CBD-BAE9-8E85758EA004/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-4D7D7618-497E-4A87-A0B3-DB2E132A4528](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-05/debates/97A02583-03AD-4CBD-BAE9-8E85758EA004/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-4D7D7618-497E-4A87-A0B3-DB2E132A4528)

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-03/hl7752>

### **Asylum**

**Lord Empey (UUP)** [HL9029] To ask Her Majesty's Government what costs have been occurred so far in this financial year as a result of any increase in the number of people arriving in the UK by boat in order to claim asylum.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Whilst the numbers of people arriving in the UK by illegally-facilitated small boats have increased this financial year, numbers of those arriving by other illegal means, such as air, have fallen.

The Home Office publishes data regarding its financial accounts on the GOV.UK website as part of its financial reporting procedures, and also as part of the transparency agenda. The latest report can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2019-to-2020>.

We do not routinely publish breakdowns of operational Departmental spending, and are unable to provide this information, as it could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9029>

### **Asylum**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9067] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the number of people awaiting a decision on their asylum claims.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Asylum Operations has been exploring several options to get the system moving again following the outbreak of COVID-19 earlier in the year. There are plans to speed up asylum interviews and decision making with steps being taken to improve efficiency, focusing on process improvements, better quality decisions and transformation.

We are also seeking to put in place temporarily, resource from within the Home Office and other government departments to assist with outstanding claims, along with other alternatives as a short-term measure.

We are determined to fix our broken asylum system. An asylum system should provide safe haven to those fleeing persecution, oppression or tyranny. But right now, ours enables organised criminals to elbow the most vulnerable to the side.

Which is why the new system will be fairer and firmer. It will be compassionate towards those who need our help, welcoming people through safe and legal routes. And it will stop the exploitation of the broken system by those who come here illegally and often make unfounded or meritless claims to remain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9067>

### **Asylum: Legal Opinion**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL9149]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they take to ensure that asylum seekers in temporary accommodation have access to free legal advice.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service, operated by Migrant Help is a single integrated and national service for asylum seekers.

The AIRE service will provide advice and guidance to service users on the asylum process, their rights and signposting different services.

It will also provide asylum seekers with a single point of contact, independent from the accommodation providers and the Home Office, to report issues.

AIRE are contracted to provide information on the availability of legal advice and representation and signposting of Service User's to the Legal Aid Agency, where appropriate upon induction into temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/hl9149>

## **New Publications**

**Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents**

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

**Windrush Compensation Scheme data: October 2020**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/929873/Windrush\\_Compensation\\_Scheme\\_September\\_-\\_Published.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929873/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_September_-_Published.ods)

**Updated Guidance: Care and management of post detention age claims**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-age-dispute-cases-in-the-detention-estate/care-and-management-of-post-detention-age-claims-accessible-version>

**Everyone Home's new cross sector route map: Scotland's Ambition to End Destitution and Protect Human Rights**

<https://everyonehome.scot/pdf/route-map-2.pdf>

## News

**The Government has agreed only three claims by families of deceased Windrush victims**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/29/government-has-agreed-three-claims-families-deceased-windrush/amp/>

**UN urges UK to restart resettlement of refugees after family drowns in Channel**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/30/un-urges-uk-to-restart-resettlement-of-refugees-after-family-drowns-in-channel>

**Channel migrants: Deaths should be 'a wake-up call' for those in power**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-54715864>

**Channel migrants: Four dead as boat sinks near Dunkirk**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-54707225>

**Two adults and two children die after boat carrying migrants capsizes off French coast**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/27/two-adults-child-die-boat-capsized-french-coast/>

**Children among dead after migrant boat capsizes in Channel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/child-five-among-dead-after-migrant-boat-capsizes-in-channel-szdm5w53m>

**Four dead including two children after migrant boat sinks in Channel**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/27/eighteen-people-in-hospital-as-migrant-boat-sinks-off-french-coast>

**Migrant boat skipper charged with manslaughter after family drowned in Channel**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/30/migrant-boat-skipper-charged-manslaughter-five-family-members/>

**France urged to charge traffickers with manslaughter after migrant family drowned in Channel**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/28/relatives-migrant-family-drowned-channel-say-begged-not-attempt/>

**Tragedy Foretold**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-times-view-on-the-deaths-of-migrants-crossing-the-channel-tragedy-foretold-9gwzxcdw5>

**Migrant crossings: France 'resists UK offer of surveillance plane to monitor beaches'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/29/migrant-crossings-france-resists-uk-offer-surveillance-plane/>

**Almost 300 asylum seekers have died trying to cross the Channel since 1999**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/29/almost-300-asylum-seekers-have-died-trying-to-cross-the-channel-since-1999>

**Smugglers lure migrants to UK with promises of warm welcome**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/smugglers-lure-migrants-to-uk-with-promises-of-warm-welcome-zsn755wd6>

**Essex lorry deaths: victims pleaded for lorry doors to be opened, court hears**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/27/essex-lorry-deaths-victims-pleaded-for-lorry-doors-to-be-opened-court-hears>

**Hotel asylum seekers to get £8 a week for “essentials”.**  
<https://www.paih.org/hotel-asylum-seekers-to-get-8-a-week-for-essentials/>

**Asylum-seekers' 3p-a-week increase is an insult, say campaigners**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/30/asylum-seekers-3p-a-week-increase-insult-say-campaigners>

**Deportations row: Lord Chief Justice regrets lawyers' support for 'abusive late challenges'**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/27/deportations-row-lord-chief-justice-regrets-lawyers-support/>

**Compassion, not ‘deterrence’, should inform Britain’s asylum policy**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/01/compassion-not-deterrence-should-inform-britains-asylum-policy>

**It’s time to reopen #SafeRoutesToSafety**  
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/its-time-to-reopen-saferoutestosafety/>

**Britons 'dramatically softening' on immigration concerns, survey shows**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/britons-dramatically-softening-immigration-concerns-survey-shows-3018225>

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## Community Relations

### News

**Black and Welsh: The assumptions and questions people face**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-54675965>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Race in the Workplace Review

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [106485] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to recommendation 26 of the report Race in the workplace: the McGregor-Smith review, published on 28 February 2017, what assessment he has made of whether (a) the recommendations of that review have been implemented and (b) the need for government action to ensure their implementation.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** A [one-year on review](#) of how employers in the UK are performing against the recommendations outlined in the McGregor-Smith Review 'Race in the workplace' was conducted in 2018 by Business in The Community and was sponsored by BEIS.

As the Government said in its response to the 'McGregor-Smith Review', this was an industry-led review with recommendations that are mostly for the private sector to consider. The Government remains committed to building an economy that works for everyone. This is a mission that needs to start from the top – Chairs, CEOs, and CFOs – to help effect the change and Government stands ready to support all businesses on this. As the Government noted in its response, it is important that all employers play their part in harnessing this potential.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-20/106485>

*The McGregor-Smith review, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf)

### **Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups**

**Martyn Day (SNP) [107058]** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when his Department plans to introduce additional regulation to (a) require and (b) support businesses to report ethnicity pay gaps.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** In 2018/19 the Government consulted on options for employer-level ethnicity pay reporting. Following the consultation, Government met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers to reporting and explore what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We also ran a voluntary methodology testing exercise with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data. The Government is continuing to analyse this data and will respond to the consultation in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107058>

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

### **Ethnic Groups: Equality**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7721]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research published by Ageing Better as part of their Who is at risk of missing out project in relation to the inequalities between older BAME and white communities.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** This Government is committed to tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination - and to improve the quality of data and evidence about the types of barriers faced by people from different backgrounds to help drive effective and lasting change. That is why we have established a new Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This cross-government commission will examine all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic inequalities in Britain. In addition, following the publication of the report 'COVID 19: Review of disparities in risks and outcomes', Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch was asked by the Prime Minister to act on its findings. As part of this the Cabinet Office's Race Disparity Unit is working closely with academics, scientists and analysts, to establish emerging data patterns and trends in regards to the impact of COVID-19 on ethnic minority communities.

Factors that are being considered include age and sex, occupation, obesity, comorbidities, geography, and ethnicity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7721>

*The research referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/who-is-at-risk-missing-out-data-release>

*The Covid-19 report referred to above can be read at*

### **Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL9162] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) local authorities in London, and (2) the Greater London Authority, about the ethnicity pay gap in London.

**Reply from Lord Callanan:** In 2018/19, the Government consulted on options for exploring possibilities for employer-level ethnicity pay reporting. Following the consultation, Government met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers to reporting and explore what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. It is essential that any reporting is reliable and robust, and that is why last year we also ran a voluntary methodology testing exercise with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data. The Greater London Authority and Local Government Association were both invited and took part in the methodology testing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/hl9162>

### **Police: Recruitment**

**Lord Wasserman (Conservative)** [HL9088] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers have been recruited in England and Wales since 1 January; and of those, how many are (1) female, and (2) BAME.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As part of the Government's commitment to recruit an additional 20,000 officers by March 2023, the Home Office publishes data on the number of new recruits in the quarterly "Police officer uplift, England and Wales" statistical bulletin. The latest release covers the period to June 2020.

This publication contains information on the number of new recruits, by month, since November 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-june-2020>

Between January and June 2020, 7,549 officers have been recruited into the 43 police forces in England and Wales.

Data on the ethnicity and gender of new recruits are not currently published as part of this quarterly release. However, we continuously review the range of metrics within the release and will endeavour to include this information in future statistical releases.

The next release of this bulletin is scheduled to be published on Thursday 29 October.

[Police Officer Uplift Quarterly update - June 2020](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9088>

*The latest release of the bulletin, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/930739/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-september-2020-hosb3220.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/930739/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-september-2020-hosb3220.pdf)

### **Police: Ethnic Groups and Females**

**Lord Wasserman (Conservative)** [HL9339] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers in England and Wales at the rank of Assistant Chief Constable or above are (1) female, and (2) from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office collects and publishes data on the gender, ethnicity and rank of police officers in England and

Wales by Police Force Area on an annual basis.

Data on the gender and ethnicity of Assistant Chief Constables and all officers holding more senior ranks are collected in an aggregate form as 'Chief Officer'. Chief officer includes Assistant Chief Constables, Deputy Chief Constables and Chief Constables, and their equivalents in the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police.

The latest available data, covering the situation as at 31 March 2020, can be found in of the Open Data Tables, published alongside the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales' statistics, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-open-data-tables>

We are in regular dialogue with policing partners about increasing the diversity of police leadership. We welcome the work being done by the College of Policing to prioritise improvements to leadership development.

[Open Data Tables - 2020 - Police Workforce](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9339>

## New Publications

**Who were the first MPs from ethnic minority backgrounds?**

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/who-were-the-first-mps-from-ethnic-minority-backgrounds/>

**Ethnic diversity in politics and public life**

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01156/SN01156.pdf>

**Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2020**

[https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2113/shrc\\_annual\\_report\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2113/shrc_annual_report_2020_web.pdf)

**BME women and work**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-10/BMEwomenandwork.pdf>

## News

**BAME is a not a useful term: we need to look closer at the root of inequalities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bame-is-a-not-a-useful-term-we-need-to-look-closer-at-the-root-of-inequalities-wlcm5mlvw>

**Lack of black economists leading to absence of 'passion' in solving society's inequalities, Royal Society chief says**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/26/lack-black-economists-leading-absence-passion-solving-societys/>

**Flipping Black History Month on its head**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-54682105>

**Jewish housing association allocation policy lawful**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-housing-association-allocation-policy-lawful-lm3jh3kms>

**FA launches Football Leadership Diversity Code to boost opportunities for BAME candidates**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/fa-football-leadership-diversity-code-racism-managers-b1371393.html>

## **Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination**

### **Scottish Parliament Oral Answers**

#### **Airport Racial Profiling (Mohammad Asif)**

**Pauline McNeill (Labour):** Mohammad Asif came to Scotland from Afghanistan in 2000 as a refugee. He has made a huge contribution to Scotland, including by adopting seven-year-old Mohammad Sudais after he was injured in a gas explosion. Mohammad Asif is also known to the First Minister.

He recently visited his very sick mother in Pakistan, but on his return to Glasgow airport he was detained by police, closely interrogated and asked to read schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. He was asked questions about what he thought of the Taliban and whether he was a strict muslim. His phone was interrogated for pictures and data. He felt deeply humiliated and degraded.

First Minister, this is not only about Mohammad Asif; it is about a process that seems to me to undermine our approach in welcoming refugees and to race-community relations. I wonder whether the First Minister agrees with me on that.

Treating people such as Mohammad Asif as a terrorist, when it is widely known that he fled the brutality of the Taliban, should be condemned. Perhaps it is time to review how services go about profiling people whom they detain.

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I declare an interest, because Mohammad Asif is a very dear friend of mine, as I know he is of Pauline McNeill. He is a fine, upstanding member of the Scottish community who makes a marvellous contribution to this country, and we should be really proud to have him here. Little Mohammad Sudais has come through the most unimaginable trauma, but is also flourishing.

This is obviously about Mohammad Asif’s experience, but it is also about a wider issue. I have not had the chance to speak to him this week. However, I have read the reports of what he experienced. I think that it is unacceptable, and that things need to change.

Let me also say that people who work for Border Force and immigration authorities do a tough job, and we should also recognise that.

However, many of my constituents in the south side of Glasgow who travel backwards and forwards to Pakistan feel that they are not treated fairly in that process, and that they are often put through humiliating and degrading experiences. That is wrong. We need to find the right balance between protecting the country and recognising the fact that people such as Mohammad Asif should not be treated in that way.

This issue relates to matters that are reserved, but we continue to raise them with the United Kingdom Government as appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12902&i=116623#ScotParlOR>



## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Antisemitism

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative)** [105608] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has taken to tackle antisemitism in (a) Wakefield constituency, (b) West Yorkshire and (c) England.

**Reply from Christopher Pincher:** Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. We became the first country to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2016 and we work with the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Antisemitism which ensures we can respond quickly to the concerns of Jewish communities. We also provide funds to a number of projects that work across the country to tackle Antisemitism; for example we fund the Antisemitism Policy Trust to support their work to tackle online antisemitism and help combat this growing area of concern.

This Government is also providing £14 million this year, and provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105608>

### Religious Hatred: Islam

**Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative)** [105609] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent steps his Department has undertaken to tackle islamophobia in (a) Wakefield constituency, (b) West Yorkshire and (c) England.

**Reply from Luke Hall:** Muslims in our country should be able to practice their faith in freedom. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted. We have supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8 million between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred. To remain live to the issues facing Muslim communities, we continue to support the work of the cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group which provides valuable advice to Government on challenges faced by Britain's Muslim communities and how to address those challenges. We have also established the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme will support established community groups and civil society organisations to run short projects that champion the government's commitment to building a diverse and tolerant society for all faiths and races. Up to £2 million is available for projects to boost shared values and tackle religiously and racially- motivated hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105609>

## Press Releases

**Investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party finds unlawful acts of discrimination and harassment**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/investigation-antisemitism-labour-party-finds-unlawful-acts-discrimination-and>

**Keir Starmer's statement in response to EHRC's report into anti-semitism**

<https://labour.org.uk/press/keir-starmer-statement-in-response-to-ehrcs-report-into-anti-semitism/>

**EHRC report is 'a damning verdict' on antisemitism in the Labour Party**

<https://www.bod.org.uk/joint-statement-on-release-of-ehrc-report/>

## New Publication

**Investigation into antisemitism in the Labour Party**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/investigation-into-antisemitism-in-the-labour-party.pdf>

## News: Equality and Human Rights Commission report on antisemitism in the Labour Party

**Damning EHRC report finds Labour's 'culture of acceptance' to anti-Semitism**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18830757.damning-ehrc-report-finds-labours-culture-acceptance-anti-semitism/>

**Labour leader's office illegally meddled with anti-Semitism complaints**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18830953.labour-leaders-office-illegally-meddled-anti-semitism-complaints/>

**Watchdog finds Labour guilty of 'inexcusable failure' to tackle anti-semitism**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/watchdog-finds-labour-guilty-inexcusable-failure-tackle-anti-semitism-3018635>

**Antisemitism probe finds Labour committed "unlawful acts" of "discrimination and harassment"**

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/antisemitism-probe-finds-labour-committed-22924027>

**Labour responsible for harassment and discrimination, EHRC antisemitism inquiry finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/29/labour-accused-of-harassment-and-discrimination-in-antisemitism-inquiry>

**What does the Labour anti-Semitism report say?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-54731222>

**Labour anti-Semitism report: The key findings, and what happens now**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/29/labour-anti-semitism-report-key-findings-happens-now/>

**Key findings of the EHRC inquiry into Labour antisemitism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/29/key-findings-of-the-ehrc-inquiry-into-labour-antisemitism>

**Scottish Jewish leaders 'saddened' after Richard Leonard fails to condemn Jeremy Corbyn**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18834829.scottish-jewish-leaders-saddened-richard-leonard-fails-condemn-jeremy-corbyn/>

**Sir Keir Starmer defends Jeremy Corbyn's suspension from Labour**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54742096>

**Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn suspended**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18831484.former-laboru-leader-jeremy-borbyn-suspended/>

**Sir Keir Starmer admits he is 'disappointed' in Jeremy Corbyn but says there is 'no reason for civil war'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sir-keir-starmer-admits-he-disappointed-jeremy-corbyn-says-there-no-reason-civil-war-3019974>

**Labour suspends Jeremy Corbyn over reaction to anti-Semitism report**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54730425>

**Jeremy Corbyn suspended by Labour party over antisemitism**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/jeremy-corbyn-suspended-labour-party-over-antisemitism-3018927>

**Jeremy Corbyn suspended from Labour after antisemitism verdict**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jeremy-corbyns-labour-guilty-of-multiple-failures-on-antisemitism-b6dsd3mq3>

**Jeremy Corbyn suspended from Labour Party after Antisemitism report**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-suspended-labour-party-antisemitism-keir-starmer-update-b1422940.html>

**Jeremy Corbyn suspension: Mark Drakeford refuses to comment**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-54746335>

**Jeremy Corbyn: Anti-Semitism complaints 'exaggerated'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-54734692>

**Labour's anti-Semitism problem 'dramatically overstated': Jeremy Corbyn's statement in full**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/29/labours-anti-semitism-problem-dramatically-overstated-jeremy/>

**Jeremy Corbyn rejects overall findings of EHRC report on antisemitism in Labour**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/29/jeremy-corbyn-rejects-findings-of-report-on-antisemitism-in-labour>

**Starmer: Anti-Semitism report 'day of shame' for Labour**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-politics-54734688>

**Sir Keir Starmer apologises to Jewish community on 'day of shame' as antisemitism report published**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sir-keir-starmer-apologises-jewish-community-day-shame-antisemitism-report-published-3018753>

**Keir Starmer: EHRC antisemitism report is day of shame for Labour**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/oct/29/keir-starmer-ehrc-report-day-of-shame-labour-antisemitism>

**Labour antisemitism report: Keir Starmer apologises to Jewish community on 'day of shame'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-report-keir-starmer-statement-corbyn-update-b1420708.html>

**Starmer vows change on 'day of shame' but Corbyn says problems 'overstated'**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18831089.starmer-vows-change-day-shame-corbyn-says-problems-overstated/>

**Ex-Corbyn aide Karie Murphy says she is proud of record on antisemitism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/26/ex-corbyn-aide-karie-murphy-says-she-is-proud-of-record-on-antisemitism>

**I was Corbyn's chief of staff. We acted decisively to remove Labour antisemites**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/26/jeremy-corbyn-chief-of-staff-labour-antisemites-karie-murphy>

**Antisemitism in the Labour party was real and it must never be allowed to return**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/29/antisemitism-labour-party-echr-report>

**Jewish MP who quit Labour over anti-Semitism tells of 'relentless' rape and acid attack threats**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18831915.jewish-mp-quit-labour-anti-semitism-tells-relentless-rape-acid-attack-threats/>

**Luciana Berger interview: I'm still hounded for being Jewish — and I know Jeremy Corbyn is antisemitic**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/luciana-berger-interview-im-still-hounded-for-being-jewish-and-i-know-jeremy-corbyn-is-antisemitic-9n35dn5f5>

**MP hopes report into Labour anti-Semitism will mark 'beginning of end' of issue**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/national-news/18825813.mp-hopes-report-labour-anti-semitism-will-mark-beginning-end-issue/>

**Antisemitism inquiry is Labour's most shameful moment, says senior MP**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/28/antisemitism-inquiry-is-labours-most-shameful-moment-says-senior-mp-jonathan-ashworth>

**A truly dark day for British politics**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18836336.truly-dark-day-british-politics/>

**Labour antisemitism report: Key reactions after ruling finds party broke law under Corbyn**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-report-reactions-corbyn-ehrc-ruling-latest-b1420454.html>

**Labour crisis deepens as key figures including Angela Rayner face anti-Semitism investigations**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/30/labour-crisis-deepens-key-figures-including-angela-rayner-face/>

**The welfare of Jews has become a mere footnote in the Labour antisemitism scandal**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/labour-antisemitism-report-jeremy-corbyn-ehrc-jewish-starmer-b1447149.html>

## News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

**Scottish Government accused of leaving courts 'in the dark' over Hate Crime Bill**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-government-accused-leaving-courts-dark-over-hate-crime-bill-3015815>

**Changes to Scottish Hate Crime Bill 'under active consideration'**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/changes-scottish-hate-crime-bill-under-active-consideration-3016666>

**Hate crime bill: Hate talk in homes 'must be prosecuted'**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/hate-crime-bill-hate-talk-in-homes-must-be-prosecuted-6bcthrjdc>

**Hate crime bill: Law would criminalise teatime chats, claim campaigners**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/hate-crime-bill-law-would-criminalise-teatime-chats-claim-campaigners-30758pzpg>

**Humza Yousaf's Hate Crime at Home bill is deranged**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18834930.humza-yousafs-hate-crime-home-bill-deranged---opinion-kevin-mckenna/>

**Plaid Cymru calls party review into anti-Semitism**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-54748186>

**Hancock added to anti-Muslim hate with distancing claims, says government adviser**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/26/hancock-added-to-anti-muslim-hate-with-distancing-claims-says-government-adviser>

**Racism: Equalities minister says anti-discrimination drives can 'create prison for black people'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racism-kemi-badenoch-reni-eddo-lodge-critical-race-theory-b1208279.html>

**Video shows racist attack after failed Met probe**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54711673>

**Most black British children report experiencing racism at school**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/29/most-black-british-children-report-experiencing-racism-at-school>

**'No one with Afro hair should be punished for wearing it naturally'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/10/26/no-one-afro-hair-should-punished-wearing-naturally/>

**Counties could lose funds if they don't tackle racism and diversity**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/counties-could-lose-funds-if-they-dont-tackle-racism-and-diversity-kgcphgf86>

**'Black Lives Matter' registers as political party and could stand in local elections next year**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/26/black-lives-matter-registers-political-party-could-stand-local/>

## **Black Lives Matter won't become a charity**

<https://tfn.scot/news/black-lives-matter-wont-become-a-charity>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Press Release**

**Scottish Parliament's 2020 Festival of Politics moves online as it debates the great challenges facing society**

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116338.aspx>

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## **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/coronavirus>

#### **Protect-Scot contact tracing app**

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

#### **Healthcare for overseas visitors**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

#### **Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

#### **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/>

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

### **Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus**

**Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL8541]** To ask Her Majesty's

Government what steps they have taken to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on BAME communities.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The Government has implemented significant measures to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities, especially for people who may be at higher risk. This includes ensuring that those in high-contact professions get targeted testing and translating key public health messages into different languages.

The Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, is also leading cross-government work on the findings of the Public Health England Report "COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes". This includes reviewing the effectiveness and impact of current actions being undertaken by government departments and their agencies to directly lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19. She will shortly be submitting her first quarterly report to the Prime Minister updating him on progress with this work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-28/hl8541>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/908434/Disparities\\_in\\_the\\_risk\\_and\\_outcomes\\_of\\_COVID\\_August\\_2020\\_update.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf)

*The quarterly report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/928646/First\\_Covid\\_Disparities\\_report\\_to\\_PM\\_Health\\_Secretary\\_Final\\_22-10-20.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928646/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20.pdf)

### **Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL8165] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the research by Shields et al, SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence and asymptomatic viral carriage in healthcare workers: a cross-sectional study, published on 11 September, which found that BAME ethnicity confers a significantly increased likelihood of testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies.

**Reply from Lord Bethell:** Whilst there has not been a specific assessment of this research, we keep all evidence under review and welcome new quality evidence. The Department, through the National Institute for Health Research has prioritised research on the links between COVID-19 and ethnicity, funding six projects with UK Research and Innovation. These projects seek to explain and mitigate the disproportionate death rate from COVID-19 among people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, including health and care workers.

NHS England and NHS Improvement have put in place a comprehensive programme to address the impact of COVID-19 on BAME National Health Service staff including work to prioritise risk assessments, strengthened engagement with staff networks in decision making, and tailored support as part of their health and wellbeing offer

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-15/hl8165>

*The research referred to above can be read at*

<https://thorax.bmj.com/content/thoraxjnl/early/2020/08/28/thoraxjnl-2020-215414.full.pdf>

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): public use of face coverings**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-use-of-face-coverings/>

**Face covering exemption cards launched**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/face-covering-exemption-cards-launched/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

**First Minister's address to the nation**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-address-to-the-nation/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 31 October 2020**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-31-october-2020/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): local protection levels**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral services**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral directors**

<https://tinyurl.com/yxwkmncr>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for burial and cremation authorities**

<https://tinyurl.com/y3gkxgrm>

## UK Government Press Releases

**Prime Minister announces new national restrictions**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-new-national-restrictions>

**Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 31 October 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-31-october-2020>

**Largest COVID-19 antibody testing programme publishes findings on antibody response over time**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-covid-19-antibody-testing-programme-publishes-findings-on-antibody-response-over-time>

## UK Government Publication

**REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in October 2020**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-october-2020-interim-results/react-1-real-time-assessment-of-community-transmission-of-coronavirus-covid-19-in-october-2020>



## Other Organisations

### Welsh Government

**New coronavirus outreach workers to support BAME communities [in Wales]**

<https://gov.wales/new-coronavirus-outreach-workers-support-bame-communities>

### UK Labour Party

**An Avoidable Crisis: The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities**

[https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f5bdc0f30fe4b120448a029/5f973b076be4cad5045fad3\\_An%20Avoidable%20Crisis.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5f5bdc0f30fe4b120448a029/5f973b076be4cad5045fad3_An%20Avoidable%20Crisis.pdf)

### Office for National Statistics

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK: 30 October 2020**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronaviruscovid19infectionsurveyspilot/30october2020/pdf>

## News

**Covid has thrived on racial discrimination, says Baroness Doreen Lawrence**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54697714>

**Covid hit BAME groups harder because of inequality**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/heavy-coronavirus-toll-on-minorities-was-result-of-inequality-5n0bspbdd>

**Structural racism led to worse Covid impact on BAME groups**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/27/structural-racism-led-to-worse-covid-impact-on-bame-groups-report>

**Race is clearly a factor in Covid deaths, but the UK government is in denial**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/28/race-factor-covid-deaths-government-structural-racism>

**Covid: Post-furlough unemployment 'hits young and ethnic minorities'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-54714896>

**Covid-19: England's Catholic Church criticises lockdown worship ban**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54768430>

**The Muslim Council of Britain calls for an urgent review of new lockdown restrictions on places of worship [in England]**

<https://mcb.org.uk/general/the-muslim-council-of-britain-calls-for-an-urgent-review-of-new-lockdown-restrictions-on-places-of-worship/>

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## Other News

**Traveller families win court battle over living on land they own**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54657913>

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## **Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **Children (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

#### **Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

#### **\*\* Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Humza Yousaf

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12903&i=116638#ScotParlOR>

#### **Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

#### **Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

#### **European Citizens' Rights Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

#### **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

#### **Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

## Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK** (closing date 30 November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

**Hate crime laws [in England and Wales]** (closing date 24 December 2020)

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

**Future Arrangements for Early Medical Abortion at Home** (closing date 5 January 2021)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/early-medical-abortion-at-home/>

**Tackling modern slavery [in Northern Ireland]** (closing date 7 January 2021)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-tackling-modern-slavery>

**Your Police 2020-2021** (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

**Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

**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>

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## 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

### **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>

### **\*\* Scotland's Winter Festivals: Acts of Kindness Fund**

*Closing date not stated, but funded events must take place from 28 to 30 November*

BEMIS funding to encourage community groups to come together to celebrate St Andrew's Day by performing an act of kindness in their community – something that celebrates and promotes inclusion, diversity, and togetherness. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/acts-of-kindness/>

### **Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund**

*Running until March 2021*

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

### **Covid-19 Transition Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020
- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrn/transition-fund/>

### **Places of Worship Fund**

*Running until mid January 2021*

Interfaith Scotland grants of up to £500 for places of worship that are struggling to meet the safety requirements of re-opening their buildings and safely holding services within Government Guidelines. With discretion the funds can also be used to assist in keeping open places that have managed their initial outlay with regard to safely reopening their place of worship but are now struggling to keep up the measures required to stay open.

This fund will help places of worship to:

- **Re-open** safely, including deep clean premises, provide appropriate signage and ensure that all volunteers and staff have appropriate training and PPE.
- **Keep open** places of worship that are struggling with the on-going health and safety costs during the pandemic
- **Remain connected** with those still too vulnerable to come to a place of worship – this may be through regular mail outs, telephone calls or the provision of mobile devices to allow those without digital access to keep in touch
- **Advancing Equality and Tackling Loneliness** Supporting faith communities to

open the doors of their places of worship in a safe and inclusive manner will enable thousands of lonely and isolated people across Scotland to re-connect with their wider community.

The funding will be available for faith communities and community groups that utilise places of worship only, and will be offered to faith communities that are members and associate members of Interfaith Scotland in the first instance. For full details and an application form contact Frances Hume [frances@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:frances@interfaithscotland.org)

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

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

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

4 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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

### **3 Mottos for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

5 November 2020 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, including why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience, and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2ejvpve> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

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

### **Scottish Interfaith Week**

8-15 November 2020

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. The full programme of events is available at <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2020>

**\*\* Taster session: diversity training**

9 November 2020 (online 2.00–2.30)

Interfaith Scotland taster session for two courses: "Working with people from diverse religions and beliefs" and "Interpreting culture: improving cross-cultural communication". For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y35joro2> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

**\*\* Challenging discrimination under the European Convention on Human Rights**

10 November 2020 (online, 3.00–4.30)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland webinar to explore the use of Article 14 (Prohibition of Discrimination) in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yxq3otjd>

## **Hate Crime and COVID-19**

11 November 2020 (online, 9.30–10.45)

Manchester Metropolitan University seminar to discuss reports in the UK and Australia that attest to increases in hate crimes against Chinese and people who look ‘Chinese’, attributed to racist assumptions that they are to blame for the COVID-19 pandemic. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy8s6q7s>

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

11 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

## **\*\* Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Scotland Workshop**

11 November 2020 (online, 12.00–1.30)

18 November 2020 (online, 7.00–8.30)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop for anyone planning a Holocaust Memorial Day activity in Scotland, providing an opportunity to find out more about this year’s theme, “Be the light in the darkness”, explore powerful life stories of those affected by the Holocaust and genocide, participate in thought-provoking activities and discussions, and network with other activity organisers. For information about the 11 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y626d5bt> and the 18 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y43q4pkm>

## **\*\* Taster session: diversity training**

11 November 2020 (online 2.00–2.30)

Interfaith Scotland taster session for two courses: “Three mottos for equality, diversity and inclusion” and “Tackling unconscious bias”. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5wv996c> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

## **\*\* Anti-Racism Workshop**

13 November 2020 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Interfaith Scotland and Anti-Racist Educator Collective workshop looking at what racism is and how we can take an active part in dismantling it. How do race and religion intersect? And what does good allyship actually mean? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4gyyb9u>

## **\*\* Windrush engagement events**

17 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

25 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

15 December 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

UK Government events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce, and provide information on who may be eligible for the Windrush Compensation Scheme, what kinds of losses and impacts it covers and how to apply. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

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

18 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **Equality and Diversity in Workplace**

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) (online, 10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

### **\*\* Racism in Scotland**

21 November 2020 (online, 12.00–1.00)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion in partnership with CRER: With people in Scotland reporting daily racism, what needs to change on an individual and national level? For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/racism-in-scotland>

### **\*\* Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication**

9 December 2020 (online, 1.00–4.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2yr6qaw> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Interpreting Culture**

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) (online, 10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact [training@positiveactionh.org](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**  
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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