



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Kim Johnson (Labour) [128743] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish a breakdown of immigration enforcement visit statistics for the last 12 months by (a) location, (b) nationality, (c) ethnicity and (d) resultant arrests.

Reply from Chris Philp: To maintain the highest standard of accuracy, the Home Office prefer to refer to published data, as this has been subject to rigorous quality assurance under National Statistics protocols prior to publication.

We do not routinely publish data regarding breakdowns of immigration enforcement visits statistics by location, nationality, ethnicity and resultant arrests as to do so could only be done at disproportionate cost. All data published by the Home Office is considered in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Our published data is available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-august-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-11/128743>

Immigration

Kim Johnson (Labour) [129147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to reduce the number of immigration enforcement visits made in error to British citizens.

Reply from Chris Philp: Immigration Compliance Teams conduct immigration enforcement visits to residential and business premises. Extensive checks are undertaken on all individuals before any action is undertaken.

These checks include searches of all internal Home Office databases and where necessary external checks, such as birth or financial checks. In the immediate aftermath of Windrush, additional processes were put in place to carefully check the status of Commonwealth nationals to minimise the risk of tasking visits involving British nationals or those with the right to remain the United Kingdom.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/129147>

Immigration: Coronavirus

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [129119] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will suspend the in-person reporting of migrants to immigration reporting centres (a) in the event of a national lockdowns and (b) during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: On Tuesday 17 March, following Public Health and Government guidance relating to COVID19 and the developing situation, we paused immigration reporting and sent an SMS text message to reportees with a valid mobile telephone number on our systems informing them of this.

On Tuesday 24 March we maintained the decision to close reporting centres and police reporting temporarily following the Prime Minister's address to the nation. This was because we were not confident that we could practice safe social distancing and operate within a COVID secure environment.

Immigration Enforcement recommenced face to face reporting in July and August for limited, priority cohorts of people. We have implemented Safe Systems of Working (SSOW) and Risk Assessments in all our Reporting Centres where we have put in place robust social distancing measures; health screening questions are asked as a person enters; face masks are offered to those who have travelled without them; one-way systems and sanitiser stations are placed throughout our buildings. We continue to review our current reporting arrangements in line with any new local and national COVID restrictions that are put in place.

Before inviting individuals into reporting, case owners will make an assessment based on the harm that they may pose to the public, as well as the vulnerability and personal circumstances of all of those we ask to report. We continue to keep in contact with the overall reporting population by telephone to update individuals on the current reporting position. An SMS text or email/letter is sent to those required to recommence reporting informing them of the date and time they should report, along with relevant advice on COVID. We have also updated the reporting pages on GOV.UK for those who report and their representatives. This information includes how to travel most safely by public transport, avoiding both busy transport hubs and traveling at peak times; advice on reporting alone where possible; and what to do if those reporting have symptoms or are shielding and how to contact their local reporting centre.

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Resettlement

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [128670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential barriers to restarting the UK's refugee resettlement scheme.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [128671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will increase the UK's resettlement target in 2021 in response to the reduced number of refugees resettled in 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK is one of the world's leading refugee resettlement states. Over recent years the Home Office has worked in partnership with UNHCR and other resettlement states to increase global resettlement capacity, including through leading various international fora. We have also provided direct advice and assistance to a number of states, supporting them to start, expand or develop their own resettlement schemes.

Alongside our international work, we have also been working closely with our key domestic stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals against the backdrop of unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this work, and as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November, the UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

Decisions regarding resettlement beyond the completion of this scheme, including the number of refugees we plan to resettle, are yet to be made and will need to take account of the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing pressures on the asylum system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-11/128670>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-11/128671>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

Refugees: Resettlement

Chris Grayling (Conservative) [129988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on resettling refugee families under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme; and how many people she plans to settle under that scheme in the next 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics

To access the number of refugees resettled, access the latest statistical release using the link above, then "data tables", "asylum and resettlement" and select either the summary or detailed resettlement tables. The latest set of figures were released on 26 November 2020.

We have been working closely with key domestic and international stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals against the backdrop of

unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this work the UK has restarted UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/129988>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Sleeping Rough

Baroness Bennet of Manor Castle (Green) [HL11271] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the new Immigration Rules applying from 1 January 2021, including those which make rough sleeping grounds for refusing and cancelling someone's right to remain in the UK, do not deter people experiencing homelessness from accessing support.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL11312] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place between the Home Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government about ensuring that the new Immigration Rules applying from 1 January 2021, including those which make rough sleeping grounds for refusing and cancelling someone's right to remain in the UK, do not deter people experiencing homelessness from accessing support.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The new Immigration Rule which makes provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping will be used sparingly, and only where individuals have refused support offers such as accommodation and are engaged in persistent anti-social behaviour.

The Home Office and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government are working together to encourage local authorities and approved charities to resolve the immigration status of eligible rough sleepers and unlock access to any benefits and entitlements that rough sleepers may be eligible for.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11271>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11312>

Immigration: Finance

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL11311] To ask Her Majesty's Government when the review on how immigration (1) status, and (2) restrictions, in particular no recourse to public funds, interact with free school meals and other educational entitlements will be (a) completed, and (b) published.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

Once the review is complete, we will update our guidance accordingly. Our current guidance regarding the extension can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/guidance-for-the-temporary-extension-of-free-school-meals-eligibility-to-nrpf-groups>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11311>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Baroness Eaton (Conservative) [HL11292] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to extend the visas of health and care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises the vital contribution overseas NHS, health and social care workers have and continue to make in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier in the year we offered free visa extensions for key, frontline health professionals whose visas were due to expire between 31 March 2020 and 1 October 2020.

On 20 November, we announced we will renew this offer for those eligible health professionals and their family dependants whose visas expire between 1 October 2020 until 31 March 2021.

More details of this announcement can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-more-health-workers-to-benefit-from-visa-extensions>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11292>

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL11404] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of undocumented people in the UK; and what steps they are taking to ensure that any such people are tested or treated for COVID-19.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As you will appreciate, by its very nature, it is impossible to know the precise size of the illegal migrant population within the UK and thus the Home Office does not seek to make any official estimates.

The Home Office is following national guidance in relation to Covid-19 testing, as set out by Public Health England. Since quarantine measures were introduced in June, those individuals who are encountered illegally entering the UK have been placed in facilities where they must self-isolate for 14 days, given we cannot be certain which countries they have travelled through.

Anyone who is symptomatic will be taken to designated accommodation and tested according to Public Health England guidance. An adapted regime is in place in our facilities to enable social distancing and reasonable restrictions are in place to manage the risks of Covid-19 spreading.

Additionally NHS trusts have been advised that no immigration checks are required for overseas visitors that are known to be only undergoing testing or treatment for COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/hl11404>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL11474] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the agreement reached by the UK and the government of France on 28 November to address migrant activity in the English Channel, what plans they have for monitoring and evaluating the impact of (1) this agreement, and (2) any funds spent on its implementation; how, and by what body, any monitoring and evaluation will be conducted; and whether they intend to publish any such evaluation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In November the UK and France agreed a package of £28.1m to support a range of activity as part of ongoing efforts to address illegal migration. The impact on migration pressures of this investment is regularly assessed by France and the UK through jointly agreed results frameworks. We are not intending to publish detailed information on the evaluation

of the funding agreed with the French Government, as it relates to sensitive operational activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/hl11474>

Information about the agreement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-france-sign-new-agreement-to-tackle-illegal-migration>

Refugees: Resettlement

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL11301] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with local authorities about the commencement of their new, consolidated, global resettlement scheme and the resettlement of 5,000 refugees in one year at the conclusion of the Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme; and what was the outcome of any such discussions.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have been working closely with key domestic and international stakeholders on plans to safely resume UK resettlement arrivals against the backdrop of unprecedented restrictions and pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of this work, and as announced by Baroness Williams of Trafford in the House of Lords on 9 November, the UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

Due to the lead times for refugee arrivals, it is likely that we will see most refugees start to arrive early in the new year.

Decisions regarding resettlement beyond the completion of this scheme are yet to be made and will need to take account of the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing pressures on the asylum system. We have committed to a review of safe and legal routes to the UK. We are aware that the pause in resettlement has had an impact on our resettlement partners and will continue to work with them as future plans are developed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11301>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-09/debates/2BF5F13B-5237-4DC6-979F-981AD6A2287D/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-DB7E2454-09E6-47FB-BBCE-2E0F928DF4C2)

Refugees: Resettlement

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL11310] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 22 July (HL Deb, col 2294) and the "pledge to resettle a further 5,000 vulnerable people seeking refuge, from not just Syria but anywhere in the world", when they estimate they will begin to resettle the 5,000 refugees pledged to occur within one year under the new global resettlement scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK will shortly restart UK resettlement arrivals to fulfil our commitment of resettling 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and we are working closely with partners to deliver this commitment.

Due to the lead times for refugee arrivals, it is likely that we will see most refugees start to arrive early in the new year

Decisions regarding resettlement beyond the completion of this scheme are yet to be made and will need to take account of the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing pressures on the asylum system. We have committed to a review of safe and legal routes to the UK. We are aware that the pause in resettlement has had an impact

on our resettlement partners and will continue to work with them as future plans are developed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11310>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-22/debates/755FC778-568F-4FDA-8C27-CBD397D0BE62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-753A1D5A-FDCC-4771-A626-AEABE5E16055](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-07-22/debates/755FC778-568F-4FDA-8C27-CBD397D0BE62/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-753A1D5A-FDCC-4771-A626-AEABE5E16055)

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL11490] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to replace the EU's mechanisms for family reunification in relation to unaccompanied children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government has made it clear that we are embarking on an ambitious programme to fix our broken asylum system to make it firm and fair. As the Home Secretary said in her Conservative Party Conference speech, we will seek to stop abuse of the system while ensuring it is compassionate towards those who need our help, welcoming people through safe and legal routes.

Section 3 of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (the Act) sets out a statutory obligation to review the ways in which protection claimants, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), who are in an EU member state are able to enter the United Kingdom lawfully. As a part of this review, the statutory obligation includes a public consultation on legal routes for UASC in the EU seeking to join family in the UK.

The Act includes a requirement to lay a statement before Parliament by 10 February 2021 providing further details of the review and consultation.

The Government has also made a commitment, in the event of a non-negotiated outcome with the EU, to seek to pursue new bilateral negotiations on post-transition migration issues with key countries of mutual interest, including on new arrangements for the family reunion of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/hl11490>

Asylum: Reform

Baroness Eaton (Conservative) [HL11291] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reform the UK's asylum system.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is working to transform the broken asylum system and processes: the work will simplify, streamline and digitise processes, ensuring that asylum claimants are treated quickly, fairly and are supported, and that claims which do not qualify are rapidly identified and prepared for return.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11291>

Asylum: Languages

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL11200] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration An inspection of the Home Office's use of language services in the asylum process, published on 11 November.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office have assessed the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) report that was conducted between May to November 2019.

The Department has accepted all three of the ICIBI's recommendations and our formal response of 11 November 2020 has been published and can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-use-of-language-services-in-the-asylum-process>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-08/hl11200>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/933930/An_inspection_of_the_Home_Office_s_use_of_language_services_in_the_asylum_process.pdf

Deportation

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL11298] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the merits of only permitting deportation following a recommendation to do so by the courts.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have an established process whereby all foreign national offenders sentenced to imprisonment are referred to Immigration Enforcement for deportation consideration, and a statutory duty under the UK Borders Act 2007 to deport any offender serving a custodial term of 12 months or more. Those falling outside that category may be considered liable to deportation under the Immigration Act 1971.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11298>

Deportation: Homelessness and Sleeping Rough

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL11297] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the letter sent on 6 November by homelessness organisations about making homelessness and rough-sleeping a discretionary ground for deportation; and what steps they intend to take in response to the representations they have received.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The new Immigration Rule which makes provision for the refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the basis of rough sleeping, will be used sparingly and only where individuals have refused support offers such as accommodation and are engaged in persistent anti-social behaviour.

A person is expected to leave the UK if their leave is cancelled or refused. If they do not choose to leave voluntarily the Home Office may enforce their removal. They will not be subject to deportation action which is reserved for foreign national offenders with serious and persistent criminality as well as for reasons of national security.

The new rule will not be used until guidance for decision-makers has been published.

The Home Office and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government are working together to encourage local authorities and approved charities to resolve the immigration status of eligible rough sleepers and unlock access to any benefits and entitlements that rough sleepers may be eligible for.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11297>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/latest-news/over-seventy-homelessness-organisations-sign-letter-urging-government-to-reconsider-dangerous-new-immigration-rules-targeting-people-sleeping-rough-for-deportation/>

Deportation: Offenders

Baroness Eaton (Conservative) [HL11290] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to remove foreign national offenders from the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: One of this Government's key

objectives is to protect the public by removing foreign national offenders who commit criminal offences and have no right to remain in the UK. Foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them. Since January 2019, we have removed 6,450 foreign national offenders from the UK.

Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity. Every week we remove foreign criminals from the UK to different countries who have no right to be here. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to return and deport foreign offenders and other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled flights and charter flights.

For non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, deportation will be pursued where it is conducive to the public good including where a person receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, commits an offence that caused serious harm or is a persistent offender. Currently, European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are deported in accordance with European Union (EU) law on the grounds of public policy or public security.

The UK's departure from the EU means that, in future, an EEA national who commits an offence after the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) will be considered under the same deportation thresholds that apply to non-EEA nationals.

This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-09/hl11290>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1445/html/>

New Publications

New Scots Connect Map

Scottish Refugee Council interactive map to help people who are new to Scotland to find local support, friends, information and advice

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-connect-map/>

Recruiting people from outside the UK from 1 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruiting-people-from-outside-the-uk>

Changes to the Windrush Compensation Scheme

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947697/WCS_Changes_Customer_Update.pdf

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated 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>

EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-presentation/eu-settlement-scheme-presentation>

The UK's points-based immigration system: Application guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949574/6.7031_HO_PBIS_Guidance_Re-Brand_Updates_Application_Final_2_.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme: applying from outside the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-applying-from-outside-the-uk>

EU Settlement Scheme: evidence of relationship

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-relationship-to-an-eu-citizen>

Studying in the UK: guidance for EU students

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/studying-in-the-uk-guidance-for-eu-students>

The UK's points-based immigration system An introduction for EU students

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949573/6.7031_HO_PBIS_Guidance_Re-Brand_Updates_Students_FINAL_WEB.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme: translated information materials

These materials support EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. They are provided in 26 EU languages.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-translated-information-materials>

Overview of family reunion options in the Immigration Rules

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947613/overview-family-reunion-options-in-rules-v1.0ext.pdf

Highly skilled migrant indefinite leave to remain refusals & covid-19 realities

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Exec.-summary-Highly-SKilled-ILR-Refusal-Covid-19-Summary1.pdf>

News

Home Office spent £36m fighting immigration judicial reviews last year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/12/26/home-office-spent-36m-fighting-immigration-judicial-reviews/>

Migrant doctors blocked from working due to Home Office delays amid mounting pressure on NHS

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/doctors-migrant-nhs-home-office-delays-coronavirus-b1778097.html>

England needs to build 300 homes a day to cope with migrant surge, study finds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/30/england-needs-build-300-homes-day-cope-migrant-surge-study-finds/>

Visas tripled to boost migrant fruit and veg pickers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/23/migrant-fruit-veg-picker-visas-trebled-30000/>

Scottish drive for seasonal migrant workers bears fruit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scottish-drive-for-seasonal-migrant-workers-bears-fruit-jq8rfzf75>

Thousands of European nationals in Scotland still to apply for settled status days before final EU exit

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18972349.thousands-european-nationals-scotland-still-apply-settled-status-days-final-eu-exit/>

'Please help us': child refugees running out of time to reach UK before Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/dec/24/please-help-us-child-refugees-running-out-of-time-to-reach-uk-before-brexit>

Channel migrants: More than 8,000 people make crossing in 2020

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-55501123>

French believe 100 syndicates run migrant routes across Channel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/french-believe-100-people-smuggling-syndicates-run-trade-across-channel-7r8ddxqqs>

People smugglers forcing women and children to steer boats across Channel in bid to avoid arrest

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/28/people-smugglers-forcing-women-children-steer-boats-across-channel/>

Channel migrants make 5am New Year's Eve dash to reach UK before Brexit deadline

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/31/channel-migrants-make-5am-new-years-eve-dash-reach-uk-brexit/>

Essex lorry deaths: Two key figures in people-smuggling ring guilty of manslaughter of 39

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-two-key-figures-people-smuggling-ring-guilty-manslaughter-39-3075055>

Essex lorry deaths trial: Gang members guilty of manslaughter of 39 Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/21/essex-lorry-deaths-trial-gang-members-guilty-manslaughter-39/>

Essex lorry deaths: two found guilty over manslaughter of 39 Vietnamese people

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/21/essex-lorry-trial-two-found-guilty-over-deaths-of-39-vietnamese-people>

Essex lorry deaths: Two people smugglers found guilty for deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/essex-lorry-deaths-smugglers-vietnamese-migrants-b1777110.html>

Lorry deaths: Four members of people-smuggling gang convicted of Vietnamese migrants deaths

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lorry-deaths-four-members-of-people-smuggling-gang-convicted-of-vietnamese-migrants-deaths-66gwzjhd7>

Essex lorry deaths: How authorities missed chances to stop people-smuggling gang
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/21/essex-lorry-deaths-authorities-missed-chances-stop-people-smuggling/>

Essex lorry tragedy must spur greater effort to stop trafficking from Vietnam
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jan/01/essex-lorry-tragedy-must-spur-greater-effort-to-stop-trafficking-from-vietnam>

Asylum seekers at Penally camp accuse Home Office of ignoring repeated complaints over food and conditions
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-penally-asylum-seekers-food-conditions-b1784011.html>

Asylum seeker hospitalised after hunger strike over Penally camp conditions
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/penally-military-camp-asylum-seeker-hunger-strike-b1779902.html>

Immigration detention centre forced to close due to Covid outbreak
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-detention-centre-closed-covid-outbreak-home-office-b1784499.html>

Gatwick immigration detention centre closed due to staff Covid cases
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/08/gatwick-immigration-detention-centre-closed-due-to-staff-covid-cases>

Priti Patel looks to cut jail term needed for deportation
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-looks-to-cut-jail-term-needed-for-deportation-9kjwz5fbp>

Home Office spent £10,000 per deportee in rush to remove asylum seekers before Brexit, figures show
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-deportation-flights-asylum-seekers-b1769938.html>

Home Office criticised for refusal to state deportees' nationalities
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/27/home-office-criticised-for-refusal-to-state-deportees-nationalities>

'Do-gooding' protests fail as 1,100 foreign-born criminals deported, says Home Office source
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/30/do-gooding-protests-fail-1100-foreign-born-criminals-deported/>

Home Office pushing ahead with deportation flights despite new lockdown and surge in coronavirus
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deportation-charter-flights-home-office-lockdown-coronavirus-b1782584.html>

Child's requirement for open heart surgery made deportation of father disproportionate
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/childs-requirement-for-open-heart-surgery-made-deportation-of-father-disproportionate-8j8c7j8vt>

Syrian doctor whose deportation from UK was halted because of coronavirus volunteers to vaccinate Brits

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-vaccination-syrian-doctor-volunteers-nhs-b1783382.html>

'I felt like I was born again': first non-binary person granted UK refugee status

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/30/i-felt-like-i-was-born-again-first-non-binary-person-granted-uk-refugee-status>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Jackie Doyle-Price (Conservative) [120861] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to reduce the rate of maternity deaths among Black, Asian and minority ethnic women.

Jackie Doyle-Price (Conservative) [120862] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for the higher rate of death in childbirth for Black women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The NHS Long Term Plan outlines plans to reduce health inequalities and address unwarranted variation in maternity care. This work is led by NHS England through the Maternity Transformation Programme. Targeted and enhanced continuity of care from the same midwife, or group of midwives can significantly improve outcomes for women. The NHS Long-Term plan sets out that 75% of black women will receive continuity of carer from midwives by 2024.

Work to reduce health inequalities around maternal mortality rates is being led by Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, Chief Midwifery Officer. This includes understanding why mortality rates are higher, considering evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and taking action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-25/120861>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-25/120862>

The Long Term Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhs-long-term-plan-version-1.2.pdf>

Abortion: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL11506] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to investigate any differences in abortion rates between black women and other ethnic groups in Britain, and (2) to assess the impact of any differences on the black British community.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Department has commissioned the King's Fund to undertake a piece of work to provide insights into factors contributing to changing patterns of abortion uptake in England. The findings from this work will help inform the development of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy, which will consider how inequalities in relation to all groups, including black women and other ethnic groups, can be addressed.

The Department has also launched a three-month consultation on whether to make

permanent the current temporary measure allowing for home use of both pills for early medical abortion up to 10 weeks gestation for all eligible women. This includes a specific question on how making permanent home use of both pills could have a differential impact on groups of people or communities and we welcome feedback from anyone with an interest or view on this subject, including black women and those from other ethnic groups.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/hl11506>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Magistrates: Ethnic Groups

David Lammy (Labour) [128856] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what proportion of members of the working groups which have shaped the new policy on magistrate recruitment are from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

David Lammy (Labour) [128857] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of applicants to the magistracy were from Black, Asian or minority ethnic communities in each of the last five years; and what comparative assessment he has made of the the success rates of those applicants and other applicants in being appointed to the magistracy in the last five years.

David Lammy (Labour) [128858] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of leadership magistrates are from BAME communities; and what steps have been taken to encourage magistrates from BAME communities to apply for those positions.

Reply from Alex Chalk: Members of the Recruitment and Attraction Steering Group (who are involved in the working groups) are magistrates and lay members of Advisory Committees in each region who were appointed following an Expression of Interest exercise. Diversity data for the Steering Group Members is not separately collated. Other working group members are comprised of officials from MoJ, HMCTS and Judicial Office and we do not separately collate their diversity data for this specific role.

The Judicial Office collate the diversity data of magistrates. Currently, diversity data of applicants to the magistracy is not collated as it is not mandatory for prospective applicants to provide this information. The Magistrates Recruitment and Attraction programme is developing a new recruitment system that will capture diversity data of applicants throughout the application process. The diversity data of appointed magistrates are published in the Judicial Diversity Statistics.

Leadership roles within the magistracy, including those within the Magistrates' Leadership Executive, are undertaken by appointed magistrates. Leadership roles are openly advertised to all magistrates and filled through either an Expression of Interest exercise or following local selection processes. Diversity data of those who hold leadership roles is not separately collated.

The Judicial Office does not collate socio-economic data of new magistrates. The Judicial Diversity Statistics sets out data on magistrates' ethnicity, age and gender. By March 2021, the aim is for all Judicial office holders to be encouraged to self-classify against a wider range of diversity characteristics including a means of defining a socio-economic background.

The Judicial Diversity Statistics are published annually and are available through this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diversity-of-the-judiciary-2020-statistics>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/128856>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/128857>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/128858>

Kickstart Scheme: Ethnic Groups

Cat Smith (Labour) [130130] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2020 to Question 114936 on Kickstart Scheme: Ethnic Groups, what steps her department is taking to help ensure collection of data on the proportion of jobs created as part of the Kickstart scheme allocated to Black, Asian and minority ethnic young people; and what her timescale is for making information available on (a) ethnicity, (b) disability and (c) other disadvantaged groups amongst Kickstart participants.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Department for Work and Pensions' Kickstart Scheme is providing job placements for 16-24 year olds at risk of long term unemployment. Young people will be directed to the scheme through a Job Centre by a Work Coach. This will ensure that those who need support the most are able to benefit, regardless of ethnicity, disability or any disadvantage.

Some personal information, including ethnicity of participants, is voluntarily provided when a young person applies for a placement. This means that any information might not be a fully accurate representation of demographics.

Our data gathering is still in its early stages but we have plans for a wider evaluation of Kickstart that will draw on available data and insights (such as case studies from young people, participant surveys and feedback from Work Coaches) where possible showing outcomes and effects for different groups, including by gender, ethnicity and those facing additional barriers to employment. We will feed this insight into the programme as we continue to roll it out. No information is currently available but we will consider how this might be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/130130>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-12/114936>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Elections: Proof of Identity

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL11488] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential impact of introducing mandatory voter ID on the Traveller and Roma communities' ability to vote.

Reply from Lord True: Requiring proof of identity to vote in a polling station will strengthen the integrity of our electoral system, and give the public confidence that our elections are secure and fit for the 21st century.

We will continue to work with the Electoral Commission, charities and civil society organisations, including those that represent Traveller and Roma communities, to make sure that reforms are delivered in a way that is inclusive for all voters.

As the legislation is brought forward the appropriate impact assessments will be provided for Parliament in the normal way.

Showing ID is something people of all backgrounds already do every day, for example, to take out a library book, claim benefits or pick up a parcel from the post office. Proving who you are before you make a decision of huge importance at the ballot box should be no different.

The list of approved photographic ID will not be limited to passports and driving licences, a broad range of commonly held photographic documents will be accepted. For any voter who does not have one of the required forms of photographic ID, a local elector ID will be available, free of charge, from their local authority. Everyone who is eligible to vote will have the opportunity to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-15/hl11488>

New Publications

The IFS Deaton Review of Inequalities: a New Year's message

<https://ifs.org.uk/uploads/IFS-Deaton-Review-New-Year-Message.pdf>

Minority prisoners experiences of rehabilitation and release

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947129/HMIP_Thematic_MEPERARP_-_Action_Plan.pdf

Ethnic minorities in the hospitality sector Comparing the experiences of hospitality workers from different ethnic backgrounds

<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Ethnic-minorities-in-the-hospitality-sector.pdf>

News

Kwasi Kwarteng becomes first black Conservative Secretary of State

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/01/08/kwasi-kwarteng-becomes-first-black-conservative-secretary-state/>

UK 'cannot duck' post-Covid inequalities, report warns

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55536722>

Less than 1% of all senior police officers are black

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/less-than-1-of-all-senior-police-officers-are-black-8c7xqs5pj>

'To be a black, female headteacher is phenomenal'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-55322023>

I am the parent of a Black child at a private school – the sector is shockingly behind on matters of diversity and inclusion

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/private-schools-equality-racism-b1777265.html>

Lenny Henry: Television is too white. After four decades on screen, I still feel lonely

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/lenny-henry-television-is-too-white-after-four-decades-on-screen-i-still-feel-lonely-2zqzkljz>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News

Scotland's Hate Crime Bill: Why Muslims' and Jews' shared experiences of racism must be heard

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-hate-crime-bill-why-muslims-and-jews-shared-experiences-racism-must-be-heard-professor-joe-goldblatt-3074064>

Police Scotland must drive out racism from its ranks

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/police-scotland-must-drive-out-racism-its-ranks-scotsman-comment-3080923>

'Racist and sexist' Hampshire police unit officers dismissed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-55586420>

Five Hampshire Constabulary officers sacked after secret recording of racism and sexism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/five-hampshire-constabulary-officers-sacked-after-secret-recording-of-racism-and-sexism-v6qqwslsm>

Five police officers from 'toxic' unit sacked for racist, homophobic and sexist behaviour

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-officers-racist-hampshire-sacked-b1784351.html>

Thousands of racist incidents reported in Scottish schools

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18988986.thousands-racist-incidents-reported-scottish-schools/>

Thousands of racist incidents in Scottish schools

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/thousands-racist-incidents-scottish-schools-3086336>

Anti-racist education in Scotland's classrooms should not be feared

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/anti-racist-education-scotlands-classrooms-should-not-be-feared-nuzhat-uthmani-3079910>

'Antisemitic' Merchant too much for Morpurgo's modern Shakespeare

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/antisemitic-merchant-too-much-for-morpurgos-modern-shakespeare-g3c805vdc>

Boy guilty over Oxford Street racist coronavirus attack

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-55523821>

'Racism doesn't dissolve once it's out of the headlines': is the fashion industry doing enough to address diversity?

<https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2020/dec/21/racism-doesnt-dissolve-once-its-out-of-the-headlines-is-the-fashion-industry-doing-enough-to-address-diversity>

Racism in the military? A former RAF officer's story

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-55424308>

Attack on London law student over coronavirus was 'racially motivated'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/coronavirus-attack-london-racism-jonathan-mok-b1782233.html>

Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin: 'My biggest disappointment? People's racist behaviour'

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/dec/26/rt-rev-rose-hudson-wilkin-my-biggest-disappointment-peoples-racist-behaviour>

Transracial adoption: 'I bit my hand hoping my skin colour would change'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-53429651>

Kick It Out agrees landmark £3m deal with Sky Sports to boost campaign to end racism in football

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/kick-it-out-sky-sports-deal-b1777070.html>

Scottish Justice Minister condemns 'disgusting' abuse of Israeli Celtic player

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/scottish-justice-minister-condemns-disgusting-abuse-of-israeli-celtic-player-1.510502>

Kilmarnock contact police over letter directing racist abuse at Alex Dyer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/55470712>

Kilmarnock condemn racist abuse after letter sent to manager Alex Dyer

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/dec/28/kilmarnock-condemn-racist-abuse-after-letter-sent-to-manager-alex-dyer>

Kilmarnock contact police after letter containing 'racist abuse' sent to manager Alex Dyer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/scottish/kilmarnock-manager-alex-dyer-racist-abuse-letter-b1779817.html>

Racist abuse will not deter me, says Kilmarnock boss Alex Dyer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/scottish/kilmarnock-manager-alex-dyer-racist-abuse-b1780755.html>

Alex Dyer suffers racist abuse in letter to club

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/alex-dyer-suffers-racist-abuse-in-letter-to-club-jwxclc8vl>

Bright Osayi-Samuel: QPR winger reveals horrific racist abuse sent on Instagram after Norwich game

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/bright-osayi-samuel-qpr-racist-abuse-instagram-b1780328.html>

QPR rally round Bright Osayi-Samuel after sickening racist abuse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/football-league/bright-osayi-samuel-qpr-racist-abuse-b1781261.html>

Brentford employed racist who was a convicted football hooligan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brentford-employed-racist-who-was-a-convicted-football-hooligan-9lqvmcqv>

Former Test umpire John Holder sues ECB for alleged racial discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/dec/29/former-test-umpire-john-holder-sues-ecb-for-alleged-racial-discrimination>

Bake Off's Ali Imdad shares video after being racially abused on Birmingham bus

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/ali-imdad-bake-off-video-racist-b1777545.html>

Racism in ballet: Black dancer's 'humiliation' at racist comments

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/entertainment-arts-55339078>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Brexit deal: Statement by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/brexit-deal-statement-first-minister-nicola-sturgeon/>

First Minister's New Year Message

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1344704878317350912>

News

Brexit Bill passes Holyrood to allow Scotland to 'keep pace' with EU law

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18963668.brexit-bill-passes-holyrood-allow-scotland-keep-pace-eu-law/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Prime Minister's statement on EU negotiations: 24 December 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-eu-negotiations-24-december-2020>

Scottish Secretary welcomes UK's historic deal with EU

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-welcomes-uks-historic-deal-with-eu>

Prime Minister's New Year's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-new-years-message-31-december-2020>

New Publication

Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union: Summary Explainer

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union/summary-explainer>

News

Brexit: MPs overwhelmingly back post-Brexit deal with EU

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55478513>

Brexit: New EU trade arrangements to begin after Parliament vote

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55493437>

Brexit: What are the key points of the deal?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-55180293>

Brexit: New era for UK as it completes separation from European Union

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-55502781>

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/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 Oral Answers

Religious Groups: Financial Support

Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown (DUP): To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial support they have provided to religious groups in the United Kingdom during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Lord Greenhalgh): During the pandemic, faith-based organisations and places of worship have been able to apply for a range of government packages available to support charities and businesses. These include the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, Historic England's Covid-19 emergency relief fund and the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund. We continue to consider how government can effectively support the sustainability of

faith groups.

Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown: ... Over these long months of the pandemic, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has provided financial aid for people and businesses greatly impacted by Covid, but churches themselves, which provide vital assistance to the isolated, the elderly, the sick and the dying, have received nothing, although their finances have been greatly depleted by the non-attendance of most of their congregations because of government rules and restrictions. What consideration has been given to this matter, and will aid be forthcoming?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: I do not recognise that no support has been given. In fact, during the pandemic, there have been 10 schemes available to places of worship, including churches, four of which are still available. I point to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme from DCMS, the gift aid small donations scheme, the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme through BEIS and the Job Support Scheme from HMT, all of which are still running and available.

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims, in its recent inquiry, received evidence of the specific targeting and blaming of Muslims as a group causing the spread of the coronavirus. Will my noble friend join me in both rejecting this false and bigoted view and paying tribute to the many mosques and community organisations which, despite the Government's decision to allow communal worship in the latest lockdown, have taken the decision to limit services where it is considered wise to do so, in the interests of public health and safety?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: I join my noble friend in condemning those who point the finger at any community, including British Muslims. I absolutely commend the role taken by Muslim charities, such as the Muslim Charities Forum, in supporting people during the pandemic. It is part of the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership. I commend the work of Muslim charities and mosques in helping the needy and vulnerable at this difficult time.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, Sikhs from the gurdwara in Gravesend were prominent in organising free hot meals for stranded lorry drivers at Dover, and similar initiatives by Sikhs have been applauded in other parts of the world. Government assistance in making minority communities aware of the perils of Covid-19 on media that they read, watch or listen to would be helpful, but does the Minister agree that the faith communities, in the welfare and volunteering they do, are playing a key role in helping us get through the pandemic?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I completely agree on the role of British Sikhs. It is fundamental to their faith to help people in need, and, although I have only 15 followers, I specifically tweeted out my support for Langar Aid in Kent. It is alongside many charities, including the Salvation Army, which provided much needed sustenance at a very difficult time throughout the Christmas period.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, throughout the pandemic, faith groups have provided comfort, care, guidance and support for people and communities—as we saw in Gravesend with the Sikh community. We should pay tribute to them and thank them for that, but, as the noble Lord, Lord McCrea, said, we should go further. Will the Minister agree to speak to his colleagues in the Treasury to see what could be done through the tax system to provide bespoke levels of support to faith communities? I also join the noble Baroness, Lady Warsi, in condemning those who wrongly seek to blame the Muslim community for the pandemic.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I will always commit to talking to the Treasury. I am not sure it will always listen to me, but I promise to make every endeavour and possible representation to ensure it sees the light and takes up the noble Lord's suggestion.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): At the end of this pandemic, whenever it is, many ordinary chapels and churches will be in difficulties, just like the major churches.

In many places, those that have been closed for the pandemic will not open again. I ask the Government to give support in whatever way possible to those people, sometimes very few, who are battling to come to terms with legal or building requirements. I also thank those who have been standing so faithfully over the years in these smaller congregations. Things have changed now, and I know that in my church, the Methodist Church, the Whitechapel mission, for example, has in the past nine months served 277,000 meals. In other places, as already mentioned, drivers of the lorries held up going to Dover were very well supported by people of all faiths and of no faith. Can we also say thank you to them?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I declare an interest as the grandson of a Methodist minister, and I commend what Methodists have done, but I am in fact a Roman Catholic. None the less, faith communities have stepped forward and helped considerably during this time, and the Government will continue to think about ways in which we can partner with faith communities.

Lord Flight (Conservative): My Lords, what criteria might the noble Lord propose should apply to qualify for financial support by religious groups?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: That sounded incredibly technical, to be honest. I need to reflect on it and write back to the noble Lord, giving a comprehensive answer and putting a copy in the Library.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester: I am grateful to the noble Lord, Lord McCrea, as his Question enables me to acknowledge with thanks to the support which has been received by religious groups and charities, not least through the furlough arrangements, which have been a considerable help for many of them. However, in looking to the future, I join others in urging Her Majesty's Government to keep particularly in mind the needs of smaller charities, which are often religious, community and locally based in character, whose work with young people, the homeless, those in debt, the elderly and other groups has been growing in this time, while their voluntary income has often been diminishing. Perhaps I can tempt the Minister by suggesting that Her Majesty's Government might consider using their new-found freedoms to exchange the current scheme, whereby VAT is reimbursed on works relating to listed places of worship, for one where it is not charged in the first place.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: ... it is right that the Government think about how we support small, grassroots charities. I want to commend the efforts of my colleague, my noble friend Lady Barran, for setting up the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership during the pandemic, which is trying to do precisely that with a £5 million award, and we are looking to build on that for particular faith communities as well.

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the second round of the Cultural Recovery Fund will be open for applications from 7 January and will close on 26 January; £36 million of this funding will be allocated to heritage organisations and businesses, administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Historic England. Will this fund be open to faith organisations that are based in historic buildings, especially in rural areas?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My understanding is that DCMS funding is open to places of worship. In fact, a number of places of worship, including many cathedrals, have been in receipt of funding already.

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative): My Lords, many places of worship are open for people of all faiths and of none as places of refuge and renewal, as are organisations such as the Salvation Army, which has already been mentioned. They provide invaluable help to many people, particularly those who have been rescued from abuse of all kinds, such as human trafficking and domestic violence. As their income has been greatly reduced by the Covid pandemic, will the Government help so that their work can continue? Perhaps, as my friendly colleague, the noble Lord, Lord Kennedy, suggested, they can have some form of tax relief.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I, too, commend the work of the Salvation Army. I now consider Dean Pallant to be a close friend, and the work it does is phenomenal. It is fair to say that it has been able to apply to around 10 schemes, four of which remain open, it is a member of the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership, and £5 million has been distributed to its members.

Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I am aware of the valuable work that faith organisations do in our community. Temples, gurdwaras and mosques provide food parcels, and religious leaders provide counselling and other services to local communities. Will the Minister talk to his colleagues in other government departments to ensure that these services are not curtailed by a lack of financial resources? Any help for these organisations through local authorities would be most welcome.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, it is important that we provide joined-up government. I am working closely with my colleagues in DCMS, and we work across Whitehall to ensure that that happens.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-06/debates/B3253652-E773-474A-AEEE-84BDA938F406/ReligiousGroupsFinancialSupport>

The report of the APPG inquiry referred to above has not yet been published.

The call for evidence (now closed) can be read at

<https://appgbritishmuslims.org/evidence/2020/7/2/call-for-evidence-inquiry-on-british-muslim-response-to-covid-19-1>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL11378] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disproportionate rate of fines issued to BAME communities under regulations introduced to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) have published an analysis of the disproportionality of fines issued via a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), for breaching the new public health regulations to control the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19) which can be found here:

<https://cdn.prgloo.com/media/download/608327f7e62a4432a59ce05c5c1554bc>

The analysis presented in this report covers such fines issued between 27th March and 25th May 2020. The data shows that the disparity rate for individuals of a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background was 1.6 times higher than White individuals.

We will continue to work extremely closely with the police as we have throughout the pandemic. We are clear that no one should be subject to police enforcement on the basis of race alone and we work with forces and the NPCC to address disproportionality in policing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-10/hl11378>

Travellers: Coronavirus

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL11395] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the last six months to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The Government are holding regular discussions with representatives from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities to understand the issues they are facing. We have written to local authority Chief Executives highlighting the need to mitigate potential impacts of COVID-19 amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities and published online guidance for those leading a nomadic way of life. In addition we have announced funding for GRT

children and young people to get extra educational support and launched the £25 million Community Champions scheme, which will fund local authorities and community organisations to improve the reach of official public health guidance about the virus into specific places and groups most at risk from COVID-19.

The Government is determined to ensure everyone gets the support they need to look after themselves and their families during this pandemic.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-14/hl11395>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Apsana Begum (Labour) (1322) Covid-19 response and BAME communities –That this House notes that covid-19 has had a disproportionate effect on those from a Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) background; understands that the highest age standardised diagnosis rates of covid-19 per 100,000 population were in people of Black ethnic groups and the lowest were in people of white ethnic groups; acknowledges that the mortality rate from covid-19 among people of Black African descent in English hospitals was 3.5 times higher when compared to rates among white British people; further notes that after accounting for the effect of sex, age, deprivation and region, people of Bangladeshi ethnicity had around twice the risk of death when compared to people of white British ethnicity; recognises that people of Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, other Asian, Caribbean and other Black ethnicity had between 10 per cent and 50 per cent higher risk of death from covid-19 compared to white British people; notes that 95 per cent of doctors who have died were BAME; believes that BAME communities should be prioritised for a vaccine rollout in addition to the other vulnerable groups and healthcare workers; calls on the Government to amend its advice on priority groups for covid-19 vaccination in order to reflect this; and urges the Government to communicate this widely through a range of effective and targeted media.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57918>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine national roll-out

<https://www.gov.scot/news/oxford-astrazeneca-vaccine-national-roll-out/>

Vaccines reach 113,459 people

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccines-reach-113-459-people/>

Scotland in lockdown

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotland-in-lockdown/>

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/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): stay at home guidance

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 8 January 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-8-january-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech - 5 January 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-5-january-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - Monday 4 January 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-monday-4-january-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): state of the epidemic in Scotland, 4 January 2021

<https://tinyurl.com/y9bpxqp4>

Education Scotland's Remote Learning Guidance for parents and teachers

<https://education.gov.scot/media/hblh4yy0/cerq-remote-learning-080121.pdf>

Young Scot: 12-17 year old Information Toolkit

<https://education.gov.scot/media/ftdnoxw0/young-scot-information-toolkit.pdf>

UK Government Press Releases

Over 600,000 people get first dose of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-600000-people-get-first-dose-of-pfizerbiontech-vaccine>

Statement on the approval of the Oxford University/AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-the-approval-of-the-oxford-astrazeneca-coronavirus-vaccine-for-use-in-the-uk>

Prime Minister announces national lockdown

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

COVID-19 alert level: update from the UK Chief Medical Officers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-alert-level-update-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers>

UK Government Publications

Information for UK recipients on Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19/information-for-uk-recipients-on-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine>

Information for UK recipients on COVID 19 Vaccine AstraZeneca

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca/information-for-uk-recipients-on-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) weekly insights: latest health indicators in England, 8 January 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/coronaviruscovid19weeklyinsightslatesthealthindicatorsinengland8january2021>

Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on COVID-19 regulations: 6 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-covid-19-regulations-6-january-2021>

Prime Minister's address to the nation: 4 January 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-address-to-the-nation-4-january-2021>

Other Organisations

Health Scotland

COVID-19 vaccine – Information for adults

COVID-19 vaccination – What to expect

These leaflets are available in English, English large print, Arabic, Bengali, Farsi, Gaelic, Hindi, Hungarian, Kurdish Sorani, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Simplified Chinese, Slovakian, Traditional Chinese, and Urdu

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/37397.aspx>

Edinburgh Inter Faith Association

Faith and Compassion: Covid-19 guidance for faith and community groups

<https://www.edinburghinterfaith.com/guidance>

News

Covid in Scotland: Scots ordered to stay at home in new lockdown

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55531069>

One in 12 BAME people work in Covid-hit hospitality roles – study

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/dec/30/one-in-12-bame-people-work-in-covid-hit-hospitality-roles-study>

Catholic Bishops question Scottish Government's closure of Places of Worship

<https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1609848000/article/catholic-bishops-question-scottish-governments-clo.html>

Church closures 'unfair' and 'lacking evidence', say bishops

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55549184>

Covid Scotland: Lockdown ban on church services 'unfair', Catholic Bishops claim

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18988260.covid-scotland-lockdown-ban-church-services-unfair-catholic-bishops-claim/>

C of E bishop warns of church closures due to Covid financial losses

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/05/c-of-e-bishop-warns-of-church-closures-due-to-covid-financial-losses>

Covid will shut many churches for good, warns Bishop of Manchester

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/covid-will-shut-many-churches-for-good-warns-bishop-of-manchester-fvglskpd9>

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Other News

Hope in a time of crisis as Scotland comes together

https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18965991_christmas-messages-hope-time-crisis-scotland-comes-together/

'Nobody goes hungry when the Sikhs are around' – Volunteers deliver 1,000 Dominos pizzas to lorry drivers stuck at UK border

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nobody-goes-hungry-when-sikhs-are-around-volunteers-deliver-1000-dominos-pizzas-lorry-drivers-stuck-uk-border-3078406>

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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>

Stage 1 evidence session, Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13037&i=117906#ScotParlOR>

** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

Proposed amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-21-december-2020.pdf>

** Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/scottish-general-election-coronavirus-bill>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/scottish-general-election-coronavirus-bill/stage-2/bill-as-amended-at-stage-2-scottish-general-election-coronavirus-bill.pdf>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13038&i=117964#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13038&i=117965#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13038&i=117969&c=2309494#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 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

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/>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

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 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>

**** closes this week**

Scotland's Winter Festivals: Burns Night

Closing date 15 January 2021

Grants of up to £1,000 from BEMIS Scotland to begin 2021 with a positive celebration of Burns Night on January 25th. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key

elements of Scotland's past, present and future so BEMIS want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/burns/>

Winter Social Wellbeing Fund (Glasgow)

Closing date 29 January 2021

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership funding for organisations in Glasgow City to support people who may be isolated over the winter months. Priority will be given to organisations working with individuals most at risk of social isolation and loneliness as well as those most impacted by coronavirus. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y22jeads>

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

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

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Emerging Futures: Conversation

- 11 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)
- 13 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)
- 14 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)
- 14 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)
- 15 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)
- 15 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

Amina workshops for women to meet other women and be guided through some simple exercises to help share the highs and lows of 2020. Life in the time of a Pandemic is a creative collaborative project, designed to elevate the voices and experiences of Muslim and BME women in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6fsh994>

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

- 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 or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** Online Security**

- 19 January 2021 (online, 7.00)
- 17 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar on how to protect yourself and your community from online threats. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information about the 19 January webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yy7t7q8m> and for 17 February see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qdpm9y>

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 or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

- 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 or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** Basic security for your place of worship**

21 January 2021 (online, 2.00)

11 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information about the 21 January webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/y5d7dl36> and for 11 February see <https://tinyurl.com/y3u2jzws>

**** Organising security for your place of worship**

25 January 2021 (online, 7.00)

23 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information about the 25 January webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yx8qw3y8> and for 23 February see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg>

**** Security – why? A brief history of terrorism**

28 January 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the evolution of terrorism, recent and current threats and how SAFE can put you on the path to improved security. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy55pasq>

**** Past terror attacks – lessons learned**

2 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the phases of an attack and how we can learn from past incidents to foil future attacks. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyo6wdtr>

No Recourse to Public Funds

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 or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** Hate crime and your community**

8 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about How to deal with racial and religious hatred – especially in the digital age. The webinar will be of interest to any member of a community that feels vulnerable to violent extremism and hate crime. This will include people who regularly attend a place of worship, and in particular community leaders, managers of places of worship and people who wish to become involved in making their community and place of worship as safe as possible. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6p95oal>

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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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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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