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## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### British Nationality: Applications

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [141470]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of available appointments slots with the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services in each of the next three months for people applying for UK citizenship.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS) centres are run by Sopra Steria Ltd (SSL) on behalf of UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI).

UKVCAS appointments are released to all customers simultaneously, irrespective of the route they have applied under.

SSL release new UKVCAS appointments on a daily basis, 28 days in advance. The

number of appointments added into the system is not constant as it depends on a number of factors.

In w/c 18 January 2021, 15,030 appointments were offered across the network of UKVCAS service points.

UKVI works closely with SSL to monitor appointment levels to ensure sufficient appointments are made available overall and including in geographical regions where there appears to be most demand.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141470>

### **British Nationality: Applications**

**Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [141471]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has provided an extension to people applying for British citizenship by naturalisation to provide their fingerprints, photo and additional information and book a citizenship ceremony during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Extra time is being provided to customers applying for British citizenship to enable them to enrol their biometric information, which includes providing their photograph and fingerprints. We are also providing additional time to customers to provide further information in support of their application.

Normally, a customer is required to attend their citizenship ceremony within three months of receiving their invitation from the Home Office. Due to the current pandemic this period has been extended to six months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141471>

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Ian Murray (Labour) [140040]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend Exceptional Assurance from four weeks to six months for people who are unable to travel to their home country due to the covid-19 pandemic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Each request for Exceptional Assurance is dealt with on its own merits and the end date is under constant review.

There is no condition in place limiting Exceptional Assurance to a maximum of four weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140040>

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Ian Murray (Labour) [140042]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the need to reapply for an Exceptional Assurance visa every three to four weeks on a person's (a) mental health, (b) financial situation and (c) ability to maintain stable accommodation.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** There is no current condition in place limiting Exceptional Assurance to four weeks or requiring all covered by one to reapply every three to four weeks, each request for Exceptional Assurance is dealt with on its own merits.

Exceptional Assurance allows for the conditions of a previous grant of leave to continue until its expiration, including the right to rent and the right to work where relevant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140042>

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Ian Murray (Labour) [140041]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of an Exceptional Assurance visa extension of four weeks on a person's ability to remain in or secure rental accommodation.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Each request for Exceptional Assurance is dealt with on its own merits. There is no condition in place limiting Exceptional Assurance to a

maximum of four weeks.

Exceptional Assurance allows for the conditions of a previous grant of leave to continue until its expiration, including the right to rent. We have provided clear guidance on GOV.UK stipulating landlords must take extra care to ensure no one is discriminated against if they are struggling to evidence their right to rent during this pandemic.

The Landlord Checking Service is in place to verify the confirmation of Exceptional Assurance.

This service provides a response within two working days, from receipt of request, providing the landlord with a statutory excuse against liability for a civil penalty.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-landlord-right-to-rent-checks>

<https://eforms.homeoffice.gov.uk/outreach/lcs-application.ofml>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140041>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [141403] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted visa extensions under the scheme of free one-year visa extensions for health workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since the free extension was introduced in March 2020 we have extended the visas of more than 7000 eligible healthcare professionals, and their dependants.

More details of the scheme 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/2021-01-21/141403>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [141404] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people there are whose employers have told UK Visas and Immigration that they are eligible for the free one-year visa extensions for health workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since the free one-year extension scheme was introduced in March 2020, we have extended the visas of more than 7000 eligible healthcare professionals, and their dependants. This work remains ongoing.

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

The available published data shows the numbers of visas granted in each work route but does not provide any data on the specific numbers that have been granted on this scheme nor the number of notifications received by UKVI from employers.

Data on visas granted by category can be found in Vis\_D02 at:

[entry-clearance-visa-outcomes-datasets-sep-2020.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/attachment_data/file/94442/entry-clearance-visa-outcomes-datasets-sep-2020.xlsx)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141404>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)** [141405] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people's biometric residence permits UK Visas and Immigration has received with respect to the free one-year visa extensions for health workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Since the free extension was introduced in March 2020 we have extended the visas of more than 7000 eligible healthcare professionals, and their dependants.

The available published data shows the numbers of visas granted in each work route but does not provide any data on the specific numbers that have been granted

on this scheme nor the number of Biometric Residence Permits received by UKVI. Data on visas granted by category can be found in Vis\_D02 at:

[entry-clearance-visa-outcomes-datasets-sep-2020.xlsx](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141405>

### **Marriage of Convenience**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [142849] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support UK citizens who are victims of immigration marriage fraud.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office takes all allegations of immigration abuse very seriously.

Any British citizen who believes they are a victim of immigration marriage fraud, and were deceived into marriage in order that their partner may obtain some form of leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, can make a request for this to be investigated and action taken where appropriate by completing the 'Report an immigration or border crime' page at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-immigration-crime>

Alternatively, this can be done by calling the Immigration Enforcement Hotline on 0300 123 7000 or by email to the following address:

[nationalallegationsteam@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:nationalallegationsteam@homeoffice.gov.uk)

In some instances it can be difficult to establish a person entered into a relationship in order to abuse the immigration system. However, all allegations will be vetted and assessed and may be referred to the Home Office casework unit for formal investigation. If there is sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation, action will be taken to cancel or remove the partner's leave.

The Home Department is in general unable to provide an update to former partners on what action has been taken due to GDPR constraints. All evidenced allegations will be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate action taken.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142849>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Conor McGinn (Labour)** [140844] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on the use of Mode IV exemptions for mobility.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** It is common for free trade agreements to include Mode IV commitments on the temporary entry of businesspersons. These commitments do not exempt such persons from immigration control.

It is Home Office policy to ensure any such commitments are delivered through its domestic immigration requirements, in particular through the Intra-Company Transfer, Tier 5 International Agreement Worker and Visitor categories of the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140844>

*Information about Mode 4, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement#fn:2>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [141496] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, it she will make it her Department's policy that (a) EU care workers and (b) other EU citizens who are unable to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by the 30 June 2021 because they were unaware of the scheme or the deadline do not lose their status and rights.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has run three bursts of marketing

campaigns for the EU Settlement Scheme, spending £4.6 million, with the latest running throughout December 2020, to encourage EU citizens across the UK to apply. Nearly 4.9 million applications to the scheme had been received by 31 December 2020.

In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government has made clear where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

Non-exhaustive guidance will be published on what constitutes such reasonable grounds, to underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme, based on the circumstances of each case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141496>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [141497] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what adjustments have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme to mitigate the disruptions caused by the covid-19 outbreak in order to ensure that all EU citizens are able to obtain their status through that scheme by the 30 June 2021 deadline.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has continued to receive and process thousands of applications daily to the EU Settlement Scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in nearly 4.9 million applications had been received by 31 December 2020.

Support for applicants who need it has remained available, including from the EU Settlement Resolution Centre and the network of now 72 organisations across the UK grant-funded by the Home Office to help vulnerable people apply to the scheme. In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, the Government has made clear where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

Published guidance for EUSS applicants on the impact of COVID-19 is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141497>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [141482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that victims of modern slavery with EU/EEA nationality living in the UK before December 31 2020 are able to apply for settled status in the event that they do not meet the deadline to apply as a result of their experience of exploitation; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the Government has made clear, where a person has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by EEA citizens and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

Examples of such reasonable grounds will include victims of modern slavery and



other people in abusive or controlling situations or relationships who were prevented from applying. Non-exhaustive guidance will be published on what constitutes such reasonable grounds, to underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications under the scheme, in light of the circumstances of each case.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141482>

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

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

### **National Insurance: EU Nationals**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [141581] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many national insurance numbers have been issued to EU citizens in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Guy Opperman:** The Department publishes quarterly statistics on National Insurance Number (NINo) allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK. All of this information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

The available information on the number of NINos issued in the last 5 years to EU Nationals can be found at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk>

Guidance on how to extract the information required can be found at:

<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/webapi/online-help/Getting-Started.html>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141581>

### **Refugees: Biometric Residence Permits**

**Jessica Morden (Labour)** [142847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken nationally was between an individual receiving a positive decision on refugee status and receiving a biometric residence permit in (a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 and (d) 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office does not keep data relating to the time it takes to deliver a BRP from point of a positive decision, but it does have service level agreements (SLAs) with partners for the creation and delivery of BRPs. The Home Office can also check whether and how quickly an individual BRP was created and delivered.

The Home Office aims to deliver a BRP within 10 working days of an immigration application being approved.

The DVLA, which produces BRPs, has an SLA to complete 90% of production requests within one working day and the remaining 10% within two working days. While this was met consistently until February 2020 the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions and safe working practices have caused occasional delays of up to four working days since April.

Our delivery partner is required to attempt first delivery of 99% of BRP within two working days of collection from DVLA. This target was met up until February 2020 and is 92% since then. We are working to improve our performance in all areas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142847>

### **Sleeping Rough: Coronavirus**

**Taiwo Owatemi (Labour)** [139152] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for what reason his Department has not reissued the guidance to local authorities that initiated the Everybody In scheme, including the sections that covered people who have No Recourse To Public Funds.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** This Government has taken unprecedented steps to

protect rough sleepers during the pandemic. This work has not stopped, and through Everyone In, by November we had supported around 33,000 people with nearly 10,000 in emergency accommodation and over 23,000 already moved on into longer-term accommodation.

Given the new variant of COVID-19, and the new national lockdown, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that people who sleep rough are kept as safe as possible and that we do everything we can to protect the NHS. This is backed by £10 million to protect rough sleepers and ensure their wider health needs are addressed.

We have written to all local authorities, to ensure that even more rough sleepers are safely accommodated, and to ask that this opportunity is actively used to make sure that all rough sleepers are registered with a GP where they are not already and are factored into local area vaccination plans, in line with JCVI prioritisation for COVID vaccinations.

As we set out in that letter the law on eligibility relating to immigration status, including for those with No Recourse to Public Funds, remains in place. Local authorities must use their judgement in assessing what support they may lawfully give to those who might otherwise be ineligible for support as a result of immigration status. This should be carried out on an individual basis, considering that person's specific circumstances and support needs. Local authorities already make similar judgements on accommodating otherwise ineligible individuals during extreme weather, for example, where there is a risk to life.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139152>

### **Immigrants: Sleeping Rough**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2021 to Question 131225, if she will include in the guidance to be published on the Immigration Rule which makes provision for the discretionary refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK on the grounds of rough sleeping, content stating that that Rule should only be used sparingly, and as a last resort where a person sleeping rough refuses offers of support and engages in persistent anti-social behaviour.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Guidance on the application of the new Immigration Rule relating to rough sleeping will be issued in due course and will make clear to decision-makers the circumstances in which permission to enter or stay in the UK may be cancelled on the basis of rough sleeping.

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/2021-01-19/140028>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131225>

### **Asylum**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are awaiting (a) an initial decision and (b) a further review of their claim for asylum; and what steps she is taking to ensure claims are assessed (i) fairly and (ii) within an appropriate timeframe.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review and can be found at Asy\_04 of the published Immigration Statistics, Asylum applications awaiting a decision, by duration:

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

There are a number of factors that contribute to the length of time to process asylum claims but we are determined to clear the outstanding cases, speed up decisions and prevent people becoming stuck in the system for long periods of time.

We are working to streamline cases and have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability, those in receipt of the greatest level of support including, Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, and those that require a reconsideration.

Asylum Operations has developed a recovery plan focused on returning interviews and decisions back to pre-COVID-19 levels as soon as possible. We are also seeking to secure temporary resources to assist from within the Home Office and other government departments, along with other potential options. We are also progressing transformation plans and looks at ways to reform a broken system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140020>

### Asylum

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140021] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has (a) identified and (b) made an assessment of asylum claimants from certain nationalities or groups who could be offered protection without the need for a lengthy interview process; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office carefully considers all asylum claims on a case by case basis, irrespective of their nationality or group, based on their individual merits, against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information.

In most asylum cases we will ask the claimant to complete a Preliminary Information Questionnaire (PIQ). Children who claim asylum are asked to complete a Statement of Evidence Form (SEF). The information contained in the PIQ (or SEF) will be used alongside all of the other evidence already held about the claim to help determine whether or not it is appropriate to omit an asylum interview.

The criteria for when a substantive asylum interview can be omitted are contained in Paragraph 339NA of the Immigration Rules and include cases where we are able to take a positive decision on the basis of evidence available, or if the claimant is unfit or unable to be interviewed owing to enduring circumstances beyond their control. It would be inappropriate to adopt a blanket approach to certain nationalities or groups because of the differing circumstances of each claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140021>

*The section of the Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-part-11-asylum>

### Asylum: LGBT People

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140022] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the effect on the mental health of LGBT+ asylum applicants of (a) delays to asylum interviews and (b) the asylum interview process.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In respect to the time taken from registering a protection claim to the point of asylum interview, no assessment of the effect on the mental health of LGBT+ asylum applicants has been made.

There are a number of factors that contribute to the length of time to process asylum claims but we are determined to clear the backlog, speed up decisions and prevent people becoming stuck in the system for long periods of time. We have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability.

Our published policy guidance on both the asylum interview process for all



claimants and our policy guidance products specifically in respect to LGBT+ claims are currently being updated. Both policies have been considered in line with our Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in respect to LGBT+ individuals.

Our policy recognises that for applicants affirming an LGBT+ identity, they may not have spoken about intimate personal issues before and may have experienced hostile cultural, societal, familial and religious norms concerning the expression of LGBT+ identities in their home countries. This means it may be difficult for them to be open about their feelings, experiences and their fears of persecution during the interview process. Our policy, therefore, requires that account is taken of all relevant factors when establishing the applicants claim including any health issues that may be raised.

We provide extensive training to our caseworkers to ensure they can sensitively explore an individual's sexual and/or gender identity and in considering how sexuality or a transgender identity can give rise to persecutory harm.

As part of our improvements to customer service, asylum interviews have been conducted via video conference (VC) from regional interview hubs since 2015. The suitability of a VC interview will be assessed using evidence submitted by the claimant or their legal representative prior to the interview, along with any ongoing or identified safeguarding concerns. Where a claimant is identified as being unsuitable for a VC interview because there are safeguarding concerns or factors that may prevent them from disclosing sensitive information, an in-person interview will be arranged.

Our interview process, irrespective of whether it is conducted by VC or face to face facilitates early signposting of safeguarding concerns to appropriate agencies who can support LGBT+ individuals and where medical evidence concerning an applicant's vulnerability is brought to our attention, any request to prioritise a case will be taken into account.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140022>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142954] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 October 2020 to Question 93608 on Asylum: Housing, which (a) disused military barracks, (b) former young offender institutes and (c) other sites are (i) in use and (b) under consideration for being used as temporary alternative accommodation for asylum seekers.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142955] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what comparative assessment she has made of the safety of (a) military barracks and other such temporary alternative asylum accommodation sites, (b) existing immigration detention centres and (c) hotels and other such asylum accommodation under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason she took the decision to use temporary alternative asylum accommodation instead of (a) increasing use of hotels and other such asylum accommodation under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and (b) using existing immigration detention centres; and if she will make a statement.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [142958] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are detained in military barracks and other temporary alternative asylum accommodation sites by site at the most recent date for which that information is available; and how many of those people have been moved to those sites from (a) an asylum intake unit, (b) an immigration detention centre and (c) accommodation under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or other asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Two former Ministry of Defence sites, Napier Barracks

and Penally Training Camp are currently in use. We continue to explore further options to ensure that we continue meet our statutory obligations to support and accommodate destitute asylum seekers at all times.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have taken decisive action to ensure that those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom have the support they need.

We have provided accommodation and support for everyone in the asylum system, including those whose applications have been rejected and new applicants who have claimed.

Given the unique challenges over recent months, it has been necessary to use additional hotel accommodation and two former Ministry of Defence sites in Napier and Penally, on a temporary, contingency basis to ensure there is always sufficient capacity to deliver our statutory obligations to destitute asylum seekers. We continue to examine further options to ensure we maintain the robustness of our contingency planning and take full account of all relevant factors in doing so, engaging with partner organisations as necessary.

Multi-agency forums including public health partners and emergency services were established when the Minister of Defence sites were stood up and these continue to meet regularly.

The safety and health of people in the detention estate is of the utmost importance. The Home Office has robust contingency plans in place and continues to follow national guidance issued by Public Health England (PHE), Health Protection Scotland and the National Health Service (NHS).

All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have communicable disease contingency plans, based on PHE advice, and dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours and have access to medical assistance throughout their detention. In addition, we are in the process of rolling out COVID 19 testing on reception in all IRCs.

Increased asylum intake, alongside measures taken to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, has meant that the Home Office has had to deal with growing demand for asylum support and accommodation services.

In recent months we have faced additional challenges which have required us in some instances to use contingency accommodation, including hotels, to fulfil our statutory obligations to house destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.

Even with the use of hotels, there has remained the need to increase capacity further to ensure statutory obligations are met at all times. Following a review of available government property, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) agreed to temporarily hand over two of their sites: the Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire and the Napier Barracks in Kent.

These sites were immediately available to be used to house asylum seekers and are safe, secure, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation.

In order to reduce the use of such contingency accommodation we have been working closely with local authorities and devolved administrations to identify opportunities to increase the amount of dispersal accommodation available and to assist those that are no longer eligible for asylum support to 'move-on' from asylum accommodation. It remains our intention to move all individuals in contingency accommodation into suitable dispersed accommodation as soon as reasonably practical; however, our immediate priority is to ensure that we continue to meet our legal duty to house destitute asylum seekers and ensure their safety and well-being.

The Home Office does not detain anyone in temporary asylum accommodation.

Our accommodation providers do not have enforcement powers and those we are accommodating are free to come and go as they please.

We do not publish the information requested, although the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority can be found at

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142954>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142955>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142956>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142958>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93608>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [143016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what on-site mental health support is available to asylum seekers housed in (a) Napier Barracks and (b) Penally Training Camp.

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [143017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much the Government has paid Clearsprings Ready Homes to manage temporary asylum seeker accommodation during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Rupa Huq (Labour)** [143018] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to improve living conditions at the (a) Napier and (b) Penally barracks temporary asylum seeker accommodation sites.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We provide asylum seekers with safe, Covid-compliant and weather-proof accommodation along with nutritious meals, free of charge.

The MOD training camps were previously used to accommodate military personnel and the Home Office is required by law to provide support including accommodation to asylum seekers, who would otherwise be destitute whilst their claims are being considered.

We take the welfare of those in our care extremely seriously and asylum seekers can contact the 24/7 helpline run by Migrant Help if they have any issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143016>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143017>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143018>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [140867] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on how many calls have been made to Migrant Help from residents at Napier Barracks since it started being used as asylum accommodation.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [140868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the ratio is of bathrooms to residents at Napier Barracks.

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [140869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are currently being housed at Napier Barracks; and how many of those people have tested positive for covid-19 in the most recent period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There are currently 381 asylum seekers accommodated at Napier Barracks, Kent.

We take the welfare of those in our care seriously and we have robust measures in place to deal with any cases of Covid-19. Our accommodation provider Clearsprings have an outbreak management plan which is enacted if there are positive Covid-19 tests and the Home Office is following national guidance in relation to testing.

Despite our best efforts a number of those accommodated at the site have tested positive for coronavirus and are self-isolating. Asylum seekers at the barracks must self-isolate if they test positive or have been exposed to someone who has.

We are working closely with the local health authority and Public Health England and additional support staff, as well as on site medical staff, are there to ensure that all individuals who have to self-isolate can do so and are following all medical advice. The accommodation at Napier has been arranged to allow for social distancing and Covid safety in line with public health advice. This includes limiting occupancy of each dormitory to a maximum of 14 persons, with each dormitory effectively operating as a separate household on site.

There is a ratio of 1:5 showers, these are separate showers inside and in portable units. There is also a ratio of 1:5 toilets and additional urinals inside the blocks and separate toilet cubicles inside portable units.

The Home Office does not publish information on the number of telephone calls made to Migrant Help from asylum seekers. This not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140867>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140868>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140869>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Napier Barracks**

**Damian Collins (Conservative)** [142898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department has received from Public Health England on policies for mitigating the spread of covid-19 amongst people living and working at the asylum seeker accommodation centre at Napier Barracks in Folkestone.

**Damian Collins (Conservative)** [142899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have applied for asylum in the UK (a) have been accommodated at Napier Barracks in Folkestone, (b) are currently being accommodated there; what the average length of stay has been; and whether asylum seekers who have not previously stayed at the Barracks will be accommodated there in the future.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We are working closely with our providers, and with Public Health England, to ensure that all individuals who have to self-isolate can do so and are following all medical advice closely.

We take the welfare of those in our care extremely seriously and asylum seekers can contact the 24/7 helpline run by Migrant Help if they have any issues.

We do not publish the information requested, although the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority can be found at

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

At present the Home Office will continue to regularly move small numbers of people out of Napier barracks into Dispersal Accommodation in line with business as usual processes and will continue to route new people into Napier in line with public health guidance.

Those asylum seekers being moved to Dispersal Accommodation will not be moved to the other Ministry of Defence site currently in use (Penally Training Camp). This site is also providing temporary contingency accommodation for asylum seekers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142898>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142899>

### **Asylum: Homelessness**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [140128] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place to ensure that people who have been refused asylum will not become homeless 21 days after receiving their cessation letter.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office took the decision to pause cessations of asylum support on 27 March 2020, so that asylum seekers whose cases were resolved and who would no longer normally be eligible for asylum support would be able to remain in their accommodation and follow the public health guidance in place at that time.

Some “negative cessations” (where the person has been refused asylum and exhausted their appeal rights) resumed from September but were paused again in November following the imposition of stronger lockdown measures. These decisions currently remain paused pending consideration of the impact of the current coronavirus restrictions.

Failed asylum seekers have no basis of stay in the UK and are encouraged and supported to return to their countries of origin where appropriate. The Home Office will pay for the cost of their return home and provides generous reintegration assistance. Where there is a legitimate reason why a person who has been refused asylum cannot return to their country of origin, they can apply for further support from the Home Office under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Before taking any decision to resume negative cessations we will continue to work with and share our approach with Public Health authorities and will work within public health guidelines and legal advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140128>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Homelessness**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [141484] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has consulted public health directors on the potential effect on public health of the cessation of people's refugee status in areas where those people are due to receive eviction letters from asylum accommodation.

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [141485] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what safeguards are in place to ensure that people who have been refused asylum will not become homeless after 21 days of receiving their cessation letter.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights are eligible to receive accommodation and other support provided they take reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a legal or practical obstacle to their departure. The Home Office Voluntary Returns Scheme pays for the flight to the home country and provides reintegration assistance.

Only failed asylum seekers who are able to take steps to leave the UK, but choose not to, are therefore issued with notices that their support will be discontinued.

The process of issuing discontinuation notices is kept under regular review, taking consideration of public health guidance.

These decisions currently remain paused pending consideration of the impact of the current coronavirus restrictions.

We have been working closely with National and Local health Colleagues



throughout the pandemic to inform our approach and will continue to do so.

Before taking any decision to resume negative cessations we will continue to work with and share our approach with Public Health authorities and will work within public health guidelines and legal advice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141484>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141485>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [141561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2021 to Question 136619 on Asylum: Military Bases, what the Government's timetable is for the transfer of all individuals of the Penally training camp.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [141562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were housed at the Penally training camp as at 21 January 2021.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [141563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans for the cessation of transfers of asylum seekers into the Penally training camp.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [141564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January to Question 136619 on Asylum: Military Bases, what (a) type of accommodation and (b) location asylum seekers being transferred out of the Penally training camp are being placed in.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [141565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 January 2021 to Question 136619, whether other Ministry of Defence sites will be used to house individuals being transferred out of the Penally training camp.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** There are currently 118 asylum seekers accommodated at Penally training camp, Pembrokeshire.

The Home Office and Clearsprings Ready Homes have worked intensively with Welsh Government, Public Health Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board and Dyfed, Powys police and other partners as we have stood up and are now operating on the site.

The Penally training camp is temporary, contingency accommodation whilst we continue to address the issues putting pressure on our asylum accommodation. The MOD has given permission to use the site for 12 months.

At present the Home Office will continue to regularly move small numbers of people out of Penally into Dispersal Accommodation in line with business as usual processes and will continue to route new people into Penally in line with public health guidance.

Those asylum seekers being moved to Dispersal Accommodation will not be moved to the other Ministry of Defence site currently in use; Napier Barracks. This site is also providing temporary contingency accommodation for asylum seekers whilst their claims are examined.

Accommodation for supported asylum seekers is arranged by private sector providers through contractual arrangements with the Home Office. Dispersal Accommodation is a mixture of Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's), flats, houses or hostel-based properties. Location will be based on the availability of properties suitable for each asylum seekers needs.

Our accommodation providers are also working to maximise accommodation procurement opportunities throughout the UK, however they can only do so with local authority agreement. It is our intention to move all individuals in contingency

accommodation into suitable dispersed accommodation dependent upon it becoming available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141561>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141562>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141563>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141564>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141565>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-12/136619>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [140892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the covid-19 audit reports of the (a) Penally training camp, (b) Napier barracks and (c) hotels which are being used as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers.

#### **Asylum: Military Bases**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [140893] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the correspondence her Department has had with the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration regarding an inspection of (a) Penally training camp (b) Napier barracks.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [140894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking in order to facilitate a comprehensive inspection of the temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers at the Penally training camp by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

#### **Asylum: Housing**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [140895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what planning her Department has undertaken to provide contingency accommodation for asylum seekers beyond 2021.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** As required by law, we provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with accommodation, paid for by the taxpayer.

We welcome independent scrutiny and routinely facilitate inspections by the ICIBI or another relevant body.

The Department is responding to further preliminary enquiries made by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration but has not yet received a formal notice of inspection. Preliminary correspondence is not routinely published but the ICIBI may include relevant information in any final inspection report that is published on gov.uk.

The Home Office is currently reviewing the recommendations of the rapid review and, as previously stated, will seek to publish a summary of the recommendations. Our ambition is to house asylum seekers within the asylum estate without the need for contingency accommodation. We are working to address the issues putting pressure on our asylum accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140892>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140893>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-20/140894>

and

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Housing**

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [141528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2021 to Question 136007, if she will publish data on the number of medical assessments that have taken place for asylum seekers who are housed in barracks.

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [141529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2021 to question 136008, how much new community-based dispersal accommodation has been procured since the covid-19 lockdown announced in March 2020.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We take the welfare of those in our care very seriously. We provide asylum seekers in supported accommodation with safe, Covid-compliant accommodation along with free nutritious meals, all paid for by the taxpayer. This includes providing asylum seekers with privacy and confidentiality as would be expected by those seeking sanctuary in the UK where it would be damaging for their identities to be revealed.

The Home Office therefore do not publish data on medical assessments relating to service users.

Procurement of accommodation was on hold due to constraints, availability and Local Authority pressures in relation to Covid 19.

We have established the Local Government Chief Executive Group (HOLGCEX) group to bring together senior representatives from Home Office, Local Government Association and local authorities with the aim of working in partnership to improve the asylum dispersal process for the people who use this service and the communities in which they reside.

We are trying to implement national structures across 150 LAs who will have a localised view and their own processes and practice. To allow us to better engage, we fund SMPs by region to enhance engagement. Furthermore, when procuring dispersed property there is a process to follow which includes consultation with LAs and statutory bodies.

We will continue our work through Home Office and Local Governments Chief Executives (HOLGCEX) group, and the Director and Deputy Director have been having 1 to 1 engagement with Chief Executives to discuss latest plans. We have also stood up a programme team to increase procurement across the UK, but we can only do so where Local Authorities agree we can procure in their area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141528>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141529>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136007>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-11/136008>

### **Asylum: Employment**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140024] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people awaiting a decision on their asylum application have the right to work.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

The Home Office are unable to state how many people awaiting a decision on their asylum application have the right to work as this information is not held in a reportable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

The Home Office do publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision or further review and can be found at Asy\_04 of the published Immigration Statistics, Asylum applications awaiting a decision, by duration:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140024>

### **Asylum: Employment**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [140025] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the potential additional tax revenues that would result from abolishing the restriction requiring asylum-seekers to only enter employment which is on the Shortage Occupation List.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue. A review of the policy is ongoing, and we are considering the evidence put forward on the issue. The findings of the review will be announced once the work has been completed

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140025>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [141606] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to enable remote asylum interviews for unaccompanied children where a responsible adult must be present.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Following the suspension of asylum interviews at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020 the Home Office worked on implementing plans to restart asylum interviews as soon as it was safe to do so. Adult interviews restarted in July 2020 and interviews involving unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and young people restarted in September 2020 (where a responsible adult must be present).

The Home Office has continued to develop use of remote digital interviewing to complement existing face to face interviews. The Home Office has successfully completed a remote interviewing proof of concept with Kent County Council. The Home Office is already engaged in working with all UK Local Authorities to roll out remote interviewing of UASC and young people nationally, where there is agreement to help expand capacity and capability.

Additionally, children who claim asylum are asked to complete a Statement of Evidence Form (SEF). The information contained in SEF will be used alongside all of the other evidence already held about the claim to help determine whether or not it is appropriate to omit an asylum interview.

The criteria for when a substantive asylum interview can be omitted are contained in Paragraph 339NA of the Immigration Rules and include cases where we are able to take a positive decision on the basis of evidence available, or if the claimant is unfit or unable to be interviewed owing to enduring circumstances beyond their control. It would be inappropriate to adopt a blanket approach to certain nationalities or groups because of the differing circumstances of each claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141606>

*The paragraph of Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-part-11-asylum>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [141607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many children have been waiting nine months or longer for a decision on their asylum application in the most recent period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office does not publish data on how many children has been waiting nine months or longer for a decision on their asylum application.

However, the Home Office do publish data on the number of Asylum applications awaiting a decision, by duration, as part of the published Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2020, at asy\_04:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141607>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [141608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have had decisions made on their asylum application without requiring an interview in the last nine months.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office are unable to state how many children have had decisions made on their asylum application without requiring an interview in the last nine months as this information is not published.

However, the Home Office can state the number of Initial decisions on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), by outcome year ending September, as part of the published Immigration Statistics found at Asy\_02b:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141608>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [141609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which local authorities have agreed to facilitate remote interviews following her proof-of-concept exercise with Kent county council to conduct unaccompanied asylum-seeking children interviews in its local offices.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** After a successful proof of concept with Kent County Council, the Home Office has expanded the programme of facilitated remote interviews for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to all Local Authorities across the United Kingdom.

Early indications are there is significant interest, however discussions are still ongoing with Local Authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141609>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [139064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people detained in immigration removal centres are women.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people in detention under immigration powers, are published in Table Det\_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Further breakdowns by gender can be found in the [Immigration detention detailed datasets](#)

Figures on people in detention at the end of December 2020 will be published on 25 February 2021.



Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the ['Research and statistics calendar'](https://research-and-statistics.parliament.uk/)  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139064>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [141555] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Detention Services Order (DSO) 06/2016 Women in the detention estate, whether the constant supervision of women subject to an Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) plan who are detained in (a) Colnbrook and (b) Dungavel immigration removal centres is only undertaken by female detainee custody officers.

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

As set out in Detention Services Order 06/2016 'Women in the detention estate' the constant supervision of women held in the immigration detention estate who are subject to an ACDT plan must be undertaken by a female detainee custody officer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141555>

*The Operating Standard referred to above can be read on pages 74-75 at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257352/operatingstandards\\_manual.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257352/operatingstandards_manual.pdf)

*Detention Services Order 06/2008, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257720/assessment-care-in-detention.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257720/assessment-care-in-detention.pdf)

*Detention Services Order 06/2016, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/531270/DSO\\_06-2016\\_women\\_in\\_the\\_detention\\_estate.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/531270/DSO_06-2016_women_in_the_detention_estate.pdf)

### **Deportation**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [139063] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportation flights have been carried out by her Department in the last twelve months; and what the departure and arrival locations were for these flights.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** In the last twelve months, 49 charter deportation flights have left the UK to a range of destinations globally.

Every week we remove people who have no right to be here from the UK to different countries. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to return and deport foreign national offenders and other immigration offenders where flight routes have been available to us, both on scheduled flights and charter flights.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-18/139063>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### EU-UK Joint Political Declaration on Asylum and Returns

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to implement the United Kingdom-European Union Joint Political Declaration on Asylum and Returns.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):** My Lords, the joint political declaration notes the importance of effectively managing migratory flows between the UK and the EU. The UK will continue to engage bilaterally and multilaterally with member states with which we have a mutual interest on returns or family reunions of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This reaffirms the important commitments already made in Parliament. This work is ongoing.

**Lord Dubs:** My Lords, the Minister will be aware that, yesterday at a Holocaust Memorial Day event, her Cabinet colleague Robert Jenrick made a very positive statement about refugees. May I ask her specifically about the discussions that are taking place about child refugees with EU countries? Have these discussions started? If not, when will they start and with which countries will they take place?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I know I will disappoint the noble Lord when I say that I will not be giving a running commentary on discussions but, yes, they have started and will be ongoing.

**Baroness Goudie (Labour):** My Lords, these events have occurred against a background of reports of disturbing reforms in the British asylum system, including having asylum seekers in places where it is impossible for them to gain access to complete their asylum forms and to get medical attention. What will the world think of Britain's reputation when we are not being very helpful to future generations and those who have families here in the UK? Will the Minister follow through from her answer to my noble friend and say when we are really going to start being serious about assisting these families and individuals?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My Lords, I completely reject the notion that our asylum accommodation is not fit for purpose. The barracks that we used last year and continue to use are of a standard that we would expect in terms of access to medical and legal assistance. The accommodation is fully equipped to deal with anybody's needs in terms of medical attention and legal requirements.

**The Lord Bishop of Durham:** Does the Minister accept that some countries in Europe, such as Greece, Italy and France, are particularly important in bilateral negotiations? Will she confirm that a priority list of whom to engage with has been done and is being worked to?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The right reverend Prelate is absolutely right to say that there are some countries where there will be more returns and relationships in terms of asylum seekers. I can confirm that those talks are ongoing; what I cannot do is give an ongoing commentary on them.

**Baroness Helic (Conservative):** My Lords, can my noble friend confirm that, following the end of the transition period, the Government published an overview of family reunion routes under the Immigration Rules, as promised during the passage of the immigration Bill? I would be grateful for an update on when, and whether, they also published clear guidance on the savings provisions, under which the UK processes all Dublin regulations requests received before the end of December.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I can confirm to my noble friend that new guidance, providing an overview of family reunion routes under, and outside of, the Immigration Rules, has been published on GOV.UK. Those Immigration Rules are unaffected by the end of the transition period. We have also taken steps to ensure that Dublin family reunion cases which entered the system before the end of the transition period continue to be processed after 31 December 2020, and we

have published guidance on the savings provisions.

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the agreement between the European Union and ourselves says that the UK's intention is "to engage in bilateral discussion" with the member states most concerned. That is the promise. To what extent have such discussions started and with which states, and has any agreement been reached?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I can confirm that those discussions have started, but I cannot comment on the status of ongoing negotiations.

**Baroness Neville-Rolfe (Conservative):** Does the Minister appreciate the growing evidence that some bogus asylum seekers are claiming to be the victims of trafficking and/or modern slavery in order to bolster their claims, whether they arrive from the EU or elsewhere? What measures does she propose to deal with this?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I am very glad that my noble friend has asked that question, because the Home Secretary has outlined very clearly that we want safe and legal routes. She mentions trafficking and traffickers. Of course, at the heart of some of the small-boats activity are some of the worst types of criminality, committed by those who really do not have any care for the human lives that might be lost.

**The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench):** My Lords, Dublin III has been one of the many serious casualties of Brexit, as the Minister well knows. Can she confirm that the joint declaration will soon lead to a new agreement in the best interests of the child—at least in France? She must be as impatient as any of us to reach that agreement. Can she reassure me that the joint Calais reception arrangements, which came in time, are now working efficiently?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I can categorically state that we are no longer part of Dublin, and we do not intend to open up that agreement again. As of not last year but the year before, we are not a member of the European Union. In the course of the immigration Bill, I outlined how routes would be open to people who needed our asylum and to unaccompanied children.

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** The Government said during the immigration Bill proceedings that they would carry out a review of safe and legal asylum routes. They promised a Statement on the terms of the review within three months of the Act passing, which will be reached on 11 February. Can the Minister give an update on progress on the Statement on the terms of the review and say whether it will be forthcoming by no later than 11 February? Also, how long is it expected to take to complete the review?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** That is something that I checked on before I left the department this morning, so I can absolutely confirm that we will lay a Statement before Parliament providing those further details by 10, not 11, February 2021.

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, can the Minister update the House on current government policy towards asylum seekers whom the Government would have returned to their point of entry into the EU under the Dublin regulations prior to the trade and co-operation agreement coming into force?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As I said to noble Lords who asked this previously, routes are available to people who wish to seek our asylum. Those routes have always existed. We were never going to be involved in Dublin beyond our exit from the European Union. My right honourable friend the Home Secretary will, in due course, lay out those safe and legal routes. We will also continue to give people who need our protection refuge in this country.

**Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench):** My Lords, I have consistently argued for a more Christian approach to those seeking asylum after losing loved ones, homes and livelihoods as a result of proxy conflict between the great powers seeking to extend their influence in areas such as the Middle East, with bombs, rockets and drone strikes. Does

the Minister agree that countries that behave in that way have a basic moral obligation to look to the well-being of those seeking refuge?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Countries that behave in the way that the noble Lord has outlined clearly do not have regard for the well-being or humanity of their people. I think he will be satisfied by the fact that we will take a whole-of-world approach to resettlement and that asylum will be based on people's need for our protection, as opposed to where they have come from.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-28/debates/26429C33-16EF-4D9B-90A2-9932EFD41AED/EU-UKJointPoliticalDeclarationOnAsylumAndReturns>

*The Joint Political Declaration referred to above can be read on p10 at*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/948105/EU-UK\\_Declarations\\_24.12.2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948105/EU-UK_Declarations_24.12.2020.pdf)

*The Family Reunion Guidance referred to above can be read at*  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/947613/overview-family-reunion-options-in-rules-v1.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947613/overview-family-reunion-options-in-rules-v1.0ext.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/947066/family-reunion-guidance-v5.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947066/family-reunion-guidance-v5.0ext.pdf)

## Press Release

**Hong Kong BN(O) visa: UK government to honour historic commitment**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hong-kong-bno-visa-uk-government-to-honour-historic-commitment>

## New Publications

**The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/957058/BN\\_O\\_Leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957058/BN_O_Leaflet.pdf)

**Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/955941/hong-kong-bn\\_o\\_v1.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955941/hong-kong-bn_o_v1.0ext.pdf)

**Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) citizens from Hong Kong at the UK border and in the UK before 31 March 2021**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0067/Kevin\\_Foster\\_MP\\_to\\_HASC\\_Chair.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0067/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_HASC_Chair.pdf)

and

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0067/Annex\\_A\\_and\\_B\\_MAs.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0067/Annex_A_and_B_MAs.pdf)

**Scottish Refugee Council: Tools to support individual refugees**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-individual-refugees-1.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Building national and regional infrastructure to support refugee integration**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Building-infrastructure-to-support-refugee-integration-2.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Tools to support community integration**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-community-integration-3.pdf>

**New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities Evaluation Report**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/New-Scots-integration-rights-and-communities-evaluation-2020.pdf>

**Refugee Integration in Scotland: Public Attitude Research Survation**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Refugee-integration-public-attitudes-research-2020.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Scotland's Welcome An analysis of community support for refugee integration**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Community-support-analysis-2020.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: North East Regional Gathering Review Report**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/North-East-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: South East Regional Gathering Review Report**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/South-East-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: South West Regional Gathering Review Report**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/South-West-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Equalities Gathering – Housing**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Housing-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Equalities Gathering – Health and Wellbeing**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Health-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Equalities Gathering – Education**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Education-gathering.pdf>

**Scottish Refugee Council: Equalities Gathering – Employability & Welfare**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Employment-and-welfare-gathering.pdf>

**New Scots Holidays: A handbook for setting up a holiday hosting scheme**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Setting-up-a-holiday-hosting-scheme-2020.pdf>

## News

**Hong Kong residents now eligible for special UK visa**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55847572>



## **Hong Kong: What is the BNO visa?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-55852628>

## **Hongkongers prepare to give up city they love and become British**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hongkongers-prepare-to-give-up-city-they-love-and-become-british-d8m6s69rm>

## **Concern about accommodation for mothers and babies**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/concern-about-accommodation-for-mothers-and-babies/>

## **Napier Barracks: Five arrests over asylum centre fire**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-55870808>

## **Channel migrants set fire to Kent barracks after Covid outbreak**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/01/29/channel-migrants-set-fire-kent-barracks-covid-outbreak/>

## **Exceptional circumstances not required to deport third-country national parent of EU citizen child**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/exceptional-circumstances-not-required-to-deport-third-country-national-parent-of-eu-citizen-child-20xb5r7l3>

TOP

## **Equality**

### **Scottish Parliament Motion**

**Mary Fee (Labour) [S5M-23987] University of Strathclyde Signs the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater into Higher Education Pledge** – That the Parliament recognises the University of Strathclyde for being the first Scottish higher education institution to sign the Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater into Higher Education Pledge; understands that this was launched on 20 January 2021 in a bid to increase support and representation in academia of people from Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showman and Boater (GTRSB) communities; notes that only 3% to 4% of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller populations aged 18 to 30 access higher education, compared with 43% of the general population; acknowledges that, as part of its pledge, the University of Strathclyde will now have a named contact for GTRSB students, develop and promote guidance for staff regarding GTRSB students, and will include existing GTRSB students in support offerings, including the Strathclyde Cares scheme, and encourages other higher education institutions in Scotland to sign the pledge so that more of Scotland's GTRSB young people feel welcome in higher education settings.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23987>

### **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [1398] Access to PrEP for Black communities** – That this House is concerned that there is inequitable access for all who need access to the HIV prevention pill pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP); notes that PrEP is highly effective at

stopping HIV and extremely cost-effective when compared with a lifetime of HIV treatment; further notes that in the UK, Black African men and women are the second-largest group affected by HIV; recognises that there was disappointingly low coverage of access to PrEP on the Impact trial for women and Black communities; is aware that the routine commissioning of PrEP has focused on providing access to individuals previously on the Impact trial; calls on local commissioners and councils to provide equitable access to all high-risk individuals who need access to PrEP; further calls on the Government to increase funding for PrEP in 2021; and urges local public health teams to improve knowledge about PrEP among Black communities.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58000>

## New Publications

**Housing Needs of Minority Ethnic Groups: Evidence Review**

<https://tinyurl.com/y5ysm2mk>

**Letter from Johnny Mercer MP to John Healey MP regarding the number of UK Regular Personnel who are of BAME ethnicity and have been promoted from the other ranks into the officer ranks**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0065/Letter to John Healey MP following WPQ.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0065/Letter%20to%20John%20Healey%20MP%20following%20WPQ.pdf)

**Equality Act 2010 guiding principles for associations**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-2010-guiding-principles-associations>

## News

**'No limits to what black scientists can achieve'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-55845532>

**Black and minority ethnic (BME) workers have been hit much harder by job losses during the pandemic**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/black-and-minority-ethnic-bme-workers-have-been-hit-much-harder-job-losses-during-pandemic>

**Travellers: Shocking lack of pitches for families, charity warns**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55702780>

**Free anthology of black authors to be given to all primary schools in England**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-55836703>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Alexander Stewart (Conservative) [S5M-23956] Holocaust Memorial Day 2021** – That the Parliament acknowledges Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) on 27 January 2021; notes

that HMD was established in 2000 and is marked each year on 27 January, which is the anniversary date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau; acknowledges that, around this day, schools, communities and faith groups across the UK join together in national and local events to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and of more recent genocides across the world, such as Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur and Rwanda, and that this is an opportunity to consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust; notes that the day is co-ordinated by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, which was founded in 2005; further notes that, as the Holocaust Educational Trust marks HMD 2021, it encourages reflection on Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, and of the legacy of Holocaust survivors and of educating the next generation to carry these stories forward; acknowledges the HMD 2021 theme, Be the Light in the Darkness, and considers that, for most, the story of the Holocaust was not the story of successful resistance or rescue, or of survival, and that justice was not served.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23956>

## Scottish Parliament Time For Reflection

### Time for Reflection

**Lucy Craven (Lessons from Auschwitz Ambassador, Holocaust Educational Trust):** ... we were fortunate to hear the first-hand testimony of Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke BEM. Eva told us that she was born in Mauthausen concentration camp just days before it was liberated. She also spoke about her parents' experiences of camps and ghettos. Although Eva and her mother survived, both her father and her brother were murdered.

Hearing Eva's testimony enabled me to rehumanise the 6 million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered in the Holocaust. When we visited the site of the former Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, Eva's experiences stayed with me the whole time. As I walked along the railway track at the entrance to the camp, I thought of the journey that her mother and father would have made.

We must see beyond the numbers and remember that the victims of the Holocaust were people, the same as you and me, who had their lives cruelly taken away.

**Zuzanna Wisniewska (Lessons from Auschwitz Ambassador, Holocaust Educational Trust):** Before visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau, I did not know what to expect. Once there, I found it hard to comprehend that I was standing at the site that I had learned about, at which more than a million people had been murdered.

Once we had returned home, I began to grasp the importance of visiting such a site and its contemporary relevance. I began thinking about my role in ensuring that the Holocaust is never forgotten. Lucy and I decided that we wanted to share what we had learned and to encourage other students at our school to remember the Holocaust. We chose to deliver a reflective lesson to a junior class, looking at pre-war Jewish life and photographs of the communities that were torn apart and destroyed by the Holocaust.

It is important that young people ensure that the testimonies of survivors such as Eva Clarke are never forgotten. Such experiences serve as a reminder of what can happen when hate is left unchallenged.

This year, Holocaust memorial day's theme is "Be the light in the darkness". We will stand against hatred only when we choose to be kind and choose to be the light.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13077&i=118323#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-28/debates/COFE9708-9882-4882-B192-BAB440CDC202/HolocaustMemorialDay2021>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Racial Discrimination and Sexual Offences: Females

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [141494] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support her Department provides to specialist services for women who experience racism and who have survived sexual exploitation.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** All forms of sexual violence are terrible crimes and the Government continues to fund support to victims.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we allocated £76m to support victims of modern slavery, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This included a £25m package to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, £10m of which was ringfenced for organisations supporting victims of sexual violence. The Ministry of Justice have also recently announced that £10.1m will be provided to rape and domestic abuse support centres and Police and Crime Commissioners to fund services in local areas. The Home Office is also providing £200,000 in 2020/21 to specialist sexual violence support services through its National Sexual Violence Support Fund.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice has awarded £12 million to 91 rape support centres across England and Wales to provide independent, specialist support to female and male victims of sexual violence, including victims of child sexual abuse. This is an increase of £4 million from 2019/20, and a total investment of £32m over three years from April 2019 to March 2022.

An additional £4m per annum until 2022 is also being invested in recruiting more Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) to help victims feel informed and supported at every stage of their recovery journey.

We understand that individuals can be the victims of multiple and different abusive behaviours because of the way different characteristics, including immigration status, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic position and sexuality intersect and overlap, particularly in relation to accessing services and support. We will be publishing a new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in the spring which will ensure we can better support victims. To inform the new strategy, we launched a Call for Evidence on 10 December, inviting responses from the public, organisations that provide support to victims and survivors, frontline professionals, and academics. We are actively seeking input from minority groups and intend to hold focus groups to ensure we hear the perspectives of people with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, refugee violence against women and girls experts, deaf and disabled violence against women and girls experts, and others.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/141494>

*The call for evidence referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-call-for-evidence>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Education: The Holocaust

**Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative):** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to Holocaust Memorial Day, what steps they are taking to improve education in schools about the Holocaust in order (1) to promote tolerance, and (2) to combat racism. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade (Baroness Berridge):** My Lords, the Government are fully committed to Holocaust education and believe that every young person should learn the lessons it teaches us today. That is why it is the only compulsory topic in the history curriculum. It is important that pupils understand the appalling events of the Holocaust and the possible consequences of anti-Semitism and extremism in order to understand how society can prevent the repeat of such a catastrophe. I am grateful to my noble friend for laying this Question on Holocaust Memorial Day.

**Lord Holmes of Richmond:** My Lords, survivors play such a profound role in our education programmes. As they become fewer in number, what steps are Her Majesty's Government taking to ensure that all their testimony is taken down and transformed through all modern means, not least AI, AR and VR, to ensure that all that testimony is available to future generations for ever? There are six million reasons.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, the Government have funded several initiatives of the nature my noble friend outlines. The new national memorial will ensure that the voices of survivors and witnesses are retained. We have included support for initiatives such as the National Holocaust Centre and Museum in Newark, which uses AI to capture survivors' testimony.

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour):** My Lords, how have the Government ensured that schoolchildren know also about the Roma element of the Holocaust, which is so little known but was responsible for the annihilation of such a large proportion of Europe's Roma population? For instance, the Government could put Gypsy, Traveller and Roma history on the school curriculum, as requested by the Council of Europe, and as included in previous Holocaust Education Trust memorial day ceremonies. Would not this help to reduce the race hatred experienced by these communities?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her involvement in the stakeholder group for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and for the group's contribution to the national strategy that is being led by the Government for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people in the UK. There are resources available. When the Holocaust is taught on the curriculum it is of course open to schools to include other genocides. It is good to note that the IHRA has produced a non-legally binding definition of the genocide and discrimination against the Roma people.

**Lord Dholakia (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I was able to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp during a visit arranged by the Holocaust Education Trust. There were more than 100 people in the party, mainly students, and it was an experience none of us is ever likely to forget. The Holocaust Education Trust is to be congratulated on the work it does in this respect. Has the Minister visited this camp? If not, a visit of this nature would be helpful in projecting the work of the trust. Perhaps I might add that I am trustee and patron of the Holocaust Education Trust and would be able to assist in this exercise.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, it is always good to hear of the valuable work that the HET is doing. That is why the Government give nearly £2.2 million a year to enable such visits by students. I am grateful for the invitation. I will take it up remotely because I believe that during the pandemic the HET has been very successful in moving trips online. I thank the noble Lord for his invitation, which I will duly consider.



**Lord Polak (Labour):** I thank my noble friend Lord Holmes for asking this Question on Holocaust Memorial Day. I praise Her Majesty's Government and the department for their support for Holocaust education, but this Holocaust Memorial Day is different from any other Holocaust Memorial Day. The newly formed interfaith group Sharaka, or "partnership", was set up last year in the wake of the historic Abraham Accords. Young leaders from Bahrain, the UAE and Israel have just committed themselves to a five-point action plan to include promoting Holocaust awareness, combating online anti-Semitism and countering anti-Semitic delegitimisation of Israel. Does the Minister agree that the promotion of Holocaust education in the Gulf region is a most welcome difference in this year's observance of Holocaust Memorial Day? Would she be prepared to share good practice and education materials with Sharaka, a great organisation of forward-thinking young people?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, I welcome the extension of that education to the countries that my noble friend outlined. I will write to the CPD element of the University College London project that we also fund to make sure it is aware of it so that teaching staff can also be made aware of these resources that will help them teach that curriculum well.

**Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick (Crossbench):** My Lords, yesterday President Biden abolished Trump's 1776 Commission, which sought to deny the ugly truths about America's slavery history and its treatment of indigenous Americans. We cannot eradicate intolerance and racism unless we face our own true full history, so is it not now time that Her Majesty's Government boldly set up a history curriculum commission to incorporate the truths and the facts, ugly or not, about our own slavery history, to honour the six million killed in the Holocaust and the millions killed and affected by institutional racist abuse, and teach the full truth of European history?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, within the history, English and citizenship curriculums there is flexibility for schools to teach the matters outlined. They are inspected against producing a broad and balanced curriculum. As I am sure the noble Lord will be aware, characters such as Mary Seacole have had increasing prominence in the curriculum for key stages 1 and 2. The key stage 2 and 3 curriculums outline studying, for instance, a non-European society as a contrast, and it was encouraging to note that a Historical Association survey of teachers stated that there is increasing prominence of black British history.

**Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour):** My Lords, the theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is "Be the light in the darkness". It encourages everyone to reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to, and also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to be the light during and after genocide. Schools are key in ensuring that young people understand history and the need to be more tolerant and respectful of those who are different. Five years ago, a House of Commons Education Committee inquiry into the provision of Holocaust education in schools noted that in many academies the Holocaust was not required to be taught because they do not follow the national curriculum, and urged the Government to take action. Can the Minister say what proportion of all schools now teach the lessons of the Holocaust?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** As I have outlined, the Holocaust is the only compulsory element of the national curriculum for history. The department does not have a role in inspecting schools to see how many schools are teaching a particular subject. That is a matter for Ofsted, which has a new excellence framework in education. Schools are inspected against the fact that they are teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, and of course schools need to teach the content that is outlined by awarding organisations for GCSEs and A-levels.

**Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I am on a similar theme, and I want to press the Minister. In a Foreign Office commemoration yesterday, the Foreign Secretary quoted Holocaust survivor Gena Turgel about being "secure in the knowledge" that others

would keep the candle alight, but in preparing the 2016 report on Holocaust education referred to by the noble Lord, Lord Watson, the Commons Education Committee heard shocking evidence from the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education that “the expectation of universal Holocaust education is no longer matched by reality.”

Even in schools obliged to follow the national curriculum, Holocaust education can be cursory or patchy, and more than 50% of secondary schools in England, such as academies, are not even required to follow it. The Government’s response to that recommendation was vague. So I press the Minister now for a more forceful commitment to ensure that all schools teach about the Holocaust, preferably not only in history but in civic education.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, it is open to schools within various subjects such as citizenship, English and history to teach the Holocaust. The Government maintain that Ofsted inspects against a broad and balanced curriculum. Academies will retain the freedom that they have, but they are inspected, like maintained schools, by Ofsted. We have committed to not only a national Holocaust memorial but to a learning centre alongside it to ensure that children learn about these events.

**Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated):** I pay tribute to the amazing survivors who use their experience of these terrible events to teach young people about where racism and prejudice can lead. However, there will be a time when they are no longer able to speak directly to students so I reiterate the importance of ensuring that their testimony will still be available for schools to use. I ask the Government to consider how they could work with training providers to expand programmes such as Lessons from Auschwitz so that apprentices can benefit from that brilliant work as well.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, as I have outlined, the Government fund several initiatives to ensure that that testimony is available to future generations, and I will ensure that providers of apprenticeships and other courses are made aware of the work that we fund for the Holocaust Education Trust.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-01-27/debates/18E22F43-B99D-4671-B295-9786B064D790/EducationTheHolocaust>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/480/480.pdf>

*and the Government response to the report can be read at*

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmeduc/974/974.pdf>

## New Publications

### **Sharaka Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony with Young Leaders from the Middle East**

*Sharaka, which means ‘partnership’, was founded by young leaders from Israel and the Gulf in order to turn the vision of people-to-people peace into a reality. Arsen Ostrovsky, on whose YouTube channel this video has been posted, is a Board member of Sharaka.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ykzi4aueXNs>

## News

### **Black Lives Matter foundation wins Swedish human rights prize**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-55862130>

**Sacked aide claims Labour MP Khalid Mahmood failed to act over antisemitism**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sacked-aide-claims-labour-mp-khalid-mahmood-failed-to-act-over-antisemitism-5sjcq6krl>

**Holocaust Memorial Day: PM warns against complacency over anti-Semitism**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55811975>

**Holocaust Memorial Day marked with reflection and memories**  
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/holocaust-memorial-day-marked-with-reflection-and-memories>

**We are all Holocaust witnesses, says Prince Charles on memorial day**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-are-all-holocaust-witnesses-says-prince-charles-on-memorial-day-zxb02g9tw>

**Top footballers to mark Holocaust Memorial Day with anti-racism video**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/24/top-footballers-to-mark-holocaust-memorial-day-with-anti-racism-video-kane-houghton-klopp-lampard-lineker>

**I survived the Holocaust, and I want you to remember my story**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/7d386ea2-6000-11eb-8bcc-6c1a7cf205dd>

**Half of British Jews will not display public sign of Judaism**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2021/jan/17/half-of-british-jews-will-not-display-public-sign-of-judaism>

**BitChute – a very British Problem**  
<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2021/01/28/bitcchute-a-very-british-problem>

**Anger as barrister refers to 'stropky teenager of colour'**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-as-barrister-refers-to-stropky-teenager-of-colour-v8ccsqgwn>

**Report clears Muslim charity of institutional antisemitism**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/29/charity-islamic-relief-worldwide-exonerated-antisemitism-inquiry>

**Coronavirus: Boy sentenced for racist street attack**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-54048546>

**'When my name was butchered at school it made me feel different'**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-55831324>

**Scouts learn white privilege but not their racist past**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scouts-learn-white-privilege-but-not-their-racist-past-njxh2lfbf>

**'My name is Yewande': Mispronouncing or changing people's names is just another form of racism**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/yewande-biala-love-island-lucie-donlan-b1792717.html>

**Lawyers told not to abbreviate names as it could be a racist 'micro-aggression'**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/01/27/lawyers-told-not-abbreviate-names-could-racist-micro-aggression/>

**STUC faces further payout to ex-worker in victimisation and unfair dismissal case**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19040406.stuc-faces-payout-ex-worker-victimisation-unfair-dismissal-case/>

**David Baddiel: The racism we think doesn't count**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/david-baddiel-the-racism-we-think-doesnt-count-rpcfrgd0g>

**Man Utd's Marcus Rashford racially abused on social media**  
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/55872681>

**'Humanity and social media at its worst' - Man Utd's Marcus Rashford is latest player to be targeted by racist abuse**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/01/31/marcus-rashford-latest-player-targeted-racist-abuse-online/>

**Police investigating racist social media abuse of Manchester United players**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/jan/31/police-investigating-social-media-manchester-united-marcus-rashford>

**Sense over Sectarianism National Week of Action Poster Competition: 22–26 February**  
<https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/news/postercompetition2021>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**Organ and tissue donation law change**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/organ-and-tissue-donation-law-change/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**William Shawcross to lead independent review of Prevent**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/william-shawcross-to-lead-independent-review-of-prevent>

### News

**Tory party illegally collected data on ethnicity of 10m voters, MPs told**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/jan/26/conservative-party-illegally-collected-data-on-ethnicity-of-10m-voters-mps-told>

## **Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

### **NHS**

#### **Roll up your sleeves: The COVID-19 vaccine**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/roll-up-your-sleeves>

#### **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 Commons Written Answer**

### **Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus**

**Marsha De Cordova (Labour)** [143086] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, pursuant to the oral contribution of the Minister for Equalities of 13 January 2021, Official Report, column 276, what assessment she has made of the susceptibility of Black, Asian and ethnic minority people to the range of socioeconomic and geographical factors such as occupational exposure, population density and household composition which increase the risk of exposure to covid-19.

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** My first quarterly report to the Prime Minister and Health Secretary of 22 October summarised the evidence available at the time on the role of various factors in increasing the risk of Covid-19 infection and mortality



for different ethnic minority groups. This included risk factors such as occupation, population density and household size.

I will shortly be publishing my second quarterly report providing updates where there is further evidence. This will include updates on the role of household composition, geography and occupation in Covid-19 infection rates.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143086>

*The oral contribution referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-01-13/debates/C2ECE4A2-B54B-4B14-912E-A74D70B768B6/Covid-19BAMECommunities>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/941554/First\\_Covid\\_Disparities\\_report\\_to\\_PM\\_Health\\_Secretary\\_Final\\_22-10-20\\_-\\_Updated\\_December\\_2020.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/941554/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20_-_Updated_December_2020.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL12559] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of COVID-19 on racial economic equality.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The Government recognises the challenges of COVID-19 for all groups in society, including the most vulnerable. That is why we announced an unprecedented package of support – including boosts to Universal Credit, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and the Kick-start Scheme – helping to protect incomes, jobs, and support those most in need.

HM Treasury's distributional analysis as of the end of May 2020, shows that these interventions, along with the existing tax and welfare system, have helped reduce income losses faced by working households by up to two-thirds, with the poorest working households protected most (as a proportion of income).

The Treasury, along with other relevant departments, carefully considers the impact of its decisions on those sharing protected characteristics, including at Budgets and other fiscal events, in line with both its legal obligations and with its strong commitment to promoting fairness.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/hl12559>

## Scottish Government Press Release

**Vaccine programme moves to next stage**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-programme-moves-to-next-stage/>

## 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) update: First Minister's statement 28 January 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-28-january-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 27 January 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-27-january-2021/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 25 January 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-25-january-2021/>

## UK Government Press Releases

**The R number and growth rate in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

**Novavax publishes positive efficacy data for its COVID-19 vaccine**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/novavax-publishes-positive-efficacy-data-for-its-covid-19-vaccine>

**Janssen publishes positive safety and efficacy data for single-dose COVID-19 vaccine**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/janssen-publishes-positive-safety-and-efficacy-data-for-single-dose-covid-19-vaccine>

## UK Government Publications

**Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus: 27 January 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-27-january-2021>

## News

**Coronavirus: Black MPs unite in video to encourage vaccine take-up**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-55839493>

**The vaccines are safe. We would urge all minority groups to get one**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jan/31/covid-vaccines-safe-urge-minority-ethnic-groups>

**British Asian celebrities unite for video to dispel Covid vaccine myths**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-55809355>

**Community champions paid to persuade the BAME population to get the jab**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/01/25/community-champions-paid-persuade-bame-population-get-jab/>

**Health inequalities in UK are major factor in high BAME Covid cases**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/28/health-inequalities-in-uk-are-major-factor-in-high-bame-covid-cases>

**Religious leaders launch legal action against Scottish Government over Covid shutdown**

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/religious-leaders-launch-legal-action-against-scottish-government-over-covid-shutdown-3117831>

**Church does not support legal action over temporary building closures**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/church-does-not-support-legal-action-over-church-closures>

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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 debate

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13083&i=118440#ScotParlOR>

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

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

Notice of amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-25-january-2021.pdf>

and

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-26-january-2021.pdf>

and

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-27-january-2021.pdf>

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

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

Stage 1 Debate

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13077&i=118360#ScotParlOR>

### **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

### **\*\* Use of hotels and barracks as contingency asylum accommodation**

(closing date 19 February 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-use-of-hotels-and-barracks-as-contingency-asylum-accommodation>

### **Human Rights Act Review** (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

### **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/>

### **Racial inequality in health and social care workplaces** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-racial-inequality-health-and-social-care-workplaces>

**Black Lives in Scotland** (closing date not stated)  
<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

**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>

### **\*\* Adapt and Thrive**

*Running until March 2021*

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

### **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/>

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

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

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

2 February 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about 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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto:training@positiveactionh.org) or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Refugee Week Slow Conference**

4 February to 11 March 2021 (online)

A series of free online workshops exploring arts and culture for change, and to gain new skills, grow your networks, and reflect on work and practice, in preparation for Refugee Week 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6ao5ufa>

### **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>

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

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 see <https://tinyurl.com/y3u2jzws>

## **Online Security**

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 see <https://tinyurl.com/y4qdp9y>

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

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>

## **Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Experiences of Domestic Abuse**

26 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

Scottish Women's Aid webinar to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/learning-development/>

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

3 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

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

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

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

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## **Useful Links**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>

**BEMIS**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

**BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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