



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Supporting the People of Afghanistan

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/what-was-said-and-official-reports/what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-02-09-2021?meeting=13266&iob=120335>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Support for Refugees (Afghanistan)

Bob Doris (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on

the preparation and planning being undertaken to support people fleeing Afghanistan who may be resettled in Scotland. (S6T-00106)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson): ... The Scottish Government is clear that Scotland must play a full role in supporting people fleeing Afghanistan and we continue to push the United Kingdom Government to accept more people.

We are working with partners including the UK Government, local government, the third sector and community organisations to ensure a warm welcome for people arriving in Scotland from Afghanistan. Scottish local authorities are already welcoming people arriving under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy for locally employed staff and supporting them to settle in their new homes and communities. We are pressing the UK Government for more details of the new Afghan citizens resettlement programme so that the detailed planning for their arrival can take place.

Bob Doris: I thank the cabinet secretary for that answer. In Scotland and the UK, we have a moral responsibility to do all that we can to support those who are fleeing Afghanistan and who may settle here. I thank the cabinet secretary for putting on the record the role that Scotland's local authorities already play in resettling refugees. However, I ask for details of how many of Scotland's councils have committed to supporting resettlement of Afghan families to date and the numbers and types of properties that have been or will be identified for Afghan families, because there is undoubtedly going to be great need.

Reply from Angus Robertson: We need a great deal more detail from the UK Government about the new Afghan citizens resettlement programme in order to fully answer that question and, in conjunction with local authorities, to plan our full response.

Scotland is committed to playing our part in welcoming and supporting people who are fleeing Afghanistan. That is why today, together with Scottish Government colleagues, I met members of the Scots Afghan community, non-governmental organisations, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

Last Friday, the First Minister and I met with the UK Government, from which we are seeking those answers in order to ensure that we can provide maximum possible support for Afghans who need refuge in this country.

Bob Doris: I welcome that further update. It would be good if the cabinet secretary could confirm how many local authorities have confirmed their willingness to be part of that resettlement programme.

He mentioned the UK Government. What discussions have there been between the UK and Scottish Governments to ensure appropriate financial commitments for supporting vulnerable families who are settling in Scotland, be that financial support to local authorities or to wider support services including support networks such as Glasgow Afghan United, wider integration networks and, of course, the Scottish Refugee Council, all of which have a crucial role in welcoming and supporting vulnerable Afghan families?

Reply from Angus Robertson: Bob Doris makes an important point. There are many reasons for connections between Afghan refugee seekers and the Afghan community in Scotland and organisations. We are probably all aware of non-governmental organisations that have worked on the ground in Afghanistan with the support and help of people who now seek refuge in our country. We will all be aware of military units based in Scotland that have been supported for years by Afghan translators and fixers. Many Afghans have studied in Scotland. All those people have connections to communities in this country. In addition to the key financial issues that Bob Doris has raised, I have been pressing the UK Government to ensure, through the clearing system that is being operated by the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence, that people who have community

relations in Scotland can find a safe haven here, because they are incredibly welcome.

Pauline McNeill (Labour): I welcome the fact that the minister has met many of Afghanistan's communities directly. However, does he agree that our obligation to the people of Afghanistan cannot be met properly without supporting our local government to provide resettlement programmes, and voluntary organisations on the ground? How many Afghan refugees does the Scottish Government hope to support? Will he assure me that he is making representations to the UK Government about the various different categories of Afghan asylum seeker, including those who might arrive by boat, having escaped, who would be disqualified automatically under the current rules but who need humanitarian protection and routes to safety?

Reply from Angus Robertson: Pauline McNeill raises an important point, and she might have added to her list the literally hundreds, if not thousands, of Afghans who have been refused asylum in the UK thus far and who still face, technically, the threat of deportation back to Afghanistan. Surely that situation cannot stand, given the circumstances. I hope that parties across the Parliament agree that people who find themselves in that situation should, in addition to those who have been successfully transported to the UK, be able to remain here and to have their refugee status accepted. I hope that there can be cross-party co-ordination to ensure that Scotland can speak with one voice on those questions.

We should never lose sight of the fact that the last time that we were called on to stand in support of refugees to this country—from Syria—every single one of Scotland's 32 local authorities played its part, and Scotland resettled more than 3,300 refugees. That was 16 per cent of the total number who were received by the UK under the Syrian resettlement scheme.

A lot of questions still need to be answered about the financial aspects of how we can manage the situation and of how local authorities can be supported. We are asking the UK Government for answers to those questions. We will continue to pose them. However, I hope that, with good will on all sides, we can help to accommodate as many people as possible. They deserve our support. ...

Siobhian Brown (SNP): What discussions has the Scottish Government had with the Ministry of Defence on the potential use of vacant armed forces housing in Scotland for refugees from Afghanistan?

Reply from Angus Robertson: ... It is important that we look at every single opportunity for accommodation to be provided to people arriving on these shores. Siobhian Brown made a very good point—the MOD is a large landowner and has a significant amount of accommodation throughout the UK. I will be happy to raise that point with the Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, with whom I have been in touch about other issues in relation to helping and supporting Afghans who have had a particular connection to Scottish military units.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13261&i=120229#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Afghanistan: Immigration

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL2347] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) individuals, and (2) families, have been relocated to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Reply from Baroness Goldie: Since the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy was established in April approximately 7,000 eligible Afghans and dependents have been relocated. The MOD is currently undertaking a data

validation exercise and further information will be released to the House at the appropriate time.

Operation PITTING was the largest UK military evacuation since the second World War. We have worked tirelessly to ensure that as many people as possible, including thousands of British nationals and their families, Afghan former staff and their families and many highly vulnerable Afghan people - were relocated to the UK on over 100 RAF flights.

Our commitment to those who are not eligible under the ARAP, and the process to deliver it, is not time-limited and will endure. We will continue to do all that we can to support British Nationals who remain in Afghanistan and those Afghans who have supported us, and to put pressure on the Taliban to allow safe passage.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-08-18/hl2347>

Information about the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Immigration

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL2325] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to implement the recommendation of the International Relations and Defence Select Committee in its report The UK and Afghanistan, published on 13 January (HL Paper 208), that the "UK Government should ensure that all Afghan interpreters who worked for the UK military, including those now resident in third countries, are aware of, and able to access the provisions of, the ex-gratia scheme".

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK is committed to help Afghan staff who have assisted us and we are working to get them and their families out as fast as we can. The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), which came into effect in April 2021, offers relocation or other assistance to current and former locally employed Afghan staff. This scheme is in addition to the existing Ex Gratia Scheme (EGS) which will remain open until November 2022. After November 2022, eligible Afghan staff will still be able to relocate via ARAP. Prior to the current evacuation the UK assisted over 1,900 to leave Afghanistan between April and August under the ARAP scheme. Through the current Operation PITTING evacuation, as of 31 August we have evacuated more than 16,000 people from Kabul. This includes Afghan interpreters, staff and their families who served alongside our brave military and are eligible under the ARAP programme. Our officials are working as quickly as possible to bring more people to safety in the United Kingdom, via third countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-08-18/hl2325>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4185/documents/43162/default/>

The Government response to the report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5087/documents/52934/default/>

Information about the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Ex-Gratia Scheme referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-locally-employed-staff-ex-gratia-scheme/afghanistan-locally-employed-staff-ex-gratia-scheme-further-information-on-eligibility-criteria-and-offer-details>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL2394] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timescale for the repatriation of Afghan refugees who have supported the British mission in Afghanistan; and how they intend to achieve that repatriation, particularly for refugees located outside Kabul.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Our absolute priority has been to evacuate as many people as possible. However the terror attack outside the Kabul airport tragically demonstrates the complex and vulnerable situation that impacted operations on the ground. We will continue to do all we can to support British Nationals and those Afghans who have supported us, and to put pressure on the Taliban to allow safe passage. The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme remains open to anyone who is eligible, and we will work with international partners on establishing potential routes for those eligible for ARAP to get to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-08-18/hl2394>

Information about the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Press Releases

Operation Warm Welcome under way to support Afghan arrivals in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome-underway-to-support-afghan-arrivals-in-the-uk>

Operation Warm Welcome

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operation-warm-welcome>

Bespoke resettlement route for Afghan refugees announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bespoke-resettlement-route-for-afghan-refugees-announced>

Support for EU citizens until end of 2021

<https://gov.wales/support-eu-citizens-until-end-2021>

More children than ever before live as migrants or refugees, outside their birth countries – UNICEF

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1098612>

New Publications

The UK's points-based immigration system: sponsorship roadmap

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-sponsorship-roadmap/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-sponsorship-roadmap-accessible-version>

Letter from the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government to Secretary of State for the Home Department

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/letter-from-the-cabinet-secretary-for-social-justice-housing-and-local-government-to-rt-hon-priti-patel-mp/>

EU citizens staying in Scotland: support and toolkit for EU citizens, their employers and landlords

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/eu-citizens-staying-in-scotland-tool-kit-and-support/>

Scotland Welcome Pack for British Nationals (Overseas) from Hong Kong

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/>

First Minister's letter to Prime Minister on Afghanistan crisis

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-ministers-letter-to-prime-minister-on-afghanistan-crisis/>

Guidance: Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Windrush compensation: UK Government response to the consultation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-scheme/outcome/windrush-compensation-response-to-the-consultation-accessible-version>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Constituency casework: immigration, nationality and asylum

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN03186/SN03186.pdf>

Updated: Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2021/asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation-2020>

News: Afghanistan

Scottish Refugee Council Afghan Support Network

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/afghan-support-network/>

Afghanistan: Leaked document warns of refugee funding shortfall

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58426795>

Afghan refugees: Those who worked for UK can stay permanently

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-58402721>

UK to welcome 20,000 Afghans amid Taliban takeover

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58250211>

UK to take 20,000 Afghan refugees over five years under resettlement plan

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/17/uk-to-take-20000-afghan-refugees-over-five-years-under-resettlement-plan>

Women and girls get priority in plan to save 20,000 refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-to-admit-20-000-afghan-refugees-0v6hl7wln>

Just 5,000 Afghans to be offered refuge in UK over next year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-refugees-uk-settlement-scheme-b1904242.html>

We must house a town's worth of refugees, says Boris Johnson

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-must-house-a-towns-worth-of-refugees-says-boris-johnson-n8hhtdbfr>

Hundreds of Britons offer to host Afghan refugees after fall of Kabul

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/27/hundreds-of-britons-offer-to-host-afghan-refugees-after-fall-of-kabul>

The British families getting ready to welcome Afghan refugees into their homes

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/british-families-getting-ready-welcome-afghan-refugees-homes/>

Boris Johnson urged to expand UK's 'total farce' scheme for Afghan refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-refugees-uk-boris-johnson-b1904838.html>

How many Afghan refugees is enough?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-many-afghan-refugees-is-enough-q37n7wnsg>

UK drops regional hub plan for Afghan refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-abandons-plans-to-process-afghan-refugees-through-regional-hubs-hhbqzxvzs>

Afghanistan: Councils prepare to offer homes to refugees

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-58426788>

UK councils say they are 'ready to assist' Afghan refugees but lack housing

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/28/uk-councils-ready-to-assist-afghan-refugees-lack-housing>

550 Afghans to be resettled in Scotland

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/550-afghans-to-be-resettled-in-scotland-ks8sfzq2c>

Afghanistan: Call for more UK councils to welcome refugees

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-58248271>

Sunak urged to double budget for housing rescued Afghans

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/leaked-memo-reveals-cash-gap-for-housing-afghan-refugees-p3920k0hc>

Grants for councils to help house big Afghan refugee families

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/grants-for-councils-to-help-house-big-afghan-refugee-families-hn878qcdd>

Afghanistan: Refugees should be housed 'in all parts' of UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-58246941>

Make all councils take Afghanistan refugees, says Andy Burnham

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/08/18/make-councils-take-afghanistan-refugees-says-andy-burnham/>

Two-thirds of councils resisting pleas to resettle Afghan refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/01/two-thirds-councils-resisting-pleas-resettle-afghan-refugees/>

Up to 30 councils in England refuse to help Afghan refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/27/exclusive-30-councils-england-refuse-help-afghan-refugees/>

Councils earmark homes for hundreds of Afghan refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/councils-earmark-homes-for-hundreds-of-afghan-refugees-99n8cmv36>

'Welcome is the first thing they should hear' as council confirms number of Afghanistan refugees coming to Edinburgh

<https://www.scotsman.com/must-read/welcome-is-the-first-thing-they-should-hear-as-council-confirms-number-of-afghanistan-refugees-coming-to-edinburgh-3360815>

North of England leaders urge fair distribution of Afghan refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/19/north-england-leaders-urge-fair-distribution-afghan-refugees>

Manchester and Liverpool will welcome Afghan refugees, say mayors

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/18/manchester-and-liverpool-will-welcome-afghan-refugees-say-mayors>

Boris Johnson won't confirm how many Afghan refugees UK will take

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/08/15/boris-johnson-wont-confirm-many-afghan-refugees-uk-will-take/>

Patel hints Afghans crossing Channel will be treated same as other migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/18/patel-hints-afghans-crossing-channel-will-be-treated-same-as-other-migrants>

Afghan asylum seekers will be allowed to flee to Britain without a passport

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/08/16/afghan-asylum-seekers-will-allowed-flee-taliban-britain-without/>

Britain ready to take in Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/08/16/britain-ready-take-afghan-refugees-fleeing-taliban/>

Decision yet to be made on leave to remain for Afghans, UK minister says

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/01/decision-yet-to-be-made-on-leave-to-remain-for-afghans-uk-minister-says>

Afghanistan: How many asylum seekers has the UK taken in?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-58245684>

Afghanistan: After Taliban's victory, UK has a moral obligation towards refugees fleeing this brutal regime – Angus Robertson MSP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/afghanistan-after-talibans-victory-uk-has-a-moral-obligation-towards-refugees-fleeing-this-brutal-regime-angus-robertson-msp-3347835>

The number of Afghan refugees the UK is taking in is shamefully low – Diane Abbott

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/afghanistan-taliban-boris-johnson-refugees-b1906085.html>

Afghan refugees could be punished under new UK asylum laws, say charities

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/19/afghan-refugees-could-be-punished-under-new-uk-asylum-laws-say-charities>

Why things don't bode well for Afghans seeking asylum in the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/17/why-things-dont-bode-well-for-afghans-seeking-asylum-in-the-uk>

Home Office accused of putting Afghan child refugees' lives at risk in 'dangerous' hotel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/08/20/home-office-accused-putting-afghan-child-refugees-lives-risk/>

Afghan refugees housed in hotels 'at risk of missing vital services'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghan-hotels-families-home-office-uk-b1905889.html>

Home Office refuses blanket amnesty for 3,000 Afghan asylum seekers already in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghanistan-asylum-seekers-uk-amnesty-b1913971.html>

Home Office under pressure to grant amnesty to thousands of Afghans

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghanistan-refugees-asylum-home-office-b1906179.html>

UK returned 13 Afghans in past year and refused asylum to 400, official figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghanistan-refugees-uk-deport-asylum-seekers-b1909047.html>

Refused asylum in Britain, Afghans fear being sent home

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/refused-asylum-in-britain-afghans-fear-being-sent-home-0p8zcb76v>

How is UK planning to help resettle Afghan refugees?

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/17/how-uk-planning-help-resettle-afghan-refugees>

Care provider pledges to train and employ 500 refugees from Afghanistan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-home-care-afghanistan-refugees-b1909023.html>

Church urges UK Government to give sanctuary to Afghan refugees

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/church-urges-uk-government-to-give-sanctuary-to-afghan-refugees>

‘Governments must help Afghans fleeing in fear’

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/governments-must-help-afghans-fleeing-in-fear/>

Afghan refugees can thrive in Britain - but we must integrate them properly

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/26/afghan-refugees-can-thrive-britain-must-integrate-properly/>

Fear of refugees must not shape the response to Afghanistan’s crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/aug/18/fear-refugees-afghan-crisis-taliban>

Let empathy not fear guide us as refugees arrive

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/let-empathy-not-fear-guide-us-as-refugees-arrive-88cqj6b0l>

Scottish Refugee Council response to the UK Government’s “Operation Warm Welcome” announcement

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-the-uk-governments-operation-warm-welcome-announcement/>

More than 17,000 new items donated to Afghan refugee families in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/01/more-than-17000-new-items-donated-to-afghan-refugee-families-in-uk>

The Afghan Crisis and the need for the U.K. Government to recognise the worth of refugee hosting networks

<https://www.paih.org/the-afghan-crisis-and-the-need-for-the-u-k-government-to-recognise-the-worth-of-refugee-hosting-networks/>

Afghan refugees to be taught about British values and culture

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/afghan-refugees-taught-british-values-taliban-priti-patel-ccpsfx8cg>

Cricket can be a lifeline for Afghan refugees arriving in the UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cricket-can-be-a-lifeline-for-afghan-refugees-arriving-in-the-uk-8j9906g20>

Afghan families embrace a new home that is ‘full of joy’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/afghan-families-embrace-a-new-home-that-is-full-of-joy-kr9p2dgn8>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

65,000 Hongkongers apply for British visas over five months

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/65-000-hongkongers-apply-for-british-visas-over-five-months-ltrv5wpgm>

Labour councils house eight times as many asylum seekers as Tory areas, analysis finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/03/labour-tory-councils-asylum-seekers>

Asylum backlog almost doubles in two years after Covid saw resettlement ‘grind to halt’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/26/asylum-backlog-almost-doubles-two-years-covid-saw-resettlement/>

Backlog of asylum applications to Home Office soars to 70,000 in two years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/backlog-of-asylum-applications-to-home-office-soars-to-70-000-in-two-years-52qrf79tv>

Government to spend £2m on new Dover migrant centre

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/16/government-spend-2-million-new-dover-migrant-reception-centre/>

No Channel migrants removed from UK this year as enforced returns hit record low

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/31/no-channel-migrants-removed-uk-year-aseenforced-returns-hit-record/>

Privacy laws prevent France using UK-funded drones to stop Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/26/privacy-laws-stop-france-using-drones-prevent-migrants-crossing/>

More than 800 migrants intercepted crossing Channel, Home Office says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-crossings-channel-home-office-b1907571.html>

Migrants celebrate beach landing after crossings hit record

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-celebrate-beach-landing-crossings-france-hit-record-jvmk02qjn>

Gang exploits Irish “weak link” to smuggle migrants to Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/gang-exploits-irish-weak-link-to-smuggle-migrants-to-britain-vzxi0shqz>

Home Office plans to keep housing migrants at ‘squalid’ site in defiance of ruling
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/napier-barracks-migrants-home-office-b1908073.html>

Controversial Napier barracks in line to house asylum seekers until 2025
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/27/controversial-napier-barracks-in-line-to-house-asylum-seekers-until-2025>

Surge in asylum seekers considered for removal to EU despite UK's failure to create return deals
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/surge-in-asylum-seekers-being-considered-for-removal-to-europe-ongoing-absence-of-returns-deals-b1909942.html>

Home Office spent nearly £600,000 on deportation flights that never took off
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/09/02/home-office-spent-nearly-600000-deportation-flights-never-took/>

Home Office spent almost £9m on deportation charter flights in 2020
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/02/home-office-spent-almost-9m-on-deportation-charter-flights-in-2020>

TUC calls for deportation flights to be suspended
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-calls-deportation-flights-be-suspended>

Syrians who settled on the Isle of Bute
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/syrians-who-settled-on-the-isle-of-bute-86pt6xl96>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-00954] 40th Anniversary of the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple – That the Parliament acknowledges the 40th anniversary of the Guru Nanak Sikh Temple on Otago Street, Glasgow; recognises the tireless work carried out by volunteers all year round, and appreciates what it sees as the selfless service and support that has been given by the Gurdwara to all parts of the local community, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00954>

TOP

Equality

Press Releases

Scottish Parliament launches ‘Emerging Leaders’ programme to increase minority ethnic diversity amongst Holyrood staff

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117477.aspx>

New body to tackle health disparities will launch 1 October

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-body-to-tackle-health-disparities-will-launch-1-october-co-headed-by-new-dcmo--2>

New Publication

Pay and Progression of Women of Colour Literature Review

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=c1300375-f221-4a88-8c66-edf3c30bd2c7>

News

Ethnic minority unemployment rising three times as fast as white rate, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ethnic-minority-unemployment-b1903905.html>

BME unemployment has risen three times as fast as white unemployment

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/bme-unemployment-has-risen-three-times-fast-white-unemployment>

Black surgeons 'promoted far less than white colleagues in England'

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/01/black-surgeons-promoted-far-less-than-white-colleagues-in-england>

If ethnic minorities are doing so well in schools, why are we still not excelling in our careers?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/overqualified-cant-get-job-truth-young-black-people-workplace/>

The UK's first all-black, all-female theatre company is shaking up Shakespeare

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/entertainment-arts-58285815>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Anti-Irish Racism and Anti-Catholic Prejudice (Public Displays)

Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the First Minister what plans the Scottish Government has to tackle public displays of anti-Irish racism and anti-Catholic prejudice. (S6F-00189)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I say very clearly that there is never any excuse or justification for hatred or bigotry and I unequivocally condemn anti-Irish racism and anti-Catholic prejudice. It should be called what it is and it should be called out.

Scotland is a diverse, multicultural society. That diversity strengthens us as a nation and that is why it is so important that we tackle all forms of prejudice and discrimination. Police Scotland is committed to protecting our communities and will act on all incidents of bigoted violence, disorder and vandalism, including follow-up investigations based on evidence that has been gathered. Those who commit criminal acts that are motivated by prejudice can expect to feel the full force of

justice, and I know that, just this morning, the police have issued a comment about the progress of a particular investigation.

Pauline McNeill: I thank the First Minister for that strong answer. I hope that she agrees that there is still a clear problem with a minority of people displaying anti-Irish and anti-Catholic prejudice, as well as a growing feeling that, if those terms were used about any other minority group, the sentiments displayed on our streets would be treated far more seriously. For the avoidance of doubt, I am sure that the First Minister is aware that the famine song contains the words “The famine is over, why don’t you go home?”, as confirmed by Lord Carloway in his judgment in 2009.

I welcome the fact that there were three arrests last night in relation to that particular incident and I applaud the fact that Rangers Football Club has just announced an indefinite ban of the members who they identified as being involved in singing the famine song; that must be welcomed. I want the First Minister to reassure me that Police Scotland will respond proportionately to those offences and, in doing so, I offer my full support to the First Minister to work with her and everyone to ensure that all forms of racism and bigotry are stamped out in Scotland.

Reply from the First Minister: I thank Pauline McNeill for the question, the way in which she asked it and the offer of support, because we should all come together to tackle this issue.

I say clearly—and I know that everyone across the chamber will support this—that I take the view that, for anybody who chooses to live in Scotland, whether they and their families have been here for generations or whether they have come to Scotland very recently, it is home. This is their home and we should not allow anybody ever to say ...

I go back to the very important question that was asked. All of us—all of us—have a duty to stand against racism, prejudice and bigotry. I dedicate myself, not just as First Minister but as a citizen of this country, to always do so. I look forward to working with anybody who stands with me and with people across Scotland in that. ...

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13266&i=120320#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Emma Roddick (SNP) [SM6-00939] Oot Wae Racism – That the Parliament applauds the work of the anti-racism group, Oot Wae Racism, in Orkney; notes what it sees as the importance of the group's counter-demonstration for racial equality, opposing what it understands was a white supremacist protest on Ward Hill; recognises the dedication of the organisers of the ‘You can bide here’ event, aimed at welcoming people to Orkney regardless of their background; welcomes the family-friendly, COVID-safe event, and commends the group on its commitment to anti-racist activism in the Orkney Isles.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-00939>

Press Releases

Embedding race equality in schools

<https://www.gov.scot/news/embedding-race-equality-in-schools/>

Promoting race equality and anti-racist education

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/promoting-race-equality-and-anti-racist-education/>

New Publications

Promoting and developing race equality and anti-racist education: an overview

<https://education.gov.scot/media/e1ykcihd/promoting-and-developing-race-equality-and-anti-racist-education.pdf>

Introduction to anti-racist curriculum development coalition for racial equality and rights :A guide for teachers in Scotland

https://864a82af-f028-4baf-a094-46facc9205ca.filesusr.com/ugd/b0353f_052075128cb14350a9121e2bb206f187.pdf

A' Adams' Bairns? An Introductory Self-Learning Tool on Anti-racist praxis for teachers and educators

<https://scotdec.org.uk/download/anti-racist-toolkit-for-teachers/?ind=1628498846181&filename=SCOTDEC-AADAMSBAIRNS-FINAL-WEBSITE.pdf&wpdmdl=14809&refres=612a7c52cfa651630174290>

Race Between the Lines: Actors' Experience of Race and Racism in Britain's Audition and Casting Process and On Set

<https://bcuassets.blob.core.windows.net/docs/diverse-actors-surveyv1-132742714535244780.pdf>

News

Minister's wife goes ahead with legal action over nursery 'discrimination'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-58322040>

Humza Yousaf and his wife to take court action against Dundee nursery which 'rejected their daughter'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/national/humza-yousaf-and-his-wife-to-take-court-action-against-dundee-nursery-which-rejected-their-daughter-3358483>

Scottish minister's wife pursues legal action against Dundee nursery

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/25/scottish-minister-wife-pursue-legal-action-dundee-nursery>

Welsh language use 'systemically racist', Arts Council warned

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/19/arts-council-wales-brands-systemically-racist-language-requirements/>

Art council's use of Welsh language 'excludes ethnic minorities', body's own report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/arts-council-welsh-language-racist-b1905923.html>

'White privilege test' for Scottish teachers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/26/white-privilege-test-scottish-teachers/>

Teachers urged to take ‘white privilege test’ to tackle racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/teachers-urged-to-take-white-privilege-test-to-tackle-racism-dhz9f7bkq>

Teachers in Scotland given guidance on decolonising the curriculum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/26/teachers-in-scotland-given-guidance-on-decolonising-the-curriculum>

‘I’m not political’ no excuse to duck race discussions, NHS blog post tells senior white staff

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/02/not-political-no-excuse-duck-race-discussions-nhs-blog-post/>

Dear white people in the UK

<https://senioronboarding.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/blog-dear-white-people-in-the-uk/>

Women of colour held back from senior roles by ‘structural racism’

<https://www.ft.com/content/a6749a1d-2a91-4198-bf9a-d0f48522009e>

Man Accused of Planning to attack Fife Mosque to Go on Trial

<https://tellmamauk.org/man-accused-of-planning-to-attack-fife-mosque-to-go-on-trial/>

Cambridge museum to explain ‘whiteness’ of its sculptures under anti-racism campaign

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/22/cambridges-archaeology-museum-will-explain-whiteness-sculpture/>

Acting auditions are ‘institutional racism’, report finds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/25/acting-auditions-institutional-racism-report-finds/>

Institutional racism entrenched in UK entertainment, landmark survey suggests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/institutional-racism-british-entertainment-survey-b1907936.html>

UK going backwards on tackling media’s racism, warns new Voice editor

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2021/sep/02/uk-going-backwards-tackling-media-racism-warns-voice-editor-lester-holloway>

Nazi sympathiser spared jail as long as he reads Pride and Prejudice

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/01/nazi-sympathiser-spared-jail-long-reads-pride-prejudice/>

Judge orders neo-Nazi terror offender to read classic literature or face prison

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/nazi-terror-case-classic-literature-jail-b1912643.html>

UK judge orders rightwing extremist to read classic literature or face prison

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/sep/01/judge-orders-rightwing-extremist-to-read-classic-literature-or-face-prison>

Call for sentence review after neo-Nazi told to read classic literature

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/sep/02/call-sentence-review-neo-nazi-told-read-classic-literature>

Call for sentence review after neo-Nazi terror offender told to read classics

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-terror-literature-review-sentence-b1913315.html>

Academic sues university after she was sacked over 'racist' tweet

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/16/black-radicalism-protected-belief-system-claims-academic-sacked/>

Man wanted over new antisemitic hate crime attacks in north London

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/hate-crime-appeal-probe-antisemitism-b1908579.html>

Hunt for racist attacker after Jewish man knocked unconscious in street

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/08/21/watch-hunt-racist-attacker-jewish-man-knocked-unconscious-street/>

Aristocrat in hate trial 'vilified his Jewish wife'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/aristocrat-piers-portman-in-hate-trial-vilified-his-jewish-wife-c2d736ssn>

Shoreditch assault: Metal whipped cream dispenser used in racist attack

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-58353977>

Azeem Rafiq accuses Yorkshire of 'fudging' racism report findings – and calls for heads to roll

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/08/20/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-racism-report-ecb/>

Azeem Rafiq accuses Yorkshire of 'fudging' apology over racism report

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/aug/19/cricket-yorkshire-apologise-to-azeem-rafiq-report-victim-of-inappropriate-behaviour>

Azeem Rafiq accuses Yorkshire of 'fudging' claim of racism after apology

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-england-and-wales-cricket-board-twitter-b1905267.html>

'My ordeal is being played down . . . but racism still goes on'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/my-ordeal-is-being-played-down-but-racism-still-goes-on-wl753bdxj>

ECB demands Yorkshire publish racism report prompted by Rafiq allegations

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/aug/18/ecb-demands-yorkshire-publish-racism-report-prompted-by-rafiq-allegations>

ECB demand publication of Yorkshire racism report as shocking details emerge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ecb-demand-publication-of-yorkshire-racism-report-as-shocking-details-emerge-9vxvqqwdc>

Three charged after Rangers fans' sectarian singing

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-58421171>

Three men charged following racially aggravated offences in Glasgow

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/september/three-men-charged-following-racially-aggravated-offences-in-glasgow/>

Three men charged with racially aggravated offences in Glasgow city centre
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/old-firm-racist-abuse-three-men-charged-with-racially-aggravated-offences-in-glasgow-city-centre-3368274>

Rangers ban fans for racist songs aimed at Celtic forward Kyogo Furuhashi
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/rangers-ban-fans-racist-song-celtic-b1907357.html>

'Enquires ongoing' as police probe anti-Irish racism chants in Glasgow
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19545836.enquires-ongoing-police-probe-anti-irish-racism-chants-glasgow/>

Authorities are still hiding on racism, says Livingston's Marvin Bartley
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/authorities-are-still-hiding-on-racism-says-livingston-s-marvin-bartley-2f2bswj3t>

Rangers chants do not show a sectarian nation, says Sir Tom Devine
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rangers-chants-do-not-show-a-sectarian-nation-says-sir-tom-devine-8nn9dcj5m>

Newcastle's Joe Willock says he receives racist abuse 'every day' on social media
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/aug/19/newcastle-joe-willock-receives-racist-abuse-every-day-social-media>

Swansea player subjected to racist abuse after Plymouth cup win
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/swansea-plymouth-twitter-efl-carabao-cup-b1908725.html>

'Racist tropes weren't being tackled': mourning Sheku Bayoh on stage
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-tropes-werent-being-tackled-mourning-sheku-bayoh-on-stage-cmnrvd9wd>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Annie Wells (Conservative) [S6M-01014] Celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year – That the Parliament wishes all those celebrating Rosh Hashanah, which begins at sunset on 6 September and ending at nightfall on 8 September 2021, a "Shana Tova"; understands that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year and one of Judaism's holiest days; notes that the festival begins on the first day of Tishrei, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar; understands that Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement, and notes that many will be celebrating the Jewish New Year by attending synagogue, after which many will return home for a festive meal steeped in symbolism and tradition, and to spend time with family and friends while reflecting on the year before, the one that has past, and the year ahead to start afresh.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01014>

Press Releases

Her Majesty The Queen to address new session

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117455.aspx>

Opening Ceremony 2021

<https://www.parliament.scot/get-involved/events-and-exhibitions/opening-ceremony-2021>

Agreement reached with Scottish Green Party

<https://www.gov.scot/news/agreement-reached-with-scottish-green-party/>

New Ministers to be appointed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-ministers-to-be-appointed/>

New Publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland: July 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-july-2021/>

**Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group:
draft Cooperation Agreement**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-cooperation-agreement/>

Scottish Government and Scottish Green Party: draft shared policy programme

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-and-scottish-green-party-shared-policy-programme/>

First Minister's Rosh HaShanah Message

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=383863649951443>

News

Scottish Greens back historic government deal

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-58360337>

Scottish Green co-leaders given ministerial roles

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-58386094>

Alex Cole-Hamilton confirmed as new Lib Dem leader

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-58269259>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): April 2021 to June 2021, England

<https://files.digital.nhs.uk/16/1A7312/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20%28FGM%29%20-%20April%20to%20June%202021%20-%20Report.pdf>

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): April 2021 to June 2021, England – supporting data

<https://files.digital.nhs.uk/7C/9F1781/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20%28FGM%29%20-%20April%20to%20June%202021%20-%20Supporting%20Data%20Tables.xlsx>

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

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>

**** Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

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

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/>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Vaccine Certification

Douglas Ross (Conservative): Earlier this week, two Green MSPs joined Nicola Sturgeon's Government, taking the total number of ministers up to 29. Did all 29 agree with her proposals to introduce vaccine passports?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): It will be Parliament, next week, that decides whether to introduce vaccine certification. ...

This is a question of how we best continue to control Covid in the least restrictive, most proportionate way. I think that vaccine certification ... has a role to play in doing that.

Douglas Ross: The First Minister refused to say whether her ministers all agreed at the time of her announcement that they supported vaccine passports. ...

Hospitality groups say that the lack of engagement is extremely concerning. Scottish football clubs have warned that the Scottish National Party's plans are completely unworkable. Industry groups need answers about the scheme before the Government introduces it. Why have they not had that chance?

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: Perhaps Douglas Ross should, first and foremost, concentrate on what his views on vaccine certification are: whether he supports it or opposes it ... This is a global pandemic. It demands of politicians—particularly those of us in government—really tough decisions, and we have all got a responsibility to live up to that. On the detail, we will produce the detail of how the scheme will work before we bring the proposal to Parliament for Parliament to debate and decide, through a vote, whether we go ahead with it. ...

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13266&i=120308#ScotParlOR>

Covid Vaccine Trials (Proof of Vaccination QR Codes)

Douglas Lumsden (Conservative): I, along with 400 others in the north-east of Scotland, am taking part in the Novavax Covid vaccine trial. The NHS Inform website has no record of all those volunteers being vaccinated, therefore we cannot download proof of vaccination or a QR code. Will the First Minister join me in thanking those volunteers and ensure that they are not excluded from any events that might require proof of vaccination using a system that is based on QR codes?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): ... I take the opportunity to thank everybody who has participated in vaccine trials, because they have contributed hugely to the safety and wellbeing of us all. We have already made it clear that nobody who took part in those trials, including the member, will be disadvantaged in any way. The vaccination will be recognised, and we are working on ensuring that that can be evidenced. I will write to the member to update him on exactly how that will happen.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13266&i=120310#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Covid-19 vaccination: Polish people

Claire Baker (Labour) [S6W-01505] To ask the Scottish Government how uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination by Polish people in Scotland compares with the wider population.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: As detailed in the Public Health Scotland COVID-19 Statistical Report, as at 19 July 2021, which was published on the 21 July 2021, 46.2% of the Scottish White Polish population have received their first dose of

COVID-19 vaccine compared to 87.8% of the wider White Scottish population. The White Polish demographic breaks down further into age cohorts as follows: The much smaller non-White Polish demographics are contained in the wider Scottish categories in the report.

Vaccination update of first dose by age group – White Polish

Age group	Percentage uptake
80+	68.20%
75-79	64.60%
70-74	60.80%
65-69	54.40%
60-64	55.40%
55-59	60.30%
50-54	59.20%
40-49	53.50%
30-39	42.60%
18-29	32.00%
All 18+	46.20%

Further information can be accessed from here: [Public Health Scotland COVID-19 Statistical Report](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-01505).

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-01505>

Vaccine hesitancy: Polish people

Claire Baker (Labour) [S6W-01506] To ask the Scottish Government what measures it has taken to address any COVID-19 vaccine-hesitancy that Polish people in Scotland might have.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has set up a National Vaccine Inclusive Steering Group with representatives from Health Boards, faith groups, third and community sector, and works closely with BEMIS, the national umbrella body supporting the development of the Ethnic Minorities Voluntary Sector in Scotland, and regularly participates in the Ethnic Minority National Resilience Group (EMNRG), which includes organisations representing the Polish Community. Polish is one of the primary languages as set out by Public Health Scotland, and Polish translations have been prioritised for all coronavirus-related guidance, which has included regularly updated translations on NHS Inform, Strategic Framework updates on gov.scot and Polish translations of all National door drops. This is shared via SG Marketing, SG Policy, NHS 24 and via a number of stakeholders, to reach Polish communities.

Provision of messages/ guidance has been made to Polish community organisations in order to appropriately translate and share in language more likely to elicit action within the context of Polish culture/language. An explainer video for minority ethnic communities – tackling barriers – translated into Polish was developed as part of the Phase 2 campaign deliverables targeted at 18-49 year olds, which looks to address barriers to vaccine uptake identified by ME communities. The explainer video was produced in multiple languages including Polish, and provides key facts about the Covid vaccines for those who may be hesitant, or for those more likely to have been exposed to myths/misinformation. The content of this video has been shaped by engagement with BEMIS and the Ethnic Minority National Resilience Group, which includes input from the Polish community. This video has been distributed via partnership channels and via stakeholders to those groups who may not be as likely to be reached by traditional media.

FENIKS have been awarded funding via the Scottish Government award to BEMIS, for additional translations of Coronavirus vaccine information/materials into Polish. Feniks was set up in 2007 as a charity supporting integration and aiming at improving the wellbeing of the Central Eastern European Community in Edinburgh. It seeks to help individuals and families who have moved away from their homeland in facing the challenges which can result from immigration.

<https://www.feniks.org.uk>

A live Q+A session was held online 6 July 2021 with Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, with the session chaired by Feniks. Key questions were gathered beforehand from members of the community, including issues causing some hesitancy, for example on vaccine efficacy and safety. The session was also translated live. The Scottish Government is continuing to support the work of Feniks on providing information and increasing uptake of Covid vaccine.

Public Health Scotland (PHS) are supporting the work of health boards including work continuing in local health board areas with the Polish community, including targeting workforces and large employers, including food processing.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-01506>

Scottish Government Press Releases

A COVID-19 Inquiry for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/a-covid-19-inquiry-for-scotland/>

COVID Recovery consultation

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-recovery-consultation/>

Supporting Test and Protect

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-test-and-protect/>

CMO urges pregnant women to get vaccinated

<https://www.gov.scot/news/cmo-urges-pregnant-women-to-get-vaccinated/>

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/>

COVID-19 Inquiry: factsheet

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 1 September 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-1-september-2021/>

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

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 24 August 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-24-august-2021/>

UK Government Press Release

Covid-19 Vaccination certification

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-vaccination-certification/>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

Third quarterly report on progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/third-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities>

Other Organisation

TSI Network Scotland

TSI Covid-19 Learning Project: A focus on the roles played by Third Sector Interfaces during Covid-19

<https://tsi.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Roles-Played-by-TSIs-During-Covid-19-ESS-Report-Final.pdf>

News

Scottish Covid inquiry to start later this year

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-58318778>

Scotland to begin public inquiry into handling of pandemic by end of year

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19533607.scotland-begin-public-inquiry-handling-pandemic-end-year/>

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New Publication

Child protection in religious organisations and settings

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/26895/view/child-protection-religious-organisations-settings-investigation-report-september-2021.pdf>

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Other News

Religious groups in UK failing children over sex abuse, report says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-58420270>

Millions of children in religious groups in England and Wales vulnerable to abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/02/millions-children-religious-groups-vulnerable-abuse-england-and-wales>

Child sexual abuse victims let down by ‘blatant hypocrisy and moral failing of religions’, inquiry finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-sex-abuse-religion-inquiry-b1913035.html>

Religious groups shamed over failures to report child sexual abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/religious-groups-shamed-over-failures-to-report-child-sexual-abuse-99v2tjhb9>

Abuse is rife in unregistered schools that exploit legal loophole

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/abuse-is-rife-in-illegal-schools-that-wriggle-round-the-law-z9pzwr7s>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

** Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

House of Lords Library Briefing

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/refugees-family-reunion-bill-hl/>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** Blood Cancer: lived experiences of people from ethnic minority communities

(closing date 13 September 2021)

<https://clearviewresearch.org/BCxCVR>

** Coronavirus (Compensation for Self-isolation) Bill (closing date 24 September 2021)

<https://consult.gov.scot/covid-public-health/compensation-for-self-isolation/>

** Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025

(closing date 30 September 2021)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/our-strategic-plan-2022-2025-have-your-say>

** Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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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>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Debiasing Our Systems, Debiasing Ourselves – An Introduction To Tackling Unconscious Bias

14 September 2021 (online, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland session exploring the evidence of unconscious bias, methods for reducing its impact on decisions and behaviour, and describing the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/tamye4rv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Meet the Charity Regulator

23 September 2021 (online, 2.00–3.00)

Meet the board of the Scottish Charity Regulator and learn more about how they work to inspire public trust and confidence in charities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4dhacsvw>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

**** Know Your Rights: Hate Crime Workshop**

13 October 2021 (online, 11.00–1.30)

Migrants' Rights Network workshop for migrants, caseworkers, charities, and others who want to learn how to better identify hate crime in their communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/u9xfxdby>

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

14 October 2021 (online, 10.30-13.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/27mj9h3b> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

No Recourse to Public Funds

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Transparency and Trust

27 October 2021 (online, 1.00–2.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar to help charity trustees and advisors to charities think about what they can do to help boost public confidence in charities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y99b8av3>

Scottish Interfaith Week 2021

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021), and the theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet. Event submissions are now open and can be registered on the [Scottish Interfaith Week website](#). Sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#) to receive updates.

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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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/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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