



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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**The UK Parliament will be in recess from 23 September to 18 October 2021.  
The next two issues of MEMO will be published on 4 and 18 October.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Mercedes Villalba (Labour) [S6M-01187] Europe Must Act #NoMoreWalls #NoMoreMorias** That the Parliament recognises the one-year anniversary of the fire that destroyed what it considers was the horrific Moria refugee camp, on Lesbos; understands that refugees from Afghanistan who were not part of the initial evacuation will inevitably arrive at Greek island camps through irregular routes; calls on the UK Government to allow the relocation and family reunion to the UK of Afghan asylum seekers from Greece; further calls for the removal of what it believes to be a two-tier system proposed in the UK Government's Nationality and Borders Bill that will penalise asylum seekers entering the UK via irregular routes, and urges the UK Government to grant amnesty for all Afghan

asylum seekers who are currently in the asylum system in the UK, and to provide full financial support to enable Scottish local authorities to resettle Afghan refugees in their area.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01187>

## UK Parliament Debate

### Afghanistan Policy

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-09-13/debates/D8892FE7-5BFE-431C-8CBE-F64B45D19995/AfghanistanPolicy>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Refugee Rights: International Law

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [903466] What recent assessment has [the Minister] made of the compatibility of the Government's proposals on asylum with (a) the UN's convention on the status of refugees and (b) the rule of law.

**Reply from the Attorney General (Sue Braverman):** Any request for my advice is subject to the Law Officers' convention, but I must make it clear that the UK prides itself on its leadership within the international system and discharges its international obligations in good faith. We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations. The Home Office's new plan for immigration is based on fairness, and the Government stand by our moral and legal obligations to help innocent civilians fleeing cruelty from all over the world.

**Anne McLaughlin:** Speaking in the House on Tuesday of the Home Secretary's plan literally to push back migrant children and their parents arriving by boats in the channel, the now former Justice Secretary, the right hon. and learned Member for South Swindon (Robert Buckland), said that these actions would not even "come close to breaking international law"—[[Official Report, 14 September 2021; Vol. 700, c. 799.](#)]

Given the number of leading UK legal experts with no axe to grind who say the absolute opposite, can the Attorney General at least reassure the House that she has not advised the Home Secretary that pushback plans would be either legal or moral?

**Reply from the Attorney General:** The Government are committed to addressing the unacceptable rise in dangerous and unnecessary small boat crossings, and are continuing to explore all options available to bring the numbers down. Our primary focus is on preventing people from entering the channel, tackling the criminal gangs responsible and protecting lives. As part of the Home Office's ongoing operational response, it will continue to evaluate and test a range of safe and legal options for stopping small boats.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-09-16/debates/9D6AAF66-A836-48C4-A115-4D7016EA1B35/RefugeeRightsInternationalLaw>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Immigration: Afghanistan

**Kevan Jones (Labour)** [41703] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether members of the public can make donations to the ARAP scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The UK has a proud history of providing safe haven

to those in need and the plans to be set out soon will also harness that generosity of spirit and the offers of support which have already flooded in from charities, businesses and the British public. This includes the creation of a central portal where people, organisations and businesses can register their offer of support, be it volunteering, a job opportunity, professional skills to help with integration and deal with trauma or donations of items like clothes and toys. Free English language courses will also be provided in recognition that many of the dependents of former staff and Afghan translators may need this.

While the creation of the central portal is still underway, members of the public can still offer help and donations at the Government's portal for refugees, Afghan citizens, and others. (<https://www.gov.uk/help-refugees>)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41703>

*Information about the ARAP (Afghan Relocations 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: Refugees**

**Stephen Farry (Alliance)** [44481] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will publish a breakdown by category of Afghans evacuated by the UK from Kabul since 15 August 2021 under the special cases provision.

**Reply from James Duddridge:** As of 28 August, 8589 Afghans who worked for us have been evacuated and are being resettled under the ARAP scheme, taking the total to over 10,500 since the scheme was extended on 1 April. Between 15 and 29 August, the UK also evacuated around 500 special cases of particularly vulnerable Afghans, including Chevening scholars, journalists, human rights defenders, campaigners for women's rights, judges and many others.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-07/44481>

*Information about the ARAP (Afghan Relocations 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>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [41809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghan nationals without military links under the UK resettlement schemes will be eligible for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people arriving in the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will be granted indefinite leave to remain.

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people arriving in the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will be granted indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, the Prime Minister announced that those arriving through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be granted immediate Indefinite Leave to Remain, allowing them to benefit from full rights and entitlements and providing them with the certainty and stability they need to build their life here. This is consistent with the leave granted to those arriving through the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41809>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41895>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41974>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-to-the-house-on-afghanistan-6-september-2021>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

*Information about the Afghan Relocations 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 UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [45835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the target timeframe will be to process applications submitted to the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government has worked at pace to develop and launch a new and bespoke Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which will relocate 5,000 vulnerable people in its first year, rising to up to 20,000 over the coming years – one of the most generous schemes in British history.

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September the Government published a policy statement which set out further details on the policy and operation of the ACRS, including in relation to the eligibility and selection of people under the Scheme.

Given the complex picture in Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries, it is important that the Government fully considers the operational delivery of the scheme with its international partners. We are working at pace to do that.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-09/45835>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

*The policy statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Julian Lewis (Conservative)** [46919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether places on the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme will be prioritised according to the degree of risk faced by applicants; for what reason at-risk applicants accepted for inclusion in the scheme will not all be brought to the UK during its first year; and by what means at-risk applicants for the scheme who are still in Afghanistan will be expected to keep themselves safe while awaiting the second and third years of the scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** On Monday 13 September the Government published a policy statement which set out further details on the policy and operation of the ACRS, and the package of integration support that will be offered to those arriving through the scheme.

This policy statement confirms that the following groups of people will be prioritised through the ACRS:

- those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law; and
- vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+).

To help identify those most at risk, the Government is working closely with the UN's Refugee Agency, UNHCR, to identify and resettle refugees who have fled Afghanistan based on their protection and humanitarian needs. The Government is also working with international partners and NGOs in the region to implement a referral process for people inside Afghanistan, where safe passage can be arranged, and for those that have recently fled to other countries in the region.

Further details on eligibility and selection can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-10/46919>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

*The policy statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [42154]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to establish a five year funding support scheme for local authorities to enable the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government has worked at pace to develop and launch a new and bespoke resettlement scheme, announced on 18 August, which will relocate 5,000 vulnerable people in its first year, rising to up to 20,000 over the coming years – one of the most generous schemes in British history. The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is in addition to the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy (ARAP), which offers any current or former locally employed staff who are assessed to be under serious threat to life priority relocation to the UK. Work is underway across government departments, and with charities and local authorities, to ensure people are properly supported so they can rebuild their lives. Further detail on the support we provide to those we bring to the UK, including levels of funding, will be made available in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42154>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>*

*Information about the Afghan Relocations 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>*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent) [45300]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her timetable is for (a) publishing the full details of the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme and (b) opening that scheme.

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [45302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to establish a specific programme to support Afghan refugees to settle in the UK, including help to find employment.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government has worked at pace to develop and launch a new and bespoke Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which will relocate 5,000 vulnerable people in its first year, rising to up to 20,000 over the coming years – one of the most generous schemes in British history.

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September the Government published a policy statement which set out further details on the policy and operation of the ACRS, and the package of integration support that will be offered to those arriving through the Scheme.

This statement confirmed that all of those brought to the UK under ARAP and ACRS will receive a comprehensive package of support that will help them to acclimatise to the UK, learn English and find work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45300>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45302>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

*The policy statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version>

### **Afghanistan: Immigration**

**John Healey (Labour)** [44194] To ask the Home Department, how many successful Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applicants and their families that are in the UK have (a) been allocated housing and (b) are still waiting to be allocated housing.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme (ACRS) will provide protection for people at risk identified as in need.

The government has committed to welcome around 5,000 people in the first year and up to 20,000 over the coming years. We will work with the United Nations and aid agencies to identify those we should help.

The scheme is not yet open yet, further details will be announced in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-07/44194>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [45301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of how long Afghan families who have been relocated to the UK will have to wait until they are permanently housed.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced the launch of a new bespoke Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), to welcome up to 20,000 vulnerable Afghans to the UK. The scheme will focus on those most at risk and in its first year will resettle up to 5,000 vulnerable Afghans.

The time in temporary accommodation is contingent on the number of offers from local authorities with offers of permanent accommodation for families and ensure that families are moved into these homes as soon as they become available. I set out on 13<sup>th</sup> September the detail of how local authorities can offer support to Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45301>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Afghanistan: Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [48286] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to release property from his Department's estate to house refugees from Afghanistan.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [48287] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to prepare properties or repurpose accommodation on his Department's estate to ensure it is fit for habitation by refugees from Afghanistan.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** The whole of government is rightly focused on delivering the best start to life in the UK for individuals who have supported the UK over the last 20 years of operations in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Defence is particularly committed to actively supporting the integration of Afghan nationals who have supported Defence wherever we can.

The Ministry of Defence has already offered Local Authorities the opportunity to lease up to one hundred units of Service Family Accommodation to house Afghan evacuees across the United Kingdom. Whilst the provision of accommodation is clearly a crucial part of the resettlement programme, of equal importance is ensuring that Local Authorities have the capacity to provide the right level of access to health and education provision to ensure the integration of Afghan evacuees.

The Ministry of Defence continues to work closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, and the Home Office support on a cross-Government efforts to identify where we can best support this endeavour. This includes the provision of additional Defence accommodation where appropriate to do so.

Before a decision is made on the provision of additional Defence accommodation, we continue to work with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to assess the impact allocating additional houses to Afghan families would have on our ability to support Service families who are eligible but not currently entitled to occupy surplus Service Families Accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-13/48286>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-13/48287>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41897] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to expedite decisions on family reunion applications made by Afghan refugees in the UK.

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41976] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to expedite decisions on family reunion applications made by Afghan refugees in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office has already taken steps to prioritise any outstanding Family Reunion applications made by Afghan refugees in the UK. The Home Office will not routinely expedite Afghan cases, as to do so would discriminate against other nationalities who may face similar risks, but we will consider cases on an individual basis to assess, in line with the existing approach on applications for Family Reunion, whether the risks presented mean the case should be expedited.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41897>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41976>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to expand eligibility to refugee family reunion for Afghan refugees in the UK to sponsor their (a) adult dependent children, (b) parents and (c) siblings.

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to expand eligibility to refugee family reunion for Afghan refugees in the UK to (a) sponsor their adult dependent children, (b) sponsor their parents and (c) sponsor their siblings.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government's refugee family reunion policy allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Afghan nationals recognised as refugees or with humanitarian protection in the UK, including those who will be resettled here under the new Afghanistan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, can sponsor qualifying family under this route. In the year ending June 2020, over 200 Afghan nationals came to the UK under the family reunion policy, including 130 children.

There are separate provisions in the Rules to allow extended family to sponsor children to come here where there are serious and compelling circumstances. Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK.

Our policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances.

There are additional safe and legal routes for people to come to the UK should they wish to join family members here, work or study. They would need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they were applying to qualify for a visa.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-13/41898>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41977>

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to allow Afghan refugees in the UK who have naturalised to be eligible to sponsor relatives under the refugee family reunion rules.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The refugee family reunion rules allow a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. This route is available until the sponsor chooses to become a British citizen.

A person who wishes to settle in the UK as the spouse, partner, child dependant, parent or adult dependent relative of a British citizen or settled person must apply for leave to enter or remain under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules and meet the relevant evidential requirements as set out in Appendix FM-SE to the Immigration Rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41899>



### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [45304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will work with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to help ensure that mental health services are made available to Afghan refugees as soon as possible on their arrival to the UK.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The safety and wellbeing of those who arrived from Afghanistan is of the utmost importance and we will work closely with accommodation providers and other partners to prioritise their safety and wellbeing. We are providing £3 million to ensure Afghan receive the healthcare they need. This includes access to prescriptions, wound care and dressings, maternity care, mental health support, and screening for infectious diseases.

We will also offer the protection of a COVID-19 vaccination as they settle and rebuild.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45304>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41896] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on mental health support for people arriving under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on mental health support for people arriving under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** On Wednesday 18 August, the Government announced the launch of a new bespoke Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), to welcome up to 20,000 vulnerable Afghans to the UK. The scheme will focus on those most at risk and in its first year will resettle up to 5,000 vulnerable Afghans. Subsequently, on 31 August, the Government announced 'Operation Warm Welcome' to ensure that all those relocated to the UK can access the vital health, education, and support into employment they need to fully integrate into society.

The Home Office has been working across Government to ensure that those evacuated from Afghanistan are well supported in all their needs. This includes engagement with the Department for Health and Social Care where we are having ongoing conversations around health provision regarding England as well as local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups working with people directly. We are working with the devolved administrations in their actions to welcome Afghan people as well.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41975>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41896>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

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

*Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [45303] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Afghan children who have recently arrived in the UK will be given educational support whilst waiting for their visas and full UK status to be processed.

**Reply from Vicky Ford:** All children resident in the UK are entitled to access education irrespective of their immigration status.

We're working hard across government on a coordinated effort to resettle Afghan families, providing at least £12 million in extra education funding so Afghan children and young people get the best possible start in this country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45303>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to expedite decisions on asylum applications, including appeals made by Afghan nationals.

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to expedite decisions on asylum applications, including appeals, made by Afghan nationals.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations. All asylum claims are considered on a case by case basis and in line with published policy. Claims by Afghan nationals will be considered in the same way as claims from any other nationality; we do not believe it is appropriate to prioritise claims from one nationality over another as many claimants, irrespective of nationality, are potentially vulnerable and no one is expected to leave the UK while they have a claim outstanding.

We are currently reviewing the country situation and will issue updated country policy and information notes shortly for Afghanistan, which reflect revised assessments of risk of persecution. We have therefore temporarily paused asylum decision making for Afghan nationals to ensure that our decision makers are only considering claimants' protection needs in the light of relevant and up-to-date country information.

All asylum appeals from Afghan nationals will be reviewed ahead of any hearing to look at the individual claim in light of the changed country situation, current guidance and any further information submitted by the claimant, to assess whether the decision to refuse is still appropriate.

No one who is found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in Afghanistan will be expected to return there, and enforced returns of those who have been refused asylum and have exhausted all rights of appeal are currently paused while we consider the situation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41894>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41973>

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Peter Gibson (Conservative)** [42138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to allow members of the LGBT community in Afghanistan to seek asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Whilst we acknowledge the increasingly complex situation in Afghanistan, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

While we do not allow asylum claims from abroad, all asylum claims that are lodged from within the UK, including those from Afghan nationals that are based on sexual orientation or gender identity, will be carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Those who need protection will normally be granted five years' limited leave, have full access to the labour market and mainstream benefits, and can apply for settlement after five years.

We do not remove asylum seekers who have had to leave their countries because their sexuality or gender identity has put them at risk of persecution and no one who is found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in Afghanistan will be expected to return there. Enforced returns of those who have been refused asylum and have exhausted all rights of appeal are also currently paused while we consider the situation. The UK's new resettlement scheme will, however, offer a route welcoming Afghans most at risk who have been forced to flee the country, prioritising resettling women, girls and children to the UK. Further details on the scheme will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42138>

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41900] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of allowing Afghan nationals in the UK to submit further submissions on asylum applications online.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In March 2020, to protect claimants and Home Office staff, we made changes to the further submissions process to allow for representations to be made remotely. It was always the intention of the Home Office to re-start the process of requiring further submissions from failed asylum seekers to be made in person as this helps to ensure people maintain contact with the Home Office and enables identity to be checked.

In order to make this process more accessible, we have recently increased the number of locations people can lodge submissions, with Glasgow coming on line in mid-August 2021, in addition to the previous locations of Liverpool and Belfast.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41900>

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Ian Blackford (SNP)** [41902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that Afghan nationals are not evicted from asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Afghan nationals who have an asylum claim or appeal which has not yet been decided are eligible to receive support under section 95 of the 1999 Act if they would otherwise be destitute. Furthermore, failed asylum seekers may be supported under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (1999 Act) if they would otherwise be destitute and meet other conditions set out in the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005.

Regulation 3(2)(c) provides, subject to the individual being destitute, support may be provided where there is no "viable route of return" to the individual's country of origin. However, this is not considered to be relevant to the current situation in Afghanistan, where the relevant issue is the safety of individuals if they were to return to the country, rather than the practicalities of travelling there.

Failed asylum seekers who consider they would be at risk of harm on return to Afghanistan because of the recent changes in the country are able to lodge further asylum submissions and would therefore be eligible to receive support under Regulation 3(2)(e) of the 2005 Regulations, subject to meeting the destitution criteria.

There are no plans to change the policy so Afghans may not be evicted from accommodation provided under section 95 or 4(2) in any circumstances. Like others supported under the provisions, their support may be discontinued in a number of circumstances, including where it appears they are no longer destitute, where they are no longer living in the accommodation provided to them and where they are granted refugee status and therefore become eligible to take up employment or apply for mainstream benefits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41902>

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Alan Brown (SNP)** [41981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to not evict Afghan nationals from asylum accommodation.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Failed asylum seekers may be supported under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if they would otherwise be destitute and meet other conditions set out in the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005.

Regulation 3(2)(c) provides that, subject to the individual being destitute, support may be provided where there is no “viable route of return” to the individual’s country of origin. However, this is not considered to be relevant to the current situation in Afghanistan, where the relevant issue is the safety of individuals if they were to return to the country, rather than the practicalities of travelling there.

Failed asylum seekers who consider that they would be at risk of harm on return to Afghanistan because of the recent changes in the country are able to lodge further asylum submissions and would therefore be eligible to receive support under Regulation 3(2)(e) of the 2005 Regulations, subject to meeting the destitution criteria.

There are no plans to change the policy so that Afghans may not be evicted from accommodation provided under the 1999 Act in any circumstances. Like others supported under the provisions, their support may be discontinued in a number of circumstances, including where it appears they are no longer destitute, where they are no longer living in the accommodation provided to them and where they are granted refugee status.

The UK’s new resettlement scheme will offer a route welcoming Afghans most at risk who have been forced to flee the country, prioritising resettling women, girls and children to the UK. This scheme delivers on the Government’s commitment in the New Plan for Immigration to create safe and legal routes for those in fear of persecution and oppression in their home country. Further details on the scheme will be published in due course.

Additionally, the Government’s family reunion scheme allows Afghans granted protection to bring their partner and children under 18 to the UK if they formed part of their family unit before they fled their country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41981>

## **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum**

### **Visas: Fees and Charges**

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [45944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to provide financial support for visa fees to people in receipt of personal independence payments and universal credit.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office provides exceptions to the need to pay application fees in a number of specific circumstances to ensure the Home

Office's immigration and nationality fee structure complies with international obligations and wider government policy.

Fee waivers are available on affordability grounds where the payment of a fee would be incompatible with an applicant's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights. Detailed guidance can be found via the following link:

[Fee waiver - casework guidance](#)

The Home Office keeps fees for immigration and nationality applications under review and ensures they are within the parameters agreed with HM Treasury and Parliament.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-09/45944>

### Immigration

**John Redwood (Conservative)** [41592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outstanding cases her Department is considering for (a) asylum and (b) permission to be an economic migrant living and working in the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** a) The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of asylum applications currently awaiting a decision, either an initial decision or pending further review, are published in table Asy\_D03 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest published statistics relate to data up to the end of June 2021.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[asylum and resettlement summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

(b) This information requested is routinely published as part of UKVI Transparency data.

The current data is available for Quarter 2 of 2021 and can be found in the attached link: [Visas and Citizenship data: Q2 2021](#)

Data for Q3 2021 will be published in the next transparency data release.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41592>

### British Nationality: Hong Kong

**Charlotte Nichols (Labour)** [45285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the British citizenship application process is for those who have successfully received a Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa; and how long those people who hold that visa will need to live in the UK to be eligible to apply for British citizenship.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa is valid for up to five years. After five years in the UK and, provided they have stayed free of criminality, have supported themselves financially and otherwise complied with the terms of the visa, they will be able to apply for permanent settlement. After a further year they may apply to register as a British citizen, six years' residence in all.

For citizenship they will need to have been resident in the UK without significant absences in the five year period before making the application, and be of good character. They will not, however, need to pass the Life in the UK test or have an English language qualification in the same way as those applying for naturalisation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45285>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42031] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance has been issued to her officials on interpreting reasonable grounds for late applications to the EU Settlement Scheme; and what assessment she has made of how that guidance will change over time.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance has been issued to her officials on interpreting reasonable grounds for late applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme for people who only become aware of their undocumented status in future years.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42038] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether there is any time constraint on applications to the EU Settlement Scheme for people who have reasonable grounds for late submission.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them.

The Home Office published non-exhaustive guidance on 1 April 2021 on what may constitute such reasonable grounds, to underpin a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering late applications to the EUSS in light of the circumstances of each case. This includes, for example, where a person establishes, when they first apply to work or study in the UK, an application to the scheme was not made on their behalf years earlier when they were a child by a parent, guardian or Local Authority.

The latest version of the guidance is available at pages 30 to 48 here:

[EUSS casework guidance](#).

The guidance makes clear applicants will be given the benefit of any doubt in considering whether, in light of information provided with the application, there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them under the EUSS, unless this would not be reasonable in light of the particular circumstances of the case.

Any change in approach will be reflected in a revision of the guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42031>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42032>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42038>

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

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

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42029] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support digitally excluded people to make late applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42030] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who were unable to access in person support when making their application as a result of the covid-19 outbreak have reasonable grounds to submit a late application to the scheme.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42036] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether inclusion in one of the categories that her Department has assessed as vulnerable persons, is reasonable grounds to be eligible for late application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Helen Hayes (Labour)** [42037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether periods of (a) bereavement and (b) destitution will be treated as reasonable grounds for a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them.

As the Government has made clear, the guidance published on 1 April is not exhaustive and we will take a pragmatic and flexible approach to considering late applications to the EUSS in light of the particular circumstances of each case. This will include where the person is vulnerable and cases of bereavement, destitution or inability due to COVID-19 to access support in person.

There remains a wide range of support available for applicants, including from 72 organisations across the UK grant-funded by the Home Office to help vulnerable people apply to the EUSS. Additional support is also available for those who do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to apply online through [Assisted Digital](#), which can offer assistance over the telephone.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42029>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42030>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42036>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42037>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1004627/main-euss-guidance-v13.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004627/main-euss-guidance-v13.0ext.pdf)

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

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

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

**Helen Hayes (Labour) [42033]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme who have been granted pre-settled status will be able to access comprehensive guidance and legal safeguards when applying for settled status in the future.

**Helen Hayes (Labour) [42035]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to allow people with pre-settled status to transfer to settled status as soon as their limited leave to remain runs out, provided they can give evidence that they are still living in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, a person granted pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme can apply for settled status as soon as they qualify for it, generally after they have completed five years' continuous residence in the UK.

They will have access to comprehensive guidance and their rights will continue to be protected until the outcome of their application for settled status, including any appeal process against refusal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42033>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42035>

*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**

**Helen Hayes (Labour) [42034]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of requiring employers, landlords and public officials to signpost EU citizens and their family members to the EU Settlement Scheme in the event that they have reason to believe that they may be eligible for a late application to the scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The responsibility for making an application ultimately lies with the individual. However, employers, landlords and public officials have an important role to play in providing support, and the Home Office remains committed to ensuring those who are eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) can apply. £22 million of funding has been awarded to a network of 72 organisations across the UK, which includes local authorities and local government associations, and we recently undertook to provide further funding for the period between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022. This is to ensure information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind.

As of September, the Home Office has delivered over 410 events reaching over 29,000 stakeholders, including employers, landlords, financial institutions, educational establishments, umbrella organisations, local authorities, foreign administrations and citizens, about the EUSS. We continue to work closely with employers and landlords to ensure information is effectively cascaded through stakeholder networks, listen to feedback and adapt our communications to ensure maximum effectiveness.

We have published guidance for employers and landlords, which clearly encourages them to signpost prospective or existing employees and tenants who have not applied to the EUSS and do not have any other form of UK immigration leave to make an application. For applications made from 1 July, EEA citizens and their family members are able to evidence their right to work or right to rent once they have submitted a valid EUSS application and the employer or landlord has contacted the Home Office.

To further support EEA citizens living in the UK, the Home Office has worked closely with HMRC and DWP on a programme to identify people who may not have applied to the EUSS but are eligible. Letters have been sent out to these individuals giving them step by step, practical advice on how to apply to the Scheme.

Under our flexible and pragmatic approach to late applications, where Immigration Enforcement encounter a person without status under the EUSS who appears to be eligible, they will be provided with a written notice giving them an opportunity to apply to the scheme, normally within 28 days.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/42034>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers/eu-settlement-scheme-introduction-for-employers>

*and*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999433/Right\\_to\\_rent\\_checks\\_from\\_1\\_July\\_2021\\_Important\\_Information\\_for\\_landlords.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999433/Right_to_rent_checks_from_1_July_2021_Important_Information_for_landlords.pdf)

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

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

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [44237]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with French authorities on the recent increases in illegal crossings of the English channel.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** My officials meet regularly with our French partners at all



levels, with regional Prefet(e)s and with the Ministry of the Interior, to discuss these crossings. The Clandestine Channel Threat Commander and the Director General for Border Force met with their French counterparts last week as part of those regular meetings, and my Right Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary, discussed Channel crossings with her counterpart at the G7 last week. We are clear, as are the French, that these crossings are dangerous, unnecessary, and often facilitated by criminals. We are committed to stopping them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-07/44237>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Julian Lewis (Conservative)** [46920] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what comparative assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of (a) turning back illegal immigrants at sea in the English Channel and (b) picking up illegal migrants and returning them France; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Managing the illegal crossings by migrants using small boats and disrupting the criminal enterprises that facilitate this deadly trade is a top priority for my officials. They have explored the different options open to the UK and their effectiveness in the context of both domestic and international law. Turning back migrant vessels at sea is one of a range of potential possibilities, and the new Borders Bill includes additional powers enabling Border Force to act in international waters and potentially return boats to their country of embarkation, where there are agreements in place to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-10/46920>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**John Redwood (Conservative)** [41593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what further steps her Department plans to take to arrest people who take money from people seeking to cross the Channel illegally in unsuitable boats.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Government stands resolute in its commitment to tackle Organised Immigration Crime (OIC). We continue to pursue the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who facilitate illegal travel to the UK and who exploit vulnerable migrants, knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

We are committed to prosecuting those who profit from dangerous and unnecessary Channel crossings in small boats. We are working with national and international partners in these investigations, and are continuing to improve the intelligence co-operation that underpins them. The multi-agency NCA-led OIC Taskforce is the UK government's response to tackling people smuggling. It has been involved in more than 1000 arrests, both in the UK and overseas, with suspects convicted sentenced to more than 720 years in prison. It takes a whole of route approach, deploying over 150 officers to operate in 17 countries, with Crown Prosecution Service prosecutors placed in key source and transit countries to disrupt OCGs profiting from people smuggling.

We also pursue those involved in the financial flows that support this activity. Using criminal powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, an individual can be prosecuted for money laundering offences if sufficient evidence is obtainable and CPS agree to charging, or civil powers within the same act permit the action to be taken against the money concerned. Both these approaches are used to undermine the financial flows supporting small boat and wider clandestine smuggling, both in the UK and with foreign partners.

We are working with NCA and social media companies to agree a joint action plan to tackle content advertising illegal OIC services on online platforms, including content relating to small boat crossings.

Additionally, the Government published the New Plan for Immigration containing

provisions to establish legislation to deter illegal entry into the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal people smuggling networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger. In July 2021, the Government introduced this legislation through the Nationality and Borders Bill.

The Government will continue to work tirelessly to stop the criminal networks facilitating OIC and protect the lives of those they wish to recklessly exploit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41593>

*The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>

### **Undocumented Migrants: Housing**

**John Redwood (Conservative)** [41591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on providing hotel accommodation or more permanent homes for migrants arriving without permits.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Migrants who enter the UK unlawfully are not eligible to mainstream housing assistance. When someone applies for asylum, if they are destitute, they are provided with support and accommodation for the period that their claim is under consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41591>

### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [45283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's planned timescale is for Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre to start holding women who are detained under immigration powers.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The contract to operate services at Derwentside immigration removal centre (IRC) was awarded to Mitie Care & Custody from 4 June 2021 for 2 years. We expect that the IRC will start holding women who are detained under immigration powers in the autumn.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-08/45283>

### **Deportation: Jamaica and Zimbabwe**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [46974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 September 2021 to Question 41845 on Deportation: Jamaica and Zimbabwe, whether any of the people deported on the charter flight to (a) Zimbabwe on 21 July 2021 and (b) Jamaica on 11 August 2021 or any of those who were scheduled for deportation on those two flights but were not placed on the planes on the day were under the age of 12 when they came to the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** I refer the Honourable Member to my response of 8 September 2021 (UIN: 41845).

We do not routinely comment on individual cases. As stated in my previous response, a person's age upon arrival to the UK or their nationality are not automatic exceptions to deportation under the UK Borders Act 2007. These may be relevant factors when determining whether an exception applies and an Article 8 claim pursuant to the Immigration Rules. Those deported will have been provided with the opportunity to raise claims and all claims are fully considered and decided upon before deportation, including, where applicable, via the Courts. I will continue to remove dangerous criminals and those with no rights to be in the UK from the country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-10/46974>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-03/41845>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

**Baroness D'Souza (Crossbench):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy to support (1) individuals, and (2) groups, working on Official Development Assistance funded projects on gender and women's rights in Afghanistan.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):** My Lords, the Afghan relocations and assistance policy was set up to facilitate the resettlement of Afghan nationals who worked with the UK Government in Afghanistan. A number of gender and women's rights activists were evacuated as special cases under Operation Pitting, and those still in Afghanistan may be eligible for resettlement under the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme.

**Baroness D'Souza:** I thank the Minister. What precise assessment has the FCDO made of the number of affiliated academics and/or researchers currently in hiding? What on-the-ground assistance can be relied on to ensure their safe evacuation within the next few days?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As the noble Baroness will know, safe evacuation within the next few days is incredibly challenging, first, because of the lack of consular assistance and, secondly, because of the dangers in getting people out. But the schemes that we are running will enable people like those the noble Baroness talks about to ultimately find safety in this country.

**Baroness Crawley (Labour):** My Lords, I ask the Minister to reiterate the Government's current advice to those desperate Afghans who are fleeing to the border, because there seems to be a contradiction between departments on that advice. What help and advice under the UK resettlement scheme can the Government offer to the many Afghan women judges who are in hiding from the Taliban because of the years in which they headed up specialist courts in the 34 provinces to protect women and girls?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I wholeheartedly concur with the noble Baroness on consistency of approach across government. It is no time for there to be differences in what departments are saying. In terms of the people that the noble Baroness refers to, I am going to read from the policy statement because it clarifies it: "The scheme will prioritise ... those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights and freedom of speech, or rule of law (for example, judges, women's rights activists, academics, and journalists)".

**Baroness Smith of Newnham (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, the Minister has just stated what the policy will do. Can she tell us when we are going to get details of the resettlement policy? At the moment, there are thousands of people in hiding with no idea of how they are going to get out of Afghanistan and what they need to do to give this Government the right information to enable them to get out.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** My honourable friend Victoria Atkins has started to outline some of the detail of what we are doing so far, and I think more will come. The policy statement makes very clear the types of people we will be prioritising—that is, the people who are most vulnerable to the Taliban.

**Baroness Sugg (Conservative):** My Lords, development contractors delivering projects for women and girls on behalf of the UK Government routinely employed local staff. Currently, the ARAP scheme does not recognise them as it recognises people employed directly by the Government. But these people are at risk; they are receiving regular and legitimate threats to life. Can my noble friend the Minister look at expanding the ARAP scheme to ensure that these people, as and when we are able to get them out of Afghanistan, can receive the help that they need?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... As she acknowledges, the ARAP

scheme has already been broadened both before and during Operation Pitting. It was extended to include those who resigned from service, who were dismissed for all but serious misconduct or criminal offences and additional family members of certain contractors who worked alongside the UK and represented its interests. It is not our intention to broaden the scheme, but those who worked as contractors in support of women's rights were eligible for evacuation as special cases and will be eligible for resettlement under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. ...

**Lord Collins of Highbury (Labour):** My Lords, last week I raised the vulnerability of the LGBT community in Afghanistan with the FCDO Minister, and I called on him to work with the Home Office to ensure that the resettlement scheme can help. Can the Minister tell us what cross-departmental work has taken place since to help to facilitate safe passage for the LGBT community, including, as the noble Baroness, Lady Sugg, mentioned, those who have worked on ODA-funded projects in Afghanistan, making them particularly vulnerable?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** I recognise all that the noble Lord has said. Of course we work with things like the UNHCR. If I may go back to the policy statement, the point that comes after the first one that I read out refers to: vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk, including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT." LGBT people must be some of the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan at this point in time. ...

**Lord Davies of Brixton (Labour):** My Lords, I take this opportunity to join other Members of the House to press the Minister to facilitate, as a matter of urgency, safe passage for those Afghan citizens who worked specifically on UK-funded academic research to advance the UK's international development agenda? They have risked their lives undertaking fieldwork in areas of policy and practice that the Taliban see as a threat to their objectives.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As I said to other noble Lords, the ACRS will prioritise those people who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and who face particular risk from the Taliban because of their stance on democracy and human rights or because of their gender, sexuality or religion.

**Baroness Stuart of Edgbaston (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, the noble Baroness, Lady Barker, quite rightly pointed out that, with Afghan women MPs being helped to come out of Afghanistan, some of their networks have been broken up, as have some of the family structures. Could the Government undertake also to work with the diaspora in this country to ensure that some of these networks and families are being reunited and brought to work again?

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** That is a very good point, and I will certainly take that back. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-09-15/debates/C2E85768-9013-4DB9-8BA0-676F78964521/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations 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>*

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Afghanistan: Immigration

**Lord Empey (UUP) [HL2409]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have made available to individuals approved for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme; and when they anticipate those individuals can be relocated from Afghanistan to the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Goldie:** The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) for those who worked with the UK in Afghanistan is not time-limited and will endure. We are now looking at all possible avenues to facilitate relocation, from third countries if possible, for those eligible.

To anyone to whom we have made commitments - and who is currently in Afghanistan - we are working urgently with our friends in the region to secure safe passage. As soon as routes are available we will do everything possible to help these eligible individuals to reach safety.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-06/hl2409>

*Information about the Afghan Relocations 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>*

## UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

**Afghanistan: Safe routes and resettlement**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2715/default/>

## Press Release

**Physical proof of status should be offered to EU citizens**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/physical-proof-of-status-should-be-offered-to-eu-citizens/>

## New Publications

**Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2020**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/population-by-country-of-birth-and-nationality/jan-dec-20>

**Physical proof of status for EU citizens: joint letter including Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/physical-proof-of-status-for-eu-citizens-joint-letter-including-minister-for-culture-europe-and-international-development/>

**EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, June 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-june-2021/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-june-2021>

**Updated Guidance: Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme**

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

**Next steps in the UK: immigration information for people evacuated from Afghanistan**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-evacuees-immigration-information/next-steps-in-the-uk-immigration-information-for-people-evacuated-from-afghanistan>

**Information for people in Scotland affected by the crisis in Afghanistan**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/information-for-people-in-scotland-affected-by-the-evolving-crisis-in-afghanistan/>

**Safe environment? Investigating the use of temporary accommodation to house asylum seekers during the Covid-19 outbreak**

[https://tempacco.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/interim-report\\_final.pdf](https://tempacco.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/interim-report_final.pdf)

**Barriers to Wellbeing: Migration and vulnerability during the pandemic**

<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Barriers-to-wellbeing-09.21.pdf>

## News

**New Scots Leadership programmes**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-scots-leadership-programmes/>

**8% of Scotland's population are non-British nationals**

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2021/8-of-scotlands-population-are-non-british-nationals>

**Scots councils accomodating Afghan refugees to receive £20,000 per person**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19578081.scots-councils-accomodating-afghan-refugees-receive-20-000-per-person/>

**Afghan evacuees in UK face homelessness and destitution, MPs say**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/18/afghan-evacuees-in-uk-face-homelessness-and-destitution-mps-say>

**MPs demand clarity on fate of 3,000 Afghans stuck in UK asylum system**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghans-asylum-home-office-victoria-atkins-b1919404.html>

**Government closes family reunification scheme for Afghan refugees**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/family-reunification-afghan-b1919898.html>

**Case backlog for EU citizens to settle in UK 'may be cleared by Christmas'**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/16/backlog-of-applications-by-eu-citizens-to-settle-in-uk-may-soon-be-cleared-figures-suggest>

**No queue-jumping for Britons seeking to return to UK with EU spouses**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/sep/14/no-queue-jumping-for-britons-seeking-to-return-to-uk-with-eu-spouses>

**French woman held by Home Office officials at Gatwick for eight hours**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/16/french-woman-detained-home-office-border-force-gatwick-eu>

**Home Office admits 'limited evidence' that its plans will reduce Channel crossings**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-home-office-asylum-seekers-b1921576.html>

**UK to spend millions on migrant reception centres in France in attempt to stop crossings**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/14/uks-millions-stem-migrant-tide-will-spent-reception-centres/>

**Bishops hit out at ‘criminalisation of Good Samaritan’ over Channel crossings**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/12/bishops-hit-out-at-criminalisation-of-good-samaritan-over-channel-crossings>

**Border Force carries out ‘pushback drills’ using jet skis to ‘turn around dinghies’**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pushback-jetski-migrants-home-office-b1919348.html>

**Officers on jet skis will force migrant boats to turn back in the Channel**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/officers-jet-skis-force-migrant-boatsturn-back-channel-cxvq7htv>

**Migrant crossings: More than 400 people cross Channel in three days**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-58593554>

**Migrant crossings reach record level**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/09/13/migrant-crossings-reach-record-level/>

**Home Office facing legal action over ‘unfair’ asylum dispersal system**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/councils-asylum-legal-action-home-office-b1919837.html>

**Home Office hotels for asylum seekers ‘akin to detention centres’ – report**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/16/home-office-hotels-for-asylum-seekers-akin-to-detention-centres-report>

**New report reveals the extent of the barriers migrants face accessing healthcare during the pandemic**  
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2021/09/new-report-reveals-barriers-migrants-accessing-healthcare.aspx>

**NHS trusts wrongly billing vulnerable migrants for maternity care, says charity**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/sep/17/nhs-trusts-wrongly-billing-vulnerable-migrants-for-maternity-care-says-charity>

**NHS trusts ‘wrongly charging’ vulnerable migrant women for maternity care**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-trusts-migrant-women-charging-b1922329.html>

**Asylum seeker given £100,000 hospital bill after suffering stroke**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/18/asylum-seeker-given-100000-hospital-bill-after-suffering-stroke>

**Cross Borders: supporting artists from refugee backgrounds**  
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/cross-borders-supporting-artists-from-refugee-backgrounds/>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Debate

#### **Black Maternal Health Week**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-09-14/debates/64FF60FB-EE09-4C1A-ADAE-36A78DC3F408/BlackMaternalHealthWeek>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Prisoners on Remand: Ethnic Groups**

**David Lammy (Labour)** [44182] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the ethnic breakdown is of people held on remand in each year since 2010.

**Reply from Lucy Frazer:** The decision to remand an individual in custody or to grant bail is solely a matter for the courts acting in accordance with the Bail Act 1976 and the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012, which provides a framework of remand in custody and creates a presumption in favour of bail for all defendants involved in criminal proceedings.

The Ministry of Justice holds information for remand outcomes broken down by ethnicity in the Magistrates' and Crown Court at the following links:

Remand Population and Total Population by Ethnicity in England and Wales 2015-2020

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1006270/Population\\_30June2021\\_Annual.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006270/Population_30June2021_Annual.ods)

Remand Population by Magistrates Court

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/987718/remands-magistrates-court-tool-2020.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987718/remands-magistrates-court-tool-2020.xlsx)

Remand Population by Crown Court

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/987720/remands-crown-court-tool-2020.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987720/remands-crown-court-tool-2020.xlsx)

Research by the Youth Justice Board on Ethnic disproportionality in remand and sentencing in the youth justice system was published on 21 January 2021 and can be accessed via the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/952483/Ethnic\\_disproportionality\\_in\\_remand\\_and\\_sentencing\\_in\\_the\\_youth\\_justice\\_system.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952483/Ethnic_disproportionality_in_remand_and_sentencing_in_the_youth_justice_system.pdf)

Routine Youth Justice Statistics 2019/2020 released on 28th January show remand broken down by ethnicity:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-justice-statistics-2019-to-2020>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-07/44182>

### New Publication

#### **Mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/mandatory-ethnicity-pay-gap-reporting/>

### News

#### **Diane Abbott: The government cannot ignore Black mothers any longer**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/black-mothers-maternal-health-disparities-b1920594.html>



## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Football: Racial Harassment**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL2462] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of a YouGov survey, published on 25 August, which found that 62 per cent of football fans fear that a player will be racially abused.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** There is no place for racism in football, whether in the stands or on social media, or society more widely.

The Government therefore welcomed the Premier League's "No Room for Racism" Action plan, and the announcement of new enhanced anti-discrimination measures to be implemented in the 2021/22 season, such as league-wide bans for offenders. The Government's pioneering Online Safety Bill will make it even tougher for offenders to abuse others, with social media firms facing huge fines if they fail to clamp down on abuse.

There is still more to do though, and we will continue to work with the football authorities to combat racism in the game.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-09-06/hl2462>

*The findings of the survey referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11661/12383739/racism-in-football-most-fans-worried-about-witnessing-players-receive-abuse-according-to-yougov-survey-for-sky-sports-news>

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

<https://www.premierleague.com/NoRoomForRacism>

### Press Releases

#### **Actions to improve racial equality**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/actions-to-improve-racial-equality/>

#### **Public Processions in Glasgow - statement by Chief Superintendent Mark Sutherland**

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2021/september/public-processions-in-glasgow-statement-by-chief-superintendent-mark-sutherland/>

### New Publications

#### **Race Equality Immediate Priorities Plan**

<https://tinyurl.com/23fsdrry>

#### **Anti-racist Policy Making in Scotland**

<https://tinyurl.com/nr6p5muu>

**Anti-racist policy making: Learning from the first 20 years of Scottish devolution**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3pvmzrs6>

**A threat to public safety: policing, racism and the Covid-19 pandemic**  
<https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/A-threat-to-public-safety-v3.pdf>

**What's causing structural racism in housing?**  
[https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/58774/download?token=Obw\\_6Nkv&filetype=briefing](https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/58774/download?token=Obw_6Nkv&filetype=briefing)

## News

**Government says discrimination against black people and Travellers 'objectively justified' with new laws**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/policing-bill-discrimination-black-travellers-b1919272.html>

**New report suggests pandemic policing undermines public health measures whilst disproportionately targeting Black and Minority Ethnic communities**  
<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/new-report-suggests-pandemic-policing-undermines-public-health-measures-while-disproportionately-targeting-black-and-minority-ethnic-communities/>

**Pandemic police powers threaten minority ethnic groups, says report**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pandemic-policing-public-health-racism-b1919196.html>

**New research highlights 'shameful' racial disparities in housing system**  
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/new-research-highlights-'shameful'-racial-disparities-housing-system>

**Welfare and immigration policies driving racial disparity in housing, new study shows**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ethnic-minority-housing-inequalities-report-b1919371.html>

**Police condemn 'racist and sectarian' singing at Orange walks**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-58608676>

**'Don't pass Catholic churches': protests as Glasgow braces for Orange walks**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/sep/18/dont-pass-catholic-churches-protests-as-glasgow-braces-for-orange-walks>

**Anger as Orange parade allowed past Catholic churches**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-as-orange-parade-allowed-past-catholic-churches-2mc0rrxdp>

**'As a young black lawyer, I've been mistaken for a defendant'**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/as-a-young-black-lawyer-ive-been-mistaken-for-a-defendant-hxdgtw26>

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# **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 Government Press Releases**

### **Vaccinations for 12 -15 year olds**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-12-15-year-olds/>

### **International travel restrictions to be relaxed and simplified**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/international-travel-restrictions-to-be-relaxed-and-simplified/>

## **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 – 14 September 2021**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-14-september-2021/>

## **UK Government Press Releases**

### **Prime Minister sets out autumn and winter Covid plan**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-autumn-and-winter-covid-plan>

### **Most vulnerable to be offered COVID-19 booster vaccines from next week**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-to-be-offered-covid-19-booster-vaccines-from-next-week>

### **Young people aged 12 to 15 to be offered a COVID-19 vaccine**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/young-people-aged-12-to-15-to-be-offered-a-covid-19-vaccine>

### **Thousands of patients to benefit from life-saving COVID-19 treatment**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-patients-to-benefit-from-life-saving-covid-19-treatment>

### **New system for international travel**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-system-for-international-travel>

## **UK Government Publications**

### **The R value and growth rate**

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

### **PM statement at coronavirus press conference: 14 September 2021**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-14-september-2021>

## **News**

### **Scotland to vaccinate 12 to 15-year-olds from Monday**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-58562067>

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## **Other News**

### **Young People's Competition for Scottish Interfaith Week 2021**

*Submission deadline: Thursday October 14th, 2021*

Scottish Interfaith Week are asking young people to present their ideas about how to make religious festivals more eco-friendly. Entries can be in any format (cartoon, film, animation

etc), and each school or youth group can enter up to three submissions. Recommended age: S1-S3. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/young-peoples-competition-together-for-our-planet>

**Assisted dying: British Medical Association drops opposition to euthanasia**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/assisted-dying-british-medical-association-drops-opposition-vqb7xsmvq>

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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>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0079/210079.pdf>

**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>

Equality Impact Assessment

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nationality-and-borders-bill-equality-impact-assessment/the-nationality-and-borders-bill-equality-impact-assessment-accessible-version>

Joint Committee on Human Rights

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2688/html/>

and

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2689/html/>

## **Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

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

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

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

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## **Consultations**

**\*\* new or updated this week**

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

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

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

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

**Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee: Pre-Budget Scrutiny**

(closing date 24 September 2021)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/pre-budget-2022-23/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/pre-budget-2022-23/consult_view/)

**\*\* closes next week!**

**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

### **\*\* Fife Equality Community Grants**

*Closing date 1 October 2021*

Fife Centre for Equalities small grant programme to help small community-led groups to build their capacity to engage with wider diverse communities and to improve public's participation in their activity. For information see

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/fce-projects-portal/fife-equality-community-grants>

### **\*\* Rural Communities Ideas into Action Fund**

*Closing date 8 October 2021*

Scottish Government funding to help rural communities thrive through community-led initiatives. It offers small grants of up to £3,000 for grassroots locally-led rural groups or organisations to support community projects that fit with local needs, and large grants of between £3,001 and £50,000 for not for profit organisations to invest in community-led initiatives that respond to local need. For information see

<https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/rural-communities-ideas-into-action-fund/>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

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

#### **Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

21 and 22 September 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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

#### **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/4dhacsww>

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

#### **Q&A sessions with the Scottish Refugee Council and Social Enterprise Academy**

23 September 2021 (online, 4.00–5.00)

24 September 2021 (online, 3.00–4.00)

These sessions will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Scottish Refugee Council / Social Enterprise Academy training programme for refugees in Scotland (see “Exploring my Leadership” and “New Scots Leadership Programme” below), find out about the eligibility criteria, and ask questions. For information see

<https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=706>

**\*\* next week!**

### **Working with Interpreters**

30 September and 1 October 2021 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

23 and 24 November 2021 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bilingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

**\*\* next week!**

### **Looking Back, Moving Forward.**

1 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.15)

STUC Black History Month Lecture 2021 "In Conversation with Sir Geoff Palmer and Anita Shelton." In 1989, Sir Geoff Palmer became Scotland's first black professor. He is Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, and is also a prominent human rights activist. Anita Shelton is a founding member of the STUC Black Workers' Committee, and a former member of the STUC General Council. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/9pr5ruk6>

### **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>

### **\*\* Exploring my Leadership**

6 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.00)

7 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.00)

15 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.00)

18 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.00)

19 October 2021 (online, 6.00–9.00)

Scottish Refugee Council/Scottish Enterprise Academy workshops to enable Scottish refugees to step forward as leaders for their communities and shape a new future. It will develop participant's leadership skills, support them gain the tools to have an impact on their community and offer a supportive opportunity to connect with peers. These training sessions will develop understanding of what leadership is and explore the kind of leader participants want to become. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=706>

### **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](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **\*\* Supporting Refugee Integration**

14 and 15 October 2021 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

### **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>

### **\*\* Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement**

26 and 27 October 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

9 and 10 December 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

3 and 4 February 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

### **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.

### **\*\* New Scots Leadership Programme**

Module 1: November 2021 (dates tbc) (online and face-to-face)

12 day leadership programme from the Scottish Refugee Council and Scottish Enterprise Academy to equip refugees living in the Glasgow area with practical skills to help them understand themselves better; lead, motivate and inspire others, and consider how they can take a more strategic approach to lead in their community, whether this is their community of refugees or the geographical communities that they find themselves in. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=710>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
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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