



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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 5 September 2022.
The next issue of MEMO will be published on 12 September.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers: Ukraine

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6W-10378] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its arrangements for welcoming displaced people from Ukraine through the Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government's super sponsor scheme was introduced on 18 March 2022, to offer sanctuary in Scotland to displaced people from Ukraine. It works within the UK Government's Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme to provide a fast and safe alternative to private sponsorship.

Statistics published by the UK Government show that, as at 11 August, 10,056 people sponsored by the Scottish Government had travelled to Scotland. We continue to provide safe and secure temporary accommodation to all Ukrainians who need it on arrival.

This includes the MS Victoria I passenger ship, which has been docked in Edinburgh, which is providing temporary accommodation for 1,000 people from Ukraine. There has been positive reception from those families accommodated on board and from stakeholders.

There are nearly 36,000 Super Sponsor applications that have been made, of which nearly 30,000 have been approved for a visa so far. Not everyone will choose to use their visa. However, excluding the 10,000 who have already arrived so far this means around a further 20,000 visa holders could potentially arrive.

Therefore the Scottish Government has chartered a second passenger ship which will be located in Glasgow. We expect the ship to be operational in September, and it will provide up to a further 1750 people with the same level of facilities and support currently available to those in Edinburgh.

This is a humanitarian crisis requiring a whole of Scotland response, and the Scottish Government will continue to work closely with local councils and with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to ensure that those displaced people who are already here, and those who have applied and are granted permission to travel, will be safe, secure and supported for as long as they need, after the dangers they have faced at home.

We are getting very close to capacity for the temporary accommodation currently available, particularly across the Central Belt. We do not want people having to stay in temporary accommodation for any longer than is necessary. We are therefore putting every effort into helping people find longer-term accommodation in communities across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10378>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10153] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its timescale for moving Ukrainian refugees from welcome hubs into longer-term accommodation.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10157] To ask the Scottish Government whether it can provide an update regarding the planned date for the reopening of the Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: When displaced people from Ukraine arrive at Scotland's Ukraine Welcome Hubs, they are given an immediate warm welcome to Scotland and immediate support in a safe and secure space. If those from Ukraine need temporary accommodation they will be placed in a hotel or similar accommodation where they can stay until they can move into longer term accommodation.

Some people may choose to rent privately, while others can use the national matching service, delivered by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government, which will seek to match them with an appropriately sized and located Scottish household under the super sponsor scheme. This matching service is working hard to find longer-term accommodation for all those in hotels or similar temporary accommodation.

We are taking actions to accelerate matching to the levels needed to move those from Ukraine out of temporary accommodation as soon as possible, including enhancing teams to boost capacity.

The Scottish Government has committed £11.2 million to increase capacity of

resettlement teams, support refurbishment of properties, help integration and enhance the pace of checks.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10153>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10157>

Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10154] To ask the Scottish Government what (a) assessments it undertook and (b) preparations it made regarding the accommodation of refugees coming from Ukraine, prior to opening the Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: Due to the urgent need to respond to a humanitarian crisis, the Scottish Government undertook rapid engagement with relevant organisations prior to and immediately after taking the decision to support displaced persons from Ukraine.

To address stakeholder concerns around the speed of the UK Government's private matching scheme, as well as safeguarding issues, the Scottish Government and COSLA agreed to commit to an initial triage of 3000 displaced people from Ukraine through a Super Sponsor Scheme. This provided a fast and safe alternative to private sponsorship, meaning people could travel immediately and be provided with temporary accommodation, meals and a range of support and advice including translation, assessing medical needs (such as trauma) and applying for benefits.

The process of matching of arrivals from Ukraine has drawn on COSLA's extensive experience. Such as with the Syrian Resettlement Programme, which saw all 32 local authorities in Scotland participate and welcome over 3,300 refugees into their communities.

The Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme has now offered sanctuary to over 10,000 displaced people from Ukraine to travel to safety in Scotland, far exceeding the original commitment and providing sanctuary for people who otherwise could not have travelled were it not for the Super Sponsor Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10154>

Ukraine: Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10143] To ask the Scottish Government what arrangements it is currently making to prepare to welcome any further refugees arriving from Ukraine in the coming weeks and months.

Reply from Neil Gray: Scottish Governments priority is to ensure that displaced people who are already here, and those who have applied and are granted permission to travel, are able to stay in appropriate temporary accommodation and get the right support ahead of moving into safe, sustainable longer-term accommodation.

The Scottish Government has also made available £11.2 million in funding to help local authorities increase their teams to help people with temporary resettlement into communities across Scotland, and also to invest in making improvements to housing stock so that there are more homes available for Ukrainians to move into. We have also provided a further £1.3 million to the Scottish Refugee Council to enable it to increase its capacity and extend invaluable help and support to arriving Ukrainians, many of whom will have experienced significant trauma.

We are taking significant action to increase our temporary accommodation capacity as well as boosting our matching system to maximise the number of people who

can be placed with volunteer hosts who have completed the necessary safeguarding checks. We have, for example, chartered a second passenger ship, M/S Ambition, to be located in Glasgow. The ship should be fully operational in September, and it will provide up to a further 1750 people with the same level of facilities and support currently available to those on the M/S Victoria in Edinburgh.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10143>

Ukraine: Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10158] To ask the Scottish Government whether it has considered a community-based model for hosting refugees from Ukraine.

Reply from Neil Gray: It has been heart-warming to see the groundswell of support from our communities, public services, third sector and partners for people fleeing Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We have worked closely and collaboratively with partners to stand up our Warm Scots Welcome response, ensuring that all those arriving from Ukraine are accommodated and supported as soon as they arrive in Scotland. Local authority caseworkers are in place to enable access to services including healthcare, education, employment and benefits advice.

In collaboration with the Scottish Refugee Council, we have delivered three public webinar sessions for hosts. Scottish Government officials regularly engage with community groups working to support people fleeing the war in Ukraine, and those who have volunteered to host displaced people in their homes.

We are working closely with the UK Government, local authorities and other partners to ensure we are ready to welcome people to Scotland and ensure they are provided with the safety and security they need to rebuild their lives. A national matching service, delivered by COSLA and Scottish Government, is working hard to find longer-term accommodation for displaced people from Ukraine, ensuring their full integration into communities across the country.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10158>

Homes for Ukraine

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10160] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on how many people, who signed up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme, are still waiting to be vetted.

Reply from Neil Gray: All 32 Scottish local authorities are working to conduct the necessary person and property checks for volunteers in Scotland who, having signed up initially for the UK Government scheme, have continued to express interest in hosting displaced people. Once checks have been completed, if the offer is deemed suitable, these hosts' details are uploaded onto the national matching service database, so that displaced people can be offered the opportunity to move into their homes.

We are aware that some volunteer hosts have expressed interest but have not yet been contacted, while others are still awaiting the outcome of checks. The Scottish Government is grateful to volunteer hosts for their generosity, and their patience. We are working closely with local authorities and with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), doing all we can to speed up the matching process and increase the numbers of displaced people moving into host accommodation, including enhancing teams to boost capacity.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10160>

Ukraine: Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10145] To ask the Scottish Government whether different households are sharing rooms on board the MS Victoria, and what measures are in place to ensure (a) infection control to limit any spread of COVID-19 and other viruses and (b) the safety and security of those living on board the ship.

Reply from Neil Gray: Safeguarding the health of displaced people on the M/S Victoria I passenger ship is our priority, as it is in other temporary accommodation such as hotels. We are closely monitoring the spread of COVID in Scotland and we are liaising closely with Public Health colleagues to monitor any risks of contracting COVID within the passenger ship.

Displaced people from Ukraine can also ask for a free COVID-19 vaccination from the NHS after arrival, if they choose to be vaccinated.

The ship has a policy for common infectious diseases including COVID-19, with safeguards in place and crew appropriately trained. The NHS is servicing the vessel with a medic and staff throughout the week, providing medical care for both Ukrainian guests and crew. COVID-19 isolation rooms have been identified and set aside if needed, and the ship has a full protocol on board just for COVID-19, which includes self-isolation, testing and doctor well-being checks.

Doctors aboard the ship are obligated to report any cases of infectious disease to the NHS, and Tallink, the ship's operator, is also responsible for reporting COVID-19 cases that are detected by the ship's on-board team to the NHS.

There are a few cases where different households are sharing rooms aboard the ship, however only those who have chosen to do so.

Every effort will be made to ensure that guests on board have access to appropriate support services, including healthcare, and staff at temporary welcome accommodation advise displaced people on how to register with a GP.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10145>

Ukraine: Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10159] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to recruit Ukrainian speakers, who are already living in Scotland, to help welcome and communicate with refugees from Ukraine.

Reply from Neil Gray: When displaced people from Ukraine arrive at Scotland's Ukraine Welcome Hubs, they are given an immediate warm welcome to Scotland and immediate support in a safe and secure space. Welcome Hub staff will talk to those who have arrived about their immediate needs, including language support. Public services in Scotland – including healthcare, welfare, schools, councils and housing services – must provide individuals with a qualified interpreter if they need one. Some councils are also offering translated information on a variety of subject matters, and guests from Ukraine can discuss the availability of these with their assigned local authority caseworker.

The Scottish Refugee Council are working with the Scottish Government to deliver the Warm Scottish Welcome scheme, which includes translation and interpreting services. The Scottish Refugee Council have received funding from the Scottish Government to recruit additional advisors for their Refugee Integration Service, including Ukrainian speakers, as part of their work to deliver the Warm Scottish Welcome scheme. We recognise that translation and interpreting services for people arriving in Scotland from Ukraine are extremely important and the Scottish Refugee Council have asked that anyone wishing to offer assistance in this area contact them to discuss what support they can offer.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10159>

Local Authorities: Ukrainian Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10147] To ask the Scottish government whether it plans to increase the support available to local authorities for (a) conducting disclosure checks and (b) vetting accommodation for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government has made available £11.2 million in funding to help local authorities increase their teams to help people with temporary resettlement into communities across Scotland, and also to invest in making improvements to housing stock so that there are more homes available for Ukrainians to move into.

The Scottish Government has also published guidance for local authorities which includes what safeguarding measures, such as disclosure checks, should be in place for people arriving. This guidance can be found on the Scottish Government website:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/super-sponsor-scheme-and-homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-local-authorities/pages/person-checks/>.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10147>

Local Authorities: Ukrainian Refugees

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10067] To ask the Scottish Government which local authorities are using the reported “surge teams” for assistance in matching Ukrainian refugees into longer-term accommodation.

Reply from Neil Gray: The teams are currently active in supporting Edinburgh, West Lothian and more recently Renfrewshire.

Matching activity has increased with a team deployed on board the M/S Victoria I passenger ship in Leith, with further plans in place to deploy support in Aberdeen later this week.

Teams will continue to work in partnership with our local authority partners to consider how best we can respond to areas where there is a need for increased matching activity; including where there is a need to prioritise matching activity in hotels where temporary accommodation arrangements are coming to an end.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10067>

Local Authorities: Ukrainian Refugees

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10068] To ask the Scottish Government what feedback it has received from local authorities regarding the reported use of “surge teams” for supporting Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Neil Gray: Scotland’s response to the crisis in Ukraine is a round-the-clock operation, supported by multi-agency teams, local authorities, CoSLA and the third sector to ensure individuals displaced from Ukraine are treated with care and respect and their complex needs are met.

Scottish Government continue to benefit from a good working relationship with local authorities where we are, jointly with COSLA, providing additional matching resource to support local authority activity. Feedback to date from local authorities and other partners regarding the use of matching teams has been positive.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10068>

Local Authorities: Ukrainian Refugees

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10069] To ask the Scottish Government what level of support it expects local authorities to provide to Ukrainian refugees housed in temporary accommodation.

Reply from Neil Gray: Local authorities play a vital role in the success of the Scottish Government's Super Sponsor Scheme. They are uniquely placed to provide the support required to ensure those arriving are given the warmest possible welcome. This includes working with displaced people to identify and meet immediate and longer term needs. This will see displaced people registered with GP and school, provision of local information on services and area, advice and support to access benefits, receipt of initial financial support if required until benefits are accessed and paid, and advice and support on accessing further/higher education.

A full description of local authority responsibilities in supporting displaced people from Ukraine can be found in the [Local Authority Guidance](#) published by the Scottish Government.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10069>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project: Arabic Speakers

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-09929] To ask the Scottish Government how many Arabic speakers in (a) Dundee, (b) Fife and (c) Clackmannanshire it has helped access certification to work in the Scottish construction industry through its New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project since August 2021.

Reply from Shona Robison: Many refugees resettled in Scotland have skills and experience developed through their trade or occupation in their home country, including in the construction industry, and may want to resume their profession here.

In Scotland, everyone working on a building site must first pass a health and safety test and be certified through the UK wide Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS).

The Building Skills for Construction Certification Project has developed supporting ESOL materials, to help ESOL learners to prepare for the computer CSCS test. Pilot courses are being delivered to test the resources. The project started on 1 September 2021 and will run until 30 November 2022. Pilot courses are running in Fife, Clackmannanshire and Dundee, as well as a national online pilot for candidates across Scotland to enable those who cannot access such training in person to benefit, particularly those in remote and rural communities where a pilot course would not be viable due to numbers.

There are seven Arabic speakers enrolled in this course across Dundee, Fife and Clackmannanshire. Throughout the rest of Scotland there are an additional thirteen learners on these courses, eleven of whom are Arabic speakers.

The CSCS ESOL course resources will be a lasting legacy of the project. At the end of the project, these resources will be freely available for any learning provider or training organisation to use, allowing courses to be run across Scotland to prepare refugees for work in the construction industry. There will also be a webinar at the end of the project which will cover how these resources should be used in practice. This project has been funded through the New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project which is part funded through the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09929>

Asylum and Detention System

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6W-09584] To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether a system could be introduced to monitor the impact on people's welfare of the operation of the asylum and detention system in Scotland.

Reply from Shona Robison: Asylum and immigration are matters reserved to the UK Parliament. This includes the operation of the UK asylum system and immigration detention. An effective system to monitor the impact of the asylum system or immigration detention on people's wellbeing would require access to personal data and information about people seeking asylum or in immigration detention. This data is held by the Home Office, and the Scottish Government does not have access to it. Many third sector organisations have direct knowledge of the negative impact the asylum system can have on people's welfare, through their work supporting people within communities. The complexity of the asylum system, the low level of support provided by the Home Office and the continuing uncertainty of waiting for a decision are often combined with previous trauma and vulnerabilities. Evidence from the third sector, and people with lived experience, indicates that the asylum process itself can be re-traumatising.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09584>

Press Releases

Super Sponsor Scheme assists more than 10,000 Ukrainians

<https://www.gov.scot/news/super-sponsor-scheme-assists-more-than-10-000-ukrainians/>

The Solicitor General on COPFS' commitment to protecting victims of human trafficking from prosecution

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/the-solicitor-general-on-copfs-commitment-to-protecting-victims-of-human-trafficking-from-prosecution/>

More foreign criminals and illegal migrants removed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-foreign-criminals-and-illegal-migrants-removed>

New Publications

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats - weekly data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

Births by parents' country of birth, England and Wales: 2021

Report

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/bulletins/parentscountryofbirthenglandandwales/2021/pdf>

Data

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/livebirths/datasets/parentscountryofbirth/2021/workbookparentscob20212.xlsx>

**Lives on Hold: Experiences of people living in hotel asylum accommodation.
A follow-up report.**

<https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/21080057/Lives-on-hold-research-report.-July-2022.pdf>

Asylum and refugee resettlement in the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/briefings/migration-to-the-uk-asylum/>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Priti Patel insists Rwanda is safe despite adviser's torture warning

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62604637>

Rwanda asylum plan: UK ministers partially lose Rwanda secrecy bid

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62583569>

Judge rules Rwanda migrants deal misgivings must be public

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/judge-rules-rwanda-migrants-deal-misgivings-must-be-public-5bh3vv6fl>

Rwanda asylum scheme: Warning over political killings before UK flight

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62566194>

Government warned about killings in Rwanda ahead of migrant policy agreement

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20666507.government-warned-killings-rwanda-ahead-migrant-policy-agreement/>

UK ministers were warned of Rwanda political killings before approving flight to deport asylum-seekers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/rwanda-asylum-killing-torture-court-b2147020.html>

Access denied: I went to Rwanda to talk firsthand to refugees ... and the state wouldn't let me

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/aug/17/access-denied-i-went-to-rwanda-to-talk-firsthand-to-refugees-and-the-state-wouldnt-let-me>

News: Channel Migrants

Channel migrants: More than 20,000 people arrive in UK in 2022

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-62539789>

Number of migrants to cross Channel in small boats this year tops 20,000

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-channel-20000-this-year-b2144752.html>

More than 18,000 refugees have crossed Channel in small boats this year – MoD

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/07/more-than-18000-people-have-crossed-channel-in-small-boats-this-year-says-mod>

Channel migrant count hits 18,000 as smugglers cut their prices

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrant-count-hits-18-000-as-smugglers-cut-their-prices-gwkbvcjfc>

13,000 migrants have crossed Channel since Rwanda plan was revealed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/13-000-migrants-have-crossed-channel-since-rwanda-plan-was-revealed-fl0b38ht8>

Royal Navy to hand responsibility for Channel migrant boat crossings back to Home Office

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/navy-channel-migrants-home-office-b2146023.html>

Albanians crossing Channel because claim to have been trafficked 'boosts hopes of staying'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/07/albanians-crossing-channel-claim-have-trafficked-boosts-hopes/>

Asylum-seeking Albanians are laughing at us

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2022/08/17/asylum-seeking-albanians-laughing-us/>

Tiktok: Suspected gangs tout English Channel migrant crossings on platform

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-62467212>

News: Afghanistan

Government spending £1m a day on Afghan refugees in hotels

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/government-spending-ps1m-a-day-on-afghan-refugees-in-hotels-3802864>

'Give Afghans same help as Ukrainians'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/give-afghans-same-help-as-ukrainians-0z5rbx3l0>

UK treatment of Afghan refugees 'continues to be source of shame'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/15/uk-treatment-of-afghan-refugees-continues-to-be-source-of-shame>

Afghan refugees in UK told to find new homes on Rightmove

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/aug/15/afghan-refugees-in-uk-told-to-find-new-homes-on-rightmove>

Afghan female judge fleeing Taliban appeals after Home Office refuses UK entry

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/aug/20/afghan-female-judge-fleeing-taliban-appeals-after-home-office-refuse-uk-entry>

Afghan judge in hiding is refused entry to UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/afghan-judge-in-hiding-is-refused-entry-to-uk-ftjpqxw0r>

Afghans in Scotland: one year on

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/afghans-in-scotland-one-year-on/>

Scottish Refugee Council calls for action one year on from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-calls-for-action-one-year-on-from-the-taliban-takeover-of-afghanistan/>

We fled the Taliban in chaos, shock and terror. A year later we have a new home and hope

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/aug/19/we-fled-the-taliban-one-year-later-new-home-and-hope-afghan-journalist>

Afghan refugees reject homes in Scotland and Wales because 'it's cold and they don't speak English'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/11/afghan-refugees-reject-homes-scotland-wales-cold-dont-speak/>.

'How much longer?' asks Afghan refugee in hotel with pregnant wife and toddler

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/afghan-taliban-government-kabul-watford-b2144028.html>

'We escaped the Taliban, but it's impossible to begin a new life in the UK'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/terror-and-security/escaped-taliban-impossible-begin-new-life-uk/>

News: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine: Quarter of refugee sponsors do not want to carry on

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62493852>

UK cost of living crisis hampering efforts to host Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/10/ukrainian-refugees-uk-cost-of-living-crisis-ons>

Government urged to double £350 payments for Ukrainian refugee hosts or risk mass homelessness

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ukraine-refugees-uk-payments-homelessness-b2146948.html>

Ukraine: Plan for second cruise ship on the Clyde

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20623354.ukraine-plan-second-cruise-ship-clyde/>

Second ship to house Ukrainians docks in Glasgow

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/second-ship-to-house-ukrainians-docks-in-glasgow-z9zh37vqq>

Scottish government 'considering formal plea to British Army' to help house Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/08/10/scottish-government-considering-formal-plea-british-army-help/>

Ukrainian refugees may end up in church halls

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainian-refugees-may-end-up-in-church-halls-2nkjv6sl0>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Refugee Council and Social Enterprise Academy launch new leadership programme for New Scots

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/scottish-refugee-council-and-social-enterprise-academy-launch-new-leadership-programme-for-new-scots/>

New leadership programme launched for new Scots

<https://tfn.scot/news/new-leadership-programme-launched-for-new-scots>

Number of EU citizens moving to UK plunges post-Brexit – report

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/aug/15/number-eu-citizens-moving-to-uk-plunged-post-brexit-report>

EU Settlement Scheme: Bogus marriage couples not being prosecuted

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62477330>

Hundreds of illegal migrants in sham marriages remain in UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/10/sham-marriages-post-brexit-eu-settlement-scheme-not-prosecuted/>

Prince Charles: Windrush immigrants will be ‘forever appreciated’ by UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/08/06/prince-charles-windrush-immigrants-will-forever-appreciated/>

UK asylum seekers targeted by gangs go missing at hotels

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-asylum-seekers-targeted-by-gangs-go-missing-at-hotels-h78k3pmw2>

Fears for child asylum seekers going missing from UK hotels at rate of one a week

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-hotels-children-missing-b2143750.html>

Over 50 illegal migrants aged 30 and above registered as children on UK arrival

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/18/50-illegal-migrants-aged-30-registered-children-uk-arrival/>

Linton-on-Ouse: Asylum centre plan for ex-RAF site scrapped

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-62481011>

Tories abandon plans to house 1,500 asylum seekers in Yorkshire village

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/aug/09/sunak-truss-rule-out-plans-house-asylum-seekers-yorkshire-linton-on-ouse>

Asylum-seeker camp in Yorkshire village ditched

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seeker-camp-in-yorkshire-village-ditched-sxf3dtxs9>

Scottish Refugee Council calls for increases to asylum support

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-calls-for-increases-to-asylum-support/>

Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams: Refugee granted asylum in UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-62462333>

A conspiracy of silence about the impact of mass migration has cost Britain dear
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/09/conspiracy-silence-impact-mass-migration-has-cost-britain-dear/>

The nine-year-old boy who fled war-torn Cyprus for London
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-62516848>

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Equality

Press Release

Equalities and rights: Conflict and the need for clarity
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/equalities-and-rights-conflict-and-the-need-for-clarity>

News

Black and Asian unemployment rate higher than white joblessness, analysis shows
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-asian-unemployment-rate-b2146177.html>

Military prepares for new push on diversity
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/17/military-prepares-new-push-diversity/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6M-05615] Changing the Boundaries – Ending Institutional Racism in Sport – That the Parliament notes with concern that the report, *Changing the Boundaries: The Plan4Sport Independent Review into Racism in Scottish Cricket*, found Cricket Scotland to be institutionally racist; understands that the review identified 448 examples demonstrating institutional racism; further notes Sir William MacPherson's definition of institutional racism contained in the 1999 report of the public inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence, as "the collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin"; acknowledges that institutional racism in sport may not be restricted to Cricket Scotland; recognises what it sees as the detrimental effect of institutional racism on an individual's potential, achievement, health and wellbeing; notes the hope that the implementation of the immediate and long-term recommendations of the independent review will deliver substantial improvements in the experience of people of colour in all sports; further notes the recommendation to improve the diversity of the Cricket Scotland board, and the view that this recommendation, coupled with steps to review diversity at all levels of decision making, can be of great importance in delivering diversity in boards and at all levels of decision making across all sports; notes the view that effective equalities and anti-racist strategies are important in organisations that are in receipt of government

funding; welcomes the assessment framework set out in the report; notes the view that this could be used as a conditional part of funding criteria for all funding of sport in Scotland; highlights that ethnically diverse communities are a priority group for sportscotland's 2021-25 Equality Outcomes published in 2022; believes that there are many examples of clubs and individuals delivering local programmes that engage with diverse communities, including in the Glasgow Kelvin constituency; appreciates what it sees as the important work being done by groups including, but not limited to, Show Racism the Red Card, Kick it Out, Running Out Racism; notes the calls for partnership working to eradicate any forms of racism in sport, and looks forward to the day when zero tolerance for any processes, attitudes and behaviour that amount to racial discrimination, through the exclusion of minority ethnic people from participation and talent development opportunities, becomes a reality in Scottish sport.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05615>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/7801/changing-the-boundaries-independent-review-into-racism-in-scottish-cricket-report.pdf>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

Press Release

Views being sought to tackle discrimination in medical devices

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/views-being-sought-to-tackle-discrimination-in-medical-devices>

New Publications

On Your Side

Helpline for anybody in the UK who identifies as part of an East or Southeast Asian community to find support and make a report if you experience or witness racism or any form of hate.

<https://www.onyoursideuk.org/>

Racial discrimination and adverse pregnancy outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/7/8/e009227.full.pdf>

News

UK helpline launched for east and south-east Asian victims of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/aug/09/uk-helpline-launched-east-south-east-asian-victims-racism-on-your-side-hate-crime>

National helpline launched for east and southeast Asian victims of racism in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/south-east-asian-racism-helpline-b2141645.html>

Liz Truss accuses 'woke' civil service of antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/liz-truss-accuses-woke-civil-service-of-antisemitism-h2njdz3>

Liz Truss comments about woke civil service 'straying into antisemitism' condemned as 'abhorrent'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/truss-woke-civil-service-antisemitism-b2143875.html>

Liz Truss accuses the civil service of 'wokeism that strays into antisemitism'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/08/12/liz-truss-accuses-civil-service-wokeism-strays-antisemitism/>

Truss claims civil service beset by 'creeping antisemitism' and 'woke culture'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/aug/12/liz-truss-protect-british-jews-antisemitism-woke-culture>

Police told to fire racist and abusive officers in misconduct crackdown

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-racism-misogyny-dismissal-disciplinary-b2146278.html>

Black and Asian people more likely to have been handed Covid fines, new figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-asian-covid-lockdown-fines-b2146682.html>

NHS whistleblower recorded her bosses' 'racist' chat

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nhs-whistleblower-recorded-her-bosses-racist-chat-5sjmldxqt>

Racial discrimination linked to increased risk of premature babies

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/racial-discrimination-linked-to-increased-risk-of-premature-babies>

British Indians have a racism problem – we need to be honest about it

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/british-indians-racism-muslim-islamophobia-b2149026.html>

Barrister loses discrimination claim after criticising 'stropky teenager of colour'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/barrister-loses-discrimination-claim-after-criticising-stropky-teenager-of-colour-nggbz8jrw>

A textbook case of institutional racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-textbook-case-of-institutional-racism-gbv83jq5q>

Edinburgh Fringe: 'Extreme' racism behind Sadowitz scrapping – venue

<https://www.bbc.com/news/62543162>

Former Yorkshire chairmen call for public inquiry into Azeem Rafiq racism scandal

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/former-yorkshire-chairmen-call-for-public-inquiry-into-azeem-rafiq-racism-scandal-2c0hgrs7v>

Yorkshire likely to admit to bringing game into disrepute after racism charge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yorkshire-likely-to-admit-to-bringing-game-into-disrepute-after-racism-charge-3263b70w2>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Citizens' panel to help shape how the Parliament engages with the people of Scotland

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/citizens-panel-to-help-shape-how-the-parliament-engages-with-the-people-of-scotland>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Scottish independence referendum: legal issues

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

Results of the 2022 FSA Slaughter Sector Survey in England and Wales

(includes information about non-stun halal and kosher slaughter)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1096782/Results-of-the-2022-FSA-Slaughter-Sector-Survey-in-England-and-Wales.pdf

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New Publications

NHS Inform

The NHS Inform website now provides information on planned care waiting times, giving an indication of how long patients in each local area have had to wait for treatment during the last three months. For information see

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/waiting-times>

Safeguarders: Information for children, young people and families

<https://www.children1st.org.uk/media/9080/safeguarders-information-booklet.pdf>

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Other News

Covid: UK first country to approve dual-strain vaccine

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-62548336>

Changing kidney blood type may boost transplants

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62545147>

Blood type of donor kidneys altered in transplant breakthrough

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/blood-type-of-donor-kidneys-altered-in-transplant-breakthrough-nmlhmczmj>

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

Online Safety Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Scotland's Census (closing date 24 August 2022)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ceeac/scotlandscensus/consult_view/

**** Immigration legal aid: new fees for new services** (applies in England and Wales only)
(closing date 5 September 2022)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/immigration-legal-aid-new-fees-consultation/>

Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme (closing date 12 September 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/clandestine-entrant-civil-penalty-scheme>

Family migration (closing date 15 September 2022)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/2706/>

Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25 (closing date 23 September 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

**** Equity in medical devices** (closing date 6 October 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/equity-in-medical-devices-independent-review-call-for-evidence>

Race & Inclusion in Art Education (closing date 31 October 2022)

https://assets.website-files.com/61488e50132da098d2dd729b/62c6bf3339659acfccfb61c2_Visualise-Race%20and%20Inclusion%20in%20Art%20Education.pdf

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Dandelion Festival

continues until September 2022 (Scotland-wide – various locations)

Dandelion, a creative celebration of growing, music, and community, is holding a wide range of free events across the country throughout the summer. For information see bemis.org.uk/dandelion-events and <https://dandelion.scot/whats-on/>

**** this week!**

Refuge at Edinburgh International Festival

75 years after Rudolf Bing, himself a refugee, co-founded the Edinburgh International Festival, Refuge, in collaboration with Scottish Refugee Council presents contemporary theatre, dance, visual art, film and conversation, exploring themes of refugeehood, migration, identity and inclusion. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/kfydec2w>

**** week after next!**

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

**** week after next!**

Lifecycle of a charity - setting up

7 September 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what it takes to set up a charity and the key things you need to know before applying to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). For information see <https://tinyurl.com/275dv3pk>

Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on interactions and relationships. Participants will consider ways to become more aware of readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy, and will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Interpreters

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>

**** Lifecycle of a charity - day to day running**

5 October 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what you need to know to run a charity successfully and sustainably, including key events such as moving into premises, taking on staff and entering into contracts. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mtcnh6a2>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course where delegates will improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. The course

will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Lifecycle of a charity – the trustee journey**

9 November 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what excellence looks like for a trustee, and what key skills you need to have, including how to develop and build those skills and what you need to know legally and practically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/222y9myy>

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. The course will also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Lifecycle of a charity - when is the right time to wind up?**

7 December 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at how to recognise when it's the right time to wind up and dissolve a charity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kvfvda7>

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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>

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



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



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

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