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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Cross-Channel Migrants: Manston Facility

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-27/debates/4D7AF554-033A-452F-B059-2E94936B8948/Cross-ChannelMigrantsManstonFacility>

50th Anniversary of the Expulsion of Asians from Uganda

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-10-27/debates/B03BBCDC-E548-4FAC-9F31-F69D0223DAB2/50ThAnniversaryOfTheExpulsionOfAsiansFromUganda>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

NHS Charging Regulations Exemption for Ukrainians

The Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Care (Robert Jenrick) [HCWS340] ... In March 2022, my predecessor amended the NHS charging regulations to allow residents of Ukraine, and their immediate family members, who are lawfully in the UK, to access NHS care in England for free, including those who transfer here under official medevac routes. This covers all potential treatment needs, except for assisted conception services, to align with the existing exemption for those whose immigration health surcharge (IHS) fees have been waived.

We committed to review this concession by 17 September. Today I am pleased to announce that my Department has completed its review and has agreed to maintain these concessions for a further 12 months at which point they will be reviewed again.

Those who will continue to benefit from this exemption include:

Anyone who uses an alternative temporary—less than six months—visa route outside of the family or sponsorship routes.

Anyone who chooses to extend their visit or seasonal worker visa temporarily, without going through the IHS system.

Anyone who is in the process of switching visas.

This Government continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Ukrainian friends and we are proud to maintain our support for Ukrainian residents in our country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-24/debates/2210248000006/NHSChargingRegulationsExemptionForUkrainians>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Rwanda

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [67920] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2022 to Question 60212, what activities were expected to be covered by the initial payment of £20 million for set-up costs; how many individuals have been employed on (a) fixed-term and (b) permanent contracts for this work in the last 12 months; and what further payments to Rwanda his Department expects to make before 31 December 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under our Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda, the UK has provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120m as part of a new Economic Transformation and Integration Fund. We do not expect to make further payments to Rwanda before 31 December 2022.

We have also undertaken to provide funding to Rwanda for individuals relocated. This funding will cover asylum processing (case workers, translators etc), accommodation, healthcare, and for those granted protection, a comprehensive integration package. As part of this, the UK made a £20m upfront payment to the Government of Rwanda to support initial set up costs. The Government of Rwanda is responsible for the allocation of the funding they receive.

Actual spend will be reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/67920>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60212>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

John Healey (Labour) [65598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people arrived in the UK by small boats across the Channel in each month since January 2019; and how many and what proportion of those people subsequently applied for asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on small boat arrivals and subsequent asylum claims in the [Irregular Migration to the UK](#) quarterly report. Data on small boat arrivals by month are published in table Irr_02a of the [Irregular migration to the UK data tables](#). Data on asylum claims from arrivals are published in section 4 of the most recent [Irregular migration to the UK](#) release. The latest data go up to the end of June 2022.

Statistics on small boats include individuals who were detected on arrival to the UK, detected in the Channel and subsequently brought to the UK, and those encountered in the UK who were suspected of having arrived on a small boat. They do not include any persons who arrived on larger vessels (such as on a ferry), those prevented from departing France or intercepted by French authorities and returned to France, or those who arrived in the UK undetected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65598>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [66937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 October 2022 to Question 59599 on Ethnic Groups: Afghanistan, if he will make it his policy to provide a pathway and a scheme for immediate and urgent resettlement for Hazara people who cannot access Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme Pathway Two because they have not been able to flee Afghanistan and who face (a) persecution and (b) sexual violence in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK welcomes vulnerable people in need of protection to the UK through our resettlement schemes. These schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives in the UK.

The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) prioritises those who have stood up for values such as democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, as well as vulnerable groups, including ethnic and religious minorities. There are currently no plans to establish a bespoke pathway or scheme specifically for the Hazara Muslims in Afghanistan. The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement. We continue to work with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues, and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/66937>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59599>

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 three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [71327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the risk posed to Afghan climate activists still in Afghanistan; and for what reason those at risk have not been included in the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [71328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have arrived in the UK under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [71329] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how Afghan activists at risk due to their environmental activism can travel to the UK to seek refuge.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those at-risk in Afghanistan and the region are eligible for resettlement through one of the three referral pathways laid out in the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) policy statement. The ACRS scheme is designed to support those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values, as well as vulnerable people, such as women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups.

Our referral process is designed to be fair and equitable to those it identifies to be in need. The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

Under Pathway 2 of the ACRS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) completes referrals based on their assessments of protection needs and vulnerabilities. We are pleased to have welcomed the first family to the UK under Pathway 2 of the ACRS. We will continue to receive referrals to the scheme in coming years.

Statistics on Afghan resettlement schemes and programmes - including the number of people resettled - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71327>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71328>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71329>

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 Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at

<https://help.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan/>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [66936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 October 2022 to Question 59602 on Refugees: Afghanistan, what provision his Department has made for undocumented people applying to join family who are recognised refugees in the UK and are unable to travel within Turkey to attend a visa application centre; if he will make it his policy to allow those people to apply online and provide biometric details on arrival in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: An individual must, in most circumstances, provide their biometrics, in the form of a facial image and fingerprints, when applying for a visa or a biometric immigration document before they come to the UK. This is to ensure we can confirm their identity and fix them to it, and to conduct background security checks to establish whether they pose a threat to public safety. Anyone who is unable to travel to a visa application centre to enrol their biometrics can contact UKVI to request we defer or waive the requirement for them to provide their

biometric information. Officials will not normally defer or waive the requirement to provide biometric information, unless their circumstances are so compelling as to make them exceptional. We would ordinarily expect an applicant who is in a country with a visa application centre, such as Turkey, to be allowed to travel within that country to complete their application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/66936>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59602>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas Green) [66940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to exempt female Afghans who remain inside Afghanistan and who are family members of British nationals or persons settled in the UK from the English Language requirement of Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules on the basis of (a) the Taliban prohibition on women studying in Afghanistan, (b) the dangers of women traveling to and from Afghanistan to alternative study centres and (c) the absence of a Home Office approved language testing centre in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government believes those seeking to enter and make a permanent home in the UK should be equipped to integrate successfully in UK society, with an appropriate level of English and an understanding of British life. There are no current plans to suspend the requirement for female family members from Afghanistan to pass an English language test to enter the UK.

However, under the current Immigration Rules an applicant can already be exempted from the English language requirement to enter the UK if a decision maker considers there are exceptional circumstances preventing the applicant from meeting the requirement.

The applicant must demonstrate, as a result of these circumstances, they are unable to learn English before coming to the UK, or it is not practicable or reasonable for them to travel to another country to take an approved English language test.

Each application for an exemption on the basis of exceptional circumstances will be considered on its merits on a case-by-case basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/66940>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [66905] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to provide housing support for refugees who came to Britain under the Ukrainian visa scheme in April 2022.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We are working closely with local councils to understand where pressures may be and are actively exploring options to find suitable long-term accommodation for the Ukrainians who are likely to stay in this country beyond their initial sponsorship period.

The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk/your-living-arrangements-4-to-6-months-after-moving-to-the-uk)

[arriving-in-the-uk/your-living-arrangements-4-to-6-months-after-moving-to-the-uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk/your-living-arrangements-4-to-6-months-after-moving-to-the-uk)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/66905>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [67240] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing

and Communities, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the £350 per month payment given to Homes for Ukraine hosts, in the context of rising levels of inflation.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We recognise the growing pressure on family finances, and the challenges that households are facing with the rising costs of living. We are continuing to work with local councils and sponsors to support them with their hosting arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67240>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

Ruth Jones (Labour) [68008] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 19 October 2022 to Question 62104 on Refugees: Ukraine, whether he plans to increase the level of the monthly £350 thank you payments to sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and how many households have received thank you payments of £350 under the Homes for Ukraine scheme in each month since payments commenced.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We recognise the growing pressure on family finances, and the challenges that households are facing with the rising costs of living. We are continuing to work with local councils and sponsors to support them with their hosting arrangements.

The data on the number of tariff and thank you payments made to all local authorities between March and May 2022 can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-funding-march-to-may-2022/annex-a-homes-for-ukraine-local-authority-funding-allocations-march-to-may-2022-wales>

Note: The number of thank you payments may be less than the number of sponsoring households due to delays in authorities making thank you payments, or sponsors not accepting thank you payments

There is flexibility for how councils can deliver the sponsor payments. Lead sponsors are not eligible for the £350 monthly payment if they are charging the guest rent. For the sponsor, the £350 payment is payable monthly in arrears backdated to the date the Ukrainian national commenced residence in the sponsor's accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/68008>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/62104>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

Catherine West (Labour) [65914] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate his Department has made of the number of Ukrainian refugees on (a) the Ukraine Family Scheme and (b) Homes for Ukraine Scheme visas who have (i) become homeless and (ii) presented as homeless to their local authority since moving to the UK.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: Homelessness management information pertaining to Ukrainian nationals in England is updated on gov.uk every 4 weeks.

The most recent update includes data up to 23 September 2022. A total of 1,915 Ukrainian households have been owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty, based on a response rate of 71% of local authorities. Of this figure, 850 households arrived under the Ukraine Family Scheme and 955 households via the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme. Further information can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-management-information-ukrainian-nationals-england>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65914>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Pupils: Ukraine

Jonathan Lord (Conservative) [69619] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent estimate he has made of the number of Ukrainian school pupils in classrooms across the UK.

Reply from Jonathan Gullis: The Department published data on 13 October showing that, of an estimated total of 22,100 applications for a state school place for children arriving from Ukraine, 92% (12,300 primary and 8,100 secondary) have been offered a place. The data is available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-placements-for-children-from-outside-of-the-uk/2022-september>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69619>

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

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Drew Hendry (SNP) [67075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the news story by his Department entitled Fee removed for No Time Limit applications, published on 6 April 2022, what recent steps his Department has taken to help support people who are unable to use online services to make a no time limit application.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Customers who are making an immigration application from inside the UK can get help filling in their online Home Office application. This service is available to customers who are making a No time Limit application and is known as '[Assisted Digital](#)' support. The support service is free to use for customers who do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device, do not have internet access, or do not have access to a device like a laptop or smart phone.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67075>

The news story referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fee-removed-for-no-time-limit-applications>

Migrant Workers: Personal Records

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [63237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information the (a) Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority, (b) Employment Agencies Inspectorate and (c) other labour inspectorates are required to

share information with Immigration Enforcement relating to the personal data or immigration status of workers.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There is no legal requirement for labour abuse authorities, agencies, or inspectorates, to share information with Immigration Enforcement in relation to the personal data or immigration status of workers. Referrals may be made to Immigration Enforcement via the 'Report Immigration Crime' tool on gov.uk, or in the format of an intelligence report. These referrals may include personal data which could relate to immigration offenders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-14/63237>

The tool referred to above can be accessed at

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

Undocumented Migrants: Slavery

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [67149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will publish the guidance on its proposed policy to reclassify modern slavery as an illegal immigration issue.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: This Government is committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and in the UK we have a world-leading response.

There are close links between modern slavery and migration; about two thirds of potential victims are foreign nationals, and often potential victims have ongoing engagement with the immigration system.

This is not a reclassification. Modern Slavery is a harmful and exploitative crime which Home Office ministers continue to tackle and support victims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67149>

Asylum

John Howell (Conservative) [64008] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications to her policies of the debate entitled Safe third countries for asylum seekers, which took place at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 12 October 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are aware of the debate on third country processes and the subsequent non-legally binding resolutions arising from it by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as adopted on 12 October.

Our inadmissibility policies in respect of safe third countries, which are longstanding, and were recently strengthened in the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, are the consequence of full and careful consideration of the legal and operational context. We are confident that these policies and the processes they underpin, are compliant with relevant domestic and international laws and agreements, including the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64008>

A transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2022-10-12/pm/en#theme-1408>

Asylum: Children

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [67879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 October 2022 to Question 60996, whether a letter from the Chief Social Work Officer confirming the identity of an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC), that they are travelling to a receiving local authority and that they need to travel by air would enable them to travel without an application reference card if they are accompanied by a member of staff from the receiving authority.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A decision on the documentation that an airline would

accept on a domestic flight would need to be made by the airline themselves, not the Home Office. It is open to receiving local authorities themselves to arrange the transport and to accompany the child on their journey from/to their care placement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/67879>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-11/60996>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Christopher Pincher (Independent) [65716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made a recent assessment of the adequacy of the support services provided by SERCO to asylum seekers housed in hotels; and if she will make a statement.

We expect the highest standards from our contractors and monitor them closely to ensure these are met. The standards of accommodation and service are set out within the Asylum Accommodation & Support Contracts (AASC). Details of the AASC can be found at: [New asylum accommodation contracts awarded](#).

The introduction of the AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting & Eligibility) service has provided more independent and transparent oversight of standards through clearer complaints mechanisms for service users and supporting data that allows more intelligent targeting of performance improvement. All asylum seekers have access to the Advice, Issue Reporting & Eligibility (AIRE) service provided by Migrant Help, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through which they can raise any concerns regarding their asylum support accommodation or support services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65716>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

John Healey (Labour) [65595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are in (a) initial accommodation and (b) temporary hotel accommodation.

John Healey (Labour) [65596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are in (a) initial accommodation and (b) temporary hotel accommodation in each region as of 18 October 2022.

John Healey (Labour) [65597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers there were in (a) initial accommodation and (b) temporary hotel accommodation in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Occupancy levels are recorded at a specific point in time and vary daily. The number of people flowing through (a) initial accommodation and (b) contingency hotel accommodation in any one year is not recorded.

Statistics relating to supported asylum seekers temporarily residing in contingency accommodation are published as Immigration Statistics under the S98 population tables. The latest publication (March 2022) can be found here [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#), under the document [Asylum seekers in receipt of support](#).

The data published at the end of June have been recently removed and are being investigated. An update will be provided in the next Immigration Statistics release.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65595>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65596>

and

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [64379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2022 to Question 60188, on Asylum: Temporary Accommodation which stated that her Department is using five hotels to accommodate young people temporarily (a) whether any of those hotels exclusively accommodates unaccompanied minors and (b) whether any of those hotels are in Northern Ireland.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK is experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people making life-threatening journeys to cross the Channel. These boats are often carrying unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) and this has placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme. Out of necessity and with the children's best interests in mind, we have arranged for them to be accommodated on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels whilst placements with local authorities are being vigorously pursued. These emergency interim hotels only accommodate UASC.

There are no emergency interim hotels for UASC in Northern Ireland.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64379>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/60188>

Detention Centres: Manston

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [67047] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment the Government has made of the potential health and safety implications of overcrowding at the former Ministry of Defence site in Manston, Kent; and what is the maximum capacity of that facility.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The facility at Manston draws on resources from the Home Office, Ministry of Defence and contracted services. There is no fixed capacity of the site - facilities and staffing are kept flexible in order to meet demand and changing requirements. We take the safety and welfare of those in our care extremely seriously. That's why there are 24/7 health facilities provided at Manston and why risk assessments of all activities are subject to regular review

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67047>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [67043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign nationals were removed from the UK under a zero notice removal procedure following initial processing in Manston, Kent, in each month since January 2022; and how many and what proportion of those people were Albanian.

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [67044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign nationals who entered the UK via a small boats crossing have been removed from the UK before submitting an asylum claim, following initial processing at the former Ministry of Defence site in Manston, Kent, in each month since January 2022; and what proportion of those individuals were (a) Albanian and (b) of other nationality.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: No migrants have been removed from the UK directly from the facility at Manston without the required notification period as set out in published guidance. Where a person is refused entry on arrival to the UK, and they are removed within 7 days of refusal, there is no requirement to provide an additional notice period for removal. Individuals are only refused entry to the UK following an interview, and the reasons for the refusal are explained to them prior

to removal. All persons have the opportunity to claim asylum during this process. No one has been removed whilst they had a pending asylum claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67043>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67044>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Albania

Olivia Blake (Labour) [71305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the modern slavery variant of the ILLEN or RED form was completed for any of the Albanian nationals removed from the UK on 12 October?

Olivia Blake (Labour) [71306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any representatives of the Albanian police were present for the handling of Albanian nationals selected for removal on 12 October.

Olivia Blake (Labour) [71307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the role the Albanian police played during the removal of Albanian nationals on 12 October; and whether the Albanian police had direct contact with those Albanian nationals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We do not routinely comment on individual cases.

All those arriving in the UK by small boat, regardless of nationality, are given the opportunity to raise any protection claims. No one has been removed whilst they had a pending claim for protection or as a potential victim of modern slavery.

The Albanian police representative working with the Home Office to tackle organised crime groups have no role in UK immigration decisions or the return of individuals to Albania.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71305>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71306>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/71307>

Information about the Illegals and Red forms, referred to above, can be read on pages 34-35 of

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091233/Illegals_or_unlawful_entry_and_arrival.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Albania

Olivia Blake (Labour) [69869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Albanian nationals were originally considered for removal from the UK on 12 October 2022 through the accelerated removals procedure; and how many were taken out of the process as a result of (a) making an asylum claim and (b) being identified as potential victims of modern slavery.

Olivia Blake (Labour) [69870] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a full welfare assessment was conducted for every Albanian national selected for removal from the UK on 12 October 2022; where the assessment took place; and who undertook the assessment.

Olivia Blake (Labour) [69871] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what legal advice was available to and accessed by the Albanian nationals who were removed from the UK on 12 October 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We do not routinely comment on individual cases.

All those arriving in the UK by small boat, regardless of nationality, are given the opportunity to raise any protection claims. No one has been removed whilst they had a pending claim for protection or as a potential victim of modern slavery.

Our facilities at Western Jetfoil and Manston both have medical facilities staffed 24/7. Following a full health check by a medical professional, individuals are

provided clean dry clothes. Messaging at both sites encourages individuals to make known any medical, welfare or individual needs they may have. Where vulnerable individuals are identified, appropriate care pathways are established.

All individuals arriving in the UK may be examined to establish whether they require leave (permission) to enter the UK, including those arriving via an unauthorised or irregular route. In those circumstances, the presence of a legal representative is not necessary to determine the purpose of an individual's arrival in the UK, and there is no legal right to such representation. Where an individual is unwilling to answer questions about the purpose of their arrival, the Border Force officer cannot be satisfied of the individuals eligibility to enter the UK and they may be refused.

Where an individual mentions any fear of return to their home country, or indicates they may be a victim of modern slavery or trafficking then officers are required to follow the relevant processes to ensure that those claims are properly considered in line with our international and domestic legal obligations.

Where interviews are being conducted in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), officers will be compliant with the codes of practice including the right to legal representation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69869>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69870>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/69871>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Rwanda

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL2433] To ask His Majesty's Government how many young people deemed to be adults and issued with a Notice of Intent for removal under the Rwanda scheme have subsequently been found to be children.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on gov.uk.

Data on age disputes raised can be found in table Asy_D05 of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets', which is attached (annex A). Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending June 2022.

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown on the number of age assessments related to inadmissibility.

[Annex A](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/hl2433>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative) [HL2531] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens have been brought to the UK through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Programme during (1) 2022, and (2) the last three months; and, in each case, how many of them are women and children.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: We are continuing the process to grant Indefinite Leave to Remain to all eligible individuals who arrived during the

evacuation: officials have already registered over 13,000 (and counting) applications for resettlement from Afghans in the UK, with biometric residence permits being issued accordingly. In the meantime, applicants remain eligible to work and access services under their continuing leave.

At 12 August 2022, we have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 11,303 individuals across the ARAP and ACRS, since they opened in April 2021 and January 2022, respectively. We are unable, at this time, to provide a breakdown of whether a grant of leave was made under the ARAP or the ACRS Pathway 1. Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the ARAP and ACRS on case working systems.

The ACRS will provide up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk, with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

More information on the number of grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain issued to Afghans resettling under the ARAP or ACRS can be viewed at gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/hl2531>

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL2400] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address pressures on those hosting Ukrainian refugees through the Homes for Ukraine scheme in order to avoid unintended consequences, such as relationship breakdown or homelessness, where alternative solutions cannot be found for their guests.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Local councils have a responsibility to support Ukrainians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including providing temporary accommodation where required to ensure no family is without a roof over their head.

The Government is providing £10,500 per person to councils under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to enable them to provide support to individuals and families, including in the minority of cases where someone is left without accommodation.

The Government has updated the guidance on rematching in case of relationship breakdowns and for who are not ready to leave sponsorship and move into their own alternative accommodation, but are unable to extend their sponsorship with the current host, following the end of their initial stay.

We have also provided councils with £316 million for this year (2022) to help prevent and meet the costs of homelessness.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/hl2400>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL2579] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will consider including refugees arriving under the family visa scheme within the funding of the Homes for Ukraine scheme; and whether they will remove the barriers to exchanging Ukrainian currency for sterling.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: To support those fleeing the conflict, the Government has introduced two visa schemes to welcome Ukrainian refugees to the UK: the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine. The Ukraine Family Scheme allows applicants to join family members or extend their stay in the UK. Homes for Ukraine allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the scheme. Further details on scheme eligibility can be found at GOV.UK. People that enter under both visa schemes support integration by providing full access to social services and welfare in the UK for up to three years.

As each of these schemes uses different routes to support Ukrainians to find safe refuge in the UK, they were set up to be funded differently. The Ukraine Family Scheme is similar to existing family visa routes, and provision of public services from this route will be managed in the usual way. The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them, who in turn benefit from the wider integration advantages in joining an existing family network.

On the matter of exchanging Ukrainian currency for sterling, the Government has taken steps to ensure support for incoming Ukrainian nationals opening bank accounts, and Ukrainians are able to convert their currency to GBP electronically at several major banks and electronic money institutions. The industry has also taken measures to support refugees and their access to essential financial services, including commitments to waive certain fees. The Government continues to monitor the situation for Ukrainians in the UK's financial marketplace closely.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-13/hl2579>

Information about the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2407] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of people with British children who have applied for a change to their asylum status from a status with no recourse to public funds.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2408] To ask His Majesty's Government whether people granted temporary protection under the Permission to stay on a protection route for asylum claims lodged on or after 28 June 2022 guidance, published on 28 June, will permanently avoid a change to their conditions of no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Individuals granted refugee permission to stay (Group 1 refugees) or temporary permission to stay (Group 2 refugees) currently have full access to the labour market, as well as recourse to public funds. Section 12 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 permits differentiation on the

basis of access to public funds. All our policies are kept under review and may be subject to change in the future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/hl2407>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/hl2408>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/permission-to-stay-on-a-protection-route-caseworker-guidance/permission-to-stay-on-a-protection-route-for-asylum-claims-lodged-on-or-after-28-june-2022-accessible>

Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Channel crossings

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/11390/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [512] Proposed re-opening of Haslar and Campsfield Immigration Removal Centres – That this House strongly opposes the Home Office’s plan to re-open Haslar Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Gosport, Hampshire, which was closed down in 2015; notes the proposed re-opening of an IRC at the site of Campsfield House in Kidlington, Oxford, which combined with Haslar IRC will add a total of 1,000 new detention spaces, an increase of 33 per cent, and will cost the taxpayer £339 million; expresses concern that this reverses the Government’s previous commitment to reducing the size and use of the immigration detention estate, made following Stephen Shaw’s independent review of immigration detention in 2016 commissioned by the Home Office; believes that the £399 million of taxpayers’ money could be spent in a more effective way to handle asylum cases humanely; further notes with concern that the re-opening of the IRCs has been specifically linked to the detainment of people before they are sent to Rwanda under the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Plan; further notes that seeking asylum is not a crime; raises concerns about the lack of effective safeguarding and inhumane conditions across the detention estate as a whole; remembers the 55 people known to have died whilst held under immigration powers since 2000, including 30 through suicide; calls on the Home Office to reverse its decision and to ensure that Haslar IRC remains closed; and calls for an end to the practice of indefinite detention in the UK.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60227>

Press Release

Migrant women subject to gender-based violence and abuse are often hidden in plain sight according to Senedd report

<https://senedd.wales/senedd-now/news/migrant-women-subject-to-gender-based-violence-and-abuse-are-often-hidden-in-plain-sight-according-to-senedd-report/>

New Publications

Gender based violence: The needs of migrant women

<https://senedd.wales/media/zh5helfw/cr-ld15422-e.pdf>

Home Affairs Committee: Channel crossings, migration and asylum: Government Response to the Committee's First Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/30524/documents/176109/default/>

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/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-17-october-to-23-october-2022>

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>

News: Channel Migrants

Rishi Sunak tells Emmanuel Macron he wants to make Channel crossings 'unviable'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sunak-macron-france-channel-migrants-b2212685.html>

Sunak and Macron vow to make Channel migrant route 'completely unviable'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/28/sunak-macron-vow-make-channel-migrant-route-completely-unviable/>

Rishi Sunak seeks deal to curb Channel migrant crossings

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-seeks-deal-to-curb-channel-migrant-crossings-zrqr7ww3h>

Only 0.3% of migrants arrested for crossing Channel under 'cruel and pointless' new law

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-migrants-boats-arrests-laws-b2212997.html>

Organised crime fears after 10,000 Albanian men arrive on small boats

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/small-migrant-boats-bring-10-000-albanian-men-to-uk-6w7crsphx>

Migrant 'breaks into home in Dover' after dozens land undetected

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-breaks-into-home-in-dover-after-dozens-land-undetected-8lwh5kvxt>

News: Ukraine

Scottish Government Super Sponsor scheme for refugees will not re-start in near future after targets not met

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/war-in-ukraine-scottish-government-super-sponsor-scheme-for-refugees-will-not-re-start-in-near-future-after-targets-not-met-3895878>

Refurbished social housing opens to those fleeing the war in Ukraine

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/refurbished-social-housing-opens-to-those-fleeing-the-war-in-ukraine-3893313>

Ukrainian refugees told to leave hotel next month

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-63413097>

Ukraine doctor desperate to be reunited with family

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-63301049>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Scotland should use devolved powers to help refugees, urges Scottish Refugee Council

<https://www.thenational.scot/politics/23071062.scotland-use-devolved-powers-help-refugees-urges-scottish-refugee-council/>

Rishi Sunak reverses Truss plan to allow immigration to rise

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/sunak-truss-braverman-immigration-growth-b2212065.html>

Windrush compensation scheme beset by slow repayments to victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/28/windrush-compensation-scheme-beset-by-slow-repayments-to-victims>

Ex-Tory home secretary warns Rwanda scheme is 'brutal' and 'impractical'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/suella-braverman-amber-rudd-rwanda-african-windrush-b2212001.html>

Incendiary devices thrown at Dover migrant centre

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-63446683>

Asylum seekers: UK spending almost £7m a day on hotels

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63404485>

Home Office suggested migrant tent cities in the capital's parks

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-suggested-migrant-tent-cities-in-the-capitals-parks-kxkthv3sz>

'I hope things get better': asylum seekers left fearful and depressed by multiple hotel moves

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/28/asylum-seekers-uk-hotel-moves-home-office>

'Inhumane' conditions at main Channel migrant processing centre 'leading to violence against staff'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/27/inhumane-conditions-main-channel-migrant-processing-centre-leading/>

Migrant centre in Kent 'catastrophically overcrowded', union says

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/27/manston-migrant-centre-in-kent-catastrophically-overcrowded-union-says>

Suella Braverman's decisions 'led to scabies and diphtheria at overcrowded asylum centre

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-migrants-overcrowding-scabies-b2213355.html>

Suella Braverman's decisions led to diphtheria and scabies at migrant hub
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-bravermans-decisions-led-to-diphtheria-and-scabies-at-migrant-hub-txrwtvkn>

Albanians arriving in UK could get 'bespoke route' for immigration cases to be heard
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/oct/27/albanians-arriving-in-uk-could-get-bespoke-route-for-immigration-cases-to-be-heard>

Human rights campaigner in call to extend free bus travel in Scotland to asylum seekers
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23077824.human-rights-campaigner-call-extend-free-bus-travel-scotland-asylum-seekers/>

The economy badly needs a skills-based immigration policy
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-economy-badly-needs-a-skills-based-immigration-policy-kr0v0d2nr>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Ignore the cynics – Britain has become the greatest melting pot in the world
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/29/ignore-cynics-britain-has-become-greatest-melting-pot-world/>

Leicester disorder: Hindu groups set to boycott review
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63426507>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Keir Starmer (Labour): May I welcome the Prime Minister? The first British Asian Prime Minister is a significant moment in our national story. It is a reminder that, for all the challenges we face as a country, Britain is a place where people of all races and all beliefs can fulfil their dreams. That is not true in every country, and many did not think that they would live to see the day when it would be true here. It is part of what makes us all so proud to be British. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-10-26/debates/DA634E71-6A00-4C9C-8D40-CCE730776B42/Engagements#contribution-394E7BFE-BA24-46C6-BC4A-207654AED3B7>

Ian Blackford (SNP): I congratulate the new Prime Minister on becoming the first British Asian to hold the office. The significance and symbolism of the achievement is to be warmly welcomed by everyone. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-10-26/debates/DA634E71-6A00-4C9C-8D40-CCE730776B42/Engagements#contribution-A5C5F597-FBB9-42E1-9F42-0A8CC90B7BB9>

Educational Underachievement of Black Children

Diane Abbott (Labour): Whether [the Minister] is taking steps to tackle educational underachievement of black children. (901773)

Reply from the Secretary of State of Education (Kit Malthouse): We are focused on raising educational standards for all pupils, irrespective of their ethnicity.

Diane Abbott: The Government will be aware that, although many ethnic minority groups have narrowed the gap with white pupils, and in some cases overtaken them, some groups continue to underachieve, particularly black Caribbean boys. At a time when there are so many skills shortages, what is the Secretary of State doing to ensure all our pupils achieve their potential?

Reply from Kit Malthouse: I am pleased to say that the right hon. Lady is right and a number of minority groups now outperform the average, not least the largest group of the black community, those who would identify themselves as black African, who outperform the average in a number of ways. She is right, however, that there is underperformance by a number of black Caribbean pupils, mainly boys, and I certainly undertake to her to try to investigate why. However, I am sure she would agree that although external factors such as disadvantage can influence educational outcomes, the standard of the school and of the teaching that those pupils receive can often overcome many of those barriers. If she has not already done so, I urge her to visit the Michaela Community School in Wembley, which I visited two weeks ago and which is seeing extraordinary results from a very mixed and diverse community, in a very challenged part of London. ...

Robert Halfon (Conservative): One key reason for underachievement—of all pupils, including pupils from different ethnic minorities—is the absence of children from school. At the start of term this September, there was just 93.5% attendance in all schools, which means that children lost up to an estimated 17.6 million hours of learning. At the start of school term, we would expect to see higher rates of attendance, of about 98%. I know that the Department has appointed 13 attendance advisers, but we have 1.7 million absent children and 100,000-plus so-called “ghost children”. What is my right hon. Friend doing to get those children back into school, so that the 1.7 million persistently absent children are safely returned to the classroom?

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Chairman of the Select Committee is absolutely right to push hard on this issue because it is vital to the future of not only those children, but their families. He is right that following the pandemic we have seen a reduction in attendance. One silver lining coming out of the pandemic was the fact that we now have real-time attendance data for a majority of schools—we are working to complete that for all—which allows us to focus in our efforts on driving attendance in those schools. Given my previous job at the Home Office, I am particularly keen that police, schools and local education authorities should work closely together to make sure that those children who are not at school and are not findable at home are found somewhere out in the community and brought back. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-24/debates/CC439E6F-A637-43AA-81D6-8FEE1662CBE9/EducationalUnderachievementOfBlackChildren>

Higher Education: White State-Educated Children

Philip Hollobone (Conservative): If she will take steps with the Secretary of State for Education to help ensure that the proportion of white state school educated students obtaining a place in higher education is raised to the same proportion as mixed heritage, black, Asian and Chinese students. (901842)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Andrea Jenkyns): Ensuring that everyone can access world-class education remains a priority. In 2021, we saw record higher education progression rates for disadvantaged white students who had free school meals. The Government are

investing £3.8 billion more in high-quality education, skills and training provision, leading to good outcomes for young people and getting them the skills needed for economic growth, whichever good-quality route they choose.

Philip Hollobone: On the Government's own figures, the percentage of state school pupils getting a higher education place by ethnicity is Chinese 72%, Asian 55%, black 49%, mixed heritage 41% and white 33%. Are the Government concerned about those widening disparities, and if so, what are they going to do to level up university entry?

Reply from Andrea Jenkyns: As a meritocrat, I believe not in positive discrimination, but in a society where people are judged on their character and ability. Access to HE should be based on a student's attainment and their ability to succeed, rather than their background. As I said, 2021 saw a record high number of white students who receive free school meals progressing on to higher education, but since the publication of the report, "The forgotten: how White working-class pupils have been let down, and how to change it", we have tasked the Office for Students with refreshing its entire access and participation work and with looking into that.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-26/debates/91F30B49-5258-4360-8641-1ECA70943A1A/HigherEducationWhiteState-EducatedChildren>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6364/documents/70802/default/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-06490] Islamophobia Awareness Month Celebrates 10th Anniversary – That the Parliament applauds the efforts of all those who have supported Islamophobia Awareness Month over the last ten years; understands that the theme for Islamophobia Awareness Month for 2022 is Tackling Denial, with the focus being on the denial of Islamophobia; acknowledges the discrimination that Muslims may face in society, and the impact that misconceptions about Muslims and Islam may have on individuals and communities in all aspects of society; appreciates the support of police forces, local government, and charitable organisations, and further appreciates the work of stakeholders and all those working towards the elimination of Islamophobia in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06490>

UK Parliament Debate

Online Harms

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-26/debates/D6154736-878A-4855-9457-531E291E72EC/OnlineHarms>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crime

Matt Western (Labour): What recent assessment has [the Minister] made of trends in the levels of police-recorded hate crimes targeting individuals on the basis of their (a) race, (b)

religion, (c) sexual orientation, (d) disability and (e) transgender identity. (901837)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mims Davies): I greatly welcome the fact that people feel more willing to report hate crime. We have seen an increase of 26% in recorded incidents and believe that the biggest driver of it is the welcome improvement in police recording. Let me be clear: hate crime is a scourge on communities and will not be tolerated, which is why we are committed to reducing all crime, including hate incidents, and are on track to recruit 20,000 extra police officers.

Matt Western: According to the Office for National Statistics, nationally we have seen a sixfold increase in hate crime over the past decade. Locally, in the recent efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy inspections of Warwickshire police, criticism was made of the way in which the force supports victims in the aftermath of such crimes. This was felt by a constituent who was physically and racially assaulted; his assailant was charged with physical damage of a phone after Warwickshire police failed to complete a case action plan sent to them by the Crown Prosecution Service. Can the Minister advise us of how frequently she meets her colleagues in the Home Office? What is being done to arrest this rise in violent crime?

Reply from Mims Davies: As I hope the hon. Gentleman will see, I am personally committed to ensuring the best possible response to these terrible crimes and, indeed, to all crimes. There is an online hate crime hub, True Vision, which police can now directly work with; he mentions a constituent's case, and victims of online hate can submit reports and get the right support, which is equally important. That is there on both sides—it is for the police also. ...

Caroline Nokes: In his question, the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington (Matt Western) did not include hate crimes committed against women, yet we know that the Nottinghamshire police force is doing some great pilot work on recording misogyny as a hate crime in the incidents it encounters. Will the Minister update us on how that pilot is going and whether there are plans to roll it out further? What progress is the Home Office making on its work and consultation on tackling public sexual harassment, which is one of those significant crimes that impacts women every day?

Reply from Mims Davies: My right hon. Friend will be pleased to know that I am very interested in both those issues. The consultation on public sexual harassment has been completed and I am currently looking at it. On misogyny as a hate crime, I am aware of the Nottinghamshire police work. It is absolutely right that a number of police forces are choosing of their own volition to record those particular crimes. I will update her further in writing, because there is more to say. ...

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op): ... With reference to the previous question, I should of course say that making misogyny a hate crime is something the Government have stood against until now, when they have been pushed by a Labour police and crime commissioner in Nottinghamshire, but we hope the tide may be turning.

A moment ago, the Minister referred to some statistics on hate crime, but not the most concerning ones. One was mentioned by my hon. Friend the Member for Warwick and Leamington (Matt Western) when he talked about violent hate crime, which is six times higher today than it was 10 years ago. Hate crimes that are reported are up by 269% in England and Wales since 2010. We have also seen the highest number of religiously motivated hate crimes ever recorded this year. What are the Government going to do about this?

Reply from Mims Davies: The hon. Lady knows that we have some of the strongest legislation to tackle everything that she has mentioned, including religious hate crime. Over the past six years, the Home Office's places of worship protective security funding scheme has awarded 323 grants of around £8 million with regard to religious hate crime. I will be clear: I am personally committed to the best possible response to hate crime by every force.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-10-26/debates/D93ADAB6-5322-420B-8AD1-8CE530AA2D1D/HateCrime>

The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

NHS England: Racial Discrimination

Janet Daby (Labour) [68007] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of complaints received by NHS England in each reporting year since 2017 have been related to racism.

Reply from Will Quince: We are informed by NHS England (NHSE) that data relating to complaints about racism is not collected centrally by the organisation. NHSE receives complaints made by, or on behalf of, patients only in relation to the services it commissions however this represents a very small proportion of the overall complaints received by the National Health Service (NHS).

Data on complaints made by, or on behalf of, patients about NHS services provided by NHS Trusts and General Practices and Dental practices is collected and published by NHS Digital on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care and can be found at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/data-on-written-complaints-in-the-nhs>

Neither of these collections include a classification that would allow NHS Digital to identify numbers of complaints relating to racism.

It is possible that such information is collected by NHS organisations who directly manage their complaints locally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/68007>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Prisoners: Death

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [67167] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the INQUEST report entitled Deaths of racialised people in prison 2015-2022: Challenging racism and discrimination, published on 12 October 2022, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his Department's policies of the conclusions of that report; and if he will make a statement.

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [67168] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the INQUEST report entitled Deaths of racialised people in prison 2015-2022: Challenging racism and discrimination, published on 12 October 2022, for what reason his Department's Safety in custody statistics do not disaggregate deaths in prison by the (a) category of death and (b) ethnicity of the prisoner; and if he will make it his policy to include such data in future.

Reply from Mike Freer: Every death in custody is a tragedy and we continue to do all we can to improve the safety of prisoners. As the INQUEST report acknowledges, the number of deaths of prisoners from minority ethnic groups is not disproportionate to their representation in the prison population. All deaths are investigated thoroughly and impartially by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, which operates independently of the Ministry of Justice. Racism and discrimination are not tolerated in our prisons, and we take strong action to ensure the fair, equal and decent treatment of all prisoners and staff.

Data on the category of death and ethnicity of the prisoner is collected in all cases. Until now, we have published the ethnicity breakdown for self-inflicted deaths only but we will keep this under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67167>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67168>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.inquest.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=b7f9a0d0-0f48-48a2-b995-c8870f5a5e6a>

Prisoners: Death

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [67169] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to the INQUEST report entitled Deaths of racialised people in prison 2015-2022: Challenging racism and discrimination, published on 12 October 2022, if he will make it his policy to pause current plans for prison expansion due to the potential harms prisons can present.

Reply from Mike Freer: We have delivered to date over 3,100 additional prison places as part of a significant build programme delivering safe, secure and modern places across the country.

We have done this to protect the public and make the streets safer, meet projected demand from the courts and deliver manifesto commitments. The modern facilities we are delivering will also enable us to provide a safer and more secure custodial environment and to provide more opportunities to intervene and aid prisoners to turn their back on crime.

We are committed to improving outcomes for those from ethnic minority backgrounds. In March 2022, we published our response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report and committed to 74 actions across Government for a more inclusive and integrated society, including in relation to criminal justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67169>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.inquest.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=b7f9a0d0-0f48-48a2-b995-c8870f5a5e6a>

The Government response referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Revenue and Customs: Officers

Liz Twist (Labour) [67967] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to help ensure that all complaints of racism and discriminatory behaviour by HMRC officers are investigated; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Bullying, harassment, and discrimination of any kind, including racial discrimination, has no place whatsoever at HMRC. The wellbeing of all staff is a top priority, and HMRC does not tolerate any behaviour that makes staff, or taxpayers, feel uncomfortable. HMRC has policies which cover what action individuals can take if they experience discrimination within the workplace, and has developed comprehensive guidance on how to raise a concern. All concerns are investigated in accordance with the Civil Service investigation standards. HMRC has introduced a number of services to ensure staff can speak up if they see, hear, or experience anything that gives them a cause for concern. It has also introduced steps to ensure that complaints are investigated impartially with the decision taken by an independent decision manager with full support from expert HR advisers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-20/67967>

Higher Education: Racial Discrimination

Cat Smith (Labour) [65852] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and

Industrial Strategy, what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on tackling institutional racism in higher education institutions.

Reply from Nusrat Ghani: There is no room for any form of racism in any part of our society, including in higher education and R&D settings. People are at the heart of our R&D system, so it is important that we create a research environment that attracts, develops, and retains a diverse range of people – including at our world-leading higher education institutions.

BEIS is working closely with other government departments and agencies – including the Department for Education and UK Research and Innovation – and the UK's research sector to implement the range of actions in the R&D People and Culture Strategy that aim to eradicate discrimination, bullying and harassment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65852>

Islamophobia

John Howell (Conservative) [64004] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the debate entitled Raising Awareness of and countering Islamophobia, which took place at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 11 October 2022.

Reply from Paul Scully: The UK is an open, tolerant and welcoming country where Muslims practice their faith in freedom. We recognise the huge contribution British Muslims make to public life and we are committed to celebrating and promoting this. However we are not complacent. This Government takes hate crime very seriously and will not tolerate Anti-Muslim hatred in any form, seeking to stamp it out wherever it occurs. For those who do suffer discrimination and hate, we have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime. We have supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £4 million between 2016 and 2022 to monitor and combat Anti-Muslim hatred and support victims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/64004>

A transcript of the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/verbatim/2022-10-11/pm/en#theme-1389>

The Resolution approved following the debate referred to above can be read at

<https://pace.coe.int/en/files/31338/html>

Religious Hatred: Hinduism

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [67239] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent discussions he has had with his officials on tackling Hinduphobia.

Reply from Paul Scully: There is no place in our country for hatred towards Hindus and we will seek to stamp it out wherever it occurs. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and we encourage those who have experienced hatred to come forward to the Police or to report to the Police online portal True Vision.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/67239>

The portal referred to above is available at

https://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

The following two questions both received the same answer

Higher Education: Racial Discrimination

Cat Smith (Labour) [65853] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on tackling institutional racism in higher education institutions.

Cat Smith (Labour) [65854] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has made an assessment of the level of institutional racism in UK universities.

Reply from Andrea Jenkyns: Any form of racism is abhorrent and unacceptable anywhere, including in higher education (HE). HE providers are autonomous institutions with clear responsibilities. Under the Equality Act 2010, they should have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law in investigating and swiftly addressing reports of racism.

The department is clear that HE providers should be proactive in confronting and preventing racism, ensuring campuses are safe, welcoming environments for students of all races and backgrounds, and empowering those students to feel confident in reporting issues. The 2020 Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report found that most students from ethnic minority groups do relatively well in accessing and completing HE.

However, the department continues to work with universities, sector organisations, student organisations, and the regulator to drive racism out of HE institutions.

The Office for Students (OfS) has published data showing that black students are less likely than white students to achieve a first or 2.1 degree. The department notes that the OfS will be tracking this further as part of its range of new performance indicators.

The department is in regular contact with other government departments, such as the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, to align activity and ensure effective practice in prevention and victim support is shared widely.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65853>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-18/65854>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Teachers: Training

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL2744] To ask His Majesty's Government what support they are providing to facilitate diversity and anti-racist professional learning for school teachers.

Reply from Baroness Barran: All teachers are expected to treat everyone fairly.

The department wants teaching to be an inclusive profession where talented teachers from all backgrounds are supported throughout their career journeys.

All teachers must satisfy the Teachers' Standards throughout their careers. To be awarded qualified teacher status (QTS), trainees must demonstrate that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level, including Teacher Standard One, which requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils and set goals that stretch and challenge young people of all backgrounds and abilities. Part Two of the Teachers' Standards is also clear that teachers must treat all pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect and show tolerance and respect for the rights of others.

Once teachers achieve QTS, they enter into two years of funded support through the early career framework, which requires early career teachers to be trained and supported to develop their understanding of maintaining fair and inclusive school environments.

Beyond training, school leaders are responsible for ensuring their workforce has appropriate training to meet the needs of all pupils, which is in line with the department's position on school autonomy and school leaders being best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and workforce.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-19/hl2744>

The Teachers' Standards, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040274/Teachers_Standards_Dec_2021.pdf

Press Release

Britain's equality watchdog takes action to prevent hair discrimination in schools

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/britain's-equality-watchdog-takes-action-prevent-hair-discrimination-schools>

News

Mapping Exercise: Youth Workers supporting young people facing racism and antisemitism

<https://www.actiononprejudice.info/news/mapping-exercise-youth-workers-supporting-young-people-facing-racism-anti-semitism-in-scotland/>

Edinburgh says sorry for city's role in slavery and colonialism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-63411793>

Edinburgh apologises for its role supporting slavery

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-apologises-for-its-role-supporting-slavery-v7mzpvkwb>

Afro hair: School bans probably illegal, says watchdog

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-63402905>

School policies banning Afro hairstyles 'likely unlawful', watchdog warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/school-hair-afro-watchdog-unlawful-b2211584.html>

Banning Afro hairstyles in schools is against the law, says equality watchdog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/27/banning-afro-hairstyles-schools-against-law-says-equality-watchdog/>

Discriminating against ethnic minority pupils' hairstyles is now much harder

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/oct/27/discriminating-against-ethnic-minority-pupils-hairstyles-is-now-much-harder>

Why should my daughter have had to fight for her education because of her afro hair?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/oct/27/daughter-education-afro-hair-schools-discriminate-black-mixed-race>

Port Talbot: Nazi graffiti painted on Caribbean mural

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-63440013>

Office staff wouldn't use lift with black colleague

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/spragg-and-richemont-uk-office-staff-wouldnt-use-lift-with-black-colleague-jt mrbh97>

Adidas cuts ties with rapper Kanye West over antisemitism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63387607>

Adidas walks away from \$2bn partnership with Kanye West in antisemitism row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kanye-west-dropped-by-talent-agency-and-documentary-shelved-amid-antisemitism-controversy-xvtm3pfhp>

Why was Kanye West allowed to air his frothing antisemitism in public for so long?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/oct/26/kanye-west-antisemitism-ye-donald-trump-trolling>

Kanye West's voice is just one in a rising chorus of antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/oct/30/eva-wiseman-kanye-west-voice-is-just-one-in-rising-chorus-of-antisemitism>

Trevor Noah: I never said entire UK racist, says comic after Rishi Sunak row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-63437351>

Trevor Noah: I did not say the entire UK was racist about Rishi Sunak

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/trevor-noah-rishi-sunak-sajid-javid-piers-morgan-indians-b2213257.html>

Trevor Noah denies he said 'entire UK is racist' amid Rishi Sunak row

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/oct/29/trevor-noah-insists-he-never-said-entire-uk-is-racist-after-rishi-sunak-row>

Uncovering Britain's secret history of bussing ethnic minority children

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/28/uncovering-britains-secret-history-of-bussing-ethnic-minority-children>

Escaping the Liverpool race riots of 1919

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/stories-63344662>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-11546] To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of female genital mutilation have been prosecuted in each year since the Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill was passed.

Reply from Keith Brown: The Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Act 2020 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 March 2020. The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service have provided an update from their live system and confirm that there have been no charges prosecuted under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005 since that date.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11546>

Scottish Parliament Motions

Paul McLennan (SNP) [S6M-06359] Celebrating St Andrews Day – That the Parliament believes that St Andrew’s Day should be an opportunity for all the people of Scotland to celebrate their patron saint, cultural diversity and membership of the international community; considers that there should be wider recognition of a holiday, including a school holiday, on or around 30 November so that St Andrew’s Day becomes a day of national celebration; believes that people should be encouraged to follow what it sees as St Andrew’s example, with acts of kindness especially to less fortunate people, with the aim of creating a more caring, compassionate society; notes that St Andrew is also the patron saint of several other countries, including Ukraine and Russia; condemns Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, and calls for a peaceful and just solution to the ongoing conflict in that part of the world.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06359>

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-06419] BBC Asian Network Radio Celebrates 20th Anniversary – That the Parliament congratulates BBC Asian Network Radio on celebrating its 20th Anniversary; notes that the station went national on DAB Digital Radio in 2002 and has an audience reach of 500,000 listeners; appreciates the work of the Asian Network and the role it believes it plays in championing British Asian identity and music, positively showcasing the very best of Asian culture over the last 20 years; supports the ongoing efforts of keeping future generations of listeners engaged, and wishes the station every success for the future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06419>

Publication

Updated information: COVID-19 Inquiry

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

Press Releases

Turning the lens inwards – the Citizen Participation and Petitions Committee’s Public Participation Inquiry

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/10/25/turning-the-lens-inwards-the-citizen-participation-and-petitions-committees-public-participation-inquiry/>

Diwali message from the First Minister (video)

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1584575562806444035>

News

Commission welcomes new Scottish COVID-19 inquiry Chair and commitment to embed human rights

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/commission-welcomes-new-scottish-covid-19-inquiry-chair-and-commitment-to-embed-human-rights/>

SNP minister resigns over gender recognition plans

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63416857>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

News

Rishi Sunak warns of difficult decisions ahead in first speech as PM

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-63388007>

What Rishi Sunak, Britain's first brown prime minister, means to me

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-britain-first-asian-indian-prime-minister-sathnam-sanghera-t33qqvwx9>

The UK's first British-Asian PM is a 'source of great pride', says Sadiq Khan

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/the-uks-first-british-asian-pm-is-a-source-of-great-pride-says-sadiq-khan-3895010>

A British Asian PM is a boost for the Union

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunaks-arrival-puts-britain-in-positive-light-0zp3p3pl5>

Outrage as Labour MP says Rishi Sunak as PM 'isn't a win for Asian representation'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/10/24/outrage-labour-mp-says-rishi-sunak-pm-isnt-win-asian-representation/>

Rishi Sunak: The wealthy millennial who rocketed to power

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51490893>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Scottish Parliament Debate

Cost of Living

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13940&i=126352#ScotParlOR>

Websites

Home Energy Scotland

Contact Home Energy Scotland to find out how you can reduce your heating bills and save energy with government funded support worth around £5,000.

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-home/>

You are Welcome

Find a free, warm, and welcoming space, or register your warm space to that nobody is left to suffer on their own this winter.

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

News

Prices of pasta, tea, chips and cooking oil soar

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-63378633>

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Other News

Asian Network turns 20: 'A safe space for British Asians'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-63405757>

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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>

Stage 1 debate

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13942&i=126396#ScotParlOR>

Vote: That the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: For 88, Against 33, Abstentions 4.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13942&i=126397#ScotParlOR>

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>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0085/220085.pdf>

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>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_1028.pdf

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

Initial framework for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Strategic Plan 2023-27 (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/consultation-on-initial-framework-for-copfs-strategic-plan-2023-27/>

** Mapping Exercise - Youth Workers supporting young people facing racism & anti semitism in Scotland (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5YX2C7>

Proposed Domestic Abuse (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 20 November 2022)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/proposals-for-bills/proposed-domestic-abuse-register-scotland-bill>

** Possible changes to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules and the Upper Tribunal Rules arising from Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (applies to England and Wales only) (closing date 19 January 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-first-tier-tribunal-immigration-and-asylum-chamber-rules-and-the-upper-tribunal-rules-arising-from-nationality-and-borders-a>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

** Reaching New Scots Fund

Closing date for applications: 18 December 2022

The Reaching New Scots Fund is designed and managed by people from refugee backgrounds in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund, and is open to groups and organisations across Scotland that are run by New Scots or offer support to refugees and people seeking asylum. The fund aims to support smaller charities and not for profit groups that are often underfunded, and will therefore only accept applications from organisations with an average annual income of less than £250,000. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/5ch4pj3d>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Racial Inequality in Times of Crises

31 October to 3 November 2022 (online)

Stuart Hall Foundation and Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity conference exploring the impact of present-day crises on ethnic minority people in the UK. For information see

<https://www.stuarthallfoundation.org/events/racial-inequality-in-times-of-crises/>

**** Faces of Faith exhibition**

7 to 25 November 2022 (Edinburgh and Glasgow)

Interfaith Week exhibition showcasing Scotland's diverse religious and cultural communities, and exploring the joys, challenges, and complexities of living as a person of faith in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5fkzdbhz>

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>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13–20 November 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Interfaith Scotland community-led festival to celebrate religious and cultural diversity. The theme this year is Storytelling, to tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories. For information, and to see the full calendar of events, see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> or sign up at <http://eepurl.com/c8QCIX> to receive the Interfaith Week newsletter.

Working with Interpreters

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>

**** Building Support for Protecting Human Rights**

6 December 2022 (online, 9.30–12.00)

Human rights Consortium Scotland workshop about threats and opportunities around human rights in Scotland and the UK, including: What do we need to do to build active support and understanding of human rights in Scotland? And How do we cement support for the Human Rights Act, and get even more support to put all our rights in law? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mvppwpt2>

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

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics. 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/2kvfvd7>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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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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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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