



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

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

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

**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 4 September 2023.**

**The next three issues of MEMO will be published on 7 and 21 August, and 11 September.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6M-09982] Condemning the Illegal Migration Bill** – That the Parliament condemns the passage of the Illegal Migration Bill through the House of Commons and the House of Lords; considers that the bill criminalises refugees who are seeking safe sanctuary in the UK; believes that it will do little to deter the real criminals who make profit from people trafficking, which endangers the lives of vulnerable refugees; understands that The Law Society has expressed concern that the bill may be incompatible with the UK's international obligations under the European Court of Human Rights and the

UN Refugee Convention and that this could undermine the rule of law; considers that there remains no viable system for applying for asylum in the UK outside of very limited nation-specific schemes, and calls on the UK Government to create a system of safe and legal passage for asylum seekers and refugees, or to devolve sufficient powers to allow Scotland to do so.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-09982>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

### Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

#### **The Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick) [HCWS954] ... *Changes to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and EUSS Family Permit***

We are making certain changes to the EUSS, which enables EU, other European economic area (EEA) and Swiss citizens living in the UK by the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, and their family members, to obtain immigration status. In particular, meeting the deadline for the application (or, in line with the citizens' rights agreements, having reasonable grounds for the delay in making an application) will become a requirement for making a valid application. Consistent with the agreements, this will enable us to consider whether there are reasonable grounds for a late application as a preliminary issue, before going on to consider whether a valid application meets the relevant eligibility and suitability requirements. We will also prevent a valid application as a joining family member being made by an illegal entrant to the UK, thereby reinforcing our approach to tackling illegal migration.

We are closing the EUSS on 8 August 2023 to new applications under two routes not covered by the agreements: family member of a qualifying British citizen (on their return to the UK having exercised free movement rights in the EEA or Switzerland, known as "Surinder Singh" cases) and primary carer of a British citizen (known as "Zambrano" cases). The UK made generous transitional provisions enabling such persons to access the EUSS for more than four years. It is now appropriate, as a matter of fairness to other British citizens wishing to sponsor foreign national family members to settle in the UK, that any new applications should have to meet the family immigration rules applicable to others. The routes will remain open to those who are already on them (or with a pending application, administrative review or appeal) or who have pending access to them via a relevant EUSS family permit.

The EUSS family permit will also close on 8 August 2023 to new applications by a family member of a qualifying British citizen. Those granted an EUSS family permit as such a family member via an application made by this date will still be able to come to the UK and apply to the EUSS.

#### ***Extension of the Ukraine Extension Scheme***

We are extending the application deadline for the Ukraine extension scheme for a further six months to 16 May 2024.

This change extends the scheme to allow Ukrainian nationals and their family members who obtain permission to enter or stay in the UK for any period between 18 March 2022 and 16 November 2023 to apply to the Ukraine extension scheme and obtain 36 months' permission to stay in the UK. All applications must now be made by 16 May 2024.

The extension to the application deadline is intended to encourage people to apply for leave under the Ukraine extension scheme to ensure they maintain a lawful immigration status. This will provide greater certainty and clarity for the individual, the Home Office and other Government Departments and organisations which require evidence of immigration status to confirm entitlement to services.

#### ***Student Route (dependants and switching)***

... we are removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are

on postgraduate courses currently designated as research programmes. We are also removing the ability for international students to switch out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed.

These changes preserve the ability for dependants already in the UK to extend their stay, and for international students on taught postgraduate courses beginning before 1 January 2024 to bring dependants. They also preserve existing exemptions for dependants of Government-sponsored students and for dependent children who are born in the UK.

The switching restrictions will ensure that students are generally not switching in-country to another route until they have completed their course. Students on courses at degree level or above will be able to apply before course completion to switch to sponsored work routes, as long as their employment start date is not before course completion. Those studying towards PhDs will be able to switch after 24 months' study.

#### *Asylum—pausing the differentiation policy*

Provisions within the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA), which came into force on 28 June 2022, set out the framework to differentiate between two groups of refugees who ultimately remain in the UK: “group 1” and “group 2”.

The primary way in which the groups are differentiated is the grant of permission to stay: group 1 refugees are normally granted refugee permission to stay for five years, after which they can apply for settlement, whereas group 2 refugees are normally granted temporary refugee permission to stay for 30 months on a 10-year route to settlement.

The differentiation policy was intended to disincentivise migrants from using criminal smugglers to facilitate illegal journeys to the UK. This was the right approach. Since then, the scale of the challenge facing the UK, like other countries, has grown—and that is why the Government introduced the Illegal Migration Bill. The Bill goes further than ever before in seeking to deter illegal entry to the UK, so that the only humanitarian route into the UK is a safe and legal one. The Bill will radically overhaul how we deal with people who arrive in the UK illegally via safe countries, rendering their asylum and human rights claims (in respect of their home country) inadmissible and imposing a duty on the Home Secretary to remove them. This approach represents a considerably stronger means of tackling the same issue that the differentiation policy sought to address, people making dangerous and unnecessary journeys through safe countries to claim asylum in the UK.

We will therefore pause the differentiation policy in the next package of immigration rules changes in July 2023. This means we will stop taking grouping decisions under the differentiated asylum system after these rules changes and those individuals who are successful in their asylum application, including those who are granted humanitarian protection, will receive the same conditions. Our ability to remove failed asylum applicant remains unchanged.

Individuals who have already received a group 2 or humanitarian protection decision under post-28 June 2022 policies will be contacted and will have their conditions aligned to those afforded to group 1 refugees. This includes length of permission to stay, route to settlement, and eligibility for family reunion.

On 23 February 2023 the Home Office announced the streamlined asylum processing model for a small number of cases of nationalities with high asylum grant rates: Afghanistan, Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen. Because this model focuses on manifestly well-founded cases, positive decisions can be taken without the need for an additional interview. No one will have their asylum application refused without the opportunity of an additional interview.

Those claims made between 28 June 2022 and the date of introduction of the Illegal Migration Bill (7 March 2023) will be processed according to this model. This, will also include claimants from Sudan. Sudanese legacy claimants are already being processed in line with established policies and processes and will be decided in line with the Prime Minister's commitment to clear the backlog of legacy asylum claims by the end of 2023.

#### *Improving Clarity Regarding Withdrawing Asylum Claims*

The updated paragraph 333C provides clarity on the circumstances in which an asylum application will be withdrawn, whilst strengthening our ability to promptly withdraw asylum applications from individuals who do not comply with established processes.

It clarifies that there will be no substantive consideration of asylum claims that have been withdrawn and provides greater flexibility to accept explicit withdrawals where a claimant requests to withdraw their claim in writing but fails to do so on a specified form, in doing so preventing duplicative correspondence with the claimant.

In addition, the updates will support the efficient progression of applications by helping to prevent absconder scenarios by making it clear that the burden is on the claimant to keep the Home Office up to date with their contact details, and that failure to do so may result in a withdrawal of their asylum claim.

Furthermore, it is now made clear that failure to attend a reporting event may result in an asylum application being treated as implicitly withdrawn, ensuring efficiency with application progression through preventing potential absconder scenarios.

These changes will enable decision-making resources to be concentrated on those who genuinely wish to continue with their asylum claims in the United Kingdom.

The changes to the Immigration Rules are being laid on 17 July 2023.

The changes relating to asylum, pausing the differentiation policy and the changes relating to students will come into force at 3 pm today.

The changes relating to the EUSS will come into effect on 9 August 2023.

All other changes will come into effect on 7 August 2023.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-17/debates/2307173600024/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules)

[17/debates/2307173600024/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-17/debates/2307173600024/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules)

### **Afghan Resettlement Update**

**The Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Johnny Mercer)** [HCWS973] To date, the Government have resettled around 12,200 people through the Afghan relocations and assistance policy (ARAP), and over 9,100 through the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme (ACRS). All those resettled through ARAP and ACRS are granted indefinite leave to enter or remain, meaning they have the immediate right to work, as well as access to the benefits system.

Given the unprecedented speed and scale of the evacuation from Afghanistan during Operation Pitting and the following months, we welcomed those eligible into bridging hotels and serviced apartments as a temporary solution until settled accommodation could be found. On Tuesday 28 March, I made it clear in my update to Parliament that the Government did not consider it acceptable that over 18 months after Operation Pitting, around 8,000 people remained in temporary bridging accommodation, over half of whom had been there for over one year. I announced our intention to step up our support, backed by £285 million of funding for local authorities, to help families make arrangements to leave their bridging hotels and serviced apartments, and to move into settled accommodation where they can put down roots and integrate into communities across the country.

Since my last update, we have issued legal notices to quit and individualised communications to households living in bridging accommodation, setting out when their access to that accommodation will end. Residents received at least three months' notice to leave their bridging accommodation, as well as clear guidance on the support they can access through local authorities to help them find their own accommodation. We have also ensured that enhanced, multidisciplinary case working teams have been present in every bridging hotel and serviced apartment, working closely with households to support them through the process. For local authorities, we have made £7,100 per person of flexible funding available to support move-on, including through providing deposits, furniture, rental top-ups and rent advances.

This Government remain committed to ending access to costly hotels and serviced



apartments at the end of the notice periods that we have issued to Afghan households. However, as a final measure of goodwill, there will be a small number for whom time-limited interim accommodation will be provided, including where they have been pre-matched to settled accommodation and there is a need to bridge a short gap between the end of a notice period and that confirmed accommodation being ready for them to move into. Interim accommodation will also be provided in cases of medical need where a family member requires continued attendance at a specific hospital. Everyone else will be expected to have left bridging accommodation by the time their notice period expires. For some this will be at the end of this month.

Today I am writing again to all local authorities, reminding them of the extensive funding available from central Government to help find settled housing solutions, and strongly encouraging them to draw on these to support and match as many households as possible into settled accommodation.

This is the right thing to do—both for the taxpayer and for the Afghans we have welcomed to this country and who deserve the opportunity to live self-sufficiently here in the UK.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-18/debates/23071835000015/AfghanResettlementUpdate>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Afghan Resettlement Update

**The Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Johnny Mercer):** ... To date, around 24,600 individuals have been brought to safety in the UK from Afghanistan, including some British nationals and their families, as well as Afghans who loyally served the United Kingdom, and others identified as vulnerable and at risk. I am proud that our generous offer has ensured that all those relocated through safe and legal routes have been able to access the vital health, education and employment support that they need to integrate into our society, including English language training for those who need it. On top of that, we have also ensured that all arrivals have had the immediate right to work, as well as access to the benefits system.

In my last update, I made it clear that this Government do not consider it acceptable that, at the time, around 8,000 Afghans were still living in temporary bridging accommodation, preventing them from putting down roots in communities and building self-sufficient lives in this country. Around half of this number had been living in a hotel for more than one year. It was time to ask our Afghan friends to find their own accommodation, with the support of this Government, and to integrate into British society. The status quo is not fair to taxpayers and, crucially, it is not fair to Afghans.

Since March, we have issued legal notices to quit and individualised communications to households living in hotels and serviced apartments, setting out when their access to taxpayer-funded bridging accommodation will end. Residents have received at least three months' notice to make arrangements to leave their hotel or serviced apartment and clear guidance on the support that they can access to help them find their own accommodation. Alongside that, we have significantly stepped up our support for those in bridging accommodation and to local authorities, backed by £285 million of funding, to speed up moves into settled homes. We have ensured that enhanced, multi-disciplinary case working teams have been present in every bridging hotel and serviced apartment, working closely with households to help them navigate the pathway to find their own private rented accommodation. For local authorities, this funding includes more than £7,000 per Afghan individual to enable them to support move-ons. We recognise that local authorities will be best placed to understand the specific needs of individual families and the local housing market. That is why we have ensured that this funding can be used flexibly and pragmatically, in line with local circumstances.

Over the past three months I have met local government leaders and home builders, and personally visited bridging hotels, up and down the country. I have been heartened to see at first hand the many individuals, families and local authorities who have heard this message and stepped up their efforts to make use of central Government's generous offer and identify suitable non-hotel accommodation. Some councils are very effectively using this funding to offer significant support packages, including deposits, furniture, rental top-ups and rent advances, among many other things. I encourage local authorities to share this best practice throughout their networks.

As I have said before, this is a national effort, and we all need to play our part. That is why I am also urging landlords to make offers of accommodation by either speaking to their local council or making an offer via the online Afghanistan housing portal that we have set up. This online form has been developed so that landlords and private individuals can make offers of accommodation directly, which are then shared with potential tenants. We are interested in properties of all sizes and currently have a particular need for one-bedroom properties and larger properties to help accommodate families across the UK.

Since my last update, we have seen many hundreds of individuals leave their hotels and move into settled housing across the UK. Although progress has been made, there is more to do. I have outlined the generous support package that this Government have put in place—and examples of the commitment and resourcefulness that I have seen from both Afghans and local authorities to rise to this challenge. In return for this generous offer, we expect families to help themselves. As far as possible, we want to empower Afghans to secure their own accommodation and determine where they settle, working with the caseworkers available in every bridging property to do it within the limits of individual affordability. I see no reason why anybody living in a hotel today should not be able to make use of their right to work and access to benefits and the flexible funding available to local authorities to find suitable, settled accommodation and live independently of central Government support.

I wish to make it clear today that the Government remain committed to ending access to costly hotels at the end of the notice periods that we have issued to Afghan individuals and families. For some, this will be at the end of this month. Everyone will be expected to have left bridging accommodation by the time their notice period expires. There will, however, be a small number for whom time-limited contingency accommodation will be provided, including where there is a need to bridge a short gap between the end of notice periods and settled accommodation being ready for them to move into, and in cases of medical need where a family member requires continued attendance at a specific hospital. Everyone else should be finalising their plans for moving on from bridging accommodation. I repeat my call to our Afghan friends and local authorities: they must access the support that the Government have made available before the expiry of their notice period to leave bridging accommodation.

I am writing again to all local authorities, reminding them of the funding streams available to help find settled housing solutions for Afghans who remain in bridging accommodation, as well as the new streams of accommodation becoming available shortly. I implore them to draw on this support and match as many households into settled accommodation as possible. Central Government are doing their part, and local government must do its. This is the right thing to do, both for the taxpayer and for those Afghans who risked their lives on our behalf and deserve the opportunity to live self-sufficiently here in the UK

**Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op):** ... The Minister ... has given us no precise numbers of Afghans who are currently in bridging accommodation, no numbers of those he expects to stay in the time-limited contingency offer, and no estimates or details. ...

In a few weeks' time, it will be two years since Operation Pitting began, but there is still a backlog of 60,000 ARAP applications. Operation Warm Welcome has become operation cold shoulder, with 8,000 Afghans being told that they will be forced out of temporary accommodation by the end of the summer. Can the Minister tell us on what date the notice

period expires? What day will Afghans no longer be able to stay in bridging accommodation? ...

Can the Minister clarify the exact number of Afghans who have been rehoused into settled housing in the UK? How many homes are available for Afghans to move into? How many does he expect will be made homeless by the eviction notices that he has served on these Afghans? ...

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** ... We have worked with around 350 local authorities across the United Kingdom to meet the demand for housing. As of data published on 25 May, around 10,500 people have been supported into settled accommodation—around 10,000 had moved into homes, with an additional 500 matched but not yet moved. ... from the end of April, families started to receive legal notices to move. That was accompanied by £35 million-worth of new funding to enable local authorities to provide the increased support for Afghan households to move from hotels into settled accommodation. ...

**Iain Duncan Smith (Conservative):** ... will no Afghans, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude and honour, be made homeless during the course of this process? ...

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** ... there is no reason why any of these individuals should be homeless at the end of the process given what is on offer. Clearly, we cannot march people into accommodation if they choose to present themselves as homeless in an attempt to secure themselves some sort of other accommodation. It is very difficult to affect that. There is no tangible reason why any Afghan family should present as homeless at the end of this process. ...

**Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP):** ... only 54 people have been able to apply through his Government's flagship Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. ...

The scheme was meant to provide safe haven to the many thousands of Afghans who were eligible to come to the UK but had not been able to do so at the time of Operation Pitting. With the unacceptable backlog of Afghans currently in the country, along with the demonstrably obstructive barriers to those still suffering under the Taliban rule from coming here, does the Minister not agree that it is time for a "Homes for Afghans" scheme similar to the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme, which would give central Government and local authorities the impetus to ensure that permanent accommodation is found for all the Afghans whom he seeks to remove from hotels?

**Reply from Johnny Mercer:** I thank the hon. Gentleman for his questions. On the issue of ACRS and ARAP, I need to be transparent with him: my responsibility, which this statement is about, is for Afghans in bridging accommodation in the UK and getting them into accommodation. ... There are many more than 54 recipients of the ACRS in this country ...

We are looking at a similar proposal on homes for Afghans as we had for Ukrainians, but they are a fundamentally different cohort. Ukrainians traditionally, and in our experience, tend to want to go back to Ukraine in the future. That is not the case with the Afghan population. We are certainly looking at all options; we have set up an Afghan housing portal where landlords can offer their properties and we can accept offers, but all those options are in play. It is a fundamentally different cohort, but we can get there in the end. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-18/debates/8337DFDD-2A6E-493B-AA24-7D094A641F05/AfghanResettlementUpdate>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Refugees: Rwanda

**Julian Sturdy (Conservative)** [192994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that refugees who have used safe and legal routes of entry are not inadvertently deported to Rwanda.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As set out in the Home Office's Inadmissibility guidance, an asylum claimant may be eligible for removal to Rwanda if their claim is inadmissible under this policy and (a) that claimant's journey to the UK can be described as having been dangerous and (b) was made on or after 1 January 2022. A dangerous journey is one able or likely to cause harm or injury. This would therefore not include those who have arrived in the UK through safe and legal routes of entry.

A case-by-case assessment will take place for every individual considered for relocation. No one will be relocated if it is unsafe for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-07/192994>

### Asylum: Rwanda

**Julian Sturdy (Conservative)** [192993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to facilitate family reunions for asylum seekers who are sent to Rwanda.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Everyone considered for relocation to Rwanda will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe for them.

We will thoroughly consider the circumstances of cases involving families with children according to our policy, statutory and international obligations. A full equality impact assessment has been published on gov.uk.

Individuals with family in the UK may still be relocated to Rwanda subject to a detailed consideration of their Article 8 rights under the European Convention on Human Rights.

For those with family links in the UK who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via safe and legal routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-07/192993>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Julian Sturdy (Conservative)** [192995] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Court of Appeal's decision of 29 June 2023 on the UK's migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda, whether she has taken recent steps to consider alternative options for housing people arriving in the UK who have crossed the English Channel in small boats.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** While we are disappointed with the Court of Appeal's ruling in relation to deficiencies in Rwanda's asylum system that risk returning people inappropriately when they have a need for protection, we have been granted permission to appeal this judgement to the Supreme Court.

We continue to bring forward alternative accommodation options to reduce hotel use. We are standing up alternative accommodation sites including the sites of Scampton and Wethersfield.

In addition, the government is also seeking to use vessels to provide accommodation in line with the approach taken by countries like the Netherlands.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-07/192995>

*The Court of Appeal judgement referred to above can be read at*



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

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [194080]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications made to the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme were successful in the period to June 2023.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Since 2015, just over half a million people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK. This includes those from country-specific schemes from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine, in addition to global routes through the UNHCR and family reunion schemes.

The latest [Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2023](#) (published on 25 May 2023, next statistics release due Aug 2023), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,004 people.

The UK has made one of the largest commitments of any country to support those impacted by events in Afghanistan.

There is no application process for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Instead, those who are eligible will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of the scheme's three referral pathways. Further information on the ACRS can be found on the gov.uk website at:

[Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/194080>

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [194185]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme have been successful.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The latest [Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2023](#) (published on 25 May 2023), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,004 people.

The UK has made one of the largest commitments of any country to support those impacted by events in Afghanistan. The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will see up to 20,000 eligible individuals from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years.

There is no application process for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Instead, those who are eligible will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of the scheme's three referral pathways. Further information on the ACRS can be found on the gov.uk website at:

[Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-14/194185>

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [194186]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of applications under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy were approved up to 30 June 2023.

**Reply from James Heappey:** As of 30 June 2023, we have received over 141,000 applications since the launch of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme on 1 April 2021. Of these applications, 3,527 have been granted ARAP eligibility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-14/194186>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [194410] To ask the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, when the third pathway of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme will be fully opened.

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [194411] To ask the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, whether journalists facing persecution in (a) Afghanistan and (b) neighbouring countries will be eligible for immigration status under the third pathway of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help relocate at-risk people in Afghanistan. To date, nearly 24,600 people have been brought to safety, this includes at-risk journalists and the first individuals to be relocated under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Under the first stage of Pathway 3, 1,500 places were made available to at risk people from three groups, who directly supported the UK and international community's efforts in Afghanistan: British Council contractors, GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni. Our immediate focus is on ensuring their resettlement.

In the second stage of Pathway 3, our commitment to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk still stands. We are not able to open for referrals at this present time, but further information will be published in due course.

We recognise there are many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region. Unfortunately, the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions about who will be prioritised have to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-17/194410>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-17/194411>

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 3, referred to above, can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

[13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat)** [193510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help support Afghan refugees who are not able to secure housing before their bridging hotels close in August 2023.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK made an ambitious and generous commitment to help resettle those fleeing persecution and those who served the UK. Since June 2021, we have brought 24,500 people to safety to the UK.

Bridging hotels are not and were never designed to be permanent accommodation. Long-term residency in hotels has prevented some Afghans from properly putting down roots, committing to employment and fully integrating into communities.

From the end of April 2023, individuals staying in hotels and serviced accommodation began to receive legal notice to leave their temporary accommodation by a certain date. A dedicated cross-government casework team,

made up of Home Office Liaison Officers and DWP staff, are based in hotels and work alongside local authority officials to provide advice and support to Afghans. The government is providing £285 million of new funding to local authorities supporting the Afghan resettlement schemes. This includes £35 million in new cash for local authorities, which will go towards increasing the level of support available and overcoming key barriers in accessing the housing system and employment and a £250 million expansion of the Local Authority Housing Fund to help councils to source homes to house Afghans currently in bridging accommodation. There are no bridging hotels in your consistency.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-11/193510>

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

### Immigration: Scotland

**Owen Thompson (SNP)** [193206] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on (a) immigration, (b) asylum seekers and (c) refugees.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Immigration is a reserved matter and representatives from across Government meet with their counterparts and will continue to do so as part of regular engagement with the Devolved Administrations.

The Home Secretary chaired the Home Office's Inter Ministerial Group with the Devolved Administrations on 11th July 2023, where one of the items for discussion was the Illegal Migration Bill.

From 13 April 2022, all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales are considered a dispersal area and will need to take part in asylum dispersal. This is to ensure a fair and equitable accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK. We have agreed targets for every local authority and region in the UK to deliver by the end of 2023. The latest published Home Office figures from 31st March 2023 show that Midlothian has one asylum dispersal accommodation.

The SNP Government are accommodating 4.6% of the total asylum population being accommodated in the UK, when Scotland makes up 8.2% of the UK population.

If you would like to put forward specific proposals, please do contact the Home Office at: [rasengagementhubregionalconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:rasengagementhubregionalconsultation@homeoffice.gov.uk) and officials will happily discuss this in greater detail with you.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-10/193206>

### Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Bambos Charalambous (Independent)** [194028] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the progress of the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The victims of the Windrush scandal suffered terrible injustices, and this Government remains steadfast in our commitment to do everything in our power to right the wrongs. We are determined to ensure everyone who was affected receives every penny of the compensation to which they are entitled at the earliest point possible. The Windrush Compensation Scheme is making significant progress towards achieving this aim. As at the end of May 2023 the scheme had paid or offered more than £75 million in compensation and over 66% of claims received by the end of May 2023 had been given a final decision.

Since its launch, the Home Office has continued to listen and respond to feedback from affected communities and stakeholders about how the Scheme operates and

its accessibility. The changes made to the Scheme in December 2020 and August 2022, mean people receive significantly more money more quickly. Last year redesigned claim forms were published along with refreshed casework guidance, with the aim of reducing the time taken to process claims and improving individuals' experiences of applying to the Scheme. Changes were also made to the Homelessness category and a new 'Living Costs' category was created, to compensate close family members for certain contributions to a primary claimant's living costs. These significant and positive policy changes were made following consultation with claimants and stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/194028>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>*

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [194091] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for compensation under the Windrush compensation scheme died while waiting for a decision on their application.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure where they are aware of claimants with critical or life-limiting illnesses, their cases are prioritised.

In the unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, but before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to the family member.

The latest Transparency data is available at Gov.UK: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: May 2023](#)

Please note that this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on a claimant's death, notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/194091>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>*

### **Refugees: Loans**

**Christopher Chope (Conservative)** [193543] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason refugee integration loans are interest free.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The loans ensure that those refugees with the greatest integration needs are able to get financial assistance to obtain specific items or activities that will help address those needs. As the payments take the form of a loan, money recovered can be recycled to ensure a continuous fund for new refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193543>

### **Asylum: Legal Opinion**

**Claudia Webbe (Independent)** [194090] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the adequacy of the legal advice available to people making an asylum claim.

**Reply from Mike Freer;** Under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, all immigration advisers must be registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) or be regulated by a Designated Qualifying Regulator (DQR). The OISC and the DQRs are responsible for ensuring immigration advisers



are fit, competent, and act in their clients' best interests.

The DQRs include legal services representative bodies who designate regulatory responsibilities to legal services regulators. Legal services regulation is independent of Government and the relevant regulators are responsible for ensuring quality and standards for providers of legal advice.

The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) is a DQR and responsible for the regulation of solicitors and ensuring that all solicitors meet required standards. In November 2022, the SRA published a thematic review of immigration and asylum services as well as updated immigration guidance to help solicitors understand their obligations when providing immigration advice. The guidance is available here:

<https://www.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/immigration-services/guidance-and-support/>.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/194090>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [193947] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have applied for asylum after arriving on a short term visitor visa in each year since 2015.

### **Visas: Overseas Visitors**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [193948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign nationals have (a) overstayed their visitor visa and (b) remained in the UK without returning to their country of origin in each year since 2015.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the entry method of all individuals seeking asylum is not published. However, analysis from the [Migrant journey: 2022 report](#) estimates that around 14% of people claiming asylum in 2022 held another form of leave within 7 days of lodging their application.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes data on the proportion of people who are known to have departed the UK before their visa expired in the '[Reports on statistics relating to exit checks](#)'. Data broken down by visa type are published in table 1 of the [Exit Checks data tables \(opens in a new tab\)](#). The latest data relates to the year ending March 2020.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193947>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193948>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Alison McGovern (Labour)** [193611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 July 2023 to Question 192551 on Asylum: Applications, whether her Department records the length of asylum application interviews for each applicant.

**Alison McGovern (Labour)** [193612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 July 2023 to Question 192551 on Asylum: Applications, what steps her Department has taken to streamline the processes used when assessing asylum applications.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We have taken immediate action to speed up asylum processing whilst maintaining the integrity of the system. This includes simplifying guidance, reducing interview length and streamlining processes.

When they make their asylum claim, all individuals will continue to undergo

mandatory security checks during the screening interview.

Targeted interviews will concentrate on the individual's nationality whilst shorter interviews will concentrate on a small number of material facts. These will be much shorter than substantive interviews and are more efficient.

There may be occasions where an individual will need to be referred for a substantive interview as is current practice, for example where there are criminality or security, or significant credibility concerns.

The duration of the interview is recorded in the interview transcript.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193611>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193612>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192551>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

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

**Christopher Chope (Conservative)** [193541] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have absconded from hotels or other similar accommodation since 1st January 2023; and in how many of those cases her Department has lost contact with the asylum seeker.

**Christopher Chope (Conservative)** [193542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers absconded from (a) hotels and (b) other similar accommodation since 1 January 2023; and in how many and what proportion of those cases was all contact with her Department lost.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of adult asylum seekers leaving accommodation providing under Section 98. We have a statutory duty to provide support and accommodation to destitute asylum seekers while their claim for asylum is being considered. The Home Office does not hold or detain asylum seekers in hotels or any other asylum accommodation. Individuals are free to leave if they wish and the Home Office has no power to detain those who wish to leave.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193541>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193542>

#### **Asylum: Housing**

**Laurence Robertson (Conservative)** [193838] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost of accommodating asylum seekers in the UK was in the most recent year for which figures are available.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Government has been clear that the use of expensive hotels to house the unprecedented number of asylum seekers crossing the Channel is unacceptable and must end. It is costing the UK taxpayer over £6 million a day. That is why we are shifting to cheaper and basic accommodation and delivering on our plan to stop the boats – which is the enduring way to alleviate unfair pressure on communities and the British taxpayer.

A link to the most recent published figures:

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/03/accommodation-sites-factsheet-april-2023/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193838>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: MOD Wethersfield**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [193890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many people have been transferred to MDP Wethersfield since 12 July 2023; and how many people are accommodated at that site.

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [193893] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who will be transferred to the MDP Wethersfield site in (a) July and (b) August 2023; and on what dates she estimates that they will arrive.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The first group of asylum seekers are now at Wethersfield. We will be using a phased approach, increasing the number of asylum seekers accommodated at the site over time with the practicalities of managing the site under constant review. The site can accommodate 1700 individuals when fully operational.

From 13 April 2022, all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales are considered a dispersal area and will need to take part in asylum dispersal. This is to ensure a fair and equitable accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK. We have agreed targets for every local authority and region in the UK to deliver by the end of 2023. Scotland is currently not meeting its dispersal accommodation target.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193890>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193893>

#### **Asylum: MOD Wethersfield**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [193891] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, where people accommodated at MDP Wethersfield were previously accommodated; and what the average notice was that those people would be transferred to MDP Wethersfield.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We have a statutory duty to provide support and accommodation to destitute asylum seekers. Accommodation is provided on a 'no choice' basis at safe, legal and adequate accommodation including the Wethersfield site. If asylum seekers are to be moved from initial accommodation hotels to Wethersfield, service providers give notice as per the Asylum Accommodation & Support Contract (AASC) contractual agreement which is usually 5 days' notice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193891>

#### **Asylum: MOD Wethersfield**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [193896] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has set a (a) minimum and (b) maximum time that people will be accommodated at MDP Wethersfield.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Whilst the Home Office anticipates the period asylum seekers may be accommodated at MDP Wethersfield to be between six to nine months, this is dependent on the availability of onward dispersed accommodation. From 13 April 2022, all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales are considered a dispersal area and will need to take part in asylum dispersal. This is to ensure a fair and equitable accommodation spread of asylum seekers across the UK. We have agreed targets for every local authority and region in the UK to deliver by the end of 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-13/193896>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

### **British National (Overseas) and Asylum: Hong Kong**

**Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated)** [HL9159] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Hong

Kong citizens have entered the UK since the introduction of that territory's National Security Law (1) using the British National (Overseas) route, and (2) as asylum seekers; and in each case, what was the age profile in terms of (a) absolute number, and (b) relative percentage, for each age cohort of five years.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum and visas in the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on asylum applications and initial decisions by nationality and age group can be found in tables Asy\_D01 and Asy\_D02 respectively of the 'asylum and resettlement detailed datasets'. Please note that data relates to asylum applications and initial decisions and does not represent arrivals to the UK.

As at the end of March 2023 113,500 individuals have arrived in the UK using an out of country BN(O) visa. At this time we are unable to break down this figure by age. Additionally, data on BN(O) route visa applications and outcomes can be found in tables Vis\_D01 and Vis\_D02 respectively of the 'managed migration datasets'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending March 2023.

[tables Asy\\_D01 and Asy\\_D02](#)

[tables Vis\\_D01 and Vis\\_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9159>

### **Visas: Ministers of Religion**

**Lord Godson (Conservative)** [HL8823] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 6 March (HL6140), whether they intend to conduct a review into UK visas given to Religious Workers or Ministers of Religion from Iran; and if so, what is the timetable for doing so.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office is fully aware of the risks associated with this route.

The Home Office regularly reviews the criteria used to identify persons who may pose a higher risk to the UK, with scrutiny given to each application the Home Office receives and additional interventions taken where required. For national security reasons, it would not be appropriate to disclose these criteria, nor the timing of when these reviews take place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-27/hl8823>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-06/hl6140>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat)** [HL9140] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum have been housed in Home Office temporary hotels in the past 18 months; and of those, how many were aged between (1) five and nine, (2) 10 and 13, and (3) 14 and 16.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9140>



## **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL9141]** To ask His Majesty's Government what was the age of youngest unaccompanied child seeking asylum who has been housed in a Home Office temporary hotel; and how long that child was housed there for.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

Between 1 July 2021 and 31 March 2023, the NTS transferred 4,875 children to local authorities with children's services which is over six times the number of transfers in the same time frame in previous years (between October 2019 – June 2021 there were 793 transfers). Since 15 February 2022, all local authorities with children's services in the UK have been directed to participate in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) to ensure UASC receive the critical care they need. We have also offered incentivised funding to local authorities to move these young people in the care system.

The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9141>

## **UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee**

### **Human Trafficking: evidence session**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13526/html/>

## **Press Releases**

### **New laws helping to stop the boats and grow the economy receive royal assent**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-helping-to-stop-the-boats-and-grow-the-economy-receives-royal-assent>

### **EU Settlement Scheme enhancements confirmed**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-settlement-scheme-enhancements-confirmed>

### **Local Authorities and landlords urged to step up with 'final push' to resettle Afghans who supported Britain**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-authorities-and-landlords-urged-to-step-up-with-final-push-to-resettle-afghans-who-supported-britain>

### **New visa requirement for Namibian nationals visiting the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-visa-requirement-for-namibian-nationals-visiting-the-uk>

### **UK Illegal Migration Bill: UN Refugee Agency and UN Human Rights Office warn of profound impact on human rights and international refugee protection system**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/uk-illegal-migration-bill-un-refugee-agency-and-un-human-rights-office-warn>

**UN experts urge UK to halt implementation of Illegal Immigration Bill**  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/un-experts-urge-uk-halt-implementation-illegal-immigration-bill>

**UK Illegal Migration Bill: UN Refugee Agency and UN Human Rights Office warn of profound impact on human rights and international refugee protection system**  
<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/speeches-and-statements/uk-illegal-migration-bill-un-refugee-agency-and-un-human-rights-office>

## New Publications

**Refused? Experiences following a negative asylum decision**  
<https://nacom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EMBARGOED-17.7.23-NACCOM-Refused-Experiences-following-a-negative-asylum-decision-FINAL.pdf>

**Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

**Updated: 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: Afghanistan

**Afghan refugees to move out of UK hotels over the summer**  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66238034>

**UK ministers urged to extend hotel eviction deadline for Afghans**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/21/uk-ministers-urged-to-extend-hotel-eviction-deadline-for-afghans>

## News: Illegal Migration Bill

**Illegal Migration Bill: Government sees off final Lords challenge**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66229585>

**Big moment on small boats problem - but solution is still far off**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66232322>

**Solidarity with people seeking safety as the Illegal Migration bill becomes law**  
<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/solidarity-with-people-seeking-safety-as-the-illegal-migration-bill-becomes-law/>

**Opposition continues as UK Illegal Migration Bill set to become law**  
<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/opposition-continues-as-uk-illegal-migration-bill-set-to-become-law/>

**UN condemns UK's Illegal Migration Bill as ships refused permission**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23664462.un-condemns-uks-illegal-migration-bill-ships-refused-permission/>

**Small boats bill set to become law despite final push for changes by Tory rebels**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-bill-sunak-braverman-illegal-migrants-b2377065.html>

**Small boats Bill to become law as Lords challenges defeated**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/18/uk-migration-bill-become-law-illegal-small-boats/>

**The UK's illegal migration bill is a nasty piece of work. So is the cruelty inflicted on refugee children**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/16/the-uks-migration-bill-is-a-nasty-piece-of-work-so-is-the-cruelty-inflicted-on-refugee-children>

**UK illegal migration bill will have profound consequences, warns UN body**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/18/uk-migration-bill-to-become-law-as-government-sees-off-lords-challenge>

**Solidarity with people seeking safety as the Illegal Migration bill becomes law**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/solidarity-with-people-seeking-safety-as-the-illegal-migration-bill-becomes-law/>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Visa rules eased for building and fishing industry**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66224588>

**Bibby Stockholm: Asylum seeker barge docks in Portland as migration bill progresses**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66231414>

**What will life be like on the UK's first migrant barge?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66099583>

**Bibby Stockholm asylum barge claims are 'false', says CEO**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23669258.bibby-stockholm-asylum-berge-claims-false-says-ceo/>

**Inside the Bibby Stockholm asylum barge set to house 500 migrants**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/bibby-stockholm-inside-portland-berge-b2379681.html>

**Migrant barge prepares to welcome first 50 asylum seekers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-berge-bibby-stockholm-first-look-l8qfn92jm>

**'Cabins slightly larger than a prison cell': life aboard the UK's barge for asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/21/life-aboard-bibby-stockholm-asylum-seeker-berge-home-office-tour>

**Blow for Braverman as UK asylum ships 'sent back' after failure to find dock**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-cruise-ship-berge-suella-braverman-b2377965.html>

## Asylum cruise ships sent back as ports won't let them dock

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-cruise-ships-sent-back-because-ports-wont-let-them-dock-zmtl39z9x>

## Why people immigrate to the UK: seizing the opportunities of administrative data

<https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2023/07/19/why-people-immigrate-to-the-uk-seizing-the-opportunities-of-administrative-data/>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers

**Mary Kelly Foy (Labour)** [193256] To ask the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, if he will publish disaggregated data on the number of Gypsies and Travellers living on sites who have (a) applied for and (b) received the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding payment since the scheme was introduced.

**Reply from Amanda Solloway:** As of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the cumulative number of those who self-declared as travellers (fixed) that had applied for the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding (GB & NI) was 12,040, of whom 8,120 had received their payment for the support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-10/193256>

### New Publication

**Policy paper: Alternative student finance** [England only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alternative-student-finance/alternative-student-finance>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket Report

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [906073] What assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the report of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket entitled "Holding Up a Mirror To Cricket" published in June 2023.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Stuart Andrew):** Discrimination has no place in sport or wider society. The ICEC report makes for difficult reading. Clearly, the sport needs to reflect carefully on the report's concerning findings and consider how best to deliver clear and sustained cultural change across cricket. The Government will review the findings of the report, and we welcome the England and Wales Cricket Board's commitment to bring forward a plan to tackle these serious issues, which must be addressed in full.

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi:** After the exposés of whistleblowers such as Azeem Rafiq, the



“Holding Up a Mirror to Cricket” report lays bare the extent of racism, sexism and classism in cricket. Over the past couple of years, we have seen scandals in cricket, abuse in gymnastics, a whole plethora of issues unearthed by the fan-led review into football and the sport of rugby union undertaking a review into its governance, and I fear that, sadly, there will be further such examples. Just how confident is the Minister that structures are in place to deal with inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour in sport, and does he now feel that there is a need to look into governance in sport more widely?

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** I have made that issue a priority in the time that I have been in this role, because it does need addressing. I hold regular meetings with the national governing bodies of all the sports and I have laid down challenges to them. We need to work together, though. That is why this will form an important part of the new sports strategy. I know that it has taken some time, but I have been really clear that I want that issue to be included in it, and to be a central plank of the work that we do when we publish it.

**Louie French (Conservative):** In my constituency we have fantastic grassroots cricket clubs promoting inclusivity in the sport during their cricket weeks. ... Will my right hon. Friend join me in thanking the clubs for the work that they do to promote cricket in our community, especially to women and girls, and Bexley cricket club for its efforts to raise funds to address cardiac risk in the young?

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** My hon. Friend is right to highlight that not everything is bad. Let us recognise some of the amazing work, particularly of volunteers, who do so much for grassroots sport. He highlights a club in his constituency. It is not just about encouraging more people to take part in sport; clubs also do tremendous work in the community, as he has just highlighted with the fundraising that that club has done. ...

**Lucy Powell (Labour Co-op):** ... Despite the teams’ successes on the international stage, the ICEC report showed that there is a lot to do to increase diversity and participation in cricket. It found that English cricket suffers from sexism, elitism and racism. Do the Government understand that they also have a role to play in addressing those serious findings? For example, what discussions has the Minister had with the Department for Education about increasing the take-up of cricket in state schools and ensuring better access to pitches, equipment and coaching? Also, does he agree—I am sure he does—that it is about time that the women’s team had as much access to Lord’s cricket ground as Eton and Harrow?

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** ... On the day of the publication of the report, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with the England and Wales Cricket Board. We have said that we will be following the development of its plan very carefully. The hon. Lady is right that we need to see more access to facilities for women and girls, not just at Lord’s but right across the country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-20/debates/238E1961-41C0-42E6-9AB1-1FBE05B42B80/IndependentCommissionForEquityInCricketReport>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://theicec.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HOLDING-UP-A-MIRROR-TO-CRICKET-REPORT-ICEC-2023.pdf>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Government Departments: Discrimination

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [192982] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, if he will take steps with Cabinet colleagues to review all Government documents to ensure that they do not contain (a) racist and (b) other prejudiced terms; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Jeremy Quin:** We do not tolerate racist, homophobic, sexist or any

similarly unacceptable language in any form, including in Government documents or on our webpages.

The Government has issued guidance on how to write about race and ethnicity and promoted this across departments, including through a letter from the Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service to all Permanent Secretaries in December. That guidance is on gov.uk here:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/style-guide/writing-about-ethnicity>

This is part of wider work to implement the Inclusive Britain Action Plan, the Government's response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which was published in March 2022. The Government issued an update to Parliament in April 2023 summarising the progress that has been made in delivering this plan. Cabinet Office will be writing to Permanent Secretary colleagues to remind them of this guidance and asking them to ensure that it is easily accessible to all employees within their department and associated organisations.

Recent media coverage has highlighted language in two documents dating back to 2006 and 2012, and a 2015 comment on a publicly accessible Government web page, on which anyone is able to comment. The 2006 document was written by an external contractor for use by their own staff, the 2012 document used the language within a quote from a non-civil service scientific paper published in 1990. Both documents are no longer in use and the comment has been removed from the web page.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-07/192982>

*The report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)*

*Inclusive Britain, 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>*

*The Update referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Racial Discrimination: Education**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [193545] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department takes to monitor the content of (a) training and (b) lessons on critical race theory provided by (i) FLAIR and (ii) other third party organisations.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [193546] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of the number of external providers teaching critical race theory in schools.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Political issues relating to racial and social justice can be taught in a balanced and factual manner, just as pupils are often taught a range of different views on other topics, but schools should not teach contested theories and opinions as fact.

The Department is aware that there has been increasing focus on political impartiality in schools over the last few years. This has been challenging for head teachers, teachers and staff, given a lack of clarity regarding what the legal duties in this area really mean. That is why the Department has published clear and comprehensive guidance to help those working with and in schools to better understand legal duties on political impartiality. A link to the guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools>

As with other aspects of the curriculum, schools have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects. It is important that schools take full responsibility for ensuring lessons and materials are age appropriate, suitable, and politically impartial, particularly when using materials produced by external organisations. When teaching, schools should consider the age of pupils and their religious and cultural backgrounds.

Schools are ultimately responsible for making sure the resources they use are suitable for their pupils. The Department's guidance includes advice to help schools make good choices.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193545>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-12/193546>

### **Cricket: Discrimination**

**Navendu Mishra (Labour)** [193493] To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will take steps to support the foundation of a specialist charity for tackling all forms of discrimination in cricket.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** The Government is clear that there is absolutely no place for racism, discrimination, bullying or harassment in sport or society. We are reviewing the findings of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report, and we welcome the ECB's commitment to bring forward a plan to tackle these serious issues, which must be addressed fully.

There are a number of organisations and initiatives that aim to tackle discrimination and improve diversity and inclusion in cricket.

This includes the African-Caribbean Engagement Programme (ACE), which addresses the decline in cricket participation by members of the Black community in cricket, and has received £540,000 of Sport England funding between 2020 and 2023.

The Chance to Shine foundation, which receives funding from Sport England, is focussed in areas with a lack of accessible clubs and green spaces, making cricket accessible to young people throughout England and Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-11/193493>

*The Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket report, referred to above, can be read at <https://theicec.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/HOLDING-UP-A-MIRROR-TO-CRICKET-REPORT-ICEC-2023.pdf>*

## **New Publication**

### **A Decade of Anti-Muslim Hate**

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/A-Decade-of-Anti-Muslim-Hate-TellMAMAReport.pdf>

## **News**

### **Tory MP Bob Stewart pleads not guilty to racially abusing Bahraini activist**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/07/19/bob-stewart-tory-mp-beckenham-not-guilty-racist-abuse/>

### **Tory MP to stand trial for alleged racial abuse**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-mp-to-stand-trial-for-alleged-racial-abuse-g7wsvghzn>

### **Now n-word found in official immigration documents**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nword-racist-slur-immigration-b2377280.html>

### **Met police have ‘much further to go’ in rooting out racism and misogyny, says mother of murdered sisters**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/met-police-force-racism-misogyny-uk-b2377806.html>

### **‘Punched and told to leave Britain’: Islamophobia reaches record high**

[https://www.itv.com/news/2023-07-20/punched-and-told-to-leave-britain-islamophobia-reaches-record-high?utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Twitter#Echobox=1689879393](https://www.itv.com/news/2023-07-20/punched-and-told-to-leave-britain-islamophobia-reaches-record-high?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1689879393)

### **Britain is no country for Christians**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/18/britain-is-no-country-for-christians/>

### **Roald Dahl museum condemns author's 'undeniable' racism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-66249439>

### **Roald Dahl museum condemns author for ‘undeniable and indelible racism’**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/roald-dahl-racist-antisemitism-museum-b2378636.html>

### **Roald Dahl museum acknowledges author’s antisemitism**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/jul/19/roald-dahl-museum-acknowledges-authors-antisemitism>

### **Roald Dahl Museum condemns author’s ‘indelible’ antisemitism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/roald-dahl-antisemitism-racism-jewish-museum-statement-zdjjj0w28>

### **Halfords ‘protecting’ manager liable for racial harassment, former employee claims**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/halfords-guilty-racial-harassment-targeted-b2349697.html>

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## **Other Scottish Parliament and Government**

### **Press Release**

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): staying well and protecting others**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Religion: Education

**Lord Carrington (Crossbench)** [HL9104] To ask His Majesty's Government why Religious Education is not included in the list of subjects for English Baccalaureate qualification.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The government's ambition is for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) to be at the heart of each secondary school's broader curriculum. The EBacc subjects are those considered to provide a sound basis for many degrees and a variety of careers beyond the age of 16. The EBacc was deliberately designed to be limited in size so that pupils could study other subjects, such as Religious Studies, alongside it. There are no plans to amend the composition of the EBacc.

The government recognises the importance of religious education (RE), both to pupils' wider knowledge and to society. RE offers pupils the opportunity to engage with real world issues and to develop their understanding and appreciation of the beliefs and views of others. For this reason, the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/hl9104>

### Press Release

#### UK statement on Qur'an burning in Stockholm

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-on-quran-burning-in-stockholm>

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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/>



## Publication

### The caring penalty

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60037/download?token=KeBF9ybg&filetype=full-report>

## News

### Rents rise at fastest rate for eight years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66244990>

### UK inflation falls as prices rise less than expected

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/inflation-latest-figures-ons-may-b2377861.html>

### Carers being pushed into poverty, losing nearly £9,000 a year on average after six years of caring

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/carers-being-pushed-poverty-losing-nearly-9000-year-average-after-six-years-caring>

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## Other New Publication

### Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/4641/oscrs-annual-report-and-accounts-2022-23.pdf>

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## Other News

### First Roma cultural centre for Scotland to open in Glasgow

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23664652.first-roma-cultural-centre-scotland-open-glasgow/>

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## Bills in Progress \*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

#### Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

#### Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

## **Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

## **UK Parliament**

### **Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

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

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

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

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

### **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>

### **\*\* Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3429>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-17/debates/1FC39471-FEA6-48D2-9A4D-1E262632E4C9/IllegalMigrationBill>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-17/debates/B90B7C1B-2318-4DB9-BB83-9FD25500C8A6/IllegalMigrationBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52301/documents/3822>

*Bill passed*

Royal Assent

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-07-20/debates/E5EE933B-210D-404A-ABAB-4ACB1FAA1FFE/SirDavidAmessSummerAdjournment#contribution-784A53B6-81F5-425F-B095-FC72C06A3B8A>

### **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3436>

### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-17/debates/1F1A09C2-293E-42A1-8DD5-D4C114971FEF/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-19/debates/63B4EB59-CF63-4E1D-8C6E-6D1901175AE1/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/52305/documents/3826>

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

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

## **Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3413>

## **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

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

**Legal aid fees in the Illegal Migration Bill** (closing date 24 July 2023)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/legal-aid-fees-in-the-illegal-migration-bill/>

**Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 8 September 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/justice/victims-witnesses-justice-reform-bill/>

**A Human Rights Bill for Scotland** (closing date 5 October 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>

**\*\* Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Improvements to the Annual Return** (closing date 6 October 2023)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/share-your-feedback-on-improvements-to-the-annual-return/>

**\*\* The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales** (closing date 26 October 2023)

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/>

**Let's Be Heard – Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience** (closing date 31 October 2023)

<https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot/>

**Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy** (closing date not stated)

<https://t.co/IUabNPI1nK>

**ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

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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

### **People's Postcode Trust**

**Note that this application will only be open for 24 hours. Applications can be submitted from:**

10 am on 2 October 2023

Application forms will go live at the above dates and times and must be **started and submitted** within the submission window. In the meantime, a copy of the application questions can be downloaded in order to help you prepare your submission.

National Lottery funding of between £500 and £25,000 for projects on a wide range of themes including supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality. Funding priorities include communities experiencing racial inequity, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ Community. For information and to apply see

<https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

and

[https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3\\_ppt\\_fundingguide\\_2023.pdf](https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf)

### **Cost-of-Living Support Scotland**

*Application deadline not stated*

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **A Human Rights Bill for Scotland**

27 July 2023 (online, 10.00–12.00)

15 August 2023 (Dumfries, 10.00–12.00)

22 August 2023 (Glasgow (10.00–12.00)

28 August 2023 (Inverness (2.00–4.00)

5 September 2023 (online, 6.00–8.00)

11 September 2023 (Portree, 10.00–12.00)

19 September 2023 (Dundee, 10.00–12.00)

Scottish Government consultation on proposals for a new Human Rights Bill, including information about the proposals, and an opportunity to tell the Scottish Government your

views in order to inform development of the Bill. For information about each event see:

Online (July) <https://tinyurl.com/46n5ed5a>

Dumfries <https://tinyurl.com/3tbj54a3>

Glasgow <https://tinyurl.com/2jmfp49z>

Inverness <https://tinyurl.com/yckx35jz>

Online (September) <https://tinyurl.com/9ss2hnpm>

Portree <https://tinyurl.com/3kny2u5j>

Dundee <https://tinyurl.com/yckunjtjv>

**\*\* next week!**

### **Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy**

31 July 2023 (online, 6.00–7.30)

2 August 2023 (online, 1.00–2.30)

CRER focus groups to gather evidence of people's experiences as victims and witnesses of racism within bars, nightclubs and other nightlife environments in Scotland. All participants will be compensated with an e-gift card worth £25 for their time and contributions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mpn2wc4c>

### **How to disagree agreeably**

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 1.45–3.15)

Festival of Politics event. In an age where conflict culture and manufactured dissent seems to be actively encouraged in politics, the art of debating, listening and learning from the other side has been overshadowed by rancour and adamant polarisation. So, how do we revive the art of critical thinking, recognise the value of the 'grey area', and the goal of both parties making a discovery, rather than being right? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24f28ahx>

### **Volunteers and the state**

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 2.00–3.30)

Festival of Politics event. Volunteers contribute an estimated £5.5 billion to the Scottish economy each year with over 2 million people giving their time freely. Are volunteers vital for the delivery of public services in Scotland or is there a concern in the current financial climate that volunteers are contributing to the erosion of the state by enabling cuts to services and undercutting paid jobs? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37epmut7>

### **Women of colour in politics and challenging racism**

9 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 6.15–7.45)

Festival of Politics event. What has inspired women of colour to enter politics and/or be activists? And how has this intersected with their experiences as black and minority ethnic women? Join the panel to discuss the routes into the conventional political system and activism, whether the Black Lives Matter movement played a part in inspiring activism, and how can effective change be made both inside and outside the political system. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mw6zt3cd>

### **Talking to boys and men about gender-based violence**

10 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 3.00–4.30)

Festival of Politics event. How do we talk to boys and men in ways that will engage them and stop gender-based violence? What is being done in the legal world, in schools, with public education campaigns and with perpetrators to understand, challenge and change male attitudes and behaviour on harassment, assault and abuse? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5t5frkwt>



### **Navigating migration**

11 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 11.00–12.30)

Festival of Politics event. For people arriving in the UK as migrants and asylum seekers, the requirement to navigate the legalities of employment, education, housing, and detention are both monumental and vital to survival and settlement in the UK. Join the panel to discuss the realities of migrants and asylum seekers as they negotiate their rights to work, study, and live in the country. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2b3x44xj>

### **Scotland's poverty problem**

11 August 2023 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 11.00–12.30)

Festival of Politics event. With nearly a quarter of children in Scotland growing up in poverty, we are storing up mental, physical and emotional health problems for our future. All political parties are committed to tackling the issue, so why has more progress not been made? Does stigma hold back the debate? How can we build a healthier and fairer society for everyone in Scotland? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f3emk>

### **Developing a Volunteer Strategy**

19 September 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss the purpose of developing a strategy for volunteering, the benefits of a volunteering strategy for the wider organisation, and steps to develop a strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mu3dkx53>

### **Supporting Volunteers**

4 October 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss building a positive relationship with volunteers, plan and deliver a suitable induction process, identify and apply different support methods, and manage some of the challenges of supporting volunteers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nbpr7se>

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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>

**New Scots** <https://newscots.scot/>

**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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