



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

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

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

**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 4 September 2023.
The next two issues of MEMO will be published on 21 August, and 11 September.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-19664] To ask the Scottish Government what the legal status is of people admitted to the UK under the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme, and whether this mandates the Scottish Government to monitor the movement of refugees admitted in this way.

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-19665] To ask the Scottish Government what legal responsibilities it has in relation to refugees admitted through the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Ukraine Super Sponsor Scheme does not have a legislative underpinning. The legal obligations or responsibilities which flow from it are founded in either other legislative duties or from legitimate expectations based on government statements or policy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19664>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19665>

Ukrainian Refugees: MS Victoria

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-19914] To ask the Scottish Government how many people who have disembarked the MS Victoria since 26 July 2022 have moved into (a) local authority and (b) private rental accommodation, and what proportion of those who have moved into local authority accommodation are in accommodation within the City of Edinburgh Council area.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government routinely publishes the latest data and information on the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland, including the number of people who have disembarked welcome accommodation on the MS Victoria since it became operational on 26 July 2022.

By 5 June, 1,215 guests had disembarked M/S Victoria since 26 July 2022. The contract for M/S Victoria ended on 11 July 2023, with the MS Victoria being successfully disembarked by 4 July 2023.

See [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - June 2023](#) for full details and notes.

Work to collate and improve operational data on disembarkation destinations from MS Victoria including breakdowns by local authority and property type is ongoing with a view to publishing these data as experiential statistics in due course, in line with guidance from the Office for Statistics Regulation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19914>

Ukrainian Refugees: Medical Treatment

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-19868] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support Ukrainian refugees living in Scotland who are experiencing barriers in accessing medical treatment that they received while in Ukraine but can no longer access in Scotland.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government has issued [guidance](#) to Health Boards setting out our expectation that Health Boards will ensure Ukrainian refugees have access to local dental treatment and GP practices. Ukrainians living in Scotland have access to the same level of primary and secondary health care services as everyone else and these are designed to ensure that their health needs are identified and addressed appropriately and effectively.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19868>

Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme

Craig Hoy (Conservative) [S6W-19601] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of any expenditure that it received from the Home Office to operate the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme in Scotland.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government is committed to supporting integration of former Hong Kong residents into our communities. We have published a dedicated British National (Overseas) welcome pack, in both English

and Cantonese, on our website.

We continue to provide significant levels of funding to a range of organisations supporting the integration of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. This includes supporting organisations, such as COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and British Red Cross. We aim to ensure that all arrivals to Scotland are welcomed and supported to integrate into Scottish society from day one of arrival. This work will continue.

The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities currently provides funding to a number of national organisations to provide support to people arriving from Hong Kong across the UK, including Scotland. For 2023-2024 this includes:

Hongkongers in Britain Limited £300,000

Barnardo's £300,000

Good Neighbour Church £300,000

Welcoming Committee for Hong Kongers £170,921

The UK Government set up a network of 'Hong Kong Welcome Hubs' across the UK. These are hosted by existing 'Strategic Migration Partnerships' (SMPs). There are 12 SMPs across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. SMPs have a coordinating and supporting role in delivering key national priorities on migration across the UK and play an integral role in the delivery of the Hong Kong UK Welcome Programme and VCSE projects. The Welcome Hub in Scotland is operated by COSLA, and is directly funded by the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19601>

Information about the BN(O) visa referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

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

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2021/08/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/documents/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/govscot%3Adocument/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong.docx>

BN(O) Visa Holders: Integration

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-19912] To ask the Scottish Government what specific provisions it is making for people from Hong Kong who have been granted leave on the British National (Overseas) visa to settle and integrate in Scotland.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government is committed to supporting the integration of former Hong Kong residents into our communities. We have published a dedicated British National (Overseas) welcome pack, in both English and Cantonese, on our website.

We continue to provide significant levels of funding to a range of organisations supporting the integration of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum. This includes supporting organisations, such as COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council and British Red Cross. We aim to ensure that all arrivals to Scotland are welcomed and supported to integrate into Scottish society from day one of arrival. This work will continue.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19912>

Information about the BN(O) visa referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/> and <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2021/08/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/documents/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/govscot%3Adocument/cantonese-translation-scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong.docx>

Student Support: BN(O) Visa

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-19911] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will waive the normal three-year residency requirement for home status, for people from Hong Kong who have been granted leave on the British National (Overseas) visa, to access publicly-funded student support, including free tuition, loans, bursaries and grants by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

Reply from Graeme Dey: From academic year 2023-24, the Scottish Government have updated the residency criteria for home fees status and student financial support in Further Education and Higher Education. This update means we can now consider applications for tuition fees, bursaries and/or loans from students with all forms of leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom providing they meet the other eligibility tests set out in Regulations. This extension of support has seen more groups of students become eligible, including those students granted leave on the British National (Overseas) visa route.

The Scottish Government does not have any immediate plans to waive the requirement for 3 years ordinary residence in the UK for this group.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19911>

Information about the BN(O) visa referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Asylum Seekers and Refugees: LGBT+

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour) [S6W-19829] To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Emma Roddick: Scotland has a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and faiths, including those seeking refuge and asylum from war and persecution. The New Scots refugee integration strategy was informed by engagement across Scotland, including refugees and people seeking asylum from the LGBT+ community. The strategy recognises that people seeking safety on the basis of their LGBT+ identity can face particular challenges within the asylum process and as refugees. We are committed to supporting the integration of asylum seekers and refugees into our communities and working with our partners to refresh the New Scots strategy.

LGBT Health & Wellbeing's LGBT+ Refugee Project received £277,000 from the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund from 2019-2023 and an additional £30,000 from the Equality and Human Rights Fund in March 2023.

The recent report from LGBT Health and Wellbeing raises significant concerns relating to asylum accommodation. Asylum is reserved to the UK Parliament and handled by the Home Office. This includes provision of asylum accommodation and support. I hope the Home Office and its contractors will be engaging with LGBT

Health and Wellbeing on their report to understand the issues people have experienced.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19829>

The Integration Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Refugee-Report-Final-E-Copy.pdf>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2023

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-24/debates/C1B5A396-78BF-4F8D-81E1-E3474AC84824/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Order2023](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-07-24/debates/C1B5A396-78BF-4F8D-81E1-E3474AC84824/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Order2023)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Holly Mumby-Croft (Conservative) [194591] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to support Ukrainian families to find accommodation.

Reply from Rachel Maclean: We have provided councils with extensive tariff funding, including an additional £150 million to support Ukrainian guests to move into their own homes. Funding is un-ringfenced, which allows councils to use the funding as best suits their area, including measures to support guests to access the private rented sector.

The Local Authority Housing Fund provides capital funding directly to councils in England to obtain housing for Ukrainian and Afghan families and in the longer term will provide a new and permanent supply of accommodation for local communities. We have published [guidance](#) on renting to help households who wish to move on from sponsorship by accessing private accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-17/194591>

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

Visas: Married People

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [192795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to (a) raise the minimum combined income threshold for sponsoring a spouse and (b) to raise the minimum language requirement for entering the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Minimum Income Requirement (MIR) was implemented in July 2012, reflecting the income at which a British family at the time could no longer access income-related benefits.

The primary purpose of the English language requirement in the family routes is to promote integration. The minimum requirements are thorough and enable people to communicate related to their immediate needs.

The Home Office keeps all policies under constant review and we remain determined to reduce net migration to more sustainable levels.

Migrants: Health Services

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [194748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has undertaken an impact assessment on the potential fiscal impact of increases of the (a) immigration health surcharge and (b) student visas on the (i) number of international students, (ii) economy and (iii) higher education sector.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Regulations will be laid in Autumn to amend the Immigration Health Surcharge (Heath Charge) Order and a full economic impact assessment will be prepared.

The expectation of the Government is that migrants coming to the UK to work should be able to maintain and support themselves, reflecting the need to maintain the confidence of the general public that immigration brings benefits to our country. The Immigration Health Surcharge rates have not increased since 2020, and the cost of providing public services has increased in that time. It is right that we keep the IHS level under review to ensure that it reflects the genuine cost to the NHS of providing healthcare to those who pay it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194748>

Migrants: Housing

Tom Hunt (Conservative) [194601] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department have made of the impact of immigration levels on housing availability.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Net migration is too high and this Government is determined to bring it down to sustainable levels to help protect public services and housing supply against unsustainable pressure.

That is why on 23 May, the Government introduced a package of measures to help deliver its goal of reducing net migration. The package includes removing the right for international students to bring dependants unless they are on research postgraduate courses, and removing the ability for international students to switch out of the student route into work routes before their studies have been completed. We keep all our immigration policies under review to ensure that they best serve the UK and reflect the public's priorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-17/194601>

Information about the package of measures referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-05-23/hcws800>

Asylum

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [194889] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of implementing trauma-informed training specific to the experiences of asylum-seekers and refugees for staff in the public sector.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In April 2021 a £1m spending review allocation was obtained to support the mental health and wellbeing of adult asylum seekers.

In September 2022 we contracted an external organisation of clinical psychologists, experienced in co-developing evidence-based mental health and wellbeing strategies, to explore how Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) could be embedded into asylum processes from first point of contact to asylum decision undertaken by the Home Office, whilst optimising outcomes of the process.

We prioritised far-reaching collaboration to shape recommendations. Intrinsic to this was operationalising governance structures involving internal stakeholders, health bodies, the UNHCR, Devolved Administrations, NGOs and people with lived

experience of claiming asylum. We facilitated open discussion and generated informed contributions by sharing relevant information at every stage of the process with our partner group giving stakeholders opportunity to scrutinise, co-create and legitimise recommendations demonstrating objectivity and flexibility to reshape and re-frame their work in response to asylum policy changes.

This review and design phase was completed in March 2023. In April 2023 we launched the next phase of the programme, this work will continue until March 2025.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194889>

Asylum: Housing

Jo Stevens (Labour) [194846] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of changing its guidance on Allocation of asylum accommodation policy to ensure that asylum seekers enrolled on higher education courses are accommodated within a commutable distance of the institution that they are studying at.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Our current asylum system is under extreme pressure and allocation of asylum accommodation is on a 'no choice basis'. Any exceptional circumstances raised are taken into consideration when allocating accommodation. There are currently no plans to amend the Allocation of Asylum Accommodation policy guidance for asylum seekers who are in higher education.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194846>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1169389/Allocation_of_accommodation.pdf

Refugees: Community Development

Rebecca Long Bailey (Labour) [194890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of taking steps with the devolved Administrations to develop a UK-wide strategy for refugee integration.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Integration is a devolved matter.

We discussed funding arrangements with the Devolved Administrations on the recently launched Refugee Employability Programme (REP) in order to ensure refugees across the UK are supported. The REP is a new integration and employability support service to help refugees integrate into society and become self-sufficient.

We continue to engage regularly with the Devolved Administrations on a range of matters, including refugee integration, to collaborate, share best practice and discuss appropriate funding mechanisms where relevant.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194890>

Asylum: Passenger Ships

Mike Amesbury (Labour) [194887] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total cost to the public purse was of proposals to accommodate asylum seekers on cruise ships in (a) Liverpool and (b) Edinburgh.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There is an urgent need to reduce reliance on hotels to accommodate asylum seekers, to reduce cost to taxpayer, to better manage community impacts and to better support asylum seekers. In exploring potential alternative large sites, we continue to consider all available options to source appropriate and cost-effective temporary accommodation.

We work closely with stakeholders, including local authorities and our contractors, to ensure that accommodation provided for those seeking asylum is suitable. As per standard practice, audited costs for large accommodation sites will be published

through the Home Office annual report and accounts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194887>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Boats

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department undertook a consultation before deciding (a) to use barges and other floating vessels to accommodate people seeking asylum and (b) locating the Bibby Stockholm in Portland Port.

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194953] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department made an (a) equality impact assessment and (b) policy equality statement on the use of the (i) Bibby Stockholm to accommodate people seeking asylum and (ii) barges and other floating vessels to accommodate people seeking asylum.

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194954] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department conducted an impact assessment on the use of (a) the Bibby Stockholm and (b) other barges to accommodate people seeking asylum.

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194955] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment on the use of (a) the Bibby Stockholm and (b) other barges to accommodate people seeking asylum.

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the suitability of the Bibby Stockholm to berth at Portland Port as accommodation for up to 506 adults.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been completed and routinely monitored to ensure that the accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and meets all regulatory requirements, for single adult male asylum seekers.

We will assess individual's suitability to reside at each location and will only accommodate individuals who are considered suitable to reside there. Each person's suitability will be assessed at regular intervals.

The sites are be designed to be as self-sufficient as possible, helping to minimise the impact on local communities and services. This includes 24/7 security to reduce the need for police patrols, on-site catering and healthcare and transport provisions for asylum seekers.

We also conducted relevant assessments in line with the Home Office's role as competent authority under the Conservation and Habitats Regulations 2017. An environmental impact assessment (EIA) screening was not required as planning permission was not required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194952>

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and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194956>

The regulations referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

Asylum: Portland Port

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [194957] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department had discussions with the Home Department on the suitability of the Bibby Stockholm as accommodation.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: Developing accommodation sites for asylum seekers is a priority for the Government and officials from the Department of Health and Social Care are working with the Home Office and other Government departments to support delivery of these sites, including the Bibby Stockholm vessel at Portland Port.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194957>

Asylum: Portland Port

Chris Loder (Cosnervative) [194521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the safety risk assessments for the berthing in Portland Port of the Bibby Stockholm.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: No individuals will be placed on the vessel unless it is safe to do so and all the legal and regulatory requirements are met.

The vessel will be managed by our supplier, under contractual terms agreed with the Home Office. The same supplier has safely and successfully managed two vessels for Ukrainian refugees for the Scottish Government over the past year.

The supplier and partners including Dorset Council, Dorset Police, Dorset Fire & Rescue and the Health & Safety Executive will ensure that the appropriate risk assessments have been completed and approved to ensure that the accommodation is safe to occupy prior to the first cohort of asylum seekers arriving.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-17/194521>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Channel Migrants

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL9424] To ask His Majesty's Government how many children who arrived in the UK on small boats they have accommodated in each of the last five years; what steps they have taken to ensure their safety and security; what assessment they have made of the (1) safety, (2) security, and (3) safeguarding, measures put in place for those children; and how any issues identified have been addressed.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL9425] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of children arriving in the UK on small boats of whom they have lost track; what steps they have taken to identify their whereabouts; and what steps they have taken to ensure that other children do not go missing.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

All asylum seekers, including children, have an interview on arrival in the UK which includes a series of questions specifically designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking. A referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism if indicators are noted. In the case of children, a safety plan is put in place by social services, whilst adults identified as potential victims of modern slavery are entitled to care and support provided by the Salvation Army.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of young people making unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. The Home Office has had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels in order to give some unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) emergency accommodation and support while permanent accommodation with a local authority is identified.

We are determined to end the use of hotels for these young people and Home Office officials work tirelessly with local authorities to move children into care placements through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

The Home Office has no power to hold children or adults in contingency hotels if they wish to leave. To minimise the risk of a child going missing, records of children leaving and returning to the hotel are kept and monitored. Support workers accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where someone is at risk, they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies of the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions. All contingency sites have security staff and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/hl9424>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/hl9425>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL9498] To ask His Majesty's Government what the average waiting time between application, being granted security clearance and entering the UK is for Afghan interpreters who worked with the British armed forces in Afghanistan.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: 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.

There are a number of complex issues that can impact how swiftly individuals can relocate to the UK, and as such, individual timeframes for decisions can differ considerably. Government departments continue to work collaboratively in order to make casework decisions and ensure visas are issued as soon as is practicable, following appropriate checks including security.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>
[Afghan Resettlement-programme-operational-data](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/hl9498>

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

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

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

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

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL9244] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 10 July (HL8747), how many claims are yet to be settled under the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and when they expect those claims to be settled.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The latest Transparency data for the Windrush Compensation Scheme was published on 21 June 2023, which covers the period up to the end of May 2023.

We understand 'yet to be settled' to mean claims which have not received a final decision and are in the 'Work in Progress' category.

The requested information, regarding how many claims are in the 'Work in Progress' (WIP) category can be found on Tab WCS_05 of [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: May 2023](#)

The Transparency data note 12 defines WIP as "WIP defined as claims at Registration, Eligibility, Preliminary Payment Consideration, Casework and QA stages, excluding any claim that has received a final offer at Payment, and any claim at Tier 1 and Tier 2."

The department does not impose time limit targets for concluding claims, as each person's claim is deeply personal and deserves to be processed with the utmost care and sensitivity. This holistic approach necessarily takes time but is ultimately beneficial to individuals.

[WCS 05 - Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-11/hl9244>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-26/hl8747>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Domestic Abuse

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester [HL9621] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to consult representatives of the domestic abuse sector on (1) the development of the protocol, and (2) code of practice on data sharing, for migrant victims of crime.

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester [HL9622] To ask His Majesty's Government what protections are in place to ensure that migrant victims of domestic abuse can safely report abuse to the police, without fear of immigration enforcement action.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: A Migrant Victims Protocol is being established. This will provide an assurance to individuals that no immigration enforcement action will be taken whilst criminal justice proceedings concerning allegations of domestic violence are ongoing and/or whilst support to make applications to regularise their stay is being sought.

Representatives of the domestic abuse sector have rejected the proposal of the protocol and opted not to engage further with the Home Office on its development. Representatives of the domestic abuse sector have received regular updates on the development of the protocol through Home Office chaired stakeholder groups. The Home Office has engaged with police and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner on an initial draft of the Code of Practice prior to consultation as required by Section 82 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Feedback provided by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, as a representative of the domestic abuse sector, is being reviewed as the Code is developed. Consultation will take place before any Code of Practice is laid before Parliament for approval as required by the Act and will commence later this year.

The Protocol will be finalised and communicated later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-24/hl9621>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-24/hl9622>

Immigration

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated) [HL9700] To ask His Majesty's Government how many immigrants arrived in the UK (1) legally, and (2) illegally, in each calendar year since 2015.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes the following data on gov.uk:

Data on visas granted are published in table Vis_D02 of the 'Immigration System Statistics release'. These statistics refer to the number of visas granted, and do not necessarily reflect the number of arrivals from long-term immigrants.

Data on asylum seekers and refugees resettled in the UK can be found in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the 'Immigration System Statistics release'. Data on detected irregular arrivals to the UK is published in table Irr_01 of the 'Irregular migration to the UK summary tables'. These statistics should not be used to infer the size of the irregular population in the UK, nor the total number of people entering the UK irregularly.

[tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-25/hl9700>

Refugees: Children

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL9527] To ask His Majesty's Government what specialist support they offer to unaccompanied migrant children who have been arrested, including those who have been trafficked, to enable them to rebuild their lives.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The department takes the welfare of unaccompanied migrant children extremely seriously and we are committed to ensuring they are safe and secure. Local authorities have a duty to provide services to all children in need in their area. Under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, those under the age of 18 arriving as unaccompanied asylum-seekers should enter the care of the local authority in which area they first present.

All unaccompanied children, including those who have been arrested or trafficked, should be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted in the same way as any other looked-after child. Social Workers and other practitioners including police, health, education and youth offender services practitioners, and those who care for looked-after children, are encouraged to consider the full range of support available to looked after children in their areas, including that from community and other organisations.

The provisions under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ensure that if there is uncertainty over whether a potential victim of trafficking is a child or an adult, then that person is presumed to be a child and receives the appropriate support without delay. If practitioners have concerns that a child may be a potential victim of modern slavery or human trafficking, then a referral should be made to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as soon as possible. Guidance on making a referral can be found in the attached document. The NRM acts as a formal framework for first responders to identify potential victims of trafficking and assists with the provision of victim support. Like any other child in need, a trafficked child referred through the NRM should be safeguarded by the local authority on which the referral is made. Where it is evident that the child faces a significant risk of harm from the trafficker, appropriate arrangements will need to be put in place to keep the child safe from harm, and the child's care plan should include such measures.

In addition, the Home Office has rolled out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) to two thirds of local authorities in England and Wales. In June 2023, the Minister for Safeguarding agreed to extend the current grant agreement to 31 March 2025, alongside working to deliver ICTG national rollout covering all of England and Wales. ICTGs are an additional source of advice and support for potentially trafficked children, and somebody who can advocate on their behalf to

ensure their best interests are reflected in the decision-making processes undertaken by the public authorities who are involved in the child's care. The support they provided is in addition to the statutory support provided to children by local authorities. Statutory guidance on roles and responsibilities of ICTGs is attached.

[National referral mechanism guidance](#)

[Child trafficking guidance](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/hl9527>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Children

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL9524] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children have gone missing from hotels run by the Home Office.

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL9525] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children who have gone missing from hotels run by the Home Office have since been found.

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL9526] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children who have gone missing from hotels run by the Home Office have since been arrested; and for what offences.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: UASC hotels are temporary accommodation that provide safeguarding for a child until they are ready to be transferred through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) from an entry local authority to another local authority in the UK for ongoing care and support.

We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in emergency interim hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

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

The most recent published data can be found at Asylum and resettlement datasets. Although the Home Office would record that an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) who's gone missing from a UASC Hotel was arrested when they were found, we aren't always notified of the full circumstances in which a UASC is found, and therefore we would not be able to provide details for this request.

[Asylum and resettlement datasets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/hl9524>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/hl9525>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/hl9526>

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9255] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum remain in hotels, prior to placement with Local Authorities.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

There has been a significant increase in the numbers of young people making unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. The Home Office has had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels in order to give some unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) emergency accommodation and support while permanent accommodation with a local authority is identified.

We are determined to end the use of hotels for these young people and Home Office officials work tirelessly with local authorities to move children into care placements

through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS).

To help achieve this, we have provided local authorities with children's services £15,000 for every eligible young person taken into their care from a Home Office-run hotel dedicated to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children or the Kent Reception and Safe Care Service by the end of February 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-11/hl9255>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL9571] To ask His Majesty's Government how many recorded diagnoses of malnutrition have occurred among child asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office does not hold data on diagnoses of malnutrition in the asylum seeking population.

Asylum seekers in contingency accommodation are provided with breakfast, lunch, and evening meals, with a choice of at least one hot and one cold selection, at least one vegetarian option with each main meal and a food service for babies and small children with the appropriate foodstuffs. Food is provided in a location easily accessible to all.

Portion sizes will be in line with the NHS 5-a-day guidelines, available at: 5 A Day portion sizes - NHS (www.nhs.uk). If an asylum seeker would like to discuss their dietary requirements, they are advised and supported to contact Migrant Help.

We continuously look at ways to improve our procedures to ensure we address concerns quickly and effectively; one of the tools we use to achieve this is through our targeted surveys. These are 100% anonymous and available 24/7 in a variety of languages. The Initial Accommodation (IA) survey is aimed at all those who reside in all forms of contingency accommodation and seeks insight on the fundamental aspects of the provision. This includes questions on the accommodation standards and suitability, food offering, information provided.

The Home Office monitors our service providers closely to ensure the requirements we set out in our contracts are being delivered. This includes physically inspecting contingency sites and food provision. The food service at hotels meets appropriate nutritional standards for each menu and satisfies cultural, religious, health or other specific requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-20/hl9571>

The guidelines referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/5-a-day/portion-sizes/>

Press Releases

Protecting migrants' rights in an independent Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-migrants-rights-in-an-independent-scotland/>

Home Secretary cracks down on criminals receiving citizenship

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-cracks-down-on-criminals-receiving-citizenship>

New tech partnership to stop the boats

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-tech-partnership-to-stop-the-boats>

New Publications

Statistics relating to the Illegal Migration Act: data tables to July 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1176565/statistics-relating-to-the-illegal-migration-act-data-tables-to-july-2023.ods

Updated policy paper: Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement

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

Guidance: Afghan schemes: pre-matching households to settled accommodation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-schemes-pre-matching-households-to-settled-accommodation>

Updated Guidance: Afghan citizens resettlement scheme

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

Briefing: Accommodation and integration support for resettled Afghans

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9804/CBP-9804.pdf>

Letter from Lord Murray of Blidworth to Diana Johnson MP regarding reforms to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0609/Murray.pdf>

Guidance: Streamlined asylum processing

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1174306/Streamlined_asylum_processing.pdf

High Court judgement about the accommodation of unaccompanied children in hotels outside of care: ECPAT UK, R (on the application of) v Kent County Council & Anor

https://assets.caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ewhc/admin/2023/1953/ewhc_admin_2023_1953.pdf

Scottish Refugee Council Strategic Framework 2023–28

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SRC-Strategic-Plan-23-28-Web.pdf>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - July 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-july-2023/>

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: Channel Migrants

Introduce refugee visa to curb Channel boats, urges charity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66314096>

Call for refugee visas to tackle Channel small boat crossings

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/26/call-for-refugee-visas-to-tackle-channel-small-boat-crossings>

Rishi Sunak steps up war against 'heartless' small boats people smugglers with new push against their business

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-small-boats-tik-tok-b2388206.html>

'Ruthless' people smuggler tosses brawling migrants into the Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/01/people-smuggler-throw-migrants-off-dinghy-channel-uk-france/>

Smuggler threw Channel migrants overboard in dinghy fight

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/smuggler-threw-channel-migrants-overboard-in-dinghy-fight-w8j9tvzsw>

News: Afghanistan

Only 54 Afghan refugees resettled in UK after fleeing Taliban

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/03/54-afghan-refugees-resettled-in-uk-flee-taliban/>

Afghan refugees moved out of hotels now homeless

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66396052>

Government condemned for 'shameful' eviction of thousands of Afghan refugees from hotels

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghan-refugees-evictions-hotels-b2387908.html>

News: Ukraine

The Ukrainian Collective

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/the-ukrainian-collective/>

Scottish host drives Ukrainian family 2,500 miles home

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-66303046>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Windrush Voices Competition (closing date 31 August 2023)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdTZblsb02z021mpke38WaY_4BI66awrzqljdzJe60hGEqdkw/viewform

Independent Scotland would have migrants commissioner, says Somerville

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/scotland-windrush-snp-migrants-commissioner-somerville-b2384117.html>

Independent Scotland would appoint a Migrants' Commissioner and grant settled status to EU citizens – Shirley-Anne Somerville

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/independent-scotland-would-appoint-a-migrants-commissioner-and-grant-settled-status-to-eu-citizens-shirley-anne-somerville-4236451>

Independent Scotland would welcome migrants, says SNP

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/independent-scotland-would-welcome-migrants-says-snp-m90bl7mjf>

Criminal migrants more likely to be barred from gaining British citizenship under tough new rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/30/migrant-criminals-barred-british-citizenship-home-office/>

Home Office crackdown to block criminals getting citizenship

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-citizenship-suella-braverman-b2384713.html>

21,000 migrants 'entered UK undetected last year'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/22000-migrants-entered-uk-illegally-2022-rcbwnh8tl>

Illegal migration undermines the values of the UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/05/illegal-migration-undermines-the-values-of-the-uk/>

Ministers 'would take until 2036 to removed failed asylum seekers at current rate'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-2036-failed-asylum-seekers-b2388244.html>

Government 'cooking the books' to cut asylum backlog as thousands of claims removed from system

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-backlog-figures-withdrawn-sunak-b2383880.html>

Illegal immigration. There is an alternative to the Government's Rwanda plan. Here it is.

<https://conservativehome.com/2023/07/27/enver-solomon-illegal-immigration-there-is-an-alternative-to-the-governments-rwanda-plan-here-it-is/>

Braverman acted unlawfully by withholding £3 a week from asylum seekers, court rules

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-asylum-seeker-payments-unlawful-b2381082.html>

Fake claim asylum solicitors face 'full force of sanctions'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fake-claim-asylum-solicitors-face-full-force-of-sanctions-wkhtwktwc>

Rishi Sunak vows to stop housing asylum seekers in hotels

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/08/01/asylum-seekers-bergo-portland-bibby-stockholm-fire-warnings/>

'Failing to do basic research': Home Office forced to delay plans to move asylum seekers into RAF base

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-accommodation-military-bases-scampton-b2383796.html>

Migrants' move to former RAF base delayed by upgrades

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-move-to-former-raf-base-delayed-by-upgrades-v15fd3sn0>

Bibby Stockholm: No timeframe for migrant barge arrivals

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66371897>

Further delays expected before migrants move to Bibby Stockholm barge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/further-delays-expected-before-migrants-move-to-bibby-stockholm-berge-6qd8h3n58>

Bibby Stockholm: Asylum barge not a death trap, minister Grant Shapps says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-66381331>

Bibby Stockholm: Migrant barge arrivals delayed amid fire concerns

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-66361426>

Firefighters demand meeting with Braverman over asylum barge safety fears

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/aug/02/firefighters-demand-meeting-with-suella-braverman-over-asylum-berge-safety-fears>

Bibby Stockholm 'could become floating Grenfell'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bibby-stockholm-could-become-floating-grenfell-pzqg2jtn>

Home Office delays moving asylum seekers to barge over fire safety fears

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/31/home-office-asylum-seekers-berge-bibby-stockholm-fire-safety-fears>

Plans to move migrants into Bibby Stockholm barge delayed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bibby-stockholm-migrant-berge-dorset-move-delayed-70dld9dk9>

Child sexual abuse probe 'obstructed' by asylum hotel staff

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66386310>

UK ministers unsure how many child asylum seekers placed in hotels

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/28/child-asylum-seekers-placed-hotels-uk-government-numbers>

'Routine' housing of child asylum seekers in hotels unlawful, High Court rules

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66325644>

'Routine' use of hotels for lone child asylum seekers is unlawful, UK court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/27/routine-use-hotels-lone-child-asylum-seekers-unlawful-uk-court>

Home Office's housing of unaccompanied child asylum seekers in hotels is unlawful, High Court rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/27/housing-unaccompanied-child-asylum-seekers-hotels-unlawful/>

Labour attacks government plan to house migrants in tents

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-66335618>

Up to 2,000 asylum seekers could be housed in tents under Suella Braverman's plans to avoid hotel use

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seekers-tents-suella-braverman-marquees-b2383422.html>

Home Office buys tents to house 2,000 asylum seekers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/28/2000-asylum-seekers-could-be-housed-in-tents-under-new-plan/>

'Migrant marquees': Braverman accused of new low in government's 'stop the boats' plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/migrant-marquee-suella-braverman-low-b2383914html>

Suella Braverman buys migrant 'marquees' to house new Channel arrivals

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrant-marquees-summer-arrivals-uk-2023-krbcxv9fg>

Home Office ordered to change rules that restrict help for trafficking victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/26/home-office-ordered-to-change-rules-that-restrict-help-for-trafficking-victims>

Scottish Refugee Council Five-year Strategic Plan

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/2023-28-strategic-plan>

The Moon is Listening: the new opera giving refugees a voice

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-moon-is-listening-the-new-opera-giving-refugees-a-voice-rmnhffg28>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Nearly 300,000 households with multi-faith people living alongside each other in England and Wales

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/religion-census-england-wales-b2382668.html>

'Everyone can live in unison', says child of multi-faith household

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/christian-judaism-england-stratforduponavon-wales-b2382608.html>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Chronic Pain Patient Panel

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-19960] To ask the Scottish Government for what reason patients who required an interpreter were not included in the process to form a patient panel on chronic pain.

Reply from Jenni Minto: We recognise that there are higher levels of chronic pain amongst minority ethnic populations and included minority ethnic participants in the work with both The Lines Between [Pain Management Panel consultations: report - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/pain-management-panel-consultations-report-2022-2023/pages/1-100.aspx) and Healthcare Improvement Scotland [Gathering views on chronic pain | HIS Engage](https://www.his.scot.nhs.uk/engage/gathering-views-on-chronic-pain/). Whilst budget did not allow for the use of an interpreter, both projects heard from minority ethnic participants. The published Pain Management Panel report details the breakdown of demographics included in the 16 member panel on page 6.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19960>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [194917] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent steps she has taken to help close the ethnicity employment gap.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: The ethnic minority employment rate is at a record high of 69.4 per cent. This is an increase of 1.1 percentage points on the previous year, and 3 percentage points above the pre-COVID rate (Jan-Mar 2019). There are now 4.9 million ethnic minority workers in employment in the United Kingdom. This is an increase of 391,000 on the previous year and is also a record high.

We want everyone to be able to find a job, progress in work and thrive in the labour market, whoever they are and wherever they live. For example, we are working with over 85 of the country's most influential employers through the Apprenticeship Diversity Champions Network to widen participation in apprenticeships particularly for people from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups, including ethnic minorities.

We published Inclusive Britain in March 2022, our groundbreaking strategy to tackle negative ethnic disparities, promote unity and build a fairer Britain for all. Our update report to Parliament on 17 April set out the excellent progress we have made so far in delivering this strategy. This includes launching an Inclusion at Work Panel to tackle bias and ensure fairness, and publishing new guidance for employers on how to use positive action in the workplace and to report on ethnicity pay gaps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-18/194917>

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 report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-action-in-the-workplace-guidance-for-employers/positive-action-in-the-workplace>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-pay-reporting-guidance-for-employers>

New Publications

The future of work: protected characteristics in a changing workplace

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/future_of_work_report_eng.docx

Understanding Ethnicity Pay Gaps in the UK Public Sector

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1174376/Understanding_Ethnicity_Pay_Gaps_in_the_UK_Public_Sector.pdf

News

Scotland's new chief constable urged to act on lack of BAME police

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23702902.scotlands-new-chief-constable-urged-act-lack-bame-police/>

Police Scotland postpones clean-shaven policy for officers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-66295257>

Stormzy and HSBC fund more black Cambridge students

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-66353984>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Schools: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL9198] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of schools with codes on hairstyles that adversely affect school participation among students from ethnic-minority backgrounds; and what plans they have to ensure that all such codes are abolished.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Every school in England has existing legal obligations not to discriminate unlawfully on the grounds of a protected characteristic. It is for the governing board of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so, what it should be.

The department has not made an assessment of the number of schools with codes on hairstyles. The department has published non statutory guidance to help schools to consider their equalities responsibilities in relation to uniform policies. The guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-uniform/school-uniforms>

In addition, the Equality and Human Rights Commission, with support from the Race Disparity Unit in the Cabinet Office, have produced guidance, which can be found here:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/preventing-hair-discrimination-schools>

Press Releases

European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-roma-holocaust-memorial-day>

‘On Roma Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, let’s commit to a more inclusive future’, says PACE General Rapporteur

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/9174/-on-roma-holocaust-memorial-day-2023-let-s-commit-to-a-more-inclusive-future-says-pace-general-rapporteur>

By honouring the memory of Roma genocide victims we help fight discrimination today, OSCE human rights head says

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/549346>

New Publications

Understanding extremism in Scotland: evidence review

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-evidence-review/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-evidence-review/understanding-extremism-scotland-evidence-review/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-evidence-review.pdf>

Understanding extremism in Scotland: research findings

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-research-findings/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-research-findings/understanding-extremism-scotland-research-findings/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-research-findings.pdf>

Understanding extremism in Scotland: review of definitions and terminology

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-review-definitions-terminology/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-review-definitions-terminology/understanding-extremism-scotland-review-definitions-terminology/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-review-definitions-terminology.pdf>

Understanding extremism in Scotland: public perceptions and experiences

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-perceptions-experiences/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-perceptions-experiences/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-perceptions-experiences/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-perceptions-experiences.pdf>

Understanding extremism in Scotland: public sector practitioner perceptions and views

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-sector-practitioner-perceptions-views/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-sector-practitioner-perceptions-views/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-sector-practitioner-perceptions-views/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-public-sector-practitioner-perceptions-views.pdf>

Understanding extremism in Scotland: stakeholder perceptions and views

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2023/07/understanding-extremism-scotland-stakeholder-perceptions-views/documents/understanding-extremism-scotland-stakeholder-perceptions-views/understanding-extremism-scotland-stakeholder-perceptions-views/govscot%3Adocument/understanding-extremism-scotland-stakeholder-perceptions-views.pdf>

Independent Review of the implementation by the Conservative Party of the Singh Investigation Recommendations

<https://singhinvestigation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Sing-Investigation-Review-FINAL.pdf>

Antisemitic Incidents January-June 2023

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/5/7/Antisemitic%20Incidents%20Report%20Jan-Jun%202023.pdf>

Factsheet: Preventing and combating antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma and Travellers

<https://rm.coe.int/ecri-factsheet-on-roma-and-travellers-28072023-en/1680ac16b0>

News

Tory 'turmoil' blamed for slow Islamophobia action

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66292500>

Tory turmoil blamed for delays in tackling Islamophobia within party

<https://amp.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/24/tory-turmoil-blamed-for-delays-in-tackling-islamophobia-within-party>

Tory chaos under Johnson and Truss 'delayed plans to tackle Islamophobia within party'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-conservative-islamophobia-boris-truss-sunak-b2380738.html>

Police review MP's Gypsy and traveller leaflet

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1d7jvzx3yo>

Deputy PM defends Gypsy and traveller site leaflet

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1d7jvzx3yo>

Police investigate Traveller sites leaflet distributed by Welsh secretary

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/aug/03/police-investigate-traveller-sites-leaflet-distributed-welsh-secretary>

Police probe minister's 'racist' campaign leaflet on Traveller sites

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-davies-leaflet-racist-monmouth-b2386849.html>

Traveller charity at centre of 'racist' leaflet row 'over-dependent' on Welsh government funding

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/08/03/traveller-charity-racist-leaflet-welsh-government-funding/>

Refused a drink, scapegoated by MPs: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller life in Britain is only getting harder

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/aug/03/gypsy-traveller-life-political-leaflet-mps-racism>

Racial justice groups write to Met police chief with concerns on overhaul plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/met-mark-rowley-trust-louise-casey-london-b2383674.html>

Racial justice groups criticise Met's refusal to accept force is racist

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jul/28/racial-justice-groups-criticise-met-refusal-accept-force-racist>

Black teenage boys more likely to get maximum jail terms than white children

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-boys-discrimination-teenagers-children-white-racial-bias-prison-a8466606.html>

Antisemitic Incidents Report January-June 2023

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/08/03/antisemitic-incidents-report-january-june-2023>

Antisemitism rises in UK with many incidents taking place in school

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitism-uk-schools-pupils-racism-rise-jewish-population-02p7wvgt2>

Bite the air in Britain and you can taste the prejudices that haunt us. I'm sorry I became part of that

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/26/britain-prejudices-cartoon-antisemitic-tropes>

Anti-Jewish online hate up by more than a third, says charity

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/twitter-community-security-trust-british-board-of-deputies-of-british-jews-jews-b2386690.html>

Man whose house had Nazi flags, fridge magnets and Adolf Hitler portrait jailed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/nazi-adolf-hitler-manchester-crown-court-peak-district-jewish-b2386249html>

Teenage neo-Nazi jailed for planning terror attacks in Britain

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/neo-nazi-terror-attack-uk-b1941194html>

Teenagers 'risking prison over extremist content without leaving their rooms'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/teenagers-bbc-home-office-derbyshire-buffalo-b2386926.html>

X Corp sues anti-hate campaigners over Twitter research

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-66376988>

Rap and drill music: a song should not land the young in jail

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jul/30/the-guardian-view-on-rap-and-drill-music-a-song-should-not-land-the-young-in-jail?CMP=share_btn_tw

Race row after white lecturers barred from university's 'separatist' tai chi classes
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/07/24/kings-college-row-as-white-lecturers-banned-free-tai-chi/>

American ideas on race do not belong in our schools
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/american-ideas-on-race-do-not-belong-in-our-schools-kcln69jk5>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Citizenship in an independent Scotland
<https://www.gov.scot/news/citizenship-in-an-independent-scotland/>

New Publication

Building a New Scotland: citizenship in an independent Scotland
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-citizenship-independent-scotland/>

News

Humza Yousaf reveals Scots citizenship and passport plan
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-66312190>

At a glance: Who would be a Scottish citizen after independence?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-66324201>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Prosecutors protect victims of forced marriage and honour crime
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prosecutors-protect-victims-of-forced-marriage-and-honour-crime>

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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/>

Press Release

Supporting people in hardship

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-people-in-hardship/>

News

Millions of UK households missing essential bill payments, finds Which?

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/aug/02/millions-of-uk-households-missing-essential-bill-payments-finds-which>

Less food for families on summer-holiday support

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-66243707>

Affordable housing schemes: 'Invisible' renters earning £30k not eligible

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66255727>

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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>

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)

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

Online Safety Bill

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

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>

Home Affairs Committee Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41090/documents/200072/default/>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** next week!**

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland

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:

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>

**** A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics**

21 August 2023 (online, 10.00–3.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more or are just curious about what a human rights and equalities first approach might be. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/d4rznvxx>

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/>

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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