



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 Parliament is in recess until 23 October 2023.
The UK Parliament returns from recess on 16 October 2023.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Rural Visa Pilot Scheme

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15464&i=131961#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Schools: English as a Second Language

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-20900] To ask the Scottish Government how many pupils at Scottish schools currently speak English as a second language.

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: There are 66,265 pupils in publicly funded schools in Scotland with English as an additional language, based on the 2022 pupil census. Statistics on pupils with English as an additional language are published annually in the [Pupil Census Supplementary Statistics](#), table 5.9.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20900>

Ukrainian Refugees

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6W-21756] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the progress in developing future plans for supporting displaced people from Ukraine living in Scotland.

Reply from Mary-Anne Somerville: Today I am pleased to announce the launch of 'A Warm Scots Future' in partnership with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, and the Scottish Refugee Council.

The paper sets out the policy direction for the next phase of Scotland's response to the humanitarian crisis created by Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. This will help the Scottish Government, and its partners, to transition from an emergency response to a long-term and holistic approach that supports the integration of displaced people from Ukraine. This is in alignment with the New Scots approach, which aims to support integration from day one.

To aid this transition, five overarching and interlinked strategic priorities have been identified to guide the next phase of Scotland's Ukraine response. These are:

1. A trauma informed, holistic and rights-based approach to long-term integration, in line with the New Scots refugee integration strategy
2. Reduce reliance on welcome accommodation
3. Boost long-term, settled housing that leaves a legacy for Scotland
4. Pursue clarity on routes to settlement, family reunification and repatriation
5. Continued partnership and collaboration, ensuring good governance and recognising the lived experience of displaced people from Ukraine.

We will now work closely with partners to deliver against these strategic priorities, and ensure displaced people from Ukraine achieve the best outcomes possible as they build their lives in Scotland.

['A Warm Scots Future' Policy Position Paper.](#)

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21756>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Baroness Buscombe (Conservative) [HL10093] To ask His Majesty's Government when they plan to introduce requirements to prevent non-resident EU citizens from remaining in the UK for longer than 90 days out of 180 days, without obtaining a visa valid for 6 months at their own expense.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: All visitors to the UK (including those from the EU) are permitted to come for up to 6 months, regardless of their nationality or whether they require a visa in advance of travelling to the UK.

Nationals of EU Member States do not currently require a visa to visit the UK.

Migrants: Health Services

Baroness Garden of Frognal (Liberal Democrat) [HL10103] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on academic institutions in the UK of increasing the annual immigration health surcharge for overseas researchers from £624 to £1,035 for main applicants and to £776 for child dependants from this autumn in combination with an increase of 15 per cent in visa fees.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Government is preparing full economic impact assessments for the increases to the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) and the immigration and nationality fees. Regulations will be laid in Autumn to increase immigration and nationality fees and the IHS. The IHS 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/2023-09-12/hl10103>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL10280] To ask His Majesty's Government what caps are in place for work-related visas, and how they are enforced.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The UK's Points Based system Skilled Worker and Temporary Worker routes are not capped, with the exception of the Seasonal Worker route which is specifically designed to support the UK horticulture sector. A sector in which growers typically require higher volumes of labour, for relatively short-term periods of time, in line with seasonal production peaks.

The Seasonal Worker route currently has 45,000 visas available. A further 10,000 places will be released if there is sufficient evidence of need, and contingent with improvements in worker welfare. A separate quota of 2,000 places is also available to support the poultry sector in the run up to Christmas. These allocations are divided amongst the licenced Scheme Operators, in line with published policy, and are managed via the Home Office's Sponsor Management System.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10280>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Baroness Randerson (Liberal Democrat) [HL10196] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of applicants for Global Talent Visas, and the reasons for any shortfall in that number, and whether they intend to review associated policies which might deter applicants, such as increased health surcharges.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Global Talent route is for individuals recognised as leaders, or who have demonstrated promise to become leaders, in their field. It forms part of the wider offer for skilled workers.

Since its launch in 2020, the Global Talent route has seen a significant increase in applicants. In the year ending June 2023, there was a 76% rise (+1,679) in Global Talent visas to 3,901 grants, compared to the year ending June 2022. Applications across work routes, such as Skilled Worker, are at record highs.

As with all immigration routes, we keep the requirements under review. We continue to work closely with the Global Talent endorsing bodies, who assist in setting endorsement criteria by virtue of their position as the UK's leading experts in the scientific, digital technology, and arts and culture sectors.

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) 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/2023-09-14/hl10196>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL10281] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Rwandans have (1) applied for asylum, and (2) been granted asylum, in each year since 2010.

Undocumented Migrants: Sahel

Lord Patten (Conservative) [HL10320] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of migrants who arrived in the UK via irregular routes from countries in the Sahel during the past 12 months.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications and initial decisions, by nationality and year, in the Immigration System Statistics quarterly release on gov.uk. These statistics are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the asylum & resettlement detailed datasets which can be downloaded via the table attached. The latest data relates to the end of June 2023.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10281>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-19/hl10320>

Asylum

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10145] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the official statistics published by the Home Office Irregular migration to the UK, year ending June 2023, published on 24 August, which found that "small boat arrivals account for less than half (46 per cent) of the total number of people claiming asylum in the UK in the year ending June 2023", by what means the other 54 per cent of people seeking asylum arrived in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on small boat arrivals in the 'Irregular migration to the UK' release. Data on asylum applications from small boat arrivals on these applications can be found in table Irr_D02 of the 'irregular migration detailed datasets'.

Other entry routes to the UK may include:

- arrival on a legal visa route, but where an individual subsequently finds that they are unable to return to their country of origin and have reason to claim asylum in the UK
- arrival through the common travel area without valid permission to enter
- arrival through other irregular routes including lorries or shipping containers
- arrival through regular routes using fraudulent documents

[table Irr_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/hl10145>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-june-2023/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-june-2023>

Asylum: Gender

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL10117] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people who arrived in the UK by small boats in each of the last three years claimed asylum based on their (1) sexual orientation, or (2) gender identity; and of those, how many have been granted refugee status.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on small boat arrivals in the 'Irregular migration to the UK' release. Data on asylum

applications from small boat arrivals and initial decisions on these applications can be found in tables Irr_D02 and Irr_D03 respectively of the 'irregular migration detailed datasets'. Please note that information on the basis of the asylum claim (e.g. sexual orientation or gender identity) is not published.

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 June 2023.

Additionally, data on asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation can be found in tables SOC_00, SOC_01 and SOC_02 of the 'asylum and resettlement datasets', as part of the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release'. Please note that this data is not broken down by method of arrival to the UK (i.e. small boats). The latest data relate to 2022.

[tables Irr_D02 and Irr_D03](#)

[tables SOC_00, SOC_01 and SOC_02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-12/hl10117>

Undocumented Migrants: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10357] To ask His Majesty's Government when, if at all, they intend to publish the operational processes and circumstances in which the Home Office will use the 'vice versa' power of child transfer from local authority care under the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Illegal Migration Act received Royal Assent on 20 July 2023. The Act seeks to ensure the only way to come to the UK for protection will be through safe and legal routes and will take power out of the hands of the criminal gangs and protect vulnerable people, including children.

In light of Mr Justice Chamberlain's High Court judgment of 27 July 2023 in *ECPAT UK, R (On the Application Of) v Kent County Council & Anor* [2023] EWHC 1953 (Admin), we are reflecting on our use of powers in the Illegal Migration Act relating to the accommodation and transfer of unaccompanied children. This includes the vice versa transfer power in Section 17. These powers have not yet been commenced; a decision will be made on this matter in due course.

We will continue to work with local authorities across the UK to ensure suitable local authority placements are provided for unaccompanied children, in line with their statutory duties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-20/hl10357>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ECPAT-v-Kent-Council-judgment-270723.pdf>

Section 17 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/37/section/17/enacted>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL10118] To ask His Majesty's Government in the past two years how many children who have arrived in the UK unaccompanied and seeking asylum, who have had their age verified, and who have been placed in hotels provided by the Home Office while waiting to be placed with a local authority, were aged: (1) under 5 years, (2) 5 years old, (3) 6 years old, (4) 7 years old, (5) 8 years old, (6) 9 years old, (7) 10 years old, (8) 11 years old, (9) 12 years old, (10) 13 years old, (11) 14 years old, (12) 15 years old, and (13) 16 years old.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We take the safety and welfare of those in our care, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, extremely seriously. Any unaccompanied child who enters the UK via small boat and claims to be under the age of 18 will go through an age assessment process, unless they are clearly

a child. Following an initial age determination which is undertaken by Home Office officials, anyone accepted as under 18 years old will be processed as a child. If officials cannot be sure a person is significantly over 18 years old, the Home Office will treat the person as a child pending further in-depth assessment.

We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. No individuals, apart from the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, are residing at any of the hotels ring-fenced for children.

All individuals working directly with the young people accommodated at the hotels have Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and all those working and operating on the hotel sites have DBS clearance. The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) found that the young people accommodated at the hotels unanimously reported feeling happy and safe.

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/2023-09-12/hl10118>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL10204] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the total cost per night, including the cost of safeguarding, of placing an unaccompanied child seeking asylum in a hotel while waiting for a local authority placement.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The cost of accommodating unaccompanied asylum seeking children is subject to change depending on the numbers being accommodated. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. However, total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts>
[ho-annual-reports-and-accounts](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-14/hl10204>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10226] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, for Home Office accommodation for unaccompanied asylum seeking children to be subject to regulation and inspection by Ofsted.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Government continues to take steps to support local authorities to provide timely placements to unaccompanied children through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). We remain committed to working with the local authority sector to ensure the system continues to operate effectively and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children move out of Home Office hotels quickly in light of the ECPAT judgment in the High Court.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10226>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ECPAT-v-Kent-Council-judgment-270723.pdf>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10222] To ask His Majesty's Government whether, in the instance a child is found after going missing from Home Office accommodation, they are initially returned to hotel accommodation or the care of the local authority.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: When a missing child is found, a referral to the local authority is made with a clear expectation that they are taken into local

authority care.

Hotel accommodation is a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) arriving and is only ever a contingency option, not a long-term solution. Out of necessity we accommodated UASC on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels while placements with local authorities have been vigorously pursued.

Ending the use of hotels for UASC is an absolute priority and we will continue to work around the clock with councils to increase the number of care placements available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10222>

Asylum

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10146] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on (1) refugees, and (2) local authorities, of starting the move-on period for refugees granted asylum at the point they receive notice of their asylum decision instead of when they receive their Biometric Residence Permit.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: An individual remains eligible for asylum support for a prescribed period from the day they are notified of the decision on their asylum claim. Where someone is given notice that their asylum claim has been granted, their appeal has been allowed or their asylum claim has been refused but they have been given leave to enter or remain, the prescribed period in legislation is 28 days. Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as quickly as possible. Migrant Help are available to provide 'Move On' support, which includes advice on accessing jobs, housing and benefits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/hl10146>

Asylum: Applications

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10224] To ask His Majesty's Government from what date asylum applications were first treated as withdrawn on the basis that the claimant failed to report or to inform the Home Office of a change of address.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We do not currently publish data on the date asylum claims were first treated as withdrawn on the basis that the claimant failed to report or to inform the Home Office of a change of address. However, official statistics published by the Home Office are kept under review in line with the code of practice for statistics, taking into account a number of factors including user needs, as well as quality and availability of data.

Changes to the Immigration Rules were laid on 17 July 2023 and implemented on 7 August 2023 which included amending paragraph 333C to provide clarification on the circumstances in which an asylum claim can be treated as withdrawn.

The withdrawal of asylum claims is not a new process. It is a longstanding principle that claims that are explicitly or implicitly withdrawn will have their consideration discontinued. At each step of the asylum process, claimants are warned about the importance of complying with the asylum process and the prospect of withdrawal of their asylum claim should they fail to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10224>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Stone of Blackheath (Non-affiliated) [HL10323] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for allowing asylum seekers to work and cover the cost of their own living expenses.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There are no plans to change the existing policy, which allows asylum seekers to work if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. It is important that our approach

distinguishes between those who need protection and those seeking to work here who should apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Asylum seekers do not need to make perilous journeys in order to seek employment in the United Kingdom, and we are concerned such a change could be a further pull factor. The Home Office has a legal obligation, as set out in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, to support asylum seekers (including any dependants) who would otherwise be destitute. This may include the provision of accommodation and/or subsistence support.

The level of the allowance given to those supported under 1999 Act is reviewed each year to ensure it covers asylum seekers' essential living needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-19/hl10323>

Refugees: Housing and Universal Credit

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10359] To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions have taken place among (1) the Home Office, (2) the Department for Work and Pensions, and (3) the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, on extending the move-on period for newly recognised refugees to at least 56 days, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and applications for Universal Credit.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office only has a legal obligation to support someone until the end of the prescribed move-on period. Where someone is given notice that their asylum claim has been granted, their appeal has been allowed or their asylum claim has been refused but they have been given leave to enter or remain, the prescribed period is 28 days.

We are engaging the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on ensuring individuals can move on from asylum support as smoothly as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-20/hl10359>

Bibby Stockholm

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10198] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have for the future of the Bibby Stockholm barge.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Further tests have been conducted in recent weeks. Once those are complete and it is safe to do so, we will move people back onto the Bibby Stockholm.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-14/hl10198>

Press Releases

A Warm Scots Future for Ukrainians

<https://www.gov.scot/news/a-warm-scots-future-for-ukrainians/>

PM: Europe must join forces against people smuggling gangs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-europe-must-join-forces-against-people-smuggling-gangs>

Joint statement following the PM's meeting on migration: 05 October 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-following-the-pms-meeting-on-migration-05-october-2023>

New Publications

Legal aid fees in the Illegal Migration Act: government response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/legal-aid-fees-in-the-illegal-migration-bill/outcome/legal-aid-fees-in-the-illegal-migration-act-government-response>

Ukraine - A Warm Scots Future: policy position

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/warm-scots-future-policy-position-paper/>

Displaced people from Ukraine in Scotland – what is the long-term plan?

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2023/10/05/displaced-people-from-ukraine-in-scotland-what-is-the-long-term-plan/>

Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK: 10 to 21 August 2023

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/experiencesofhomesforukrainschemesponsorsuk10to21august2023>

Visas for social care workers

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/visas-for-social-care-workers/>

Guidance: Failure to travel to Bibby Stockholm vessel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/failure-to-travel-to-bibby-stockholm-vessel-caseworker-guidance/failure-to-travel-to-bibby-stockholm-vessel-accessible>

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>

Updated: Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, monthly data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

How UK plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda ended up before supreme court

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/09/how-uk-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-ended-up-before-supreme-court>

EU law could stop UK sending migrants to Rwanda despite Brexit, lawyers tell Supreme Court

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-brexit-supreme-court-flights-eu-law-b2427872.html>

Attorney General ‘could block Rwanda migrant flights if European judges intervene’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/10/05/attorney-general-rwanda-flights-european-judges-migrants/>

Rwanda can be trusted, Supreme Court told

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67055809>

Court told Rwanda 'murders' people and is also 'safe' in asylum case

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23844527.court-told-rwanda-murders-people-also-safe-asylum-case/>

Home Office accused of accepting Rwanda's promises on UK asylum plan without scrutiny

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-flights-asylum-seekers-home-office-b2427214.html>

Rwanda plan: Home Office faces two-month wait for Supreme Court ruling

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-plan-home-office-faces-two-month-wait-supreme-court-ruling-immigration-khsh8rzn6>

Sunak ready to deport 4,000 migrants if court approves Rwanda scheme

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-migrants-plan-sunak-send-asylum-seekers-general-election-2024-g5n532bq7>

Rwanda plan will deport only 'a small number of migrants'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-plan-will-deport-only-a-small-number-of-migrants-wscck5d28>

Rwanda failure 'will put 35,000 small-boat migrants in limbo'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-failure-will-put-35-000-small-boat-migrants-in-limbo-fnc5r8ndz>

Starmer vows to scrap Rwanda deportations as judges decide

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-party-conference-keir-starmer-angela-rayner-jeremy-corbyn-mz560ccnc>

Starmer will reverse Rwanda policy even if flights start and small boats decline

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-labour-conference-stop-rwanda-flights-b2426078.html>

News: Channel Migrants

Sunak strikes migration deal with European leaders to tackle people smugglers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/05/sunak-strikes-migration-deal-europe-people-smugglers/>

News: Afghanistan

Afghans in UK visa limbo as Pakistan vows to expel migrants

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-67020994>

Refugee who reached UK in lorry voices despair for lack of safe route for Afghan family

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/refugee-who-reached-uk-lorry-31139500>

News: Ukraine

Shirley-Anne Somerville: Why it is time to help Ukrainian refugees settle in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/shirley-anne-somerville-scotland-welcomed-thousands-of-ukrainians-fleeing-the-war-now-it-is-time-for-us-to-help-them-settle-here-4354293>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Net migration set to break one million mark for first time

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/29/net-migration-new-record-high/>

We've been too squeamish on migration, says Suella Braverman

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66999209>

Home Secretary Braverman says asylum system 'not fit for purpose'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23815787.home-secretary-braverman-says-asylum-system-not-fit-purpose/>

Suella Braverman warns over 'hurricane of uncontrolled immigration'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/westminster/23831625.suella-braverman-warns-hurricane-uncontrolled-immigration/>

Suella Braverman says being gay or a woman is not enough to claim asylum

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/suella-braverman-gay-woman-asylum-b2418917.html>

Suella Braverman: Absurd UN asylum rules have created 780m refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/09/25/suella-braverman-global-refugee-rules-need-radical-reform/>

Suella Braverman's refugee threshold claim baffles Home Office

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-asylum-seeker-refugee-status-gvgbfwpx0>

Rishi Sunak won't repeat Suella Braverman's migrant 'hurricane' claim

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-suella-braverman-eu-summit-migration-hc803bn0q>

Tory MPs complain to chief whip about Suella Braverman's asylum speech

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66964607>

Suella Braverman speech is no Enoch Powell situation - Shapps

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67003887>

Suella Braverman's uncle urges her to be 'cautious' with migrant language

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-bravermans-uncle-urges-her-to-be-cautious-with-migrant-language-lf5njrpvb>

Immigration is a growing challenge, but we must stand with refugees and ignore Braverman

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/immigration-is-a-growing-challenge-but-we-must-stand-with-refugees-and-ignore-suella-bravermans-appalling-views-kenny-macaskill-4358965>

Charity challenges home secretary's claims about 'economic migrants'

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/oct/02/charity-challenges-home-secretarys-claims-about-economic-migrants>

UN refugee agency rejects Suella Braverman asylum comments

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66930930>

UN rebukes Suella Braverman over her attack on refugee convention

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/sep/26/un-suella-braverman-refugee-convention-unhcr-migration>

Grubby, cruel and cheap: Suella Braverman stoops low with her bogus refugee figures

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/sep/27/grubby-cruel-and-cheap-suella-braverman-stoops-low-with-her-bogus-refugee-figures>

In one vulgar swoop, Suella Braverman has humiliated every single migrant in the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/02/suella-braverman-migrant-uk-multiculturalism>

UK revises visa charges for students, skilled workers

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/uk-revises-visa-charges-for-students-skilled-workers-1503228290.html>

Migrant law 'will attract more lone children'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-law-will-attract-more-lone-children-2fw3cwfpb>

Fears for hundreds in Scotland over government asylum backlog plan

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23834634.fears-hundreds-scotland-government-asylum-backlog-plan/>

Bibby Stockholm: Asylum seekers to be returned to migrant barge

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-67063219>

Home Office to send asylum seekers back to Bibby Stockholm barge

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/10/home-office-send-asylum-seekers-back-bibby-stockholm-berge-legionella>

Glasgow considers legal action against Home Office over refugee crisis

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23852341.glasgow-considers-legal-action-home-office-refugee-crisis/>

Homelessness warning over Glasgow asylum seeker claims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-67064953>

Charities warn of refugee homelessness crisis in England this winter

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/oct/03/charities-refugee-homelessness-crisis-england-winter-right-remain-home-office-evictions-rough-sleeping>

Migrants sexually harassed and injured in 'unsafe' Home Office detention centre

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/yarls-wood-detention-centre-home-office-b2422992.html>

Wethersfield asylum seekers 'on hunger strike' over poor conditions

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-66926094>

Migrants trying to reach the UK cross the Alps on foot

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-66934839>

How distress call to BBC helped save six women trapped in refrigerated lorry in France

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-66943779>

UK officials seeking to deport asylum seeker mistook him for three other men

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-66943779>

'We filled our empty nest with refugees'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/its-a-privilege-to-know-peoples-stories-mn6hb787j>

Refugee activist's house in Home Office raid for 'unknown illegal persons'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/01/refugee-activists-house-in-home-office-raid-for-unknown-persons>

'There are no better experts on refugees than refugees'

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/oct/09/there-are-no-better-experts-on-refugees-than-refugees-nhial-deng-on-why-politicians-need-to-listen>

Immigration requires an open conversation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2023/10/03/braverman-immigration-conservative-conference/>

The West must find the moral courage to say 'no' to refugees

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/02/the-west-must-find-the-moral-courage-to-say-no-to-refugees/>

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Community Relations

News

Britain should be proud it's multicultural, says Rishi Sunak

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-should-be-proud-of-multicultural-britain-insists-sunak-fqphvmtx>

Rishi Sunak refuses to say if he backs Suella Braverman multiculturalism remarks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66948132>

Sunak refuses to back Braverman claim multiculturalism is failing

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-braverman-multiculturalism-immigration-tories-b2420504.html>

Suella Braverman is wrong about race, say Patel and Cleverly

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-is-wrong-about-race-say-patel-and-cleverly-wjpwnbk2z>

Suella Braverman's bigoted attack on multiculturalism shouldn't blind us to its problems
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/01/diverity-has-worked-in-britain-trouble-starts-when-we-try-to-manage-it>

Is Suella Braverman right to say multiculturalism has failed?
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/braverman-multiculturalism-failed-b2420409.html>

A multicultural society without proper integration is doomed to fail
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/09/30/without-integration-no-multicultural-country-can-succeed/>

What can Bradford tell us about multiculturalism?
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-can-bradford-tell-us-about-multiculturalism-vpq2mg58l>

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Equality

Press Release

Equality regulator appoints new members to Scotland Committee
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-regulator-appoints-new-members-scotland-committee>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Ethnic diversity in politics and public life
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01156/SN01156.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Historic ethnic minority representation in the House of Commons
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9864/>

Delivering sexual support services that work for survivors of colour
https://www.rapecrisisScotland.org.uk/resources/1695993675_Delivering-sexual-support-services-that-work-for-survivors-of-colour.pdf

News

Britain's the best place to be Black, says Kemi Badenoch. But ask yourself: is it as good as being white?
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/03/britains-best-place-to-be-black-kemi-badenoch-tory>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-21679] To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to make regulations for the provisions in the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 to come into force, and, if so, when.

Reply from Siobhian Brown: The Scottish Government continues to work closely with justice partners to ensure effective implementation of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 ('the Act'); we are working together towards a 1 April 2024 commencement date. This is to provide enough time to allow justice partners to complete a number of key IT change programmes and for the delivery of a robust package of training and guidance for police officers prior to commencement.

Our recently published Hate Crime Strategy for Scotland makes a number of commitments including ensuring improved support for victims, improving data and evidence and developing effective approaches to prevention. It will also support the implementation of the Act. A delivery plan, setting out our immediate and longer term activity, will be published later this year.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21679>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crime-strategy-scotland/>

New Publications

Hate crime, England and Wales, 2022 to 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023>

Data Tables

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6516b48c6dfda600148e38ab/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023-data-tables.ods>

Appendix Tables

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6516b49f6a423b0014f4c613/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2022-to-2023-appendix-tables.ods>

Resources for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

News

Police-recorded hate crimes fall for first time in a decade

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-victim-support-wales-england-lgbtq-b2424485.html>

Hate crimes recorded by police fall for first time in ten years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hate-crimes-recorded-by-police-fall-for-first-time-in-ten-years-22q9v77r3>

Met Police data shows alarming rise in incidents towards Muslim and Jewish communities in London

<https://tellmamauk.org/met-police-data-shows-alarming-rise-in-incidents-towards-muslim-and-jewish-communities-in-london/>

Massive rise in antisemitic incidents - Met Police

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67102528>

Anti-Muslim cases to Tell MAMA triple in 6 days

<https://tellmamauk.org/anti-muslim-cases-to-tell-mama-triple-in-6-days-an-update/>

Antisemitic Incidents – update

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/10/13/antisemitic-incidents-update>

Aberdeen councillor to be investigated over 'New Scot' comment

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-67083194>

Councillor accused of racism resigns from the SNP and will face investigation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/snp-councillor-snp-government-labour-humza-yousaf-b2428850.html>

New Police Scotland chief agrees force is institutionally racist

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-67053958>

Police Scotland's new boss agrees with ex-chief that 'force is discriminatory'

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/police-scotlands-new-boss-agrees-with-ex-chief-that-force-is-discriminatory-4365811>

New Police Scotland chief Jo Farrell agrees the force is institutionally racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-police-scotland-chief-jo-farrell-agrees-the-force-is-institutionally-racist-s66rwwrs>

Most people prosecuted under joint enterprise from minority ethnic background

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2023/sep/30/most-people-prosecuted-under-joint-enterprise-from-minority-ethnic-background>

Former race lead sues EHRC for race discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/oct/01/former-race-lead-sues-ehrc-for-race-discrimination>

Racism, bullying and harassment are still serious problems in NHS

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/nhs-scotland-racism-bullying-and-harassment-are-still-serious-problems-in-our-health-service-dr-sajid-farid-4355867>

Universities must act swiftly on antisemitism, ministers say

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-67089209>

Social media platforms must 'act swiftly to combat antisemitism'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/elon-musk-israel-google-thierry-breton-amas-b2428047.html>

Social media companies warned to combat antisemitic and violent content
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/social-media-companies-get-ultimatum-over-israel-content-5lr87j0qc>

Man fined £400 for racial abuse of cricket umpire Majid Haq
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-67007657>

Man fined for racially abusing former Scotland cricketer Majid Haq
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/scotland-cricket-racism-majid-haq-b2423794.html>

Stop Appeasing Your Racist Uncle
<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/2023/10/11/stop-appeasing-your-racist-uncle/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Organ Donation

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-21351] To ask the Scottish Government in how many cases family members overrode their relatives' (a) express and (b) deemed authorisation for organ donation after death, in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Jenni Minto: The number of family members who overrode their relative's express authorisation for organ donation after that relative's death, in each of the last 10 years, is set out in the following table. Express authorisation is where someone, in life, has documented their donation decision either on the NHS Organ Donor Register or in some other form of writing.

Families who overrode their relatives expressed authorisation	
Financial year	Families approached but no authorisation given
2013-14	9
2014-15	21
2015-16	18
2016-17	16
2017-18	13
2018-19	12
2019-20	15
2020-21	5
2021-22	9
2022-23	13

The number of family members who overrode their relatives' deemed authorisation for organ donation after that relative's death, in each of the last three years, is set out in the following table. The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Act 2019, which set up the legal framework for deemed authorisation, came into effect in March 2021. This means that there is only data available on deemed authorisation for the last three years.

Families who overrode their relatives deemed authorisation	
Financial year	Families approached but no authorisation given
2020-21	0

Families who overrode their relatives deemed authorisation	
Financial year	Families approached but no authorisation given
2020-21	0
2021-22	11
2022-23	13

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21351>

Organ Donation

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-21353] To ask the Scottish Government how many people made a non-directed kidney donation in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jenni Minto: The following number of people in Scotland made a non-directed kidney donation in the last five years:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
8	13	4	7	7

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21353>

Marriage and Funeral Celebrants

Kevin Stewart (SNP) [S6W-20924] To ask the Scottish Government whether it has any plans to allow people who are currently funeral celebrants to officiate at weddings.

Reply from Siobhian Brown: The current arrangements for religious and belief celebrants, and civil registrars, to solemnise marriage and register civil partnership allow couples to choose from a wide range of options for their ceremony to satisfy both the requirements of the law, and of any religion or belief.

These arrangements were broadened under the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act). Couples can now have their marriage solemnised by a celebrant from a belief body as an alternative to having a civil or a religious ceremony. Intended civil partners also have the same options as those who wish to marry.

The Policy Memorandum that accompanied the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill in the Parliament set out the Government's reasons for rejecting the option of opening the solemnisation of marriage to celebrants with no link to a religious or belief body at paragraph 28.

This remains our position and we have no plans to change the law.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-20924>

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/5/contents/enacted>

The Policy Memorandum referred to above can be read at [https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b36s4-introd-pm.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b36s4-introd-pm.pdf)

Press Release

Connecting Scotland's diaspora

<https://www.gov.scot/news/connecting-scotlands-diaspora/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Religious Buildings

The Lord Bishop of Bristol [HL10137] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have figures on the number of places of worship open in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Registrar General for England and Wales has a statutory duty to maintain a list of all places of worship in England and Wales which is available for the public to view on Places of worship registered for marriage.

[Places of worship registered for marriage](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-13/hl10137>

New Publication

Gypsy or Irish Traveller populations, England and Wales: Census 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/articles/gypsyoririshtravellerpopulationsenglandandwales/census2021>

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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/>

Publications

Poverty in Scotland 2023

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-scotland-2023>

Child Poverty in Glasgow Report 2023

<https://cciglasgow.org/reports/child-poverty-report-23.pdf>

News

One in 10 Scots living in 'very deep poverty'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-66982168>

Food prices see first fall for two years as stores compete

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66981036>

Two in five lowest-paid workers 'skipping meals and relying on food banks'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cost-of-living-foodbanks-lowest-paid-b2420045.html>

Warning of new wave of winter deaths in Scotland as energy bills rise

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23821528.warning-new-wave-winter-deaths-scotland-energy-bills-rise/>

UK's cost-of-living crisis has children sleeping on floor due to 'bed poverty', says charity

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cost-of-living-uk-bed-poverty-children-b2420763.html>

Pawnbroking loans soar: 'I used my wedding ring to pay for food and bills'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-66993004>

Deprivation causes extra 33,000 UK cancer cases each year, analysis finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/oct/14/deprivation-causes-extra-33000-uk-cancer-cases-each-year-analysis-finds>

Scientists estimate how many lives cost of living crisis may have claimed in UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/cost-of-living-premature-deaths-b2418531.html>

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Other News

British Sikhs concerned over lack of security advice after activist's murder in Canada

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/28/british-sikhs-urged-to-write-to-mps-hardeep-singh-nijjar-canada>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish 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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

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

Experiences of people from ethnic minority backgrounds in community ownership of buildings and land (closing date 27 October 2023)

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

Drug Use in Ethnic Minority Groups Review (closing date 27 October 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups/drug-use-in-ethnic-minority-groups-call-for-evidence>

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

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

Management of burial grounds, application for burial, exhumation, private burial and restoration of lairs: regulation in Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-burial-scotland/>

Statutory inspection of burial authorities, cremation authorities and funeral directors (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/statutory-inspection-burial-authorities/>

Funeral director licensing scheme for Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/licensing-funeral-directors-scotland/>

Regulation of alkaline hydrolysis ('water cremation') in Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-alkaline-hydrolysis/>

**** Delivery of relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education in Scottish schools - draft statutory guidance** (closing date 23 November 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/teaching-guidance-for-relationships-sexual-health/>

Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 8 December 2023)
<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/justice/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-bill/>

Democracy Matters (closing date 28 February 2024)
<https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/>

Your Police 2023-2024 (closing date 31 March 2023)
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

In-Law's Abuse (Women Only) Survey (closing date not stated)
Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre survey to gather lived experience to understand how prevalent in-laws abuse is within BME communities living in Scotland.
<https://t.co/bSFFBVBIHi>

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Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Scottish Connections Fund**

Closing date: 8 November 2023

Scottish Government funding to support initiatives that promote Scotland's international connections. For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/news/connecting-scotlands-diaspora/>

Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund 2023/24

Closing date: 26 January 2024

Scottish Government funding of up to £300 (possibility of higher funding to assist with accessibility) to support organisations and groups to host conversations and gather the views of people across Scotland on how we can create a system of inclusive local democracy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4ds8r9h2>

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!**

Black History Month

Continuing until 31 October 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month encompasses the histories of African, Caribbean and Asian people in Scotland, people who often have a direct link with Scotland through slavery, colonialism and migration. Black History Month is a time to focus on the sacrifices, contributions and achievements of these communities, bringing people together to offer a space for reflection and learning. To read the full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/3e6nvvde>

**** this week!**

After Abolition: Scottish Enslavers and the Persistence of Unfree Labour

17 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–3.00)

CRER presentation to examine the indentureship system and how Scottish investors and enslavers continued to profit from unfree forms of labour after 1834, allowing for a more capacious understanding of Scotland's imperial past. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2xw2rmc>

**** this week!**

Breaking the Chains – a Walking Tour exploring Dundee's Links to Slavery

18 October 2023 (Dundee, 2.00–4.00)

University of Dundee Museums walking tour using a new illustrated map highlighting sites in Dundee associated with transatlantic and American slavery. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46mfc8s>

**** this week!**

From surface to deep diversity

18 October 2023 (online, 5.00–6.30)

Edinburgh University Social Work Department lecture to explore the re-imagining of social work in the context of decolonial futures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2af5dftk>

**** this week!**

Black Sporting Histories: race, class and local league football

19 October 2023 (Glasgow, 4.00–5.30)

University of Glasgow lecture drawing on research into local league football to reflect on the changing dynamics of race and anti-racist organisation in the context of sports. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc759n7z>

**** this week!**

Black History Walking Tour of Edinburgh

21 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 10.00–12.00)

29 October 2023 (Edinburgh, 2.00–4.00)

Edinburgh Caribbean Association walk to relate little-known stories of Edinburgh's many visitors and residents of African, African American and Caribbean heritage from the 16th century to the present day; with a focus on the Caribbean and Edinburgh's role in the Transatlantic Slave System. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mry2rhbb>

**** this week!**

Empire, The Clyde, and Glasgow- A People's Palace Walking Tour

21 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Glasgow Museums walking tour to explore the ways the People's Palace and Glasgow Green have been impacted by Glasgow's links to slavery and Empire. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2e5xzbpm>

**** this week!**

Glasgow Black History Walking Tour

22 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

29 October 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00–3.00)

CRER walking tour making a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examining the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3s58c2w7>

People of colour in the 1921 Scotland Census

26 October 2023 (Glasgow, 2.30–4.30)

Glasgow Museums event to celebrate some of the people of colour recorded in the 1921 census, discuss the snags of such research, and demonstrate how library resources can help. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2hwr8xf>

Scottish Interfaith Week

12–19 November 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity, bringing people together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

**** Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre School's Holocaust Memorial Day Event 2024**

23 January 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–1.30)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre event for secondary school pupils, providing an opportunity to hear people whose parents were survivors of the Holocaust, and who made a life in Scotland. For information see <https://sjhc.org.uk/news/hmd2024/>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to find out about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves for an economy in recession and cost of living spiralling. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

15 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course also explores the journeys and barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers reaching and building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

No Recourse To Public Funds

21 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

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



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



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

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