



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.

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The UK Parliament has been prorogued.

Prorogation marks the end of a parliamentary session. It is the formal name given to the period between the end of a session of Parliament and the State Opening of Parliament that begins the next session. The King's Speech will open the new session on 7 November.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Asylum Seekers (Free Bus Travel)

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15499&i=132270#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Domestic Violence (Support for Migrants)

Marie McNair (SNP) [S6O-02627] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support any migrants living in Scotland who have experienced domestic violence. (S6O-02627)

The Minister for Victims and Community Safety (Siobhian Brown): Domestic abuse is abhorrent. It is a blight on our society and has no place in the Scotland that we all want to live in.

Through the delivering equally safe fund, we will provide approximately £12.5 million in 2023-24 to domestic abuse support services, including women's aid organisations, that provide specialist support and access to temporary accommodation. We have been clear that anyone experiencing domestic abuse who has no recourse to public funds should be offered the same level of support as anyone else in Scotland and should not face disadvantage or discrimination because of their immigration status.

Marie McNair: I thank the minister for her dedication to supporting all victims of domestic violence. I welcome the recent Scottish Government pilot fund to enable women who are experiencing domestic violence to access essentials. That will go a long way to helping victims to be financially independent. As we know, that is a huge barrier to women being able to flee.

Migrant victims of domestic abuse might face unique problems such as immigration status or a lack of access to social security benefits because of the United Kingdom Government's no recourse to public funds policy. Does the minister agree that the UK Government's hostile environment policies are particularly harmful to migrant women who are affected by abuse?

Reply from Siobhian Brown: Yes—I agree. The UK Government's hostile environment policies and no recourse to public funds restrictions limit the support that people, including migrant women experiencing domestic abuse, can access at a time of crisis. The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities developed the ending destitution together strategy to prevent and mitigate the effect of destitution that arises from the no recourse to public funds policy. The strategy also presses the UK Government to extend the destitution domestic violence concession to make it available to anyone who is in the UK as a dependant as a result of someone else's visa or protection status.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15497&i=132223#ScotParIOR>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Illegal Migration

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): ... The Government have made it our top priority to stop the boats, because these crossings are not only illegal, dangerous and unnecessary, but deeply unfair. They are unfair on those who are genuinely in need of resettlement, as our finite capacity is taken up by people—overwhelmingly young men—coming to the UK directly from a place of safety in France, but most of all they are unfair on the law-abiding British public who face the real-world consequences of illegal migration through housing waiting lists, strained public services and, at times, serious community cohesion challenges, and it is the interests of the British public that we have a duty to advance.

We have developed what is among the most comprehensive and robust plans to tackle illegal migration in Europe ... The plan starts with taking the fight to the people-smuggling

gangs upstream, long before they are even in striking distance of the United Kingdom. ... As we are increasing disruption abroad, so we are restoring deterrence at home. We are breaking the link between arriving here illegally and a life in the UK. The number of removals of those with no right to be in the UK has increased by more than 75% in comparison with last year's figure. Since we struck our enhanced returns agreement with Albania in December, we have returned more than 4,100 Albanian immigration offenders, and, as I saw for myself in Tirana last month, some of those individuals are being returned home in as little as 48 hours.

In August we announced the biggest shake-up in a decade of the penalties imposed on rogue employers and landlords who encourage illegal migration by hiring or renting to illegal migrants, and as we proceed with that, more unscrupulous businesses are getting the knock on the door. We have increased the number of enforcement raids by more than two thirds since this point last year. The surge has led to a doubling in the number of fines imposed on employers, and has tripled the number issued to landlords. However, for those who are complicit in the business model of the people smugglers, severe financial penalties are not enough, which is why we have dramatically increased the number of company directors who have been disqualified for allowing illegal working.

Our concerted efforts at home and abroad are making progress. For the first time since the phenomenon of small boat arrivals began four years ago, they are down by more than a fifth in comparison with those in the equivalent period in 2022, and in recent months we have seen still further falls ... We remain confident of the legality of our Rwanda partnership and its ability to break the business model of the people smuggling gangs once and for all, and we look forward to the judgment of the Supreme Court. As the success of our Albania returns agreement has shown, with swift removals driving a 90% reduction in the number of illegal migrants seeking to enter the UK, deterrence works. ...

One of the most damaging manifestations of this problem has been the use of hotels to meet our statutory obligation to house those who arrive illegally and would otherwise be destitute. ... Those hotels should be assets for their local communities, serving businesses and tourists and hosting the life events that we treasure, such as weddings and birthdays, rather than housing illegal migrants at an unsustainable cost to the taxpayer.

We therefore took immediate action a year ago to reduce our reliance on hotels. We significantly increased the amount of dispersed accommodation, and we have increased funding for local councils. We reformed the management of the existing estate: by optimising double rooms and increasing the number of people sharing rooms we have created thousands of additional beds, and in doing so have avoided the need for a further 72 hotels. We have mobilised the large disused military sites that are more appropriate, and have worked closely with local authorities to ensure that they have less impact on communities. We are in the process of a re-embarkation on the barge in Portland, and, as of 23 October, occupancy had reached approximately 50 individuals. That will continue as planned, in a phased manner, in the days and weeks ahead.

Nearly a year on, as a result of the progress we have made to stop the boats, I can inform the House that today the Home Office wrote to local authorities and Members of Parliament to inform them that we will now be exiting the first asylum hotels—hotels in all four nations of the United Kingdom. The first 50 exits will begin in the coming days and will be complete by the end of January, with more tranches to follow shortly. But we will not stop there: we will continue to deliver on our strategy to stop the boats, and we will be able to exit more hotels. As we exit those hotels, we are putting in place dedicated resources to facilitate the orderly and effective management of the process and limit the impact on local communities.

We made a clear commitment to the British public to stop the boats, not because it would be easy but because it was, and remains, the right thing to do. We are making solid progress, and our commitment to this task is as strong as ever. ...

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): ... For the third year running, more than 25,000 people have

crossed the channel in small boats, while the number of hotels being used is about 400, at an eye-watering cost to the taxpayer of £8 million a day—higher than the cost last year. And what is the Government’s response? A Rwanda plan, but they have sent more Home Secretaries than asylum seekers to Rwanda; an Illegal Migration Act that is counterproductive and has not even been brought into full force yet; and a new barge that was meant to bring down hotel costs, but has only added to them. Also, the military bases promised by the Prime Minister last December are still not ready. ...

The Government also like to claim to be bringing the backlog down, but it stands at 176,000. ... As for those who are being processed and rejected—slowly, it must be said, at half the productivity of seven years ago—are they actually being returned? Removals are down 70% since Labour left office, with a 40,000 removals backlog. ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... The truth is that he cannot bear to admit that our plan is actually starting to work. Returns are up, raids are up, productivity is up 10 times and, above all, small boat arrivals are down. We are closing hotels; he wants to open our borders. The Government will never elevate the interests of illegal migrants over those of the hard-working taxpayers of this country. ...

Chris Stephens (SNP): The Minister will know that Mears has recently signed a contract with a hotel in Glasgow South West, so perhaps he can update us on the status of that contract. He has mentioned the backlog. Not everyone in a hotel in asylum accommodation is illegal; some will be successful in being granted refugee status. Can he tell us what discussions he is having with local authorities—I am thinking of Glasgow City Council in particular—on supporting and providing financial support for those successful refugees who will have to leave their hotel or asylum accommodation following a decision? Will he meet me and my Glasgow colleagues to discuss this issue?

Can the Minister tell us the estimated total operational and associated costs of this new system that he is creating, including barges, military sites, detention facilities and removal centres, alongside the proposed Rwanda deportations? Finally, an investigation by “The News Agents” has found that people traffickers say they are having an easier time sending small boats across the channel because of Brexit, which removed biometric system sharing and pan-European co-operation. What steps is he taking to create a returns agreement with the European Union, binding closer alignment with the EU and system sharing?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Far be it from me to cast doubt on the journalism of “The News Agents”, but I disagree with the premise of the hon. Gentleman’s question. ... With respect to the situation in Glasgow, I would be happy to meet the hon. Gentleman there. Glasgow has had a high preponderance of asylum seekers, as he will know, but that was the choice of the Scottish Government. To my eyes, they did not want to house asylum seekers in other parts of Scotland. That is now changing, but it does mean that there will be a particular challenge in his community and I would be happy to meet him to discuss that. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-24/debates/DD74F356-FF6D-433C-A84F-701D1F48AEA7/IllegalMigration>

A video report of the investigation referred to above can be watched at

<https://twitter.com/TheNewsAgents/status/1708436603499433997>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

Janet Daby (Labour) [906659] What steps [is the Minister] taking with Cabinet colleagues to provide rapid resettlement routes under pathway 3 of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs (Leo Docherty): The FCDO has referred more than 1,450 people under ACRS pathway 3 to the Home Office. We are supporting more than 900 Afghans in third countries, for instance with accommodation, and we are grateful to Pakistan for the work we do together to that end. Of course, we remain committed to relocating all eligible Afghan families to the UK. We are working closely with the Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure that they all have suitable accommodation on arrival.

Janet Daby: ... Shortly after the evacuation in Afghanistan, I told Ministers that many of my constituents have relatives in Afghanistan who work for the British Government. What is the Minister doing to keep the Government's promise of further support for those who helped the UK's mission in Afghanistan?

Reply from Leo Docherty: We continue our diplomatic efforts, including through supporting those Afghans in third countries. We have relocated more than 21,000 Afghans under the Afghans relocations and assistance policy—ARAP—and the ACRS, and we will continue to do that.

John Baron (Conservative): Last week, the Government made the right decision to lift the quota for pathway 3, thus allowing all eligible British Council contractors to come to the UK. However, many contractors and their families are waiting in Pakistan for clearance to come to the UK because accommodation has yet to be arranged. May I urge the Government to resolve that housing issue urgently, given the Pakistani authorities' threat to return the contractors to Afghanistan next month? That would be a disaster, and we need to sort it out now.

Reply from Leo Docherty: We are acutely aware of the challenge to which my hon. Friend alludes. We are working at pace with our mission in Pakistan and we are seized of the natural justice required and the fact that we need to do our duty to those people. That is why the full pace of our institutional effort is focused on doing just that. We look forward to keeping colleagues updated.

Lyn Brown (Labour): ... The withdrawal from Afghanistan was an absolute debacle. It is a continuing source of shame to this country that so many people who helped us, trusted us, relied on us, have been absolutely abandoned. We are hearing horrifying reports from those who have done the right thing and taken terrible risks to escape to Pakistan, who are now living in constant fear of arrest or deportation because this Government have left them in limbo. My question is simple: how many are still waiting and how much longer will they have to wait?

Reply from Leo Docherty: Respectfully, we have not left them in limbo. The situation is extremely difficult. It is difficult because of the depredations of—let me be very clear—the tyrannical regime of the Taliban; that is why we are in this situation. We have relocated more than 21,000 people, and we continue to work at pace with our mission in Pakistan and elsewhere to ensure that these people, despite the local troubles and difficulties, get the support they need.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-24/debates/7852CC9B-12D9-4EC4-86F4-B90E1654177E/AfghanCitizensResettlementScheme>

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>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [203597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been relocated to the UK under Pathway (a) 2 and (b) 3 of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme as of 19 October 2023.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [203598] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the first Afghans arrived in the UK under pathway (a) two and (b) three of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

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

The latest published Operational data fact sheet on Afghan resettlement schemes shows the following by ACRS pathway, we have now resettled: 9,676 individuals under ACRS Pathway 1, 66 individuals under ACRS Pathway 2 and 41 individuals under ACRS Pathway 3.

Operational data is viewable at: [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#) Afghan operational data is released quarterly with the next publication due around the 23rd November 2023.

The data requested on arrival dates of pathway 2 and pathway 3 is not anticipated to be publicly released in future iterations of the quarterly Immigration system statistics. It is collected for internal and operational use only. However, arrivals by quarter can be found within the immigration statistics. [Immigration system statistics quarterly release](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203597>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203598>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [203316] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the oral contribution of 17 October 2023 by the Minister for Immigration on safe asylum routes for Afghan refugees, Official Report, Column 54WH, how many and what proportion of people who submitted an Expression of Interest in resettlement to the UK under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and have been assessed by his Department as eligible in principle for resettlement under that pathway are located in (a) Afghanistan and (b) a third country.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Given the sensitivity of the security checks element of the process, we are unable to give precise numbers of individuals at each stage of the process. This is a dynamic picture, which changes daily. It would not be helpful for those in Afghanistan for us to give a running commentary on numbers, which could draw attention to those preparing to cross the border.

As of 19 October, there are circa 910 eligible individuals under ACRS Pathway 3 being supported in third countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203316>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-17/debates/449FB75E-4701-4CA5-999D-E098F278E714/SafeAsylumRoutesAfghanRefugees#contribution-4C365FCE-0EBE-4940-8548-CF17C83F5EF8>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [201561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to (a) finalise UK visas and (b) provide permission to travel to the UK for Afghan nationals instructed to travel to Pakistan under the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Supporting the resettlement of individuals eligible under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) remains a priority for HMG, and we are issuing new visas to people from Afghanistan for settlement here. This means they immediately have the right to live, work and study in the UK. We recognise the difficult situation that many individuals find themselves in. We continue to work, including with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues and to support safe passages for eligible Afghans.

To date we have brought around 24,600 people affected by events in Afghanistan to safety. This includes those evacuated under Operation Pitting and those resettled and relocated under the ACRS and Afghans Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). The ACRS is one of the most ambitious resettlement schemes in our countries history and provides those affected by events in Afghanistan with a safe and legal route to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201561>

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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [203620] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's planned timescale is for reopening referrals under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Supporting the resettlement of individuals eligible under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) remains a priority for HMG.

To date we have brought around 24,600 people affected by events in Afghanistan to safety. This includes the first individuals to be relocated under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Under the first stage of Pathway 3, the government will consider for resettlement all eligible at risk-British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni, who expressed interest during the FCDO's window of opportunity. This means that we will exceed the original allocation of 1,500 places for the first stage of ACRS Pathway 3. Our immediate focus is on ensuring their resettlement.

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

We are acutely aware of the difficult situation that many individuals find themselves in. We continue to work with likeminded partners and those countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues, and in order to support safe passage for eligible Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203620>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Grahame Morris (Labour) [203274] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to take steps to ensure that freelance journalists who are threatened by the Afghan government will be eligible for resettlement under the second stage of pathway three of the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Grahame Morris (Labour) [203275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish the eligibility criteria for the second stage of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3.

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

Under the first stage of Pathway 3, the government will consider for resettlement all eligible at risk-British Council and contractors and alumni, who expressed interest during the FCDO's window of opportunity. Our immediate focus is on ensuring their resettlement.

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

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203274>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203275>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Drew Hendry (SNP) [203341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had recent discussions with (a) Cabinet colleagues, (b) the Linda Norgrove Foundation and (c) the Scottish Government on the potential merits of opening the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to nursing students from Afghanistan.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We remain committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan and so far, have brought around 24,600 individuals to the UK.

We continue to welcome individuals under all three pathways of the ACRS as set out in the policy statement and work with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan on resettlement issues, and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans. Further information is available here:

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

Beyond the first stage of Pathway 3, which is now closed to referrals, we will continue to work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk under the next stage. Further detail will be set out in due course.

Whilst the government maintains a generous resettlement offer, we must recognise that the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203341>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [203221] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many ARAP applicants who applied (a) before and (b) during Operation Pitting are awaiting a decision on their application from his Department.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 19 October 2023, 178 ARAP applications submitted before Operation PITTING are awaiting an eligibility decision. 267 ARAP applications submitted during Op-PITTING are awaiting a decision.

We only have approximately 1,000 complex cases awaiting an eligibility decision from over 95,000 principal applications received. We are working hard to resolve these remaining cases, often working alongside other Government Departments.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203221>

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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [201825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many open family reunion applications her Department has from Afghan citizens who legally travelled to Pakistan for the purposes of accessing a UK visa processing centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government's refugee family reunion policy provides a safe and legal route to bring families together.

We prioritise all applications where the application has been made by an unaccompanied child under the age of 18. We will also prioritise applications where there is an evidenced urgent or compelling reason.

The UK government does not hold information regarding the legality of non-British nationals' entry into another country, nor their immigration status in countries outside of the UK.

The most recent data can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201825>

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [203444] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2023 to Question 199700 Refugees: Afghanistan, if she will publish the data on arrival dates collected for internal and operational use; and what guidance her Department issues on the status of such data under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Exact arrival dates are not contained within the quarterly Immigration system statistics, however arrivals by quarter can be found within the [immigration statistics for year ending June 2023](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/immigration-statistics-for-year-ending-june-2023)

The data that is published for arrivals under Afghan Resettlement Schemes is viewable at: [Immigration system statistics quarterly release](https://www.gov.uk/government/datasets/immigration-system-statistics-quarterly-release)

Freedom of Information requests for Afghan resettlement data are dealt with in accordance with the relevant FOIA guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203444>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-15/199700>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Luke Pollard (Labour) [203406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his oral contribution of 19 September 2023, Official Report, column 1253, whether new Afghan people arriving in the UK on approved schemes will be placed in bridging accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 24,600 people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for our Afghan schemes. We continue to honour our commitments to bring eligible Afghans to the UK.

The [Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy \(ARAP\) scheme](#) which was formally opened on the 1 April 2021, has already relocated thousands of Afghans who have worked for or alongside the UK government, and their families, and who are deemed eligible.

In addition, the UK formally opened the [Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme \(ACRS\)](#) on 6 January 2022. The scheme prioritises those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law.

We take seriously our commitment to resettling Afghans yet to arrive in the UK, including those eligible for our schemes still in Afghanistan. But our efforts to move people out of hotels has shown how vital it is that they are moved into long-term settled accommodation, so, they can put down roots in the community.

Once in the UK eligible Afghans have the right to live, work and study, and can apply for benefits and other local authority support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203406>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-19/debates/610B3446-BD51-4283-A0A8-176862E03CA2/ResettlementOfAfghans#contribution-A27E9D46-87A1-4124-9EB2-E7E67D330BD0>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Peter Grant (SNP) [200911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Afghanistan who were resettled to the UK under the (a) ARAP and (b) ACRS remain in a bridging hotel after their notice to quit date has passed because they have not found alternative accommodation as of 13 October 2023.

Peter Grant (SNP) [200912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Afghanistan who were resettled to the UK under the (a) ARAP and (b) ACRS have been evicted from bridging accommodation in each of the last 12 months; of those people, how many and what proportion were (a) moved to temporary accommodation and (b) without accommodation upon eviction; and how many and what proportion of those people are (i) in temporary accommodation and (ii) without accommodation as of 13 October 2023.

Peter Grant (SNP) [200913] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people from Afghanistan who were resettled to the UK under the (a) ARAP and (b) ACRS were in bridging accommodation when her Department (i) announced that it would begin to issue and (ii) began to issue notices to quit.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Our recent release of transparency data, published on 19 September 2023, following the end of hotels being used as bridging accommodation can be accessed at [Afghan bridging hotel exit operational data](#). The latest statistics (published on 24th August 2023) from the [immigration system statistics quarterly release](#) provides a quarterly breakdown of the number of individuals resettled under both the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) in temporary accommodation up until the end of June 2023. For detailed data, see table Asy D02.

From the end of April 2023, resettled Afghan families staying in hotels and serviced apartments began to receive Notices to Quit their bridging accommodation.

Residents received at least three months' notice to make arrangements to leave their hotel or serviced accommodation and were given clear guidance on the support they could access to help them find their own accommodation.

Despite all efforts, some families have been unable to find their own accommodation or unwilling to take up offers of housing and have needed to present as homeless. The statutory homelessness system provides a safety net, and no family will be left without a roof over their head.

We are unable to provide a running commentary on bridging accommodation occupation. When the notices to quit were announced by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 28 March, there were over 8,000 Afghans living in bridging accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200911>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200912>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200913>

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>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [202899] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs of 19 September 2023 on Resettlement of Afghans, Official Report, column 1254, how many (a) individuals and (b) families from Afghanistan are being housed in temporary accommodation under the local authority homelessness provision as of 17 October 2023.

John Healey (Labour) [202900] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs of 19 September 2023 on Resettlement of Afghans, Official Report, column 1254, how many ARAP (a) principles and (b) dependents are housed in temporary accommodation under the local authority homelessness provision in the latest period for which data is available.

Luke Pollard (Labour) [203404] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the oral statement made by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs on 19 September 2023, how many Afghans and their families remain in Government-approved temporary accommodation as of 18 October 2023; and when he plans to have moved all Afghans and their families out of that accommodation.

Luke Pollard (Labour) [203407] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to his oral contribution of 19 September 2023, Official Report, column 1253, whether he has made an assessment of the potential impact of moving Afghan people out of bridging hotels on the number of those people facing homelessness.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: The majority of Afghan families have been moved out of bridging accommodation into longer-term accommodation. Time spent in temporary accommodation means people are getting help and it ensures no family is without a roof over their head.

Since 1 July 2023, the Department has been monitoring homelessness duties owed by English local authorities following the closure of Home Office provided bridging accommodation and this data is available on gov.uk at the following [link](#).

There is a generous package of support available including £35 million of funding for councils to support Afghan households to move into settled accommodation, and the £750 million Local Authority Housing Fund for English councils to obtain housing for those on the Afghan and Ukrainian schemes who are at risk of homelessness. The fund is expected to provide over 4,000 homes by 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-17/202899>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-17/202900>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203404>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203407>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-09-19/debates/610B3446-BD51-4283-A0A8-176862E03CA2/ResettlementOfAfghans#contribution-A27E9D46-87A1-4124-9EB2-E7E67D330BD0>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [203160] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether certificate of applications issued to EU Settlement Scheme applicants cover claims to Universal Credit.

Reply from Guy Opperman: Individuals in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement (or equivalent citizen's rights agreements with the EEA EFTA countries and Switzerland) can use their Certificate of Application to evidence that they have made a valid application to the EU Settlement Scheme. They will then be able to access Universal Credit on the same basis as before the UK left the EU – including needing to provide evidence that they are exercising a qualifying right to reside, such as a worker or self-employed status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-17/203160>

Asylum

Eliot Colburn (Conservative) [201334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her speech to the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC on 26 September 2023, whether she plans to change the asylum application process for people applying on the basis of persecution due to a protected characteristic.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: To support decision-makers and our Courts we have clearly defined what persecution means in the [Nationality and Borders Act 2022](#). This includes providing a non-exhaustive list of examples of the types of acts which may constitute persecution.

Under [Paragraph 328](#) of the Immigration Rules, all asylum applications continue to be decided in accordance with the Refugee Convention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201334>

The speech referred to above can be read at

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/230926-Keynote-Address-by-UK-Home-Secretary-Suella-Braverman-Transcript.pdf?x91208>

Immigration: Applications

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [203095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's policy paper entitled Home Office response to report on the re-inspection of family reunion applications published on 21 February 2023, what recent progress her Department has made towards (a) implementing the recommendations made by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration and (b) ensuring that family reunion applications are processed within the service standard of 12 weeks.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government's refugee family reunion policy provides a safe and legal route to bring families together. The Secretary of State for the Home Department has fully accepted all the recommendations made in the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration regarding family reunion applications.

Following the recommendations made, the department has undertaken a review of its' resourcing for consideration of Family Reunion visa applications and is increasing staffing levels. We have also reviewed processes and are developing our work in this area to enable us to provide a better service to our customers.

We prioritise all applications where the application has been made by an unaccompanied child, under the age of 18. We will also prioritise applications where there is an evidenced urgent or compelling reason.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-17/203095>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications/home-office-response-to-report-on-re-inspection-of-family-reunion-applications>

Asylum: Applications

Cat Smith (Labour) [203032] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications were rejected on the grounds of a false claim of LGB in each year since 2010.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on LGB asylum claims in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions (including refusals) on asylum applications where sexual orientation formed part of the basis for the claim is published in table SOC_02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Please note that information on the reason for refusal is not published and therefore the statistics do not separately identify refusals on the grounds of false claims from refusals for other reasons.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 2022. Data prior to 2015 is not published.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-17/203032>

Refugees: Israel and Palestinians

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [203521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing a family reunion scheme to support Israeli and Palestinian relatives of UK residents to come to the UK for the duration of the war.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are no plans to create a bespoke family reunion scheme.

We will accept applications, which would normally have to be made in the country where the person is living, at any of the UK's Visa Application Centres.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203521>

Refugees: Palestinians

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [203522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has considered the potential merits of introducing a scheme similar to the Homes for Ukraine scheme for Palestinians.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety of all British nationals continues to be our utmost priority. The UK is also calling for unimpeded humanitarian access in Gaza so that essential aid can reach civilian populations, including food, water, fuel and medical supplies.

The Home Office has not considered establishing a separate route for Palestinians to come to the UK. Since 2015, over half a million people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK. We are not able to provide a tailored route for every conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203522>

Refugees: Israel and Palestinians

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [203523] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has established services to support people seeking refuge in the UK from (a) Israel and (b) Palestine.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All asylum and human rights claims lodged in the UK and accepted into the UK asylum system, including those from Israel or Palestine, are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Further information on how to claim asylum is available on the GOV.UK website at: www.gov.uk/claim-asylum

The Home Office does not provide immigration advice in individual cases. Further information is available on GOV.UK at: www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/203523>

Asylum

Martyn Day (SNP) [202578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the recommendations in the report by the ONE campaign entitled Getting a grip: How the Home Office should improve refugee and asylum seeker welfare and protect UK aid.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office is tackling the asylum legacy caseload so that people can receive a decision and exit the system, either by returning to their home country, or granting them asylum so they can begin to make a contribution to the UK. We have already increased the number of decision makers to over 2,500 as of January 2023. We will continue to increase the number of caseworkers to help clear the asylum backlog by the end of 2023.

We are also improving the productivity, volumes, and speed of decision making so that people spend less time in asylum accommodation. We are streamlining and modernising the end-to-end process, with improved guidance, more focused and fewer interviews, enhancing use of digital technology, and we are introducing a more efficient approach to how claims are handled by decision makers. The aim is to clear initial asylum decisions relating to claims made before 28 June 2022, when the Nationality and Borders Act measures came into force, by the end of 2023.

The Home Office is committed to making every effort to reduce hotel use and limit the burden on the taxpayer. This is why we are delivering a range of alternative accommodation sites, maximising hotel space, operationalising the Illegal Migration Act and continuing our hard work to clear the asylum backlog by the end of the year. In line with our response to the ICAI review, FCDO published the updated UK In-Donor Refugee Costs methodology report alongside our latest Statistics on International Development. ...

Section 3 sets out the fit for purpose assessment and current data limitations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202578>

The ONE Campaign report referred to above is not freely available online.

The ICAI review referred to above can be read at

<https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/UK-aid-under-pressure-synthesis-of-ICAI-findings-2019-23.pdf>

The Methodology Report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/650297cc702634001389b7fc/ODA_methodology_report_-_UK_in-donor_refugee_costs.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Finance

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [201818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of starting the move-on period for refugees granted asylum when they receive notice of their asylum decision on (a) refugees and (b) local authorities.

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [201819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions her Department held with local authorities before the change in practice of calculating the 28 days prior to asylum support ending for new refugees to when the asylum application decision is made.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All individuals who receive a positive decision on their asylum claim are eligible to support and accommodation for at least 28 days from when their decision is served.

We offer move on support to all individuals through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible, if they require them.

We work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended.

We are working with our partners, including Local Authorities, to provide timely notification of key events that impact them. We are working with our SMP to facilitate regional sessions with councils and to share data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201818>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201819>

Asylum: Finance

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [201816] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's news story of 12 September 2023 entitled New Illegal Migration Act measures and age dispute assessment tests, whether the consultations with local authorities and organisations within the sector to look at the UK's capacity to accommodate and support those arriving through safe and legal routes will seek views on proposed additional safe routes.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: With the passing of the Illegal Migration Act, on 20 July 2023, the government has committed to introducing a cap on the number of people brought to the UK through safe and legal routes each year.

The cap will be determined through consultation with local authorities to understand

the UK's capacity to accommodate and support individuals arriving through safe and legal routes.

The consultation seeks to determine a realistic picture of the capacity that the UK has, to enable the operation of safe and legal routes for protection and ensure these routes form part of a well-managed and sustainable migration system.

As the Prime Minister has stated, as we get a grip on illegal migration, we will be able to bring forward more safe and legal routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201816>

The news story referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-illegal-migration-act-measures-and-age-dispute-assessment-tests>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [203857] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress her Department has made toward meeting the target of securing an average of 350 additional beds for asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation per week; and when her Department expect to meet that target.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum seekers in receipt of support in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum seekers in receipt of support by accommodation type including hotels and other accommodation can be found in table Asy_D09 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. The next data release is due 23 November 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-23/203857>

Asylum: Hotels

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [203653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 October 2023 to Question 202546 on Asylum: Hotels, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of using hotels below three star grade as a short term option for asylum seekers, where those hotels have been deemed to meet health and safety requirements.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are committed to ensuring that destitute asylum seekers are housed in safe, habitable and fit for purpose accommodation, and that they are treated with dignity while their asylum claim is considered.

The Home Office has always been clear that use of hotels as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers was a short-term measure to ensure that we met our statutory obligation. As a result of the range of measures we have implemented to stop the boats, reform the management of asylum accommodation estate and the delivery of alternative forms of accommodation sites, we are now able to stop the procurement of new asylum hotels and begin the first phase of hotel exits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-20/203653>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202546>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [201795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of refugees received their documentation before their 28 day move on notice period began in the last 12 months.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [201797] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will issue guidance to local authorities to state that refugees are eligible for homelessness prevention support from the date of notification of the

decision on their asylum claim, without the need for evidence such as an eviction letter.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [201798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will work with statutory services to manage the increase in demand for support for housing for refugees who have received notification of the decision on their asylum claim.

Asylum: Finance

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [201799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending the move-on period for people who have received their asylum decisions to at least 56 days.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We do not publish the information you have requested.

We work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in ensuring individuals can move on from asylum support as smoothly as possible. With DLUHC, we are working to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are also directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended.

Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as quickly as possible. We offer move on support through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing.

The asylum accommodation estate is under huge strain and increasing the 'move on' period would exacerbate these pressures. There are no current plans to extend the prescribed period (of 28 days) for how long individuals remain on asylum support once they have received a grant of asylum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201795>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201797>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201798>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201799>

Asylum: Portland Port

Caroline Lucas (Green) [196245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2023 to Question 192849 on Asylum: Portland Port, on what date her Department's (a) contractors, (b) officials and (c) Ministers were made aware that there was legionella on the Bibby Stockholm barge; when the legionella finding was reported to the UK Health Security Agency; what steps she is taking to improve her Department's processes to ensure that accommodation for refugees is (i) adequate and (ii) meets the required regulatory standards; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As a precautionary measure, and going above and beyond UK Health Security Agency advice, the Home Office disembarked all asylum seekers on 11 August 2023.

We take the welfare of individuals on the vessel seriously. The asylum seekers had health assessments, and nobody has presented with symptoms.

We are beginning to move people back on the Bibby Stockholm in Portland. All necessary tests including all health, fire and water checks have been completed, and are all satisfactory.

The number of people on board will increase gradually with more arrivals in the coming days and months, as part of a carefully structured phased approach.

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-06/192849>

Asylum: Disability

Samantha Dixon (Labour) [202309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that disabled people in the asylum system receive the care they need.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers have access to health and social care services from the point of arrival in the UK. The Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, local authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure that people can access the healthcare and support they need. All accommodation providers have a contractual duty to assist people in accessing the health care they need. The Home Office also operates a Safeguarding Hub to support vulnerable individuals in accessing these services.

In addition, the Home Office contracts Migrant Help to provide advice and guidance to asylum seekers should they have an issue with their accommodation or support, and for signposting to health and welfare services. Asylum seekers can access Migrant Help 24/7, every day of the year by a freephone telephone number, via an online chat or completing an email enquiry form both of which can be accessed free of charge on the Migrant Help website. Interpreting and translation services are available through Migrant Help when the need arises for asylum seekers to raise any queries or concerns.

Where an individual is on asylum support and has a care need, a referral will be made to the local authority for an assessment of care needs under the Care Act 2014. Our guidance sets out the approach to be taken by the Home Office to the duties and obligations owed to asylum seekers who have disabilities, care needs or both. In doing so it sets out how the framework of the Care Act 2014 should be interpreted by the Home Office and its external partners in the context of asylum support. The guidance can be found here: [Asylum-Seekers-With-Care-Needs-v2.0ext.pdf](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/202309>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Tuberculosis

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [200990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment with Cabinet colleagues of the potential impact on public health of relocating people seeking asylum that are receiving treatment for tuberculosis.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [200991] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application who have been diagnosed with tuberculosis as of October 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office is fully committed to work closely with local authorities and the NHS. Individuals on asylum support with tuberculosis (TB) are accommodated in line with our policy and contractual provisions with our accommodation providers. We work in partnership with local health provision to improve services for supported asylum seekers.

For purpose of containing any outbreaks or infections, the Home Office has designated isolation space available in South England where those identified as having either symptoms of a contagious infection (including notifiable and non-notifiable communicable diseases) or declaring that they are suffering from such are moved to directly following arrival at the UK border.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200990>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200991>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Short-term Holding Facilities: Paintings

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [195189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to replace the murals designed to welcome lone child refugees that were painted over at immigration centres with age-appropriate murals.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [195190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, from where paint used to cover up murals at immigration centres designed to welcome lone child refugees was procured.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [195191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost was of the paint used to cover murals designed to welcome lone child refugees at detention centres.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [195192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the paint used to cover up murals designed to welcome lone child refugees was manufactured in the UK.

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [195193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason removing murals designed to welcome lone child refugees at immigration centres was considered a priority.

Manston Asylum Processing Centre: Paintings

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [200571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether new (a) contractors and (b) materials were used to paint over the mural at the Manston Immigration Centre.

Kent Intake Unit: Paintings

Stephanie Peacock (Labour) [200720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 September 2023 to Question 198113 on Kent Intake Unit: Paintings, whether her Department paid for the work hours of contractors used to paint over the mural at the Kent Intake Unit.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Existing contractors based onsite carried out the work. There was no cost to the taxpayer.

Whilst the murals have been removed, other features at the facility include larger and softer interview rooms, an outside space, prayer rooms, a larger reception area and improved security measures to ensure the safety of those on site. The KIU is a bespoke building that was opened in 2022 designed to meet the needs of unaccompanied minors, with increased capacity allowing more children to be seen and their requirements identified as swiftly as possible.

It should be noted that very few under-13s pass through the Kent Intake Unit and these children are prioritised to be moved to Kent County Council care at the earliest opportunity. The overwhelming majority of unaccompanied children who passed through the location last year were largely teenagers. The Home Office has worked closely with Local Authorities, including increase funding, to expedite the transfer time so that unaccompanied minors reach local authorities as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195189>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195190>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195191>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195192>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-19/195193>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-19/200571>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200720>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-06/198113>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Deportation

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [203279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people whose asylum applications were rejected have been deported in the last 12 months.

Offenders: Deportation

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [203280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many convicted foreign-born criminals were deported in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on returns in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum-related returns by return type (including enforced returns of which 'deportations' are a legally defined subset) are published in table Ret_05 of the '[Returns summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns. Data on returns of Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) are published in table Ret_D03 of the '[Returns detailed datasets](#)' and are broken down by nationality not by country of birth. Data on FNO returns aren't broken down by return type however the vast majority will be enforced returns, of which 'deportations' are a legally defined subset.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data for returns relates to end March 2023.

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been withdrawn, refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality).

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203279>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203280>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers: Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

Lord Cashman (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to maintain, and (2) to enhance, the protection of asylum seekers who would risk ill-treatment if returned to a country of origin because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Migration and Borders (Lord Murray of Blidworth): The Government are committed to delivering an asylum system that continues to protect individuals from persecution, including that based on sexual orientation and gender identity. At the same time, we remain determined to tackle illegal migration so that we deter individuals from

risking their lives making dangerous channel crossings.

Lord Cashman: ... I ask this Question in relation to assurances given during the passage of the Illegal Migration Bill through your Lordships' House, in particular on LGBT+ asylum seekers. I remain deeply concerned given the recent statements made by the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, in the United Kingdom and the United States and the misrepresentation—indeed, the belittling—of the discrimination experienced by women and LGBT+ people, which, I believe, undermine the assurances given. Therefore, having given the Minister sight of my Question because I believe that we need to detoxify this issue, I ask the Government for an unequivocal reassurance that they will abide by the commitments made to this House and will maintain the principle of assessing the risk of persecution faced by women and LGBT+ people, which is established in law and which I believe forms the basis of a humane, comprehensive asylum policy.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: ... I can assure noble Lords that the cornerstone of the asylum consideration process remains the requirement to establish a well-founded fear of persecution for a reason set out in Article 1A(2) of the 1951 refugee convention and enshrined in last year's Nationality and Borders Act. There has been no downgrading of the threshold. We do not return asylum seekers to their home countries if their sexuality or gender would place them at risk of future serious harm or persecution. This is of course the principle derived from the case of HJ (Iran), which we discussed during the passage of the Illegal Migration Bill. Nor would we relocate someone to a safe third country if there was a real risk of their suffering serious and irreversible harm if they were removed from the United Kingdom.

Lord Lexdon (Conservative): My Lords, is it not the case that many LGBT people seeking asylum do not have access to legal advice to help them prepare for interviews in which they must explain convincingly why they fear persecution in their own countries? Has the Home Office made any assessment of the impact that speeding up asylum processing will have on those who lack legal advice as they prepare for their interviews?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Legal advice is certainly an issue we are aware of, and assistance is provided to those making applications. It may be of note to my noble friend that the number of LGB claims in 2022 almost doubled—an 89% increase compared to 2021. Thus, in 2022, 2% of asylum claims in the United Kingdom—1,334 claims—included sexual orientation as part of the basis for the claim. There do not appear to have been any issues concerning representation, given the increase in the number of such claims.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, can the Government look further at implementing compassionate, community-based alternatives to detention, as recommended in the evaluation published by the UNHCR earlier this year of the two Home Office funded pilot projects which ran from June 2019 to June 2022?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the noble Baroness will recall, as part of the structure of the Illegal Migration Act detention forms an important part of the deterrent effect to dissuade people from crossing the channel. Of course, detention should only be done when it is necessary. In these circumstances the Government take the view that it is.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, while the Minister's earlier remarks were very welcome, feeding the culture of disbelief in the Home Office, as the Home Secretary did, too often means that women who claim asylum on the basis of sexual orientation have their claims wrongly refused. What steps will the Government take to tackle this damaging culture of disbelief?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I do not accept that there is a damaging culture of disbelief. Asylum claims are taken very seriously by the department, as can be seen from the grant rates in asylum cases. We also have a very elaborate appeal structure to independent members of the judiciary, so I do not accept the

premise of the noble Baroness's question.

Lord Duncan of Springbank (Conservative): My Lords, I am slightly troubled by some of the remarks made by the Home Secretary, to be perfectly frank. There is a phrase, "performative utterance". By creating a space in which it is possible to doubt and to sow that doubt you are therefore making it discomfoting for those who might seek asylum in this country and all the good things which we have stated. I would like to believe that the Home Secretary did not mean what she said. Is the Minister sure that she did mean that?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I am unsure what my noble friend has deduced from the Home Secretary's speech. She merely observed that the European Court of Human Rights could be more transparent and accountable in how it interprets rights. The Government do not believe that it is necessary to leave the ECHR in order to deliver major priorities such as tackling illegal migration. I can only commend her speech to noble Lords. It repays careful reading.

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, does this not go to the heart of the problem the noble Lord, Lord Duncan, has just outlined? The Minister gives us reassurances from the Dispatch Box and, as my noble friend Lord Cashman said, we had many reassurances during the passage of the Illegal Migration Act. However, it does not alter the fact that the Minister's boss, the Home Secretary, stated that claiming asylum on the basis of persecution for being gay or a woman would not be sufficient. Who are we to believe? Is the Minister making up policy different from that of the Home Secretary, or will he now go back to her and say that this House demands an asylum system based on the principles we have always had—that where anybody faces persecution, this country offers a safe haven?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I fear that the noble Lord has not read the Home Secretary's speech closely enough. She asserted that there exist interpretative shifts away from persecution in favour of discrimination, and from well-founded fear towards a credible or plausible fear, and there may be a need to tighten the definition of who qualifies for protection.

Lord Hayward (Conservative): My Lords, the Question asked by the noble Lord, Lord Cashman, refers to ill treatment and sexual orientation. When I steered through this Chamber the same-sex marriage legislation relating to Northern Ireland, a friend of mine was sat in the Public Gallery who would have qualified under that law, being an Ulsterman. He had been subjected to conversion therapy. Can my noble friend please convey a message back to the Government that a large number of people in this House would welcome a conversion therapy Bill being introduced in the King's Speech?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I am afraid that, just like my noble and learned friend Lord Bellamy, I do not know what will be in the King's Speech, but I will certainly take that point back. The Government remain committed to upholding the rights of LGBT+ people and stand with those around the world facing persecution in relation to their sexuality or gender. No one should be persecuted because of their sexuality or gender identity.

Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour): On two occasions during this session of Questions, interpretations have been put, one way or the other, on utterances of the Home Secretary. The noble and learned Lord, Lord Bellamy, has argued his case, and the Minister is doing the same. Can we deduce from these differences of understanding that the Home Secretary has mastered the art of studied ambiguity and is able in her speeches to say just enough of an unacceptable nature to persuade people that that is the policy of the Government she represents? Could the Minister perhaps have a little word with his boss to indicate that people are broadly getting the message that all her speeches need to be interpreted, because none of us understands much about where she wants to go with her political career?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I am afraid that I must disagree with the noble Lord. My right honourable friend the Home Secretary is always admirably

clear in her speeches, and there can be no doubt that the issues she discussed in the learned speech she gave in Washington are ones the House should consider closely.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-10-25/debates/72E5480C-9824-4707-879B-769E147713F4/AsylumSeekersSexualOrientationOrGenderIdentity>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL10718] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any potential benefits of extending Homes for Ukraine visas beyond three years.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In line with the situation in Ukraine, working closely with the Ukrainian Government, as well as our international counterparts, we keep the need for a possible extension of UK sanctuary, beyond March 2025, under consistent review.

The UK Government stands with Ukraine and firmly believes that Ukraine will be safe again. When it's safe to do so, Ukraine will need the repatriation of its citizens to help recover and rebuild their economy and infrastructure. Our approach therefore has been to provide 36 months sanctuary under our Ukraine visas which are temporary and do not lead to settlement.

We are, however, also mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead, for example if remaining in the UK, entering into rental agreements and living here independently.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-23/hl10718>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

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

Migrants: Health Services and Visas

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10526] To ask His Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the total number of people already in the UK likely to be affected by the increase in (1) visa fees, and (2) the Immigration Health Surcharge, scheduled for 4 October; and whether they have undertaken an equalities impact assessment.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office has undertaken Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) for visa fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) increases. The visa fee EIA was published on 19 September on gov.uk, the IHS EIA is due to be published shortly.

The link to the EIA can be found at the below link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-nationality-fees-equality-impact-assessment>

Regulatory Impact Assessments produced to accompany the legislation to increase the visa fee and IHS respectively analyse the potential impact on migration, broken down by visa product and delineated on applications made in and out of country.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10526>

Migrants: Health Services and Visas

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10527] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have made provision to support migrants already in the UK who are unable to afford the forthcoming increase in visa fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Where a person applying on a family and human rights immigration route is unable to afford the visa fee and/or the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), they are able to submit a Fee Waiver application to request that the Fee and/or IHS is waived. Where this is backed by clear and compelling evidence provided by the individual, the fees may be waived if the applicant cannot afford them.

Exemptions from visa fees and the IHS are also in place for certain vulnerable cohorts, including asylum seekers, looked after children and Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10527>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10560] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ability of newly recognised refugees to apply for Universal Credit and receive a first payment within the 28-day move-on period.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Asylum Support is available to asylum seekers through the Home Office whilst their status is under consideration. This support continues for 28 days after refugee status is granted. A claim to Universal Credit can be made immediately once refugee status is granted and Asylum Support is not deducted from the Universal Credit award during the 28 days period. Individuals should not wait until the end of the 28 days to make a Universal Credit claim and have received guidance to encourage them to apply for Universal Credit as soon as they receive a decision on their asylum claim.

The first regular Universal Credit payment is usually made around five weeks after the claim is made. New claimants, including refugees, who need financial support before the end of their first assessment period can apply for a Universal Credit advance as soon as their ID and immigration status is verified. This will mean that they may be able to receive payments within the 28-day move-on period. This is an advance of up to 100% of their total expected award, which is paid back over a period of up to 24 months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10560>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Biometric Residence Permits

Baroness Lister of Burtersett Labour) [HL10557] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remark by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 3 February 2022 (HL Deb col 1070) that the 28-day moving-on period "does not start until refugees have been issued with a biometric residence permit", why they have changed their policy towards the moving-on period; and, following the policy change, what actions they will take to ensure that people granted refugee status receive their Biometric Residence Permit at the same time they are informed that their claim for asylum has been granted.

Migrant Help

Baroness Lister of Burtersett Labour) [HL10558] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to their change of policy around the moving-on period for migrants in August 2023, what assessment they have made of the capacity of Migrant Help to provide support to refugees to navigate the move-on period through the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility contract.

Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL10559] To ask His Majesty's Government

what proportion of people granted refugee status in the second quarter of 2023 having applied for asylum were supported by the Home Office under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 at the time they received the decision on their claim.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett Labour [HL10561] To ask His Majesty's Government what evidence they have received from (1) local authorities, and (2) voluntary sector organisations, regarding the impact on refugees of the changes to the move-on period for people whose asylum claim has been granted.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: To reduce the number of people currently accommodated in hotels and other accommodation types, and therefore reduce costs and limit the burden on the taxpayer, we are reliant upon people who are no longer eligible for asylum support leaving the asylum accommodation estate as quickly as possible. This number is increasing due to significant efforts underway to clear the asylum backlog.

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. There has been no change to the prescribed period.

Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as quickly as possible. We offer support through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Newly recognised refugees are entitled to housing assistance from their local authority and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them. We are engaging the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as well as our accommodation and support contractors including Migrant Help, on ensuring individuals can move on from asylum support as smoothly as possible.

We will consider evidence received from voluntary sector organisations and local authorities and will respond to them via the usual routes.

A notice to quit (NTQ) will only be issued once a person has been issued a biometric residence permit (BRP).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10557>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10558>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10559>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10561>

Baroness Williams' remarks referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-03/debates/9DC6EED3-5277-4E39-B2E5-CE25FEA89DA3/NationalityAndBordersBill#contribution-5BBDEC45-0353-464A-AA1B-D0714D80C322>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10528] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have expanded the capacity of the Department of Work and Pensions to provide local support to refugees who have been given asylum recently as a result of the backlog of applications being cleared.

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL10529] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have expanded the capacity of the Department of Work and Pensions to provide local support to refugees who, as a consequence of the backlog of applications being cleared, have recently been given asylum.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: Work Coaches have access to information on a range of services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants, including refugees. We also have access to a range of translation services to assist, should a claimant need support to overcome any language barriers.

Work Coaches receive training to help them build supportive relationships with claimants, including refugees, encouraging them to openly discuss any barriers, concerns, or problems as they emerge.

Work Coaches will provide tailored employment support to meet their customer's needs. They utilise a wide range of tools to ensure that we are providing intensive employment support to these customers. This includes the use of Flexible Support Fund, Sector based work academy programme, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Jobs Fairs, collaboration with local partners and Group Information Sessions.

Claimants can also give permission to share their UC account journal with support workers. The opportunity to combine face to face contact with on-line support has helped alleviate some of the communication barriers within legacy benefits which were traditionally more reliant on telephone and written forms of communications. Work Coaches can also use the on-line account to remind claimants of any information needed in order to ensure that their claim is processed smoothly.

More generally, we are increasing capacity in our Decision Making teams, during both this and the next quarter, to help meet demand for benefit decisions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10528>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10529>

Asylum: Children

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10521] To ask His Majesty's Government, following the High Court ruling that the use of hotels to house unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is unlawful, what steps they will take to end the use of hotels for this purpose.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Hotel accommodation is a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) arriving in the UK and is only ever a contingency option, not a long-term solution. The high number of UASC arrivals, particularly because of small boat crossings, has placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). Out of necessity, the Home Office have accommodated UASC on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels while placements with local authorities have been vigorously pursued.

The High Court recently ruled that the routine and systematic use of hotels to accommodate UASC is unlawful, and we are working at pace with Kent County Council, other government departments and local authorities across the UK to ensure suitable local authority placements are provided for UASC urgently and sustainably. The High Court has upheld that local authorities have a statutory duty to care for all children including UASC. The Home Office have always maintained that the best place for UASC to be accommodated is within a local authority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10521>

The High Court ruling 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 [HL10523] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the provision of specialist foster care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children across the UK.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The department recognise that local authorities across the country want to recruit more foster carers to provide loving homes for the children in their care, including for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). The government is investing over £27 million in this parliament in a fostering recruitment and retention programme that will support local authorities to ensure that there are more foster carers available for the children who need them, including UASC. This will include a recruitment support hub which will work alongside a regional recruitment campaign to drive interest and enquiries in fostering. This may include specialist support and targeted campaigns to recruit specialist foster carers who are able to care for UASC. The department will work with regions to look at their local data to inform where efforts need to be targeted. This could include sibling groups, teenagers and UASC.

UASC are transferred to the care of local authorities through the National Transfer Scheme, ensuring their care is distributed fairly across the UK. Local authorities have a duty to accommodate all UASC who arrive in their area and these children are entitled to the same protections and support as any other looked-after child, which includes ensuring decisions about their care and accommodation, including where UASC are placed in foster care, are made with the best interests of each individual child.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10523>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Self-harm and Suicide

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL10531] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the numbers of asylum seekers who have (1) self-harmed, (2) attempted suicide, or (3) died by suicide, who are currently either living or lived in initial and dispersed asylum accommodation provided by the Home Office via contracts.

Asylum: Self-harm

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL10532] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to reduce the risk of self-harm amongst asylum seekers living in initial and dispersed asylum accommodation provided by the Home Office via contracts.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office operates a Safeguarding Hub to support vulnerable individuals. Both 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 police, NHS, and social services to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions.

As well as making safeguarding referrals to the appropriate statutory agencies other actions include attendance at child/adult protection meetings with police and social workers and liaising with both external and internal partners to share information.

The statutory agencies retain responsibility for all decisions on intervention activity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10531>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10532>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL10533] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) adequacy, (2) quality, (3) nutritional content, and (4) cultural appropriateness, of the food being provided to asylum seekers living in initial

and dispersed asylum accommodation provided by the Home Office via contracts.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL10534] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that the food provided to asylum seekers living in initial and dispersed asylum accommodation provided by the Home Office via contracts (1) is adequate, (2) meets minimum quality standards, (3) meets basic nutritional needs, and (4) is culturally appropriate.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Asylum seekers in initial accommodation are provided with three meals a day with a choice of at least one hot, one cold selection and a vegetarian option. Babies and small children are also provided with appropriate foodstuffs and can be fed whenever necessary. Options are provided for any asylum seeker with special dietary, cultural or religious requirements where specified. Food service meets appropriate nutritional standards and accommodation providers ensure that each varied menu is validated by a suitably qualified nutritionist or health professional as being appropriate.

Those in dispersal accommodation are provided with £47.39 per week, to meet essential living needs including food provision.

There are additional payments for pregnant women, children and babies as follows:

Extra payments	Pregnant mother	Baby under 1	Child aged 1-3
Pregnancy payment (per week)	£3	£5	£3
	S95 Applicants	S4 applicants	
Maternity Payment (per month)	£300	£250	

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10533>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/hl10534>

Asylum: Housing

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL10685] To ask His Majesty's Government what measures they are taking to ensure that asylum seekers who are granted refugee status in the UK are not at increased risk of homelessness and destitution as a result of recent policy changes to the 'move-on' process, which requires newly-recognised refugees to quit Home Office accommodation on seven days' notice instead of 28 days; and what measures they are taking to ensure that this policy change does not place unnecessary pressures on local authority homelessness services and the voluntary sector.

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. There has been no change to the prescribed period.

Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as quickly as possible. We offer support through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Newly recognised refugees are entitled to housing assistance from their local authority and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them. We are ensuring our cross government partners, such as the (DWP) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are sighted on data to enable them to consider the impacts of increased decision making and effectively plan. We are also working with DLUHC to ensure the right asylum

decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/hl10685>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10724] To ask His Majesty's Government what impact assessment was carried out for the policy to start the 28-day move-on period from when a person receives a refugee grant letter, instead of when they receive their Biometric Residence Permit.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL10725] To ask His Majesty's Government for how many people has the 28-day move-on period commenced from the date they received a refugee grant letter rather than when they received a Biometric Residence Permit.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The impact assessment which you have requested is for internal use and is not routinely published.

Following the service of an asylum decision, an individual continues to be an asylum seeker for the purpose of asylum support until the end of the relevant prescribed period, also known as the 'grace period' or 'move on period'. This period is 28 calendar days from when an individual is notified of a decision to accept their asylum claim and grant them leave. This period remains as 28 days and there are no plans to change this. This means that all individuals who receive a positive decision on their asylum claim are eligible to support and accommodation for at least 28 days from when their decision is served.

Confirmation of the exact date an individual's support and accommodation is due to end is issued in a 'notice to quit' (NTQ) or 'notice to vacate' (NTV) letter. This will either be at least 7 days from when the notice is issued, or the date on which the grace period comes to an end, whichever is the greatest. This means that where an individual's grace period has passed and they are issued an NTQ/NTV, they will remain eligible to support and accommodation for at least another 7 days. A NTQ/NTV will only be issued once a person has been issued a biometric residence permit (BRP).

Individuals should make plans to move on from asylum support as soon as they are served their asylum decision, regardless of when their BRP or NTQ/NTV is issued. We offer support to all individuals through Migrant Help or their partner organisation in doing this. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Newly recognised refugees are entitled to housing assistance from their local authority and are treated as a priority need if they have children or are considered vulnerable. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them. We are ensuring our cross government partners, such as the (DWP) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are sighted on data to enable them to consider the impacts of increased decision making and effectively plan. We are also working with DLUHC to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. Our accommodation providers are directly working with local authorities to notify them when an individual is due to have their asylum support ended.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-23/hl10724>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-23/hl10725>

Press Releases

Exit from asylum hotels shows progress on illegal migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/exit-from-asylum-hotels-shows-progress-on-illegal-migration>

Home Office to exit first 50 asylum hotels by the end of January

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-to-exit-first-50-asylum-hotels-by-the-end-of-january>

New Publications

Asylum: letter to UK Government

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/asylum-letter-to-uk-government/>

The Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in Scotland

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/EHRCJ/2023/10/24/4f9cdeb0-de83-47f2-8dbd-c2ec1a215701/EHRCJS062023R8.pdf>

House of Commons Public Accounts Committee: The Asylum Transformation Programme

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41815/documents/207356/default/>

Attitudes to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland 2022

<https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/attitudes-to-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-ni-2022.html>

Guidance: Asylum hotel summary and FAQ

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-hotels-exit-summary-information/asylum-hotel-summary-and-faq>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Immigration Fees

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9859/CBP-9859.pdf>

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: September 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/653a4e2580884d0013f71bbc/WCS_data_-_September_2023.ods

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>

News: Afghanistan

First flight bringing Afghan refugees from Pakistan lands in UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67235667>

Afghans who fled Taliban to UK ‘set to be made homeless at Christmas’

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/29/afghans-who-fled-taliban-to-uk-set-to-be-made-homeless-at-christmas>

Tories 'slam door' on 20 Afghan girls who defied Taliban and want to study in Scotland
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/uk-government-cannot-commit-allowing-31275078>

Brave Afghans deserve better than our shameful, incompetent resettlement programme
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/afghan-arap-asylum-migrant-resettlement-jenrick-hotels-b2435169.html>

News: Ukraine

Ukrainian refugees face a cut in welfare payments
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainian-refugees-face-a-cut-in-welfare-payments-pm5j5fbst>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

UK Government plans to MRI scan asylum-seeking children branded reprehensible
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-plans-to-mri-scan-asylum-seeking-children-branded-reprehensible-4380921>

'Urgent' clarity needed on the number of unaccompanied children seeking asylum in Scotland
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/urgent-clarity-needed-on-the-number-of-unaccompanied-children-seeking-asylum-in-scotland-4382973>

Overseas students and workers targeted in illicit UK visa trade
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/29/uk-visa-appointments-south-asia-brokers-illegally-buying>

Ex-PM Truss wanted stranded migrants brought to UK
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67227553>

Cutting asylum backlog will mean more homeless refugees, Glasgow council warns
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/24/cutting-asylum-backlog-will-increase-refugee-homelessness-glasgow-council-warns>

Government to close 50 migrant hotels
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67201589>

Migrant hotel will start closing in the coming days, says minister Robert Jenrick
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67201589>

Government to close 100 migrant hotels by spring
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/100-migrant-hotels-close-government-robert-jenrick-immigration-minister-m2mnlfqx3>

Forcing asylum seekers into shared hotel rooms to cut costs is unsafe, Sunak warned in scathing report
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seeker-hotels-home-office-sunak-b2436333.html>

Asylum hotel closures may shift cost to councils, councillors warn

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67212103>

Where are asylum seekers being housed in hotels in the UK?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67206459>

Home Office has no plan to end migrant hotels, MPs find

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-has-no-plan-to-end-migrant-hotels-mps-find-srmkkgbk9>

Man tries to kill himself after hearing of move to Bibby Stockholm

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/29/man-tries-kill-himself-move-bibby-stockholm>

Britain's asylum system is a national embarrassment

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/asylum-delays-immigrant-hotels-foreign-office-afghanistan-b2436655.html>

Plan for UK to host thousands of Gaza refugees drawn up by charities

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/23/plan-for-uk-to-host-thousands-of-gaza-refugees-drawn-up-by-charities>

Supporting people in crisis

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/supporting-people-in-crisis/>

Human rights and asylum in Scotland – government must act on findings in new report

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/human-rights-and-asylum-in-scotland-government-must-act-on-findings-in-new-report/>

A helping hand for families

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/a-helping-hand-for-families/>

Swindon female asylum seekers moved with 10 hours' notice

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-67147307>

Is the asylum backlog going down and other claims checked

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67218424>

How were the 39 people killed in the Essex lorry case identified?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-66884230>

Northern Ireland: Young asylum seekers face restricted access to education

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-67147183>

Decisions on benefits and migrants 'being made by AI'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/decisions-on-benefits-and-migrants-being-made-by-ai-rnz6dc0hl>

'Here all the people know each other, that's the nicest thing': Syrian refugee featured in photography exhibition praises tight-knit Bute community

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/here-all-the-people-know-each-other-thats-the-nicest-thing-syrian-refugee-featured-in-photography-exhibition-praises-tight-knit-bute-community-4389485>

We shouted with joy when the email arrived. Now we have leave to remain in Britain – but can we afford it?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/11/asylum-cost-of-living-food-banks-heat-or-eat-diaries>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Topical Questions: Women and Equalities

The Minister for Women and Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): As the Minister for Women and Equalities, it would be remiss of me not to reflect on the way religious communities in the UK have been impacted by the terrible events in the middle east. All our citizens have a right to feel secure and at peace in Britain. One of the reasons we have been able to integrate people from all over the world is an unwritten rule that people with roots elsewhere do not play out foreign conflicts on the streets of this country. We owe a duty of care and civility to our neighbours, whatever their ethnicity, religion or background. All of us are free to practise our faiths and celebrate our cultures, but we must do so in a positive way, consistent with fundamental values that are the bedrock of Britain.

I am afraid to say that in recent days we have seen that social contract being breached. In particular, I believe that the hostility directed towards our Jewish communities, the calls for jihad, the ostentatious indifference to the victims of terrorism, the aggressive chanting by mobs brandishing placards of hate, and the odious people ripping down posters of missing children do not reflect our values as a nation.

We must all stand firm on the boundaries of acceptable behaviour, particularly in the public space that we all share. That is why today I am reminding public sector organisations that they have a legal obligation, as part of the equality duty, to consider how they contribute to the advancement of good relations in communities as they deliver public services. Where organisations are having difficulty doing that, I urge them to write to me as soon as possible for advice on how they can fulfil their legal obligations.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-25/debates/4394C5FA-3BFC-4A81-8F88-7E8B74F31132/TopicalQuestions#contribution-F3BAEAD4-283C-43E5-9505-0CA45C412E3E>

Press Release

Leaders reaffirm inter-faith solidarity in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/leaders-reaffirm-inter-faith-solidarity-in-scotland/>

News

The King is wrong to extol separate communities

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-king-is-wrong-to-extol-separate-communities-ql0g5zjk0>

Half of Britons can't name a Black British historical figure, survey finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/26/half-of-britons-cant-name-a-black-british-historical-figure-survey-finds>

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Afzal Khan (Labour) [906703] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps she is taking to help tackle racial inequality.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: We published our ground-breaking race equality strategy last year.

Inclusive Britain set out 74 actions to tackle entrenched ethnic disparities across health, education, employment, policing and criminal justice.

18 months on and we have completed over half of the actions, including:

- publishing new ethnicity pay guidance for employers;
- issuing improved guidance on behaviour in schools and on suspensions and permanent exclusions; and
- improving the stop and search process through new de-escalation skills training for police officers.

A further update will be provided to parliament in Spring 2024

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-19/906703>

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>

Faith Schools: Special Educational Needs

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [201641] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the implications for her policies of the findings of the research paper entitled *Serving their communities?* The under-admission of children with disabilities and 'special educational needs' to 'faith' primary schools in England, published in the Oxford Review of Education on 2 October 2023.

Reply from David Johnston: The department is determined that all children and young people receive the support they need to benefit from their education and progress to the next stage of their lives.

Children should be able to attend a school of their parents' choice where possible. By law, all children with an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan must be admitted to the school named in the Plan. A parent, carer, child or young person can request that a school designated as having a religious character (commonly known as a faith school) be named on an EHC Plan. Local authorities should do their best to accommodate such a request but should not name the school if it is unsuitable for the child's age, ability, aptitude and special educational needs, or if naming the school would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education of other children or the efficient use of resources.

Where a child with special educational needs does not have an EHC Plan, their parents will need to apply for a school place in the same way as for other children without an EHC Plan. Places must be allocated in accordance with the schools' published admissions criteria, which are set by the admission authority for each

school, but they must comply with the statutory School Admissions Code which exists to ensure that places are allocated in a fair and transparent manner. Admission authorities for schools designated as having a religious character may adopt admissions criteria which give priority to children of their faith, but they must offer a place to every applicant regardless of faith if there are sufficient places available. Free schools with a religious character may only allocate 50% of their places pupils by reference to faith in order to open up places to other children. Some other schools choose to limit the number of places they allocate with reference to faith, and many do not have faith admissions criteria at all.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201641>

The research paper referred to above can be read at

http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/120049/1/Campbell_serving_their_communities_published.pdf

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Historical representation of minority ethnic groups in the House of Commons

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9864/CBP-9864.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Educational outcomes of Black pupils and students

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9023/CBP-9023.pdf>

News

TUC: BME women 12 times more likely than men to be out of the labour market due to caring commitments

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-bme-women-12-times-more-likely-men-be-out-labour-market-due-caring-commitments>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [203394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to combat the rise in hate crimes following the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government is clear that all forms of hate crime, including antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crime, are completely unacceptable. We expect the police fully to investigate these abhorrent offences and make sure those who commit them feel the full force of the law.

In light of the horrific Hamas terrorist acts in Israel and related reports of increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million for the Community Security Trust to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other sites. The Home Secretary also chairs the Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce. This meeting brings together Government, law enforcement and the Community Security Trust in order

to address Jewish community security concerns.

The Government is also concerned about increased reports of anti-Muslim hatred. The Home Office has extended the deadline for the protective security for mosques scheme and invite mosques and Muslim faith community centres to register for protective security measures. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has allocated over £6m to Tell MAMA since their inception in 2012 for their vital work monitoring and supporting victims of anti-Muslim hatred.

We are continuing to support the police to ensure they have the resources and tools required to tackle any incidents relating to the ongoing conflict. Where people incite racial or religious hatred or where people's conduct is threatening, abusive or disorderly and causes distress to others, we expect the police to take action to ensure perpetrators can be brought to justice.

More broadly, the Government continues to fund True Vision, an online hate crime reporting portal, designed so that victims of hate crime do not have to visit a police station to report. We also continue to fund the National Online Hate Crime Hub, a central capability designed to support individual local police forces in dealing with online hate crime. The Hub provides expert advice to police forces to support them in investigating these offences.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203394>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-support-to-keep-british-jewish-communities-safe>

The True Vision website, referred to above, can be read at

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

Information about the National Online Hate Crime Hub, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-new-national-online-hate-crime-hub>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Facebook: Non-crime Hate Incidents

John Hayes (Conservative) [203207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents relating to posts made on Facebook were investigated by the police in each year for which records exist.

X Corp: Non-crime Hate Incidents

John Hayes (Conservative) [203208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents relating to posts made on X were investigated by the police in each year for which records exist.

TikTok: Non-crime Hate Incidents

John Hayes (Conservative) [203209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-crime hate incidents relating to posts made on TikTok were investigated by the police in each year for which records exist.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not centrally collect data on non-crime hate incidents from the police.

A review into the recording of NCHI, reporting to the Policing Minister, is underway.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203207>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203208>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-18/203209>

Hate Crime: Prosecutions

Mark Logan (Conservative) [201490] To ask the Attorney General, what steps she is

taking to ensure that the Crown Prosecution Service is adequately resourced to prosecute hate crime against members of religious minority communities (a) on social media and (b) in community settings.

Reply from Victoria Prentis: The Government is committed to delivering justice for victims of hate crimes committed in our communities and online, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) considers all cases referred by the police.

Considering the events unfolding in the Middle East, a package of measures has been put in place to provide ongoing support to the police. This includes updating existing guidance on protests and offering the use of prosecutors in command centres to advise in real time.

In the rolling year to March 2023, the CPS has prosecuted 380 religiously aggravated and 9,1234 racially aggravated hate crime offences, with a charge rate of 85% and 87% respectively. These include aggravated malicious communication offences.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201490>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/cps-prosecution-guidance-protests-and-demonstrations-light-middle-east-conflict>

and

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/racist-and-religious-hate-crime-prosecution-guidance>

and

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/offences-during-protests-demonstrations-or-campaigns>

Hate Crime

Afzal Khan (Labour) [201247] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has held meetings in 2023 on (a) Islamophobia and (b) hate crime against Muslims.

Reply from Lee Rowley: This Government is committed to doing everything we can to tackle anti-Muslim hatred, and all forms of prejudice in our society. Ministers across Government hold meetings covering these important issues regularly.

DLUHC has allocated over £6 million to support Tell MAMA since their inception in 2012 for their vital work monitoring and supporting victims of anti-Muslim hatred.

In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed. Details of meetings with external organisations are published on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201247>

Hate Crime: Muslims

Afzal Khan (Labour) [201246] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has held meetings in 2023 on (a) Islamophobia and (b) hate crime against Muslims.

Reply from Tom Tugendhat: This Government is committed to doing everything we can to tackle anti-Muslim hatred, and all forms of prejudice in our society. Ministers across Government hold meetings covering these important issues regularly.

Details of meetings with external organisations are published on gov.uk.

In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201246>

Details of meetings as referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/home-office-ministers-hospitality-data#2023>

Hate Crime: Muslims

Afzal Khan (Labour) [201248] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, whether she has held meetings in 2023 on (a) Islamophobia and (b) hate crime against Muslims.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: This Government is committed to doing everything we can to tackle anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of prejudice in our society. Ministers across Government regularly hold meetings covering these important issues. In line with the practice of successive administrations, details of internal discussions are not normally disclosed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201248>

Antisemitism

Jim Shannon (DUP) [201888] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department are taking to protect Jewish people from hate crimes.

Reply from Sarah Dines: The Government is clear that all forms of hate crime, including antisemitic hate crime, are completely unacceptable. We expect the police fully to investigate these abhorrent offences and make sure those who commit them feel the full force of the law.

In March 2023, the Home Secretary, announced the continuation of the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant and increased funding for 2023/24 by £1 million, to a total of £15 million. This grant provides protective security measures at Jewish schools, colleges, nurseries, and some other Jewish community sites, as well as a number of synagogues.

In light of the horrific Hamas terrorist acts in Israel and related reports of increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million for the Community Security Trust to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other sites.

The Home Secretary chairs the Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce. This meeting brings together Government, law enforcement and the Community Security Trust in order to address Jewish community security concerns. The Home Secretary also meets the Metropolitan Police Commissioner regularly, along with senior officers across the country, to ensure the police are doing everything they can to protect Jewish people from these crimes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201888>

The announcements referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-ramps-up-security-measures-to-protect-jewish-communities>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-support-to-keep-british-jewish-communities-safe>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [201023] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what recent assessment he has made of the extent of racism in the armed forces.

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [201024] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism in the armed forces.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: The Armed Forces, and Defence as a whole, are committed to taking action to eradicate racism and have a zero-tolerance approach towards it. We are committed to solidifying racial equality as a fundamental principle in Defence, creating a more inclusive environment for all, enabling everyone, irrespective of background, to deliver our outputs, enhance our operational effectiveness and better represent the nation we serve. Our department-wide Diversity and Inclusion strategy, the Armed Forces Race Action Plan, and the Civil

Service Race Action Plan clearly set out a challenging vision, goals, objectives, and commitments of where we want to see change.

We continue a wide programme of work to prevent and tackle unacceptable behaviour. All allegations of such behaviour are taken extremely seriously and investigated thoroughly. Service personnel have a number of routes to raise such issues, either with the military police, within the Chain of Command or independently with Diversity and Inclusion Advisers. Defence has mandated Active Bystander training so that personnel have the skills to challenge unacceptable behaviour effectively when it does occur.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201023>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201024>

The Diversity and Inclusion Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5f2d68ee8fa8f57ad042910f/20180806-MOD_DI_Plan_A4_v14_Final-U.pdf

The Action Plans referred to above are not available online

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Airports: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10794] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent racial profiling in airports.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Border Force cannot comment on behalf of other security and policing authorities at Airports.

The Immigration Rules require all arriving passengers to establish their eligibility for admission. Every passenger's passport or national identity card is checked electronically and there are also times when extra checks are conducted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-24/hl10794>

Press Release

Joint statement on Hate Crime from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/london-south/news/joint-statement-hate-crime-crown-prosecution-service-and-national-police>

New Publications

Community Briefing Paper: Building competent and effective anti-racism infrastructure in Scotland

https://bd6091c9-eb79-4275-8f82-a83d6f8aa544.filesusr.com/ugd/0202b1_25835bdc9d734c19bb8d30b83874873f.pdf

Co-designing Effective Anti-Racism Policy Infrastructure: Using participatory action research methods to engage with racially minoritised communities about the proposed Anti-Racism Observatory for Scotland

https://bd6091c9-eb79-4275-8f82-a83d6f8aa544.filesusr.com/ugd/0202b1_0b0ba284db3d487d9c645053c47f3d3e.pdf

Antisemitic Incidents Update – 27 October 2023

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/10/27/antisemitic-incidents-27-october-update>

Being Black in the EU – Experiences of people of African descent

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2023-being-black-in-the-eu-en.pdf

News

Hate crime soars in London during Gaza conflict

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67241374>

Hate crime law to be clarified after protest row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67197002>

Hate crime laws may need redrawing, says Met chief Mark Rowley

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67190812>

Tell MAMA received 400 anti-Muslim cases between October 7 and October 24

<https://tellmamauk.org/tell-mama-received-400-anti-muslim-cases-between-october-7-and-october-24/>

Visitors to UK who incite antisemitism will be removed, says minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/oct/25/visitors-to-uk-who-incite-antisemitism-will-be-removed-says-minister-robert-jenrick>

Antisemitism and Islamophobia: there is never any excuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/29/observer-view-on-rising-antisemitism-and-islamophobia>

Humza Yousaf hits back after Elon Musk brands him 'racist'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-67241312>

Elon Musk calls SNP leader Humza Yousaf a 'blatant racist'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/elon-musk-snp-humza-yousaf-b2437518.html>

Backlash after Elon Musk labels Scottish first minister Humza Yousaf racist

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/oct/27/backlash-after-elon-musk-labels-scottish-first-minister-humza-yousaf-racist>

Elon Musk calls Humza Yousaf a 'blatant racist' in response to Scottish parliament speech

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/elon-musk-calls-humza-yousaf-blatant-racist-resurfaced-george-floyd-tweet-speech-5nspwjzp9>

BBC article on white privilege criticised by anti-racism group

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-article-on-white-privilege-criticised-by-anti-racism-group-jj8lhlqpv>

I was interrogated at airport because my name is Mohammad, says Labour MP

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-was-interrogated-at-airport-because-my-name-is-mohammad-says-labour-mp-w30p0nnp0>

Holocaust Memorial Day Resources

<https://www.actiononprejudice.info/news/holocaust-memorial-day-resources/>

Black people in the EU face ever more racism

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2023/black-people-eu-face-ever-more-racism>

University of Glasgow staff disclose racist incidents

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23876791.university-glasgow-staff-disclose-racist-incidents/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Forced Marriage Unit

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202616] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will hold discussions with the Comptroller and Auditor General on a possible value for money audit of the Forced Marriage Unit.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [202617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on how many occasions the Forced Marriage Unit had provided incorrect advice to victims in the latest period for which data is available.

Sarah Dines: The Government is committed to tackling forced marriage in all its forms.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) is jointly managed by the Home Office and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The FMU has assisted thousands of forced marriage victims and delivered training to over 5,000 professionals in the last three years. There are currently no plans for an audit of FMU, but its performance and value for money is kept under regular review.

The FMU has robust processes and procedures in place to ensure information given to victims and the professionals who support them is accurate. No complaints from victims have been received in the past four years for which records are available.

All cases reported to the FMU are recorded on a dedicated casework database.

FMU caseworkers check the full circumstances of each case before giving advice.

The FMU has no record of providing inaccurate information or advice to a victim or suspected victim of forced marriage.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202616>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202617>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Forced Marriage Unit

Pauline Latham (Conservative) [200717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how (a) much funding and (b) many full-time equivalent staff have been allocated to the Forced Marriage Unit in each financial year since its was founded; and how many cases have been reported to that unit in each of those years.

Pauline Latham (Conservative) [200852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding and how many full-time equivalent staff have been allocated to the Forced Marriage Unit in each financial year since its foundation; and how many cases have been reported to that unit in each of those years.

Forced Marriage: Children

Pauline Latham (Conservative) [200830] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) convictions, (b) prosecutions, (c) arrests and (d) live, ongoing criminal investigations there were for the new crime of arranging for a child to marry between the introduction of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Minimum Age) Act 2022 and 31 July 2023; and how many referrals the Forced Marriage Unit has received for child marriage cases in that time period.

Pauline Latham (Conservative) [200831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has (a) provided training for police officers on and (b) taken steps to monitor enforcement by police of the new crime of arranging for a child to marry since the introduction of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Minimum Age) Act 2022; whether her Department has published guidance for police officers on (i) preventing and (ii) intervening in suspected child marriage cases; what data her Department holds on safeguarding measures introduced by police forces to help ensure that suspected child marriage cases are managed adequately; and whether she has had discussions with the Secretaries of State for Health and for Education on (A) training on, (B) monitoring of, (C) guidance on and (D) safeguarding measures for the management of such cases by (1) social workers and (2) teachers.

Reply from Sarah Dines: The Government is committed to tackling forced marriage. On 27 February 2023, we brought into force legislation which raised the minimum age of marriage and civil partnership in England and Wales to 18, and expanded the offence of forced marriage so it is illegal to do anything to cause a child to marry before they turn 18, even if coercion is not used.

The joint Home Office and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has been actively raising awareness of the new forced marriage legislation in all its presentations and across its social media platforms since January 2023.

The FMU runs regular workshops and presentations for police officers, social workers, local authorities, registrars and others. In 2022, the FMU delivered training to 1,537 professionals and the unit has reached over 3,000 professionals by the end of September 2023. This includes bespoke training sessions on request to police forces. Over 650 police officers have been given this training since the legislation changed in February 2023. The Home Office also worked with the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on HBA to ensure that forces were prepared for the commencement of the legislation. This included a joint national meeting with relevant force leads and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) before the legislation came into force.

While the Home Office does not directly hold data on safeguarding measures introduced by police forces to help ensure that suspected child marriage cases are managed adequately, we do work closely with the dedicated NPCC lead for Honour Based Abuse to ensure forces have the support they need. In addition, the College of Policing published authorised professional practice guidance for officers on 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) which has been updated together with domestic abuse training and the Police Education Qualifications Framework to incorporate material about the new legislation.

Whilst there have not been dedicated meetings on this subject with Home Office Ministers and the DHSC and DfE Secretaries of State, Ministers do meet regularly to discuss matters of crime and safeguarding, with a dedicated VAWG Ministerial Steering Group taking place later this month.

The FMU is jointly funded by the Home Office and FCDO. It currently has six full time staff, two joint heads (one from each department) and four case workers. The Unit's operating costs including staff time, outreach activity and casework are funded through the departmental budgets of its parent organisations.

Statistics on prosecutions and convictions for the new offence of arranging for a child to marry as part of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Minimum Age) Act 2022 are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and are not currently available as the offence only came into force in February 2023. Statistics on the offence will be available in future publications of MoJ's Criminal Justice System Statistics. The Government does not hold data on arrests or investigations for the offence. The FMU publishes annual statistics, including on the total number of cases per year, online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forced-marriage-unit-statistics>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202717>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/201852>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200830>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-13/200831>

Press Releases

Details of the review into police use of force published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/details-of-the-review-into-police-use-of-force-published>

Woman convicted of aiding FGM of young girl abroad in legal first

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/woman-convicted-aiding-fgm-young-girl-abroad-legal-first>

News

How many people are like you in England and Wales?

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/populationprofiles/>

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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

Destitution in the UK 2023

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/60190/download?token=IGSNsKMj&filetype=full-report>

What is destitution and how do we tackle it?

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/what-destitution-and-how-do-we-tackle-it>

News

Scotland showing slowest increase in destitution due to scottish child payment

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scotland-seeing-slowest-increase-in-destitution-due-to-scottish-child-payment-4382096>

The geography of destitution 2023

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/geography-destitution-2023>

Flagship study finds a million children experienced destitution in the UK last year

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/flagship-study-finds-million-children-experienced-destitution-uk-last-year>

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Other News

Scottish Covid Inquiry: What is it investigating and how does it work?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-67194617>

Slavery apology should be Labour policy, MPs say

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67189913>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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>

Royal Assent

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-26/debates/419CF473-EAD9-4107-9733-5DD723F274FE/Osteoporosis#contribution-2763CB48-CF37-4F42-ACC4-8B48C9892E86>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

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

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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

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

**** Cost of Living Survey** (closing date 15 November 2023)

<https://volunteerscotland.cmail20.com/t/d-l-vdtkijd-yhxttwhh-j/>

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/>

**** Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 20 December 2023)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/abortion-services-saz-bill/consult_view/

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>

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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

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!**

Volunteering - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

1 November 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course for anyone working in Scotland's third sector who is responsible for or involved with a volunteering programme and is interested in learning why and how to take a human rights and equalities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mw2bk36r>

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/>

**** Funding and Fundraising - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach**

14 November 2023 (online, 1.00–4.00)

THRE course for anyone working in Scotland's third sector who is involved in funding and fundraising and is interested in learning why and how to take a human rights and equalities approach. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdesue5r>

Governance - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

15 November 2023 (online, 10.00–12.30)

THRE course for people who have a say, or give advice and support, on how boards or committees are run to provide tools to integrate human rights and equalities into the work of boards and committees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24kezby3>

PANEL Workshop: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach in Practice

20 November 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/dn5dkdud>

**** Why We Speak? An Interview with Second Generation Speaker Lu Lawrence**

24 November 2023 (online, 10.00–11.30)

Holocaust Educational Trust event for secondary schools. Lu Lawrence will speak about her late father, Holocaust survivor Zigi Shipper who spoke to hundreds of schools sharing the message “do not hate”. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdd48buf>

The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

27 and 28 November 2023 (online, 2.00–4.00)

THRE 2-day 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/bdhtkyd9>

**** Marking 85 years the start of the Kindertransport**

1 December 2023 (online, 10.00–11.30)

Holocaust Educational Trust event for primary schools to mark 85 years since the arrival of the first Kindertransport in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/6e854fnx>

**** Exploring the Holocaust: UK-wide Residential Course**

9-13 February 2024 (Leicester)

Application deadline 11 December 2023

Holocaust Educational Trust course for teachers and trainees to advance knowledge and inform classroom practice about the context of the Holocaust, Wartime persecution and murder, and Reactions to the Holocaust. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/46u8fdx7>

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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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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