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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Debate

#### Migration to Scotland: Scottish Government Proposals

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15541&i=132609#ScotParIOR>

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

#### Migration

**Keith Brown (SNP):** Our approach to migration and refugees should have dignity, fairness

and respect at its core, as opposed to the United Kingdom Government's hostile environment approach, which we currently have to endure.

Yesterday, the UK Government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda was ruled to be illegal by the Supreme Court. Can the First Minister provide information on any assessment of those plans by the Scottish Government? Will he confirm that more than £140 million of taxpayers' money, including Scottish taxpayers' money, has been squandered on that illegal scheme? Has he heard a single word of criticism from any Tory MSP of the huge waste of taxpayers' money on that unworkable, scandalous and illegal scheme? ...

**Reply from the First Minister (Humza Yousaf):** ... We need a humane system that does not leave asylum seekers stuck for years in destitution without the right to work.

We recently launched our paper on migration in an independent Scotland; it sets out our approach to migration, which is based very much on the values of dignity, fairness and respect. Migrants who come to this country contribute more than they take; they bring skills and experience that greatly benefit our economy and they enhance our society's diversity.

The UK Government's policy of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda is morally repugnant and has now been confirmed as unlawful, too. That policy should be consigned to the dustbin of history and should have no place in a modern and humane society.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15546&i=132678#ScotParlOR>

*The Supreme Court judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2023/745.html>

*The Paper on Migration referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-migration-scotland-independence/>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Asylum Seekers: Support

**Bob Doris (SNP)** [S6W-22559] To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to respond to any (a) challenges for and (b) impacts on (i) asylum seekers, (ii) public bodies supporting asylum seekers and (iii) third sector groups supporting asylum seekers in Scotland as a consequence of the UK Illegal Migration Act 2023.

**Reply from Emma Roddick:** The Scottish Government is opposed to the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and recognises that the Act as drafted would restrict the right to seek asylum in the UK, putting people in need of protection at risk and undermining the UK's international obligations to recognise refugees in the UK.

Scottish Ministers are currently engaged with officials to assess and identify any mitigations available, informed by engagement with stakeholders, including through a summit held in June 2023.

Limited information has been made available by the UK Government about planned implementation of the Act. This makes it challenging for the Scottish Government and our partners to consider what action it may be possible to take.

As asylum is reserved to the UK Parliament, the Scottish Government cannot lift or amend measures introduced by the Illegal Migration Act in relation to access to asylum in the UK. The Scottish Government also cannot amend restrictions placed on people seeking asylum while they await a decision, including long standing UK Government policies to restrict the right to work and access to public funds.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with our partners to support people

seeking asylum through the New Scots refugee integration strategy. We are undertaking engagement designed in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council and COSLA to inform the refresh of the New Scots refugee integration strategy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-22559>

*The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**Jamie Hepburn (SNP) [S6M-11237] Building A New Scotland: Migration to Scotland after Independence** – That the Parliament notes that Scotland’s population growth has relied on migration into Scotland; welcomes the fact that there are currently more people choosing to move to Scotland from the rest of the UK than those moving in the opposite direction; recognises the benefits of EU freedom of movement, which was lost as a result of Brexit; agrees that a decline in the working population would damage Scotland’s public services and economy; deplores the UK Government’s hostile rhetoric towards migrants, and welcomes the proposals in the Scottish Government paper, *Migration to Scotland after independence*, for a humane migration system tailored to Scotland’s needs.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-11237>

*The Scottish Government paper referred to above can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-migration-scotland-independence/>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Illegal Immigration

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Cleverly):** ... The Supreme Court has today upheld the judgment of the Court of Appeal, meaning that we cannot yet lawfully remove people to Rwanda. The important thing to note is that today’s judgment was made on the basis of facts from 15 months ago. The Government, of course, fully respect the Supreme Court, but its judgment does not weaken our resolve to deter people from making these illegal, dangerous and unnecessary journeys.

This is a lengthy judgment that we now need to digest and reflect upon. We take our obligations to the courts very seriously, which is why we have already taken action to address a number of points raised by the lower courts. It is only through breaking the business model of illegal people traffickers that we can fully take control of our borders and save lives at sea. This is why the Prime Minister backed our deal with Rwanda, passed legislation to deliver it and said, last December, that other countries would follow our lead. ...

Nothing in today’s Supreme Court judgment dims our commitment. The Supreme Court said there are issues with Rwanda’s asylum system that could create the possibility of someone being returned to a country where they could face persecution. I am struck by the Court’s remarks about the risk of refoulement: “The structural changes and capacity-building needed to eliminate that risk may be delivered in the future, but they were not shown to be in place at the time when the lawfulness of the policy had to be considered in these proceedings.”

The judgment was making reference to the earlier proceedings. ...

We anticipated this judgment as a possible result and, for the last few months, have been working on a plan to provide the certainty that the Court demands. We have been working

with Rwanda to build capacity and to amend our agreement to make it clear that those sent there cannot be sent to any country other than the UK. Our intention is to upgrade our agreement to a treaty as soon as possible, which will make it absolutely clear to our courts and to Strasbourg that the risks laid out by the Court today have been responded to, will be consistent with international law and will ensure that Parliament is able to scrutinise it. The Prime Minister has said that, if our domestic legal framework frustrates our plans, he is prepared to change our laws, but we are not going to put forward proposals simply to manufacture an unnecessary row for political gain. ...

Illegal immigration is a huge global challenge, and that challenge is growing. ...

This a wonderful country. ... Inevitably, people aspire to come here. But more people coming here illegally is not fair on those struggling to get GP appointments, housing or access to schools, or on those people living near to asylum hotels. The impacts are felt by some of the poorest in our society and we have a duty to address their concerns. ...

Rwanda is ready and willing to help. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees operates its own refugee scheme in Rwanda. Rwanda is ready to receive thousands of people, process their claims, give them excellent care and then support them to integrate in Rwanda; this is an African country full of potential and promise. We have a future-focused, mutually beneficial partnership with it, and we have a plan to deliver it.

The Rwanda plan has only ever been one tool in our toolbox. ... Before the Prime Minister launched his 10-point plan last December, the number of people entering the UK illegally in small boats had more than quadrupled, but while illegal migration in the rest of Europe continues to rise, crossings to the UK are now down by a third. ...

Those who do make it through will not be able to stay. We have expedited returns arrangements with countries including France, Albania, Turkey and Italy. We have increased the number of illegal working raids by almost 70%. We have cut the asylum legacy backlog by more than 59,000 cases. We have freed up hundreds of hotel beds with the use of alternative sites. We have announced the closure of the first 50 asylum hotels and we have passed the Illegal Migration Act 2023, the most ambitious immigration legislation in decades, which makes clear that the only route to asylum in the UK is via one of the safe and legal routes we have put in place. Anyone who comes to the UK illegally will not be able to stay. They will be removed either to their home country, if it is safe, or to a safe third country, if it is not. ...

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** ... There is no serious plan on the dangerous boat crossings that are undermining our border security and putting lives at risk, the end of which we all want to see. There is no serious plan to sort out the chaos in the asylum system, including ending placing people in costly asylum hotels because of the soaring backlog. There was a readiness to spend more than £140 million of taxpayers' money on this plan—money we cannot get back now that the policy has totally failed. ...

The Supreme Court judgment outlines a catalogue of problems with the policy, but Ministers knew all about them. When it was first announced 18 months ago, I raised in the House the problems with the Israel-Rwanda deal. Ministers were warned many times about failures and weaknesses in the Rwanda asylum system, but they just pressed on. Even if the plan had been found lawful today, they have admitted it would have covered only a few hundred people anyway—at a time when 100,000 people applied for asylum in the UK last year, on the Conservative watch—and that it would have cost about twice as much per person as deciding cases in the UK.

The truth is the Government have wasted not just one but five years by failing to deal with the situation. Five years ago there were just a few hundred people crossing in boats, but they let criminal gangs take hold along the channel. They let asylum decisions collapse, so the backlog soared and there are now 20% more people in asylum hotels than there were when the Prime Minister promised to end that. ...

We support the work with France along the northern coast; we want it to go further. We support the work with Albania and with other countries across Europe to tackle the gangs,

but it is far, far too weak. We need a proper, comprehensive and massively scaled-up plan to go after the criminal gangs, a proper system to clear the backlog, and a proper returns unit in place so that we can end hotel use. ...

**Reply from James Cleverly:** ... The right hon. Lady talks about hotel usage, which I remind the House is coming down. She talks about small boat arrivals in the UK, which I remind the House are coming down. She talks about forming closer working relationships with our European partners, which I remind the House we are already doing. ...

We have always said that Rwanda, and the deterrent effect of the Rwanda plan, is an important tool in our toolbox; we have never claimed that it was the only one. We have always pursued a range of options ...

**Theresa May (Conservative):** ... Will he confirm that the judgment that the Supreme Court made today was not contingent on the European convention on human rights? Indeed, the fundamental judgment was made regardless of the ECHR.

**Reply from James Cleverly:** ... We looked closely at the judgment and found that it draws our attention to work that we can do, working with our partners in Rwanda, to address the Supreme Court's concerns about people being returned to unsafe countries. That is where we will address our focus, because that will be the pathway to ensuring that Rwanda remains a key element of our basket of responses to illegal migration. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** ... We on the SNP Benches were very glad to see the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court today. ...

The Supreme Court made it clear that Rwanda is not a safe country. At the heart of the judgment today is the principle of non-refoulement, which means that people must not be sent back into harm's way. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provided compelling evidence of Rwanda doing so, even after it signed the memorandum of understanding with the UK, as well as in its earlier deal with Israel. The UNHCR pointed out that it had rejected claims from countries such as Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan. It is absolutely ludicrous that those claims could be rejected. It also pointed to the lack of integrity in Rwanda's own systems. It is a serious problem and one that the Home Secretary claims today that he wants to fix, but he should focus his intentions instead on fixing the multiple failings of his own Department.

What now for the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and for the people who will now be left in immigration limbo without any recourse to claiming asylum? ... The solution lies not in puncturing the market in rubber dinghies, but in creating functioning safe and legal routes. In the first half of the year, the largest group in small boats were Afghans. ...

Many people make these dangerous journeys because they have no other option. ... When will he create a system that treats the most vulnerable in the world with the dignity and respect that they are due to rebuild their lives here in the UK? ...

**Reply from James Cleverly:** ... if Scotland, or rather the Scottish Government—not the Scottish people—want to be more generous in practical terms to people seeking refuge here, they can do so. In my experience, they choose not to. ...

I made clear in my statement the various work strands that we are doing in close co-operation with countries around the world to address all elements of the illegal migration pipeline, including interrupting the logistics around this evil practice, and it is working. ...

The hon. Lady talked about a number of things, but ultimately I am drawn to the remarks that the Court made about refoulement: "The structural changes and capacity-building needed to eliminate that risk may be delivered in the future". That is exactly what we are seeking to address. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-11-15/debates/B5A7AB50-06A1-4504-8FCB-554338FB8FA7/IllegalImmigration>

The Supreme Court Judgement about the Rwanda Refugee Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2023/745.html>

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

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Christian Wakeford (Labour)** [616] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many refugee claims have been accepted under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme since April 2023.

**Reply from James Heapey:** Since 1 April 2023, a total of 372 Principal applicants have been found eligible for relocation under the ARAP scheme.

I should note that the ARAP scheme is an application-based scheme offering support and assistance to those who worked for or alongside the UK in Afghanistan.

It is not intended as a relocation scheme for refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/616>

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>

### Afghanistan: Refugees

**Christian Wakeford (Labour)** [617] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many refugee claims have been rejected under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme since April 2023.

**Reply from James Heapey:** Since 1 April 2023, a total of 67,338 ARAP applications have been found ineligible.

ARAP was always intended to be a relocation scheme specifically for those who served in the employ of the British military (in all but a very narrow number of cases), or in support of wider UK national security objectives, as set out in the specific eligibility criteria in the ARAP policy.

A finite number of Afghans are therefore eligible for ARAP and The Ministry of Defence are prioritising finding and relocating those who we know are eligible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/617>

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

**Christian Wakeford (Labour)** [619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases have been accepted under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**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 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 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/619>

*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**

**John Healey (Labour)** [684] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme principals his Department has wrongly assessed as eligible.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** Under the first stage of ACRS Pathway 3, the FCDO have made assessments against the eligibility criteria as set out on gov.uk. In a small number of cases where an individual has been assessed as eligible in principle for resettlement, eligibility has subsequently been withdrawn. This is where we have received additional information, either from the individual or in the case of British Council or Gardaworld contractors from their relevant employer and the FCDO has assessed that the individual no longer meets the eligibility criteria or did not meet them in the first instance.

We will provide more detail on ACRS Pathway 3 numbers once we have completed processing all expressions of interest and have assured data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/684>

*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**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [269] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether all Afghan people who have been accepted for transfer to the UK will fly in on flights arranged by the Government.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Resettlement of eligible Afghans remains a top priority for this government. As of June 2023, around 24,600 vulnerable people affected by the events in Afghanistan have been brought to safety.

The UK government and our partners will arrange and fund travel for those accepted under our Afghan schemes as part of the resettlement and relocation process. Depending on the individual circumstances, this may be via charter or commercial flights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/269>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the standard of proof for unsafe journeys for Afghan people.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** We published guidance called “Unable to travel to a Visa Application Centre to enrol biometrics (overseas applications)” in May 2023, which is available on Gov.UK. It sets out how we treat applicants who claim it is unsafe for them to travel to a visa application centre (VAC) to enrol their biometrics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/596>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biometric-information/unable-to-travel-to-a-visa-application-centre-to-enrol-biometrics-overseas-applications-accessible>

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [1089] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

with reference to the Westminster Hall debate on Safe Asylum Routes: Afghan Refugees on 17 October 2023, whether unaccompanied children who came to the UK through the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme 1 will be able to sponsor family members who are still in (a) Afghanistan and (b) a third country, to resettle in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. However, the situation is complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes eligible immediate family members of those being resettled under the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1089>

*The debate referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-10-17/debates/449FB75E-4701-4CA5-999D-E098F278E714/SafeAsylumRoutesAfghanRefugees>

*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**

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [594] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to publish further guidance on family reunification for Afghan people resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme pathway 1.

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to give Afghan people on pathway 1 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (a) refugee and (b) humanitarian protection status for family reunion purposes.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. However, the situation is complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes eligible immediate family members of those being resettled under the ACRS.

Individuals resettled under Pathway 2 of the ACRS will be granted refugee status in the UK and will be eligible to sponsor their immediate family under the government's refugee family reunion scheme.

Individuals resettled under Pathway 1 and 3 will not be eligible for this scheme as they will not be granted refugee status. However, they may be eligible to apply to sponsor family members under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules. These Rules provide for a partner, dependent children and adult dependent relatives to apply to join, or stay with, a settled person in the UK.

For those evacuated from Afghanistan under ACRS P1 without their immediate family members, the Home Secretary has committed to establishing a route for separated families to be reunited. Further details will be provided in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/594>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/595>

*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**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [144] 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 Citizen Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3.



**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Resettlement of eligible Afghans remains a top priority for this government. As of June 2023, around 24,600 vulnerable people affected by the events in Afghanistan have been brought 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 all eligible at-risk British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni that expressed an interest during the FCDO's window of opportunity. This means we will exceed the original cap 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 still stands. However, we are not able to open for referrals at this present time for the second stage of Pathway 3, but further information will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/144>

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [494] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people who are eligible for resettlement under pathway three of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; what steps he is taking to contact outstanding individuals assessed as being eligible in principle; and if he will reopen the process for Expressions of Interest from other eligible individuals.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** Under the first stage of ACRS Pathway 3 the FCDO received over 11,450 expressions of interest (EOIs). Each has been assessed against the eligibility criteria and the FCDO has communicated an outcome to all individuals who expressed an interest. We have informed over 380 individuals that they are eligible in principle for resettlement, subject to passing security checks. With their dependents, we have notified over 1800 individuals that they are eligible in principle.

We have no plans to reopen the EOI window for the first stage of ACRS Pathway 3. In the second stage of Pathway 3, the UK government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk. We are not able to open for referrals at this present time. Our immediate focus is ensuring the resettlement of those eligible in the first stage of Pathway 3, which includes individuals who directly supported the UK and international community's efforts in Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/494>

*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**

**John Healey (Labour)** [682] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 19 October 2023 to Question 202637, whether her Department has collected data on the number of Afghans housed in hotel accommodation in March 2023 who were given at least one offer of permanent accommodation before 31 August 2023.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The one offer accommodation matching process was introduced on 02 May 2023.

The one offer accommodation matching process has seen 74 households refuse offers of accommodation. This is in addition to the 317 accommodation offers refused under the previous process.

This is the best available operational data as of 31 August 2023. A further

Operational data release is due on 23 November 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/682>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202637>

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

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [273] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2023 to Question 202782, if she will make it her policy to ensure that there are no fees chargeable for any extension to the Ukrainian visa schemes.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** 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. This includes whether to require a fee.

We are 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/273>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202782>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [443] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of ending the Homes for Ukraine scheme on levels of homelessness.

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [444] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of funding arrangements to support Ukrainian refugees after March 2024.

**Mike Amesbury (Labour)** [445] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many Ukrainian refugees became homeless after their sponsorships through the Homes for Ukraine scheme ended.

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** Since the start of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have provided over £1.1 billion in tariff funding to councils and the devolved administrations to enable them to support Ukrainian guests to settle in, integrate, and then move on from sponsorship at the right time. As we have set out previously, we always anticipated that a proportion of arrivals would end up relying on homeless prevention services and our funding was designed to address this in part. Councils in England have also received a £109 million top up to the Homelessness Prevention Grant this year to reduce the risk of homelessness amongst Ukrainians. They will be able to use this funding to support other people at risk of homelessness. We have created the £750 million Local Authority Housing Fund for councils in England to buy or create housing stock to accommodate Ukrainian and Afghan families at risk of homelessness, and to ease wider homelessness pressures, seeking to ensure that those communities which have been most generous in welcoming new arrivals are not penalised with longer social housing waiting lists.

The vast majority of Ukrainians have been able to sustain housing without the need

for homelessness support. The latest data indicates of those who have had a duty accepted, the majority have had their homelessness successfully prevented or relieved. Figures show only a fraction of all Ukrainian arrivals are in temporary accommodation. This demonstrates that councils have generally been very successful at preventing the need to place households in temporary accommodation.

We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine, the Ukrainians now living in the UK and the local authorities supporting them. We continue to keep the scheme under constant review and will set out any updates in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/443>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/444>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/445>

### **Universal Credit: Refugees**

**Tim Loughton (Conservative)** [1005] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what provision his Department makes for Winter Fuel Payments in cases where Ukrainian refugees receiving Universal Credit payments are not paying bills in the homes of their host families.

**Reply from Paul Maynard:** Winter fuel payments are an age-related payment payable this winter to all people who have reached State Pension age on or before 24 September 1957 and who are ordinarily resident in the UK, including Ukrainian refugees. There is no need to be in receipt of a social security benefit in order to qualify.

Winter fuel payments are made on a household basis. If there is more than one eligible person in a household, the payment will be divided between them. The sharing of bills is a matter for the house owner and any guests they may be hosting. The Government understands the cost-of-living pressures people are currently facing which is why we are providing total support of over £94bn over 2022/23 and 2023/24 to help households and individuals with their bills.

Pensioners who are entitled to a winter fuel payment this winter will receive a pensioner Cost of Living Payment of £300 per household paid with their normal payment, meaning over 8 million pensioner households across the UK will receive an increased winter fuel payment of £500/£600 depending on age.

Over 8 million UK households on eligible means tested benefits will receive additional Cost of Living Payments totalling up to £900 in the 2023/24 financial year and over 6 million individuals in receipt of eligible disability benefits will have received a £150 payment to help with the additional costs they face.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1005>

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [1158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's plan to implement The High Court judgment in Independent Monitoring Authority v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022] EWHC 3274 (Admin) by providing those with pre-settled status a two year extension before it expires, what steps she plans to take to ensure that (a) employers conducting right to work checks and (b) landlords conducting rent checks are aware that (i) a share code showing an impending expiration date is actually an EUSS pre-settled status and (ii) the

expiry date shown is therefore incorrect and will be replaced with a new expiry date.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The guidance for [employers](#) and [landlords](#) has been updated to explain that EUSS pre-settled status will be automatically extended before the original grant expires. The wording on the Home Office online checking service has also been updated to highlight the extension of pre-settled status.

Therefore, if a right to work or right to rent check shows that a person is approaching the expiry date of their pre-settled status, employers and landlords will be aware, from the updated guidance and the updated wording on the online checking services, that a person's pre-settled status will be extended. Once a person's pre-settled status has been extended, the new expiry date will be reflected on the Home Office online checking services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1158>

*The judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2022/3274.html>

### **Refugees: Loans**

**Christopher Chope (Conservative)** [665] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the value of refugee integration (a) loans and (b) repayments made since January 2007 is.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Refugee Integration Loans were introduced in 2007 following a public consultation and is intended to help people with the costs of integrating into UK society. They are funded by the Home Office who make the initial decisions on applications. They are then administered and recouped by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Refugee integration loans are interest-free loans with favourable repayment terms for individuals who are over 18 and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a refugee
- you have humanitarian protection
- a dependant of a refugee or someone with humanitarian protection

Individuals are currently able to borrow between £100 and £500. Between £100 to £780 can be borrowed if submitting a joint application with a partner.

The Home Office does not hold data for the value of refugee integration repayments made since January 2007 in a reportable format and it would require a manual search of records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/665>

*Information about Refugee Integration Loans, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/refugee-integration-loan>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Universal Credit: Biometric Residence Permits**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [139] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether his Department has issued guidance to Job Centre staff on the fact that a refugee does not need to have received their Biometric Residence Permit before making a claim for Universal Credit.

### **Refugees: Universal Credit**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [746] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Answer of 23 October 2023 to Question 201819 on Refugees: Finance, whether someone with refugee status may make an application for Universal Credit before they have received their Biometric Residence Permit.

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [747] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Answer of 23 October 2023 to Question 201819 on Refugees: Finance, what guidance his Department has issued to Job Centre staff on the

ability of a refugee to make a claim for Universal Credit before they have received their Biometric Residence Permit.

**Reply from Mims Davies:** Those granted refugee status have recourse to public funds and are able to apply for Universal Credit as soon as they receive their grant of status. Individuals do not need to have received their Biometric Residence Permit before making a claim to Universal Credit. They will need to be able to verify their identity and their refugee status for their claim to be processed. Although refugees normally rely on their Biometric Residence Permit to verify their identity and their refugee status, other documents can be accepted.

DWP Staff are instructed to consider all available evidence when assessing a benefit claim, including checking directly with the Home Office to confirm immigration status where they are unsure. We are currently reviewing the guidance for staff on acceptable evidence for refugees including alternative evidence for those yet to receive a Biometric Residence Permit.

We are also reviewing our public guidance to make clear that those granted refugee status should make a claim to Universal Credit as soon as they receive their grant of status if they require financial support and should not wait until they receive their Biometric Residence Permit. This reflects the advice refugees are given in Home Office communications when they receive their grant of status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/139>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/746>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/747>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

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

### **Refugees: Families**

**Gregory Campbell (DUP) [706]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will have discussions with the UNHCR on the potential merits of a family reunion policy which seeks relocation for refugees in countries closer to their country of origin.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Between 2015 and June 2023, the UK has issued more than 46,511 family reunion visas. More than half of those were issued to children. This is no small number and demonstrates the Government's commitment to upholding the principle of family unity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/706>

### **Sudan: Visas**

**Lyn Brown (Labour) [130]** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on taking steps to support evacuees from Sudan who are approaching the end of their six-month compassionate dispensation visas.

**Reply from Andrew Mitchell:** Where a person has leave in the UK but is unable to return home they should apply for Leave Outside the Rules using the FLR(HRO) form

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-to-extend-stay-in-the-uk-flrhro>

Each case will be assessed on its merits. If they are unable to afford the fee then a fee waiver application can be made here:

<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/fee-waiver>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/130>

### **British Nationals Abroad: Gaza**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to interview UK nationals returning from Gaza in the context of border checks.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** In the UK, the Immigration Rules require all arriving passengers to establish their eligibility for admission. To maintain a safe and secure border, a passenger's passport or national identity card is checked electronically and visually. We are confident that extra checks take place when necessary.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/756>

### **Refugees: Gaza**

**Caroline Nokes (Green)** [189] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department is taking steps to help support local authorities to find accommodation for UK citizens who have fled Gaza.

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** On 27 October the Government introduced emergency legislation to ensure British citizens and those eligible for support fleeing the violence in the Gaza Strip will be exempt from the Habitual Residence Test. This legislation will ensure those fleeing the conflict are eligible for benefits, social housing and homelessness assistance, where needed, without delay.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/189>

### **Refugees: Palestinians**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support family reunions for Palestinians in the UK who have relatives in Gaza.

**Robert Jenrick:** The UK Government is monitoring the situation in Israel and Gaza closely to ensure that it is able to respond appropriately.

British citizens and those with settled status in the UK, together with their foreign national dependants may come to the UK provided that they have valid travel documents, and existing permission to enter or remain in the UK; or are non-visa nationals. They must also pass appropriate security checks.

Individuals who do not meet these criteria should apply for a visa to enable them to enter the UK in the normal way.

UKVI is working closely with the FCDO in supporting family members of British nationals evacuated from Gaza who require a visa, signposting the necessary steps and expediting appointments at the Visa Application Centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/851>

### **Visas: Gaza**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to help support British citizens fleeing the conflict in Gaza to obtain visas for family members to travel with them to the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK Government is monitoring the situation in Israel and Gaza closely to ensure that it is able to respond appropriately. Flights were initially facilitated to help British citizens wanting to leave Israel.

British citizens and their foreign national dependants (spouse, unmarried/civil partner, child under 18), may come to the UK provided they have valid travel documents and existing permission to enter or remain in the UK; or are non-visa nationals.

Individuals who do not meet these criteria should apply for a visa to enable them to enter the UK in the normal way.

UKVI is working closely with the FCDO in supporting family members of British nationals evacuated from Gaza who require a visa, signposting the necessary steps

and expediting appointments at the Visa Application Centre.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/190>

### **Refugees: Palestinians**

**Caroline Nokes (Conservative)** [191] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to help ensure there are effective routes for refugee family reunion in the UK for Palestinian refugees seeking to join family members in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Government's refugee family reunion policy provides a safe and legal route to bring families together. This route allows for family reunion applications from recognised refugees who have protection status in the UK.

The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees. Since 2015, we have offered a safe and legal route to over half a million people seeking safety in the UK. The UK continues to welcome refugees through our existing resettlement schemes which include the global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the family reunion route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/191>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

*Information about the Community Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-communitysponsorship/community-sponsorship-guidance-for-prospective-sponsors>

*Information about the Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf)

*Information about the Family Reunion Route, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1171199/Family\\_reunion.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1171199/Family_reunion.pdf)

### **Visas: Israel and Palestinians**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [853] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will lift visa fees for (a) Palestinian and (b) Israeli family reunions.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Applicants outside of the UK wishing to apply to join or accompany a British national; or a person present and settled in the UK, with a view to residing in the UK, may apply for a fee waiver if they consider they cannot afford the fee.

There is no fee attached to applications submitted under Appendix Family Reunion to the immigration rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/853>

### **Visas: Palestinians**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [850] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of creating medical visas for people unable to access healthcare in Gaza.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** There are no plans to change the rules around medical treatment for visitors.

Since Hamas' terrorist attack against Israel on 7 October the UK has committed £30 million in additional aid. The aid will respond to critical food, water, healthcare, shelter and protection needs for those affected by this crisis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/850>

### **Asylum: Applications**

**Joanna Cherry (SNP) [257]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of including time spent awaiting an asylum decision within the five year period applicants must be in the UK before they may apply for indefinite leave to remain.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Whilst we do not have any plans to review the process by which refugees may apply for settlement protection, we have taken action to accelerate decision-making and rapidly speed up processing times to eliminate the backlog of people waiting for initial asylum decisions by the end of 2023. This will ensure asylum seekers are not left months or even years waiting for a decision. We have done this by streamlining and modernising the end-to-end process, with improved guidance and more focussed interviews; and continued enhancement of digital technology.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/257>

### **Asylum: Children**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP) [272]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children that have gone missing from hotels are unaccounted for as of 7 November 2023.

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

The Home Office has put in place further funding throughout 2023-24 of £6,000 for every unaccompanied child moved from a UASC hotel to a local authority within five working days to encourage quicker transfers into local authority care.

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

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

The most recent published data can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/272>

### **Asylum: Boats and Military Bases**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [874]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to house (a) asylum seekers and (b) refugees who are (i) women and (ii) children on (A) barges and (B) military bases.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The sites are or will be accommodating single adult male asylum seekers between the ages of 18 and 65.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/874>

### **Bibby Stockholm: Legionnaires' Disease**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [389]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department became aware of legionnaire's disease on the Bibby Stockholm.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As a temporary precaution to reduce the health risk as much as possible, on 11 August the Home Office went beyond the UKHSA advice and disembarked all 39 asylum seekers from the vessel to contingency asylum accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/389>



### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [872] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on alternative accommodation for asylum seekers.

**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 whilst in our care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/872>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Temporary Accommodation**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [873] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what policies are in place to ensure the safety of asylum-seeking (a) women and (b) children in asylum accommodation.

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made a comparative assessment of potential risks to asylum seekers who are women across each type of accommodation used to house those asylum seekers in Wales.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Across our estate there is an expectation that there will be mixed cohorts within our accommodation.

Some of our core Initial Accommodation may be configured to provide segregated areas specially for families and singles. Similarly in our Dispersed Accommodation there will be a mix of family properties and Houses of Multiple Occupation that are specifically for either males, females or mothers and babies.

Women with children who are in receipt of support are not required to share sleeping quarters with unrelated individuals of the opposite sex but may depending on the circumstances be placed in accommodation facilities that are used to house such individuals.

The Home Office has published the Asylum Support Contracts Safeguarding Framework at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-contracts-safeguarding-framework>

This framework sets out a joint, overarching approach, as well as the key controls and reporting mechanisms in place, across the AASC contracts, for safeguarding arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/873>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-08/875>

## **UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee**

**Evidence session: Work of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13798/html/>

## **UK Parliament, Joint Committee on Human Rights**

**Evidence session: Human rights of asylum seekers in the UK**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13784/html/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**John McDonnell (Labour) [47] Seasonal Worker visa scheme** – That this House notes the recent report by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and the Independent which identified issues of racism, wage theft and threats of being sent back home in 19 farm inspection reports produced by the Home Office between 2021 and 2022; recognises that migrant seasonal workers are integral to the UK's horticultural sector and that working conditions under the seasonal worker visa must urgently be improved; further recognises that the current iteration of the seasonal worker visa is due to expire at the end of 2024 and that improvements to working conditions must be implemented before any decision to extend the scheme is made; calls on the Government to urgently complete and publish a review of the seasonal worker visa scheme in line with the recommendations that it accepted by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration in the report entitled An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the agricultural sector, published in December 2022; further calls on the Government to implement the recommendations on the seasonal worker visa scheme of the report by the House of Lords Select Committee on Horticulture entitled Sowing the seeds: A blooming English horticultural sector (November 2023); and calls on the Government to engage with independent civil society organisations advocating for the rights of migrant seasonal workers in the recently formed Seasonal Worker Interest Group to address the design-related issues from the seasonal workers visa scheme.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61516>

*The Bureau of Investigative Journalism report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2023-10-22/all-that-is-missing-is-a-whip-home-office-ignored-migrant-worker-abuses-on-farms>

*The Independent report of the Bureau of Investigative Journalism report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-modern-slavery-reports-b2432624.html>

*The Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1125411/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_immigration\\_system\\_as\\_it\\_relates\\_to\\_the\\_agricultural\\_sector\\_May\\_to\\_August\\_2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1125411/An_inspection_of_the_immigration_system_as_it_relates_to_the_agricultural_sector_May_to_August_2022.pdf)

*The House of Lords report referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41921/documents/208546/default>

## Press Releases

**Supreme Court decision about the Rwanda Refugee Policy**

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2023-0093.html>

**Prime Minister's remarks on Supreme Court Judgement: 15 November 2023**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-remarks-on-supreme-court-judgement-15-november-2023>

**Prime Minister's statement on Supreme Court judgement: 15 November 2023**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-supreme-court-judgement-15-november-2023>

## **Update on government's plan for illegal immigration**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/update-on-governments-plan-for-illegal-immigration>

## **Skilled refugees contributing £1m to UK economy each year**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/skilled-refugees-contributing-1m-to-uk-economy-each-year>

## **New Publications**

### **Supreme Court Judgement about the Rwanda Refugee Policy**

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2023/745.html>

### **Review of the Shortage Occupation List**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651557b86dfda600148e37ba/Review\\_of\\_the\\_Shortage\\_Occupation\\_List\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651557b86dfda600148e37ba/Review_of_the_Shortage_Occupation_List_2023.pdf)

#### **Review of the Shortage Occupation List: Annexes**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651558a36a423b0014f4c52a/Review\\_of\\_the\\_Shortage\\_Occupation\\_List\\_2023\\_Annexes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651558a36a423b0014f4c52a/Review_of_the_Shortage_Occupation_List_2023_Annexes.pdf)

## **Immigration system statistics, year ending June 2023**

### **Overview of the immigration system**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

### **Summary of latest statistics**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/summary-of-latest-statistics>

### **Statistics on Ukrainians in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/statistics-on-ukrainians-in-the-uk>

### **How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

### **Why do people come to the UK? To work**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

### **Why do people come to the UK? To study**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

### **Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

### **How many people do we grant protection to?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/how-many-people-do-we-grant-protection-to>

### **Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation 2022**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation-2022>

### **How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

### **How many people are detained or returned?**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-june-2023/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

### **Immigration system statistics data tables**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables>

### **Irregular migration to the UK, year ending June 2023**

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

### **Updated: Homelessness management information - Ukrainian nationals: England**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6553904950475b0013c5b5bb/Ukraine\\_Homelessness\\_Pressures\\_Publication\\_October\\_2023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6553904950475b0013c5b5bb/Ukraine_Homelessness_Pressures_Publication_October_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>

### **Updated: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

## **News: Rwanda Refugee Policy**

### **Supreme Court finds that plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda is unlawful**

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/statement-supreme-court-finds-that-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-is-unlawful/>

### **Equality watchdog response following Supreme Court judgment on Rwanda asylum policy**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/news/equality-watchdog-response-following-supreme-court-judgment-rwanda-asylum-policy>

### **Rwanda ruling: Supreme Court rules against UK government**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/rwanda-supreme-court-uk-government-suella-braverman/>

### **Church welcomes the Supreme Court ruling on Rwanda**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/church-welcomes-the-supreme-court-ruling-on-rwanda>

**Joint Civil Society Statement on the Supreme Court Ruling on the Rwanda Plan**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RrIWEAaz0utS-0HLd1WHGXD1D7KPBeOvNVZGBUS2kHg/edit?mc\\_cid=3a556ebc74&mc\\_eid=baca9ca05e](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RrIWEAaz0utS-0HLd1WHGXD1D7KPBeOvNVZGBUS2kHg/edit?mc_cid=3a556ebc74&mc_eid=baca9ca05e)

**Rishi Sunak says Rwanda merry-go-round must end**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67432853>

**Sunak vows emergency law change in last-ditch bid to send asylum seekers to Rwanda**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-planes-air-rwanda-ruling-b2447711.html>

**Critical that Rwanda flights take off in the spring, Robert Jenrick says**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-67432853>

**Rwanda flights: Jeremy Hunt says they may not take off next year**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-67436841>

**Parliament right to override Supreme Court on Rwanda, says Jacob Rees-Mogg**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/11/17/jacob-rees-mogg-rwanda-deportations-supreme-court/>

**James Cleverly called Rwanda plan 'bats---', MP alleges**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/11/15/james-cleverly-yvette-cooper-rwanda-supreme-court-batshit/>

**Government can't claim 'black is white' in Rwanda fight, says former Supreme Court judge**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/16/former-supreme-court-judge-government-rwanda-law/>

**Supreme Court's Rwanda ruling was a triumph of the law over dangerous politics**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/supreme-courts-rwanda-ruling-was-a-triumph-of-the-law-over-dangerous-politics-dr-paul-arnell-4411606>

**Supreme Court ruling leaves Rwanda policy in tatters**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-67426578>

**What was the UK's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-61782866>

**The Rwanda asylum seeker plan was destined to fail**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/nov/18/supreme-court-rishi-sunak-asylum-policy>

**Rwanda flights: Could next step harm Good Friday Agreement?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-67451502>

**Is it the end of the runway for the government's Rwanda policy?**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-policy-supreme-court-ruling-sunak-braverman-b2447878.html>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Visa uncertainty adding to ‘insecurity’ for Ukrainian refugees, campaigner warns**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/homes-government-home-office-scottish-national-party-parliament-b2448687.html>

**Charities sound alarm over migrant parents being denied vital childcare**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/charities-british-regulation-children-university-b2447420.html>

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## Community Relations

### News

**King Charles meets religious leaders to mark Inter Faith Week amid ‘challenging times’**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/royal-family/king-charles-inter-faith-week-b2449116.html>

**Scotland’s Jewish population fears for its future**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23931387.scotlands-jewish-population-fears-future/>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [1251] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to encourage (a) research and (b) targeted interventions into factors driving HIV transmission within the black community.

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** The HIV Action Plan is the cornerstone of our approach in England to drive forward progress and achieve our goal to end new HIV transmissions, AIDS and HIV-related deaths within England by 2030. A key principle of our approach is to ensure that all populations benefit equally from improvements made in HIV outcomes, including black communities.

The UK Health Security Agency publishes a yearly monitoring and evaluation report, which sets out key indicators to track progress towards our ambitions in the HIV Action Plan, including by ethnicity, and these data help us to understand where services can be improved and made more accessible to key populations. The next report will be published on 1 December 2023.

The Department commissions HIV prevention interventions through our national HIV prevention programme, including targeted work with black African communities, and commission research through the National Institute for Health and Care Research, which welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1251>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-zero-the-hiv-action-plan-for-england-2022-to-2025>

The most recent monitoring and evaluation report referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hiv-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework/hiv-action-plan-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework>

### **HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [1252] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to take steps to provide healthcare providers with cultural competency training for black individuals seeking HIV-related services.

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** The Department has no current plans to provide healthcare providers with cultural competency training. Individual employers providing HIV care are responsible for ensuring their staff are trained and competent to carry out their role.

The standard of training for health care professionals is the responsibility of respective independent statutory regulatory bodies who set the outcome standards expected at undergraduate level and approve courses. It is the responsibility of Higher Education institutions to write and teach the curricula content that enables their students to meet the regulators' outcome standards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1252>

### **HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [1253] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has made an assessment of the comparative effectiveness of different strategies to empower women for the purposes of tackling gender-based disparities within the Black community that may contribute to HIV transmission.

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** No formal assessment has been made but it is a key principle of our approach, as set out in the HIV Action Plan, to ensure that all populations benefit equally from improvements made in HIV outcomes, including women in black communities. This includes scaling up HIV testing in targeted, high-risk populations and increasing equitable access to and use of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

HIV Prevention England delivers a nationally co-ordinated programme of HIV prevention work designed to complement locally commissioned HIV prevention in areas with high HIV prevalence and for communities at risk of HIV transmission, with a particular focus on Black African women.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1253>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-zero-the-hiv-action-plan-for-england-2022-to-2025>

### **HIV Infection: Ethnic Groups**

**Kate Osborne (Labour)** [1254] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department plans to take steps to partner with (a) media outlets and (b) influencers to promote information on HIV and safe sex practices within the black community.

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** HIV Prevention England (HPE) is the national HIV prevention programme for England and is funded at £3.5 million over three years by the Department, as part of the Government's HIV Action Plan.

The programme aims to support communities who are disproportionately affected by HIV, in particular gay, bisexual and men who have sex with men and Black African heterosexual men and women. The Department has appointed Terrence

Higgins Trust, a national charity that provides services related to sexual health and HIV, to deliver the programme from 2021 to 2024. HPE delivers a nationally co-ordinated programme of HIV prevention work, including public campaigns such as National HIV Testing Week, that is designed to complement locally commissioned prevention activities in areas of high HIV prevalence. HPE also aims to improve knowledge and understanding of HIV transmission and reduce stigma within affected communities.

HPE works with a wide range of models and their network of influencers and develops its strategies based on comprehensive data, audience insight and knowledge from local partners within England, which ensure a wide range of patient's voices and experiences are represented including those within the black community. Campaigns are promoted using a multi-channel approach including specialist channels relevant to the audiences and targeting via digital platforms and social media.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-09/1254>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Army: Ethnic Groups**

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [399]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many BAME officers are above the rank of Major in the Army.

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [400]** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to improve BAME representation in ranks above Major in the Army.

**Reply from Andrew Murrison:** As set out in the published biannual diversity statistics, there are 70 people of ethnic minorities (excluding white minorities) of rank Lieutenant Colonel and above in the British Army, as at 1st April 2023:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-april-2023>

Diversity, inclusion and respect sit at the heart of the Army's values and ethos. The Army aims to recruit and retain a diversity of talent and thought, drawing from all sections of society.

The Army Race Action Plan which was published internally in April 2023 directs a number of actions to bring equity to career progression across all ranks and including personnel from ethnic minority backgrounds.

This includes improving representation at all levels, gaining better access to talent, progressing all talent based only upon merit, improving and professionalising organisational culture and improving lived experience, retention and opportunities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/399>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/400>

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

### **Black and Minority Ethnic Babies: Mortality Rates**

**Baroness Thornton (Labour):** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the mortality rates of black and minority ethnic babies, following the publication of research from the National Child Mortality Database.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care (Lord Markham):** The Government are committed to tackling disparities for parents and babies. We are addressing this through the National Health Service three-year delivery plan for maternity and neonatal services, which sets out how care will be made more equitable for women, babies and families. Support is also provided through the universal public health programmes and



programmes that target vulnerable families.

**Baroness Thornton:** My Lords, what is very worrying in a rich country such as the UK, with a universal, mature healthcare system, is that this figure of infant mortality rates for babies and children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds is going up and not down. What does the Minister believe the drivers of this data show and how will the Government reverse it? For example, the Apgar score for testing the health of babies, which is a skin tone test, does not work for black and brown babies.

**Reply from Lord Markham:** ... It seems that roughly half the reasons why black and ethnic minority people have higher death rates are to do with socioeconomic and lifestyle factors: where they live, levels of obesity, drinking, smoking and those sorts of factors. Clearly, behind that there is a lot that needs to be done in terms of education and support, folic acid in bread and folic acid generally. The other half is more to do with racial factors. English as a second language is a key thing behind that. I hate to make generalisations, but the fact that black and ethnic minority mothers can often be less assertive means that clearly there you need training of staff to take more time, listen more, make sure that they are understanding and asking the questions to find out whether the issues are there.

**Lord Sewell of Sanderstead (Conservative):** My Lords, to what extent is the research programme of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities looking into this area of health disparities in childbirth and death in childbirth?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** The database from which all the evidence and data have come has just been published. That is exactly why we are publishing the database: so that we can understand the reasons behind it. We are also tying that to the NIHR to see what research is needed in those areas.

**Lord Allan of Hallam (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, behind every figure in the national child mortality database lies a personal family tragedy, which we all need to try to understand and reduce as far as we can, as the Minister said. The regional breakdown of the figures shows that there is much less variation between different ethnicities in London than in other English regions. Will the Minister look into that to see whether there are things we can learn from London—perhaps there the staff follow procedures where they are more responsive to people from varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds—so that those lessons can be applied in the rest of England?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** Yes, absolutely. One main reason for that is that in London there is generally a more ethnically representative mix of staff, who are better placed to understand and work in that way. Clearly, we need to increase training as well as recruitment across the rest of the country to make sure that they achieve the same levels. ...

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour):** My Lords, research has shown that the mortality rate among Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children is far higher than among any other minority-ethnic group, yet this is hardly ever reflected in any account of the situation. Will the Minister get his department to recognise more explicitly the disproportionate mortality rate in this often unrepresented ethnic-minority group?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** Yes. Obviously, we want to find every group and then understand the targeted action around them. Noble Lords will have often heard me say that one of the most effective bits of joined-up government I have ever seen was the Troubled Families initiative, led by the noble Baroness, Lady Casey, and I am interested in the 13 local authority pilots that are using wraparound services to identify community groups and troubled families in particular and provide them with cross-government help.

**Baroness Manzoor (Conservative):** My Lords, my noble friend will know that over the last four years the NHS workforce has grown by over 14%, but in the workforce for midwives there is a shortage of 2,500, according to the Royal College of Midwives. Can the Minister say what the Government are doing to ensure that we have sufficient midwives

on the wards and, more particularly, a diverse workforce from ethnic minorities who will become midwives and health visitors? ...

**Reply from Lord Markham:** Yes, it absolutely does fit into it. We have increased the number of maternity staff by about 14% since 2010, and the long-term workforce plan is all about making spaces for 1,000 extra students and having many routes into it. Noble Lords have often heard me talk about how my mother got into nursing as an older mum—she got into maternity services. There are apprenticeships and later-life opportunities. You should not only be a graduate; you often know much more about life when you are that bit older, especially if you are a mum. ...

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour):** ... the recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation report on destitution found that minority ethnic groups are disproportionately affected by destitution. What steps are the Government taking directly to reduce destitution among this group?

**Reply from Lord Markham:** Again, noble Lords will know that housing, to my mind, is key to so much of that, and the whole building programmes and the million extra houses are a key part of that. If you look into health across the board, you see that the homeless, for instance, use and need A&E services more than ever. Clearly, it is a root cause we need to tackle.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-11-15/debates/B1D8C160-3148-4305-AA82-B9FB3CF556B3/BlackAndMinorityEthnicBabiesMortalityRates>

*Findings from the National Child Mortality Database, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.ncmd.info/publications/child-death-data-2023/>*

*The Joseph Rowntree Foundation report referred to above can be read at <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk-2023>*

## Press Release

**Watchdog reports on the state of equality and human rights in Scotland**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/news/watchdog-reports-state-equality-and-human-rights-scotland>

## New Publications

**Equality and Human Rights Monitor**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/2023/Great%20Britain%20Equality%20and%20Human%20Rights%20Monitor-%20accessible%20PDF.pdf>

**Equality and Human Rights Monitor: Is Scotland Fairer?**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/2023/Is%20Scotland%20Fairer-%20Equality%20and%20Human%20Rights%20Monitor-%20accessible%20PDF.pdf>

**Equality and Human Rights Monitor: Is Wales Fairer?**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/2023/Is%20Wales%20Fairer%20Equality%20and%20Human%20Rights%20Monitor-%20English-%20accessible%20PDF.pdf>

**Make Human Rights Justice a Reality**

<https://hrcscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/HRCS-Make-Human-Rights-Justice-a-Reality-40pp-v5-digital.pdf>

TOP

# Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### **Community Assets and Religious Buildings: Security**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [1570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to provide additional resources to police forces to support target hardening measures at (a) community spaces and (b) places of worship.

**Reply from Tom Tugendhat:** This Government is committed to making our streets and communities safer.

On 31 January, the Government confirmed a total police funding settlement of up to £17.2 billion in 2023/24, an increase of up to £313.8 million when compared to 2022/23. As part of this, funding for Counter Terrorism Policing was set at over £1 billion and covers a range of activity, including in relation to protective security.

In addition, the Police and Crime Commissioners have been allocated £42 million through the latest fifth round of the Safer Streets Fund to support interventions that will make our streets safer. This includes funding for target hardening measures in public spaces – such as CCTV, street lighting and alley-gating – as well as improved home security measures for properties at risk of (repeat) burglary.

There are also freely available resources to local forces, along with local authorities and businesses, through the ProtectUK platform and from the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA).

On top of this police funding, the Home Office is providing up to £46 million to protect faith communities in 2023/24. This includes £18 million through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, £24.5 million through the new Protective Security for Mosques scheme and a scheme for Muslim faith schools, and £3.5 million for the places of worship of other (non-Muslim and non-Jewish) faiths.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-13/1570>

*The Protect UK website, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/>

*The website of the National Protective Security Authority, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.npsa.gov.uk/>

*Information about the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant 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>

*Information about the Protective Security Mosques and Places of Worship Schemes referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

*Information about the scheme for Muslim faith schools, referred to above, is not available online.*

### **Universities: Antisemitism and Islamophobia**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [1569] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of provisions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of (a) Jewish and (b) Muslim students on university campuses.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** It has been deeply concerning to see the rises both in antisemitism and in Islamophobia since the 7 October terrorist attacks against Israel. Universities should be welcoming and inclusive environments. Higher education providers have a responsibility to take a zero-tolerance approach to any

form of racial or religious harassment. They have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 to adopt robust policies and procedures that enable them to investigate and swiftly address reports of racism.

Given the particularly severe impact on Jewish students, the Secretary of State and I wrote to all schools, colleges and universities, urging them to respond swiftly to hate-related incidents and actively reassure Jewish students that that they can study without fear of harassment or intimidation. On 5 November we published a five-point plan detailing further action to protect Jewish students in higher education, the details of the plan can be found here:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/11/05/how-were-protecting-jewish-students-on-university-campuses/>

The department continues to engage both with Jewish and with Muslim groups, including the Union of Jewish Students and Tell MAMA, and actively monitors incidents affecting both communities. The department also welcomes the guidance produced by Universities UK, which focuses on tackling Islamophobia:

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/what-we-do/policy-and-research/publications/tackling-islamophobia-and-anti-muslim>

The department has reminded providers of their obligations under the Prevent duty, where they should be working to prevent people from being drawn into or supporting terrorism. Department officials have assessed evidence of antisemitism and racial hatred linked to incidents at English universities. There is an online "Reporting Extremism" form where members of the public can raise concerns to the Department directly. Where concerns arise, officials have reached out to relevant universities to understand what actions they have taken, including reporting issues to the police where appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-13/1569>

*The letter referred to above can be read at*

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/bulletins/3763f13>

*The reporting form referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

### **Universities: Antisemitism**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [1334] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what information her Department holds on which universities have not ratified the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

**Robert Halfon:** As of 13 October 2023, the Office for Students' (OfS) list of higher education providers that have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism stands at 245 providers in England. This includes the vast majority of universities. The OfS's list of providers is based on publicly available information and confirmation of adoption from providers. The latest list can be accessed at:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/tackling-antisemitism/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-10/1334>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Schools: Antisemitism**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [27] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many schools reported anti-Semitic incidents in each year since 2013.

### **Further Education: Antisemitism**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [39] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many

further education colleges reported anti-Semitic incidents in each year since 2013.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** The UK unequivocally condemns the recent terrorist attacks by Hamas and stands in solidarity with Israel in its hour of need. Antisemitism has no place in our society.

The Department does not hold this information. Whilst the Department strongly encourages schools and colleges to record and report all kinds of bullying, there is not a legal requirement for schools and colleges to record and report incidents of bullying.

The Department has published guidance to support schools and colleges to monitor bullying incidents and evaluate the effectiveness of their approaches, which is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

The Government is committed to ensuring that all schools and colleges prepare children for life in modern Britain. Every school and college should actively promote the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

The Prime Minister has announced that £3 million of extra funding will be provided to the Community Security Trust to protect schools, colleges, nurseries and synagogues and other Jewish community buildings.

The Secretary of State and Ministers visited a Jewish school to show their support and wrote to school and college headteachers on 17 October to remind them of their relevant responsibilities, including the need to challenge intolerance and actively respond to discrimination, as well as outlining their duties under the Prevent programme. The Department's Educate Against Hate website provides a range of resources and support to challenge discrimination and intolerance, and how to respond where you have concerns. This is available at:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/27>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/39>

*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 letter referred to above can be read at*

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/bulletins/3763f13>

### **Antisemitism**

**Dan Jarvis (Labour) [1571]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of recent statistics from Community Security Trust on the levels of antisemitism incidents since 7 October 2023; and what steps he is taking to help protect the safety of the Jewish community.

**Reply from Tom Tugendhat:** The Government utterly condemns the abhorrent spike in anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hate crime that has been seen as a result of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict.

This Government is committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion at their chosen place of worship, and to making our streets and communities safer. The Government and police regularly review potential threats to ensure that everything is done to protect communities from hate crime.

Earlier this year, the Home Secretary established the Jewish Community Crime, Policing and Security Taskforce. This group brings together Government, law enforcement and the UK Jewish community (represented by the Community

Security Trust (CST)) to discuss issues of safety and security concern to the community, and what can be done to ensure instances of antisemitism are comprehensively investigated and prosecuted.

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 harassment, alarm or distress to others, we expect the police to take action to ensure perpetrators can be brought to justice.

In March 2023, the Home Secretary announced the continuation of the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant (JCPSG) and increased funding for 2023/24 by £1 million, to a total of £15 million. The JCPSG provides protective security measures (such as guarding, CCTV and alarm systems) at Jewish schools and other Jewish community sites. The Grant is managed on behalf of the Home Office by CST.

In response to the conflict and reports of increased incidents of antisemitism in the UK, the Prime Minister has announced additional funding of £3 million for CST to provide additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues and other Jewish Community sites. This brings the total funding for CST in FY2023/24 to £18 million. We continue to work closely with CST on how best to respond to live incidents that affect the Jewish communities in the UK.

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/2023-11-13/1571>

*The CST statistics referred to above can be read in the variously dated "Antisemitic Incidents Updates" at*

<https://cst.org.uk/>

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

<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

### **Antisemitism**

**Nicola Richards (Conservative)** [1271] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the European Union on rising levels of anti-Semitism.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** Antisemitism has no place in our or any society. The UK Government is committed to international cooperation to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust. Lord Pickles, the UK's Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues, visited Warsaw in October to engage with civil society, historical institutions and the Jewish community on post-Holocaust issues. The UK Government has engaged closely with counterparts in the EU institutions and Member States following the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on 7 October, including as part of a meeting between the Prime Minister and Commission President von der Leyen on 2 November.

### **Social Media: Antisemitism**

**Peter Kyle (Labour)** [333] To ask the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, with reference to the Answer of 19 October 2023 to Question 202862 on Companies: Social Media, how many of the social media companies in question have provided written responses confirming the steps they are taking to tackle extremely violent and anti-Semitic content.

**Reply from Paul Scully:** The Government held a roundtable with social companies including YouTube, Meta, X, TikTok and Snapchat on 11 October to discuss the ongoing conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

During this meeting, companies were asked to follow-up in writing to confirm the steps they are taking to tackle extremely violent and antisemitic content. These companies have all since followed up in writing. The Government continues to engage directly with individual companies and will keep the current approach under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-07/333>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-10-16/202862>

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

### **Policing of Marches and Demonstrations**

*col 276* **Baroness Deech (Crossbench):** To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the policing of recent marches and demonstrations.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom):** My Lords, the police are operationally independent: it is their decision how they choose to police a protest and they are accountable for that. The Metropolitan Police used a range of powers to minimise disruption and disorder. On Saturday police made 145 arrests, most of which were linked to the counterdemonstration; however, the police continue to investigate other offences. The police have the Government's full backing to use all the powers at their disposal to ensure that the perpetrators face the full force of the law. ...

**Baroness Deech:** My Lords, freedom to speak and to march and police discretion are all pillars of our constitution, but I have never before in my lifetime seen mobs marching through the streets alongside some who call for violent jihad and the death of Jews and waving swastika signs. Once the Saturday march was under way, why were the police posing with a child dressed as a terrorist while protesters rampaged threateningly outside a synagogue? Many of us call on the police to apply the law to those who are guilty of offences under Section 5 of the Public Order Act aggravated by religious and racial hatred, public nuisance and glorifying terrorism. It is a worldwide problem. Anti-Semitism is on parade. Jews cannot fix it on their own; we need people with us. Does the Minister agree that we need a cry of solidarity?

*col 277* **Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I wholeheartedly agree ... We saw vile examples of anti-Semitism by a minority at the pro-Palestine march. The fears that our Jewish community has experienced over the weekend and the days leading up to it are shocking and disgusting, as I said last week. There is no place for hate on Britain's streets, and the police have confirmed that investigations are ongoing.

**Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, as someone who marched with hundreds of thousands of very peaceful protesters last Saturday, I witnessed not one single incitement to hatred of anyone. It was a march for peace until the EDL came on to the scene ...

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, a quick surf of the internet this morning would suggest that the noble Baroness is wrong. I suggest that trying to conflate the activities of the violent thugs who tried to invade the Cenotaph and those of the marchers, some of whom were indeed peaceful, is also wrong. ... I think the police behaved entirely appropriately in dealing with the violence, and I seriously hope that they also deal with those marchers who were doing precisely the things that the noble Baroness has alleged they were not. ...

**Lord Walney (Crossbench):** My noble friend is right that there has been an explosion of anti-Semitism in the capital and across the UK since 7 October. These marches are at the very least a factor in aggravating that. If the police, in exercising their judgment, feel that there is not sufficient trigger at the moment to say that there is a threat of serious public disorder, which is the current bar, is there not a case for re-examining the bar for asking for these marches to be banned, so that the cumulative effect on many members of the Jewish community can properly be taken into account?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The noble Lord makes a very good point. The Home Secretary has reserve powers and some legislative tools that enable intervention and direction, but those powers may be used only in line with statutory tests and public law principles and in very exceptional circumstances. The Metropolitan Police has not asked for that sort of intervention. ... Where we identify gaps in the legislation, we will seek to address them. ...

*col 278* **The Bishop of St Albans:** ... Of course there will be groups of people pushing the boundaries and acting unacceptably. The danger of the media is that it gives the impression that the only game in town is the marches and demos, but many on these Benches and other Members of this House have been meeting leading Israelis and Palestinians in our local communities and finding that there are people desperately trying to reach out to others and thinking about how we can take this forward. What are His Majesty's Government doing at the moment to mobilise some of our leading Israelis and Palestinians to try to enable talks about how we might find a more positive narrative as we go forward?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The right reverend Prelate makes an extremely good point. ... I do not know what His Majesty's Government are doing to try to encourage the sort of interactions he mentioned, but it deserves to be mentioned, on proportionality, that the organisers of the pro-Palestinian marches have a responsibility. Peter Tatchell, whom many in the House will know, was blocked from marching with the pro-Palestinians for carrying a sign that said: "End Israel's occupation! End Hamas's sexist, homophobic, anti-human rights dictatorship!" ...

**Lord Paddick (Non-affiliated):** ... Anti-Semitism is unacceptable in any setting, but does the Minister agree that arresting people in the middle of a mass protest can result in serious disorder and injury to police officers, as can the police attempting to prevent people who are determined to protest from doing so, as we saw with the right-wing demonstrators on Saturday?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... I am very happy to defer to the noble Lord's extensive experience of policing protests of this type. ...

*col 279* **Lord Coaker (Labour):** ... I thank the Metropolitan Police and all the officers who were on the streets of London ensuring that Armistice Day events were not disrupted, facing disgraceful far-right violence and assaults while working to pursue appalling, vile anti-Semitism ... and other hate crimes. ...

**Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, it is no surprise that we are seeing Nazi-level propaganda and incitement of terrorism on the streets of London when some of the organisations behind these marches have had connections with a Hamas leader who lives in the UK. What is being done to investigate the links between those organisations and proscribed terrorist groups?



**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I cannot answer that question, but I certainly hope the police are investigating.

**Lord Cormack (Conservative):** ... It would be a marvellous beginning for the new Home Secretary if he were to call in leaders of the Jewish community—who have the admiration and respect of us all—together with those responsible Palestinians who have a legitimate cause for concern at the destruction and deaths in Gaza. If he were to do that, using moderate language—which I am sure he would—it would help to ease tension and to bring together people who have a common cause.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I am happy to reflect my noble friend's opinion to the new Home Secretary when I speak to him.

**Lord Hain (Labour):** My Lords, I agree with the noble Baroness, Lady Deech, that the examples she gave are completely unacceptable and should be met with a firm response. The degree of anti-Semitism in the country at the moment is deeply shocking, as is the degree of racism and Islamophobia. That is something we should commonly confront, but I urge the Government to be very careful about curbing protests and the right to march through London. In 1936, when anti-fascists confronted Mosley's mob swaggering through Jewish communities, many of the actions of those anti-fascists could have been regarded as disorderly, but they stopped them and they stopped that wave of anti-Semitism. Similarly, many of the actions I helped organise through the Anti-Nazi League in the late 1970s saved local Jewish communities and black communities from assault. Be very careful about curbing the right to march peacefully.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I entirely agree ...

*col 280* **Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, we are told that two of those arrested in Paris for painting anti-Semitic slogans on French synagogues have said to the police that they were acting under orders from Russian sources. Are the Government looking to see whether there is any element of foreign interference in some of these protests? ...

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, I have absolutely no idea.

**Baroness Hoey (Non-affiliated):** One of the saddest pictures we saw over the weekend was of the two poppy sellers—an elderly couple in Victoria station—having to be gradually moved and shifted because of large numbers of loud and very angry protesters around them. What annoyed me, and I think vast numbers of members of the public, was that the police standing there did nothing to help those poppy sellers. They seemed to be more interested in supporting and helping the demonstrators. ...

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... I was at Victoria station by chance on Saturday afternoon, and I have never felt more uncomfortable in this country because of the tension. It was palpable in the air. It was disgraceful.

**Lord Mann (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, I have visited Jewish communities across the United Kingdom over the last few weeks. Everywhere the message is the same: Jewish people and Jewish families are scared. Does the Minister agree with me that the increased police presence we have seen in Jewish communities, be it in Leeds, Manchester, London or elsewhere, has been essential in ensuring that people have been kept safe? Can we be certain that this increased presence will continue for as long as it is needed?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I certainly hope so. Police forces up and down the country have stepped up their neighbourhood patrols to support local Jewish and Muslim communities, including visiting schools, synagogues and mosques. We have seen a rise in the anti-Semitism that the noble Lord describes; that is appalling. I certainly hope that the police's response will stay in place for as long as it is needed.

*col 281* **Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour):** ... There were clearly images of people on those marches over the weekend doing appalling things. I hope the Metropolitan Police and other police forces are using those images to track down the individuals concerned and then to take action against them. ... Can [the Minister] also draw attention to the huge

march against anti-Semitism that took place in Paris? Does he think it would be appropriate if something similar happened in this country?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The police have said that they are investigating those images so, yes, I think I can confirm to the noble Lord that this is happening. I would certainly like to see a march against anti-Semitism, and I would join it.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-11-13/debates/B5C360A9-49DF-4617-AB56-0E6E84B71090/PolicingOfMarchesAndDemonstrations>

## Press Release

**Far-right ‘reverend’ who exchanged letters with terrorists convicted of stirring up racial hatred**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/far-right-reverend-who-exchanged-letters-terrorists-convicted-stirring-racial-hatred>

## New Publication

**Against Serious Violence Reduction Orders: discriminatory, harmful and counterproductive**

[https://assets-global.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/654e3ee9fc29a51c7a3a4dc6\\_Runnymede%20SVRO%20Report%20v6%20\(1\).pdf](https://assets-global.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/654e3ee9fc29a51c7a3a4dc6_Runnymede%20SVRO%20Report%20v6%20(1).pdf)

## News

**Two sentenced for racially abusing FM Humza Yousaf**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-67437714>

**Man and woman avoid jail after pleading guilty to racially abusing Humza Yousaf**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/16/man-woman-avoid-jail-guilty-racist-abuse-humza-yousaf/>

**Saying Rishi isn’t loyal to the UK is just plain racism**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/15/saying-rishi-isnt-loyal-to-the-uk-just-plain-racism/>

**Antisemitism and Islamophobia ‘major drivers’ of hate crime, equality body says**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/antisemitism-ehrc-islamophobia-parliament-government-b2448424.html>

**‘Racism, homophobia and sexism’ exposed among union members at waste depot**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/14/union-reps-threatened-colleagues-with-knives-at-depot/>

**Antisemitic Incidents – 15 November Update**

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/11/15/antisemitic-incidents-15-november-update>

**X ad boycott gathers pace amid antisemitism storm**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-67460386>

**Disney, Apple suspend ads as Musk's X accused of fueling antisemitism, reports say**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/elon-musk-antisemitism-disney-apple-b2449543.html>

**Apple suspends ads on Twitter/X after Elon Musk endorses antisemitic post**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/apple-suspends-ads-on-twitter-x-after-elon-musk-endorses-antisemitic-post-h72qfhczp>

**Against Serious Violence Reduction Orders: discriminatory, harmful and counterproductive**  
<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/against-serious-violence-reduction-orders-discriminatory-harmful-and-counterproductive>

**Boy, 17, arrested in north London on suspicion of terror offences**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/london-metropolitan-police-londoners-israel-islamist-b2449161.html>

**Halfords apologises after workers called Travellers 'p\*keys' and shared a racist meme in WhatsApp group**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/halfords-racism-travellers-offensive-whatsapps-b2440424.html>

**The Left are blind to anti-Jewish racism for one simple reason**  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2023/11/16/left-blind-to-anti-jewish-racism-pro-palestine-march/>

**'I tell my children not to talk about being Jewish when we're out'**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/i-tell-my-children-not-to-talk-about-being-jewish-when-were-out-7wnpbhjv8>

**Opinions are fine, attacking a whole race isn't**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/opinions-are-fine-attacking-a-whole-race-isnt-pm9t0t8gc>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-11240] Marking the 554th Siri Guru Nanak Gurburab** – That the Parliament recognises that 27 November 2022 marks the 554th Gurburab (Birth Anniversary) of Siri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who was the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru; understands that this auspicious moment commemorates one of the most significant occasions for followers of the Sikh faith, and is marked every year on the full moon day of the month of Kartik Purnima, and wishes a happy and prosperous celebration to everyone in Scotland, across the UK and around the world, who is celebrating Gurburab.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-11240>

## Press Release

### **An independent Scotland in Europe**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/an-independent-scotland-in-europe/>

## New Publication

### **Building a New Scotland: an independent Scotland in the EU**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-independent-scotland-eu/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### New Publication

#### **House of Commons Library Briefing: Devolution in Scotland: “The settled will”?**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8441/CBP-8441.pdf>

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## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### **Help during the cost of living crisis**

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

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

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

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

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

### Publication

#### **House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

## News

**Food banks 'dreading the winter' as demand rises**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg6pk70ee6no>

**High inflation has cost UK workers equivalent of a 3p income tax rise**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/soaring-inflation-has-cost-workers-equivalent-of-a-3p-income-tax-rise-m0bfnc02>

**One in 10 parents and carers running out of money before end of month – survey**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/universal-credit-duncan-rishi-sunak-society-conservative-b2446713.html>

**'It actually feels like my place': Scotland's rent cap helps tenants but loopholes remain**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/nov/16/it-actually-feels-like-my-place-scotlands-rent-cap-helps-tenants-but-loopholes-remain>

**Austerity is behind the mouldy housing imperilling people's health**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/nov/15/austerity-is-behind-the-mouldy-housing-imperilling-peoples-health>

**26% of people earning £100,000-plus 'living month-to-month amid costs squeeze'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/money/26-of-people-earning-ps100-000plus-living-monthtomonth-amid-costs-squeeze-b2449071.html>

**Six-figure earners are living 'pay cheque to pay cheque'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/six-figure-earners-living-paycheque-to-paycheque/>

**The government has lost control of the cost of living crisis – here's how businesses must step in**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/nov/16/cost-of-living-crisis-businesses-poverty-winter-companies-charities-gordon-brown>

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## Other New Publications

**Life in the UK index report**

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie\\_uk\\_trust/2023/11/14160616/Life\\_in\\_UK\\_Index\\_Report-3.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2023/11/14160616/Life_in_UK_Index_Report-3.pdf)

**Life in the UK Scotland index report**

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie\\_uk\\_trust/2023/11/15124001/Life\\_in\\_UK\\_Scotland\\_Report.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2023/11/15124001/Life_in_UK_Scotland_Report.pdf)

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## Other News

**Fewer cousins marrying in Bradford's Pakistani community**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-67422918>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

<https://bprcdn.parliament.scot/published/2023/11/15/2fa7a0f3-a0f4-498b-8f39-f7869e40e8e3/SB%2023-43.pdf>

### UK Parliament

**The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

**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

**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/](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

### **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!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Meet Your Neighbour: Walking Together Visiting Places of Worship in Glasgow**

25 November 2023 (Glasgow, 2.00–6.00)

Scottish Interfaith Week event. Interfaith Scotland walking tour to visit neighbouring places of worship in the West End of Glasgow. At each place of worship we will be told a story

before moving on, finishing at the Gurdwara in Berkeley Street to enjoy Langar (vegetarian meal) together. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/vfbf32cc>

### **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/>



gov.scot

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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