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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-12043] International Mother Language Day 2024 –

That the Parliament celebrates the annual International Mother Language Day, on 21 February 2024, as a global initiative to celebrate cultural and linguistic diversity; recognises what it sees as the importance of preserving and protecting all languages used by peoples of the world, as, it understands, an estimated 43% of the world's over 6,000 languages are endangered; appreciates the continued work of the initiative since it was started in Bangladesh and first announced by UNESCO in 1999; understands that this year's celebration will highlight the importance of implementing multilingual education policies and practices as a pillar to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which calls for inclusive, quality education and lifelong learning for all; hopes that the initiative will bring awareness of the cultural significance of preserving the heritage and existence

of world languages; believes that the initiative will further encourage individuals to take pride in their mother language and encourage the learning of different languages, and hopes for the continued success of International Mother Language Day.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-12043>

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-12044] Scotland's Lascar Heritage: Investigating the Lives of South Asian Mariners – That the Parliament congratulates the Bangladesh Association Glasgow on the publication of its book, *Scotland's Lascar Heritage: Investigating the Lives of South Asian Mariners*; understands that the book brings together research and creative outputs of a community-led collections research project exploring the history of South Asian sailors, known as lascars, in Glasgow; recognises that the project was undertaken in partnership between the Bangladesh Association Glasgow, Our Shared Cultural Heritage (OSCH) and Glasgow Life Museums; understands that this collaboration is part of the Exchange: Community-Led Collections Research project; commends the project for its aim to enable organisations around the UK to work with community groups to explore experiences of empire, migration and life in Britain; believes that the project has generated new research and uncovered many people's experiences that had not previously been shared, and looks forward to further collaboration efforts to explore communities' shared experiences of empire and migration across Britain.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-12044>

UK Parliament Debate

Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill – Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-29/debates/BCBA2022-FFD6-412C-9B2D-A4DBB2E85456/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-29/debates/BCBA2022-FFD6-412C-9B2D-A4DBB2E85456/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

Legal Migration Implementation

The Minister for Legal Migration and the Border (Tom Pursglove): [HCWS222] Our points-based immigration system allows us to control who comes to the UK to work, study and visit. It enables the Government to prioritise the skills and talent we need to help our economy grow and support our NHS, while encouraging investment in, and protecting, our resident workforce. On 4 December 2023, the Government announced a major package of measures to curb immigration abuse and further reduce net migration.

Since the pandemic, the UK has experienced unprecedented levels of immigration. This is in large part due to growth in humanitarian routes like Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan, as well as growth in health and social care visas, and students. The latest official estimates show that net migration in the year to June 2023 was 672,000—up significantly on pre-pandemic volumes, but lower than the estimated 745,000 who came in the year to December 2022. The Government are clear that this level of net migration is too high and must come down swiftly to avoid unsustainable pressure on public services and housing.

In May 2023, the Government took decisive action to prevent students from using the student route to access work prior to completion of their studies and arrest the substantial rise in the number of students bringing dependants to the UK. These reforms have been implemented. The ability for students to switch out of the student route early ended on 17 July 2023 and from 1 January 2024, student visa holders can only bring dependants if they are studying for a multi-year postgraduate research degree.

The measures announced in May and December 2023 mean that around 300,000 people

who were eligible to come to the UK last year would not be able to do so in future.

Good progress has been made on implementing the package announced on 4 December: On 19 February, we intend to lay immigration rules which will remove the right for care workers and senior care workers to bring dependants, which will come into force on 11 March 2024. The rules will ensure that care providers in England will only be able to sponsor migrant workers if they are undertaking activities regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This will help tackle the abuse of the health and care visa route that we have seen and ensure that those coming through this route genuinely support the social care system.

On 14 March, we intend to lay immigration rules to increase the earnings thresholds for those arriving on the skilled worker route, with the minimum threshold rising by 48% from £26,200 to £38,700. These changes will come into force from 4 April and will ensure that our immigration system is focused on attracting skilled, highly paid talent from around the world. Those coming on the health and care visa route will be exempted from this specific threshold so we can continue to bring the healthcare workers that our care sector and NHS need. We are also exempting workers on national pay-scale occupations.

On 17 January we commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to carry out a rapid review of the shortage occupation list to inform which occupations should be temporarily added to an immigration salary list from early April. The immigration rules we intend to lay on 14 March will remove the 20% going rate discount for occupations on the shortage occupation list, as well as temporarily adding any occupations as recommended by the MAC to the new immigration salary list.

On family visas, we will bring this in line with the new minimum general salary threshold for a skilled worker of £38,700. We will raise the minimum income for family visas incrementally, in stages, to give predictability to families. The immigration rules we intend to lay on 14 March will set out that from 11 April we will raise the threshold to £29,000—that is the 25th percentile of earnings for jobs which are eligible for Skilled Worker Visas. We will incrementally increase the threshold to the 40th percentile—currently £34,500—and finally to the 50th percentile, currently £38,700, and the level at which the general skilled worker threshold is set, by early 2025.

This major package of measures sits alongside our major transformation of the border and immigration system to deliver a simple, quick, digital end-to-end customer journey, while strengthening border security.

A key part of this transformation is the introduction of the UK's electronic travel authorisation (ETA) scheme. ETAs are a new requirement for passengers visiting or transiting through the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays or who do not already have any other UK immigration status before travelling. The scheme will increase our knowledge about people in advance of travel, which will not only make the UK safer, but help deliver our ambition to increase automation of passenger clearance at the border. The scheme is being introduced in a phased manner, on a nationality-by-nationality basis. As of November 2023, it is now a requirement for nationals of Qatar to obtain an ETA prior to travel to the UK. On 1 February 2024 the scheme will be extended to the remaining Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries—Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE—and Jordan. Other nationalities will be added to the scheme later this year.

All of the above changes show that we welcome those who are here to contribute their skills and talents to the UK, but it is not a right to come here. Those who come must be willing to contribute to our country. In keeping with this, those who use and benefit from our public services, such as the NHS, should make a sufficient financial contribution towards the cost of those services. Legislation has been passed this month to enable the immigration health surcharge to be raised by 66% to £1,035, in respect of applications made on or after 6 February 2024. The new rate reflects the increases in healthcare expenditure and better reflects NHS service use by payers, remembering that payment of the charge provides near comprehensive access to our health service. The level of IHS

will be kept under regular review to ensure it covers the cost of treating IHS payers. We continue to keep all aspects of our immigration and border system under review to ensure it works for the British people and our economy.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-30/debates/24013063000013/LegalMigrationImplementation>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

The Minister for Armed Forces (James Heapey) [HCWS233] I would like to update the House on developments relating to the Afghan Relocations And Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme and the Ministry of Defence's progress in processing applications to the scheme from former members of Afghan specialist units.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these brave individuals who served for, with or alongside our armed forces in support of the UK mission in Afghanistan. Defence is determined to honour the commitments we have made under the ARAP scheme. That is why we have robust checks in place and regularly review our processes and procedures.

While many former members of Afghan specialist units, including former members of CF333 and ATF444, have been found eligible under ARAP and safely relocated to the UK with their families, a recent review of processes around eligibility decisions demonstrated instances of inconsistent application of ARAP criteria in certain cases.

In light of this, we are taking necessary steps to ensure that the ARAP criteria are applied consistently. As such, I can confirm that the MOD has decided to undertake a reassessment of all eligibility decisions made on ineligible applications with credible claims of links to Afghan specialist units. This reassessment will be done by independent staff within the MOD, who have not previously worked on these applications. They will review each application thoroughly on a case-by-case basis.

ARAP applications from this cohort present a unique set of challenges in assessing their eligibility. It is the case that such units reported directly into the Government of Afghanistan, meaning HMG does not hold employment records or comprehensive information, in the same way that we do for many other applicants.

Understanding the depth of feeling ARAP evokes across this place and beyond, we thank Members for their ongoing advocacy and support for ARAP. We have that same depth of feeling in the MOD and in Government, and we will now work quickly to deliver it.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-01/debates/24020146000007/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill: ECHR

Chris Stephens (SNP) [901310] What recent assessment [the Minister] has made of the compatibility of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill with the European convention on human rights.

Reply from the Attorney General (Victoria Prentis): I would like to assure the House that the Government respect their international obligations. The Law Officers convention prevents me from disclosing outside Government whether I have given advice or even what the context of any such advice might be. The Bill to which the

hon. Gentleman refers is currently in the other place, and will, I am sure, be discussed very fully there.

Chris Stephens: Just this week, we heard media reports that four Rwandans had been granted refugee status in the UK in the past four months, citing well-founded fears of persecution. At the same time, the Government would like us to accept that Rwanda is a safe country, despite the Home Office accepting that those individuals face a real threat of persecution. Can the Attorney General tell us how we can send asylum seekers to Rwanda under those circumstances?

Reply from the Attorney General: We are asking Parliament to look at the matter afresh—not just to look at the facts as they were before the Supreme Court, but to look at new circumstances. Evidence was published on 11 January to assist Parliament in those deliberations. We have assurances from the Government of Rwanda that the implementation of all measures within the treaty will be expedited, and we will ratify the treaty when we are ready to do so. ...

Patricia Gibson (SNP): Journalists and bloggers who criticise the Government are arrested, threatened and put on trial, with allegations of torture, disappearances and suspicious deaths. Those are just some of the issues that Human Rights Watch and Amnesty have reported on in Rwanda. When asking Parliament to disregard established legal principles such as the burden of proof and the need for evidence, is the Attorney General genuinely comfortable in passing the Rwanda Bill?

Reply from the Attorney General: It is constitutionally proper for Parliament to legislate in response to a decision of the Supreme Court. We do it all the time in the finance and tax space. Lord Reed was careful to point out to the Constitution Committee in the other House that we did it following the Burmah oil case in the War Damage Act 1965. In this case, I urge the hon. Lady to look hard at the evidence that the Government put before the House on 11 January. If the Bill passes, everyone must treat Rwanda as generally safe for the transfer of individuals under the treaty.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-01/debates/ED8BBEA2-379B-44E9-895C-8085E7D29CDD/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)BillECHR](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-01/debates/ED8BBEA2-379B-44E9-895C-8085E7D29CDD/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)BillECHR)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [11043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the contribution by the Minister for Immigration to the debate on Safe Asylum Routes: Afghan Refugees of 17 October 2023, official report, column 54WH, what progress he has made with Cabinet colleagues on reuniting Afghans evacuated under Operation Pitting in August 2021 with family members.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. 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.

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. We expect to receive referrals in the first half of 2024. Individuals remaining in Afghanistan or elsewhere are not obliged to wait for the pathway for eligible family members of ACRS P1 to open. Appendix FM, for example, provides a route for those seeking to enter the UK on the basis of their family life.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/11043>

The contribution referred to above can be read at

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [11791] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people in Pakistan eligible for relocation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme have been relocated to the UK since December 2023.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 30 January 2024, 1,273 Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Eligible Principals and their family members have been relocated to the UK from Pakistan since December 2023.

Many factors govern the flow of relocation, but we are endeavouring to bring as many eligible Afghans as possible to the UK, as quickly as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11791>

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>

Pakistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [11792] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people in Pakistan eligible for relocation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are still awaiting relocation.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 30 January 2024, there are approximately 1,100 Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Eligible Principals and their family members awaiting relocation from Pakistan.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) are committed to support the continued relocation of eligible Afghans and their families out of Pakistan, and into the UK, as quickly as possible. To date, we have brought approximately 15,300 applicants to safety in the UK under the ARAP scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11792>

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

John Healey (Labour) [11983] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of ARAP (a) pending, (b) rejected and (c) approved applicants identified as having served in a triples unit are residing in a third country.

Reply from James Heapey: In third countries as of 31 January 2024, there are approximately 635 principal applicants awaiting an eligibility decision, 8,513 principal applicants deemed ineligible for relocation under the ARAP scheme, and 458 eligible principal ARAP applicants awaiting onward travel. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of these figures according to job role.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) are committed to support the continued relocation of eligible Afghans and their families out of third countries, and into the UK, as quickly as possible. To date, we have brought approximately 15,300 applicants to safety in the UK under the ARAP scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11983>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [11790] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of the threat to (a) wives and (b) children of people eligible for relocation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy in cases where the principal is deceased.

Reply from James Heapey: Wives and children under 18 of a deceased ARAP-eligible principal applicant are themselves eligible to relocate to the UK under ARAP, provided they can demonstrate that the death of the principal has had a direct impact upon the level of risk they face or their level of vulnerability. This policy is published online and is available on the Gov.uk website at the below link on page 14:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120900/Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy - ARAP.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120900/Afghan_Relocations_and_Assistance_Policy_-_ARAP.pdf)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11790>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [11946] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people approved for relocation under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are residing in hotels in the UK as of 30 January 2024.

John Healey (Labour) [11947] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who are eligible under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are residing in hotels in the UK as of 30 January 2024.

John Healey (Labour) [11987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people that have relocated to the UK under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme are residing in hotels.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to resettle.

Afghans fleeing persecution and those who served the UK. The latest published [Immigration system statistics](#) show that (up to the end of September 2023) we have brought around 24,600 people to safety from Afghanistan and the region.

These statistics also show that:

- we have resettled 9,839 people under all three of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement scheme (ACRS) pathways;
- we have relocated 11,684 under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP); and
- 1,674 people were living in interim accommodation (i.e. hotels/serviced accommodation) during this period (though this number changes frequently, and most of those within interim have now moved into settled accommodation) as of September 2023.

ACRS and ARAP arrivals correct as of around December 2023, and accommodation data will be reflected in the next release of the Immigration Statistics, which is due around 22 February 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11946>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11947>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11987>

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Visas: Ukraine

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [11457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has considered the potential merits of extending visas issued under the (a) Ukraine Family Scheme, (b) Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and (c) the Ukraine Extension Scheme; and whether he has had recent discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the potential impact of such schemes on Government provision for (i) housing, (ii) education and (iii) employment.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: 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. We are keeping the need for a possible extension of permission to remain for those who are here on our Ukraine schemes under consistent review in line with the ongoing war.

The Government is providing funding to councils at a rate of £10,500 per person for guests who arrived before 1 January 2023 and £5,900 for guests who arrived after 1 January 2023 under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The Government is also providing £150 million of new UK-wide funding in the 2023/24 financial year to local authorities and devolved governments to help support Ukrainian guests move into their own homes and reduce the risk of homelessness. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are also working across government to identify other ways to unblock barriers, helping Ukrainians access employment, commensurate with their skill set, liaising with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In addition, the Government announced £11.5 million in the Spring Budget 2023 to fund intensive English language courses and employment support for up to 10,000 eligible individuals (across the UK) under the three humanitarian Ukraine visa schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/11457>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, Homes for Ukraine Scheme, and Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Refugees: Ukraine

Steve McCabe (Labour) [10702] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the application process for the Ukraine Extension Scheme.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Ukraine Extension Scheme (UES) enables Ukrainian nationals already in the UK with permission to enter, or stay, to be eligible to continue their stay in the UK. To qualify for the UES an applicant must either hold permission to be in the UK on or between 18 March 2022 and 16 November 2023, or have previously held permission to be in the UK which expired on or after

1 January 2022. Those who have been granted permission by 16 November will have until 16 May 2024 to submit an application under the scheme.

The Home Office routinely keeps application processes under review to ensure a positive user experience, optimal efficiency, and a robust application of the Immigration Rules.

The Home Office continues to work closely with our European counterparts, including the Ukrainian Government, and keeps the future of our schemes and any future need for extension to the existing 36 months' leave under review, in line with developments of the situation in Ukraine.

We are also mindful that permission will start to expire, for the first arrivals under our Ukrainian schemes, from March 2025, and their need for certainty beyond that point to help them to plan ahead.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-22/10702>

Information about the Ukraine Extension Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [12193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been denied in each quarter since the scheme was launched.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Information relating to the number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claim outcomes which have either been rejected on the grounds of eligibility as they do not qualify for consideration under the Scheme, or found to have zero entitlement to compensation following a full consideration, is included in Windrush Compensation Scheme Transparency Data which is published regularly. The latest published data, covering the period up to November 2023, is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-november-2023>

The relevant page is WCS_04.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/12193>

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

Visas: Health Services

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [11467] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that individuals with family in the UK who switch to a SOC 6145 health worker visa are not separated from their dependents.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Individuals who choose to switch into a visa also choose to accept the terms and conditions of that visa. Further details on the net migration measures announced in December, including about dependant restrictions, are available here:

www.gov.uk/government/news/fact-sheet-on-net-migration-measures-further-detail

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/11467>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Catherine West (Labour) [10645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the clarity of the updated caseworker guidance for processing late applications for the EU Settlement Scheme from people with permanent residency cards.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) caseworker guidance was updated on 16 January in light of operational experience and stakeholder feedback regarding the assessment of reasonable grounds for applying late to the EUSS.

The updated guidance now addresses circumstances where a person may have had a reasonable belief they did not need to apply earlier to the EUSS, or a reasonable basis for being unaware they needed to apply. This may include where they had been issued with a permanent residence document under the EEA Regulations, which implemented free movement law in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-19/10645>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a64d87640602000d3cb6fa/EU Settlement Scheme EU other EEA Swiss citizens and family members.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a64d87640602000d3cb6fa/EU_Settlement_Scheme_EU_other_EEA_Swiss_citizens_and_family_members.pdf)

Asylum: Ethnic Groups

Chris Stephens (SNP) [11511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers there are in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland by ethnic group as of 25 January 2024.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications received is published in table Asy_D01 of the '[Asylum applications, decisions and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. This data is only at national level and includes nationality breakdowns, but not ethnic breakdown.

Data on asylum seekers in receipt of support by UK region is published in table Asy_D09 of the '[Asylum support](#)' detailed datasets. Not all asylum seekers will require support. The data does not include location information for those who are not on support.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of each workbook. The latest data relates to 30 September 2023. Data up to the end of December 2023 will be published on 29 February 2024 and data up to the end of March 2023 will be published on 23 May 2024.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-25/11511>

Asylum

Chris Stephens (SNP) [11510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers per capita of the general population are accommodated in (a) Scotland, (b) England, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Data on immigration groups by devolved administration is published in table Reg_01 of the '[Regional and local authority data](#)'. The number of people under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the Afghan resettlement programme and the supported asylum population and the per capita figure for these three pathways combined is published. Data on the supported population does not include people who are not receiving state support (such as unsupported asylum seekers).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-25/11510>

Asylum: Employment

John Hayes (Conservative) [11476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of changing the time limit after which asylum seekers with outstanding claims may seek permission to work.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Asylum seekers cannot work unless they have had their asylum claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those who apply and are granted permission to work after 12 months are restricted to applying for jobs on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). This is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Our current policy approach on permission to work is longstanding and there are no plans to make changes, other than aligning it with the upcoming Immigration Salary List, which replaces the SOL. It is important that we distinguish between individuals who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. The government has always been clear that asylum seekers do not need to make perilous journeys in order to seek employment in the UK.

Unrestricted access to employment could act as an incentive for more migrants to choose to come here illegally; leading to further dangerous journeys across the Channel and supporting the business model of people smugglers, rather than claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-25/11476>

Asylum: Employment

John Hayes (Conservative) [10977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were employed in roles on the shortage occupation list in 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Asylum seekers who have had their claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, are eligible to apply for permission to work. Those granted permission are restricted to applying for jobs on the Shortage Occupation List. This is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Should an individual find successful employment, they must provide employment details when available, so that a review of their eligibility for and level of asylum support (if any) can be conducted. Failure to do so will result in any support being discontinued.

The Home Office does not publish data on the number of asylum seekers who have been permitted to work.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/10977>

Asylum: Mental Health

Chris Stephens (SNP) [11509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many cases of (a) self-harm, (b) depression and (c) suicidal ideation have been reported by people living in government-provided asylum accommodation in (i) hotels, (ii) barges, (iii) former military sites and (iv) detention facilities and removal centres in each of the last 15 years.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Central records on the number of cases of self-harm and suicidal ideation that have been reported in immigration removal centres (IRCs) are not held as far back as 15 years. Additionally, no central records on the number of cases of depression reported in IRCs are held. This information relates to health conditions which are treated as medical in confidence and therefore the Home Office would not necessarily know if someone in detention was experiencing depression.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-25/11509>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [11046] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee children were wrongly assessed to be adults by the Home Office between January 2022 and June 2023; and if he will make an assessment of the potential implications for his Department's policies of the report by the Refugee Council together with Helen Bamber Foundation and Humans for Rights Network entitled Forced Adulthood, published on 23 January 2024.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office does not publish the data requested, as this cannot currently be collected via national reporting systems. Our published data on age assessment can be accessed [here](#) which includes the number of age disputes raised and resolved, and whether the decision found the individual to be under or over 18.

Our age assessment policies for immigration purposes seek to protect genuine minors and identify those who are adults. Determining the age of a young person is an inherently difficult task and therefore, the age assessment process for immigration purposes contains a number of safeguards.

Where a new arrival does not have genuine documentary evidence of their age and their claimed age is doubted, an initial age decision is conducted as a first step to prevent individuals who are clearly an adult or child from being subjected unnecessarily to a more substantive age assessment and ensure that new arrivals are routed into the correct accommodation and processes for assessing their asylum or immigration claim.

The Home Office will only treat an individual claiming to be a child as an adult, without conducting further enquiries, if two Home Office members of staff independently determine that the individual's physical appearance and demeanour very strongly suggests they are significantly over 18 years of age. The lawfulness of this process was endorsed by the Supreme Court in the case of R (on the application of BF (Eritrea)) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] UKSC 38.

Where doubt remains and an individual cannot be assessed to be significantly over 18, they will be treated as a child for immigration purposes until further assessment of their age by a local authority.

The Home Office is currently considering the contents and recommendations of the report by the Refugee Council together with Helen Bamber Foundation and Humans for Rights Network entitled Forced Adulthood, published on 23 January 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/11046>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Forced-Adulthood-joint-report-on-age-disputes-January-2024.pdf>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2019-0147-judgment.pdf>

Asylum: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [11353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum were in Home Office hotel accommodation as of 24 January 2024.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: As of the 24 January 2024, there were no children accommodated in the remaining UASC hotel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/11353>

Asylum: Housing

Olivia Blake (Labour) [12202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Annexes (a) C and (b) G of the statement of requirements at schedule 2 of the Asylum Accommodation and Support contracts have been incorporated into the allocation of asylum accommodation policy.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Allocation of Accommodation policy provides guidance on room sharing across all accommodation sites, including Napier, ex-MoD sites and vessels. The policy includes a suitability criteria which is applied when allocating accommodation to individuals. Accommodation providers are required to consider the suitability criteria, in addition to the Statement of Requirements, when considering whether room sharing is suitable and/or where an individual has any specific needs which have been raised.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/12202>

Schedule 2, referred to above, can be read at

<https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC - Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements.pdf>

The Allocation of Accommodation policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651e85ee7309a10014b0a882/Allocation+of+accommodation.pdf>

Asylum: Housing

Chris Stephens (SNP) [11508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the number of asylum seekers that were affected by (a) mould and (b) other damp conditions in (i) social housing, (ii) the private rented sector and (iii) hotel accommodation in the last 12 months.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office ensures that all asylum accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and meets all regulatory requirements.

Home Office accommodation providers are required to visit each property at least monthly, and assurance that contractual requirements are met is tested by the Home Office Contract Assurance Team, which inspects properties and undertakes other assurance activities on an intelligence-led basis.

All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help, where any concerns regarding accommodation standards can be raised. Issues will then be investigated and addressed in accordance with strict contractual target timeframes.

The information you have requested is not held in a readily reportable format and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-25/11508>

Asylum: Housing

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [10606] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal migrants are due to be rehoused from hotels to other forms of accommodation in (a) the United Kingdom and (b) Romford constituency by the end of February 2024.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office has always been clear that use of hotels as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers was a short-term measure to ensure that we met our statutory obligation to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute during a period of unprecedented numbers of small boat arrivals.

We are making significant progress in closing hotels, with 50 due to be closed by the end of January and many more in the coming months.

The programme of closures will be managed carefully to ensure all supported asylum seekers are provided with suitable alternative accommodation elsewhere in the estate. Dispersal accommodation and large disused military sites are cheaper for the taxpayer and less impactful on communities.

Data on the number of supported asylum seekers in accommodation (including in contingency hotels and other contingency accommodation) is published in table Asy_D11 here: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-19/10606>

Asylum: Bibby Stockholm

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [11352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria are used for selecting people to be accommodated on the Bibby Stockholm.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: We assess every individual against an agreed suitability criteria, guidance on this can be found here: [Allocation of accommodation](#).

Each person's suitability will be assessed at regular intervals and if they are no longer suitable for any reason, they will be moved to alternative accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/11352>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [11354] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what data his Department holds on the (a) longest and (b) average length of time people are held in Brook House immigration removal centre.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office publishes data on detention in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on length of detention for people leaving detention is published in table Det_D03 of the '[Detailed detention dataset](#)'. The latest data relates to the end of September 2023. However this data is not broken down by last place of detention as this does not show where an individual spent their time in detention. In some cases, an individual may have spent a period of time detained elsewhere before being moved to their last place of detention.

Data on people leaving detention by last place of detention is published in table Det_04c of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'. However, this data is not broken down by length of detention, for the reason given above.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/11354>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1704] To ask His Majesty's Government what is their policy to stop all dangerous channel crossings.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Illegal Migration Act, which this Government has enacted, is an important part of our response to illegal migration. The Act marks a vital step forward to stopping dangerous, unnecessary, and illegal journeys to the UK by removing the incentives for people to take these routes in the first place.

The UK and French governments are committed to working together to stop small boat crossings of the English Channel, and in March 2023 the Prime Minister and President Macron agreed an ambitious new, multi-year, deal that will see us

intensify our cooperation with the French government to prevent small boat crossings, with the aim of improving the interception rate and drastically reducing the number of crossings year-on-year. This new agreement is seeing more French personnel being deployed, supported by cutting-edge surveillance technologies and equipment; a new Zonal Coordination Centre has been established, responsible for the coordination and deployment of all relevant French law enforcement, supported by the UK and including permanently embedded British officers, and more work being done to disrupt organised crime gangs through improved intelligence sharing.

In 2023, our cooperation with France prevented over 26,000 individual crossings by small boat to the UK. Since the Joint Intelligence Cell was set up in July 2020, we have dismantled 82 organised criminal gangs responsible for people smuggling of small boats migrants.

We have developed a comprehensive illegal migration strategy to stop the boats and we are focused on delivering it; this has already seen a reduction in small boat crossings by a third in 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1704>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Overseas Students

Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated) [HL1764] To ask His Majesty's Government what proportion of the (1) gross, and (2) net, migration figures for 2022 were foreign students.

Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated) [HL1765] To ask His Majesty's Government what proportion of the (1) gross, and (2) net, migration figures for 2022 were dependents of foreign students.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Rolfe: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

Your questions can be answered by using data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). These data can be found in our year ending June 2023 edition of our *Long-term international immigration, emigration and net migration flows, provisional* dataset^[1]. This includes data up to June 2023. Specifically, for long term migration^[2] by reason, including study visas, please see table 3 of the aforementioned dataset. Please note that the estimates within the dataset are still provisional.

For the year ending December 2022, estimates for both students and dependants are available for non-EU migrants. We do not currently have comparable figures for EU and British nationals.

For the year ending December 2022, total immigration was 1,234,000, of which 1,030,000 were non-EU migrants.

For the year ending December 2022, 315,000 students immigrated long-term, 31% of all non-EU migrants. In addition, 93,000 student dependants immigrated long-term, 9% of all non-EU migrants.

For the year ending December 2022, total emigration of all nationalities was 489,000 and emigration of non-EU migrants was 157,000.

72,000 were non-EU migrants who initially arrived on a study visa leaving (46% of all non-EU emigrants) and a further 12,000 were non-EU migrants who initially arrived on a study dependant visa leaving (8%).

To calculate net migration for students and their dependents, we take the number of individuals who emigrated – who initially arrived in the UK on a study visa (or

study-dependant visa) – away from the number of individuals who immigrated on a study visa (or study-dependant visa).

This comes with some caveats. It compares immigration to emigration within the same period, so the migrants counted are a summary of both past and current behaviours at a fixed point in time. Individuals counted as an emigrant in this method could have transitioned to a different visa type during their time in the UK. This means that this measure could present a distorted view of the true causes for migration, for example where someone studies and then works.

For the year ending December 2022, net migration of non-EU migrants was 873,000. 243,000 was net migration for study visas, 28% of all non-EU net migration and 82,000 were study dependants, 9% of all non-EU net migration.

Figures used to answer your questions in this response have been included in Table 1.

Table 1: Immigration, Emigration and Net Migration for year ending December 2022

Year ending Dec 2022	All nationalities	All Non-EU migrants	Non-EU Students	Non-EU Student dependants
Immigration	1,234,000	1,030,000	315,000	93,000
Emigration	489,000	157,000	72,000	12,000
Net migration	745,000	873,000	243,000	82,000

The most up to date information is from year ending December 2023. This has been provided in Table 2 in case helpful.

Table 2: Immigration, Emigration and Net Migration for year ending June 2023

Year ending June 2023	All nationalities	All Non-EU migrants	Non-EU Students	Non-EU Student dependants
Immigration	1,180,000	968,000	282,000	96,000
Emigration	508,000	200,000	88,000	27,000
Net migration	672,000	768,000	194,000	69,000

Because of the increases seen in the immigration of students in the recent time periods, we would expect emigration to continue to rise as those students come to the end of their studies. However, research in our Reason for international migration, international students update: November 2023 article^[3] suggests that more recent cohorts of students are staying in the UK for longer. We will continue to monitor this trend to see how it evolves over time.

When accessing any of our files, you may find it helpful to read the 'notes, terms and conditions' contained within them. ...

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/longterminternationalimmigrationemigrationandnetmigrationflowsprovisional>

[2] We continue to use the UN definition of a long-term migrant: a person who moves to a country other than that of their usual residence for at least a year.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingjune2022#glossary>

[3] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/reasonforinternationalmigrationinternationalstudentsupdate/november2023>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-18/hl1764>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-18/hl1765>

Undocumented Migrants

Baroness Hoey (Non-affiliated) [HL1642] To ask His Majesty's Government how many migrants arrived improperly in the UK from otherwise safe countries in each of the past five years; and why they keep no electronically accessible records of which countries those migrants previously resided in or were registered in.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office publishes statistics on detected irregular arrivals to the UK in the 'Irregular migration to the UK' statistics release, available on gov.uk. Data on irregular arrivals by method of entry is published in table Irr_D01 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed datasets](#)', with the latest data up to the end of September 2023.

Information on the country asylum seekers were previously residing in before coming to the UK can be collected in case notes at different stages of the asylum process, so is not collected in a reportable manner.

[Irregular Migration to the UK dataset](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-16/hl1642>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1703] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to ensure that all those seeking to make an asylum claim have a safe and clear route to do so.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights. Since 2015, we have offered over half a million people a safe and legal route to the UK. With the scale of disruption and the lamentable situations that too many people find themselves in across the globe, we will never be able to provide a route for all or that meets every eventuality.

Through the cap on safe and legal routes, we are seeking to get a better idea on the capacity of local authorities to resettle refugees. By setting the cap, based on the actual capacity of the UK, we can continue to welcome people to the UK in a sustainable way and put the UK's resettlement model on a stable and predictable footing. The consultation with local authorities is now closed. The final figure will be agreed to by Parliament. Parliament will have an opportunity to debate and vote on the cap before it comes into force.

It is only by bearing down on illegal migration, and through reverting to more sustainable management of our safe and legal routes through the cap, that we can continue to focus on helping people directly from regions of conflict and instability. We believe our resettlement schemes are the best way to provide much needed support for those who need it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1703>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1708] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce the waiting period for asylum seekers to be granted the right to work to six months rather than the current 12 months.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Asylum seekers who have had their claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, are allowed to work. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List. This is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. Whilst we keep all policies under review, there are no immediate plans to change the existing policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1708>

MOD Wethersfield: Migrants

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL1686] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 11 December 2023 (HL597), how often is the doctor at the onsite primary healthcare available to hold in-person consultations for residents.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The site has on-site primary healthcare delivered by a local healthcare provider during working hours Monday to Friday. The medical centre is open for 12 hours on arrival days.

Healthcare provision on site is designed to be comprehensive and minimise any impact on local services. It is analogous to a conventional GP's surgery with additional, bespoke, health screening capability.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1686>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-11-27/hl597>

Bibby Stockholm: Standards

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL1582] To ask His Majesty's Government what action they are taking to (1) improve the mental and physical health of asylum seekers on the Bibby Stockholm barge, following the death of Leonard Farruku on 12 December 2023; and (2) ensure that the process of assessing living conditions on the Bibby Stockholm is sufficiently transparent.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: This tragic incident is subject to an ongoing investigation by the police and Coroner and therefore we cannot comment upon this or other individual cases. It is right that the facts surrounding this are established in the appropriate legal manner.

The welfare of asylum seekers is always a priority. The Home Office ensures that accommodation provided is adequate and meets the regulatory standards. We assess individuals' suitability to reside at Portland before moving them on board, and each person's suitability is assessed at regular intervals. If anyone is no longer suitable for any reason, they will be moved to alternative accommodation.

Accommodation providers ensure that guidance and training provided to staff regarding the identification and management of vulnerable asylum seekers with specific needs, or at-risk asylum seekers, is kept up to date and aligns with best practice and safeguarding processes.

The medical facility on the barge is staffed 5 days a week to provide an onsite primary healthcare service. The medical team has previous experience of working with asylum seekers, and refer anyone they are concerned about to the relevant specialist health providers, and discuss (in line with GDPR requirements), their advice with staff.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-15/hl1582>

Bibby Stockholm: General Practitioners

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL1685] To ask His Majesty's Government how many days is a GP on site on the Bibby Stockholm each week; and whether they have plans to review this level of provision.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The medical facility on the barge is staffed 5 days a week to provide an onsite primary healthcare service with which the asylum seekers will register; this means individuals will not need to register with a local GP practice. The medical team has previous experience of working with asylum seekers.

This team provides care to the asylum seekers either on the vessel itself between the hours of 9am-5pm, or remotely (including outside of these hours).

Medical provision includes:

- a qualified senior health professional, such as an advanced nurse practitioner or a paramedic on site 5 days per week - 9am-5pm
- a GP onsite (one day per week) 9am-5pm
- remote access to GP consultations when onsite care is unavailable or needs

additional support

- access to translation services is in place and this has been shared with local services
- any prescribed medicines will be transported to the vessel for the asylum seekers

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1685>

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1705] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for preventing the deportation of individuals, brought to the UK as children, when they turn 18.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Individuals who entered the UK under the age of 18 and committed an offence after turning 18 are considered for deportation in line with legislation. Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity.

The Government is determined to do everything possible to protect the public and remove foreign criminals from the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1705>

Press Release

Home Secretary underlines commitment to cut net migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-underlines-commitment-to-cut-net-migration>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Changes to legal migration rules for family and work visas in 2024

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9920/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: The immigration health surcharge

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7274/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Home fee status for students from Hong Kong

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9950/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Deportation and early removal of foreign national offenders

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2024-0023/CDP-2024-0023.pdf>

Letter to the Minister for Illegal Migration following up the Home Affairs Committee's visit to the Bibby Stockholm barge

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/43175/documents/214806/default/>

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

Rwanda deportations could be low if other deals done, says James Cleverly

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68154294>

Number of migrants sent to Rwanda could be 'quite low', home secretary admits

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-flights-sunak-cleverly-tories-b2487991.html>

More than 30,000 migrants earmarked for Rwanda deportation are on bail

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/31/30000-migrants-deportation-rwanda-missing-bail-small-boats/>

More than 30,000 UK asylum seekers on bail under Rwanda deportation threat

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/31/more-than-30000-uk-asylum-seekers-on-bail-under-rwanda-deportation-threat>

Rwanda Bill criticised by peers at first stage in House of Lords

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-68126734>

Justin Welby and former Supreme Court president threaten to scupper Rwanda plan

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/31/justin-welby-baroness-hale-amendments-rwanda-bill-delay/>

Lords will try to halt Rwanda flights until after the election

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-bill-house-lords-water-down-zgc82zs9x>

Rights watchdog responds to Safety of Rwanda Bill

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/rights-watchdog-responds-safety-rwanda-bill>

Rwanda bill would move Britain towards 'elected dictatorship', Sunak warned

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-bill-archbishop-of-canterbury-grzb8k566>

News: Channel Migrants

Migrants on fatal Channel crossing screamed 'we're going to die', court told

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-68140645>

Death in the Channel - what led a 14-year-old boy to make fatal journey?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-68084466>

News: Afghanistan

Ex-Afghan special forces to have UK relocation claims re-examined

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-68152923>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Glasgow has 'impossible challenge' to house over 400 refugees

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24091898.glasgow-impossible-challenge-house-400-refugees/>

Britain needs 156,000 new homes a year to cope with immigration surge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-to-propel-uk-population-to-74m-by-2036-5p26lhvgj>

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Community Relations

News

Charity faces funding withdrawal after refusing to cut ties with Muslim Council of Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/03/inter-faith-network-muslim-council-britain-michael-gove/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Pregnancy Loss and Baby Deaths: Inequalities

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-24319] To ask the Scottish Government what work it is doing to reduce any inequalities in pregnancy loss and baby deaths of Black and Asian babies in Scotland.

Reply from Jenni Minto: We are dedicated to tackling inequalities in maternity experience and outcomes. That is why we asked NHS Boards to prioritise the roll-out of continuity of carer in maternity care, that underpins The Best Start programme leading to improved outcomes, for women from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds, as well as for women experiencing multiple social complexity.

In January 2023, we launched a programme of work with a focus on racialised inequalities in maternity, informed by data and evidence from reports, including MBRRACE-UK (Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK) confidential enquiries, audit reports, and third sector reports on the lived experiences of service users. We have established a short-life working group, bringing together third sector organisations, healthcare professionals, professional bodies and national networks to identify and take evidence-based actions addressing inequalities, with the voice of those with lived experience at the centre.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24319>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Young Offenders: Ethnic Groups

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [11593] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to Barnardo's report entitled Double discrimination: Black care-experienced young adults navigating the criminal justice system, published on 21 September 2023, whether he has made an assessment of discrimination affecting Black care-experienced young adults who have involvement with the criminal justice system.

Reply from Edward Argar: We are grateful for the work Barnardo's have done to highlight the challenges faced by young black care-experienced people in our criminal justice system, and I was delighted to meet with them on 30 January to discuss the Double Discrimination report. We look forward to working with them further to ensure we are tackling these issues.

Across the criminal justice system, we are taking forward an extensive programme of work to tackle unexplained disparities where they are identified. The Inclusive Britain strategy is central to the development of this work and contains some of our flagship efforts.

We are also updating our strategy for people with care experience in the criminal justice system, to ensure we are using care-experienced people's time in the criminal justice system to support them to lead crime-free lives. In this work, we will be building on the work done by Barnardo's to focus on race and its role in shaping the experiences and outcomes of those with care experience in the criminal justice system, and developing proposals to address this.

We are aiming to publish this strategy later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-26/11593>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/Double%20Discrimination%20-%20Black%20care-experienced%20young%20adults%20navigating%20the%20criminal%20justice%20system%20report.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Passports: Ethnic Groups

Lord Blunkett (Labour) [HL1679] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the automatic algorithmic verification of passport photographs uploaded for online passport applications, to ensure that ethnic diversity does not lead to the rejection of photographs which comply with requirements, for example on the ground that eyes are closed when the photograph clearly shows that the eyes are open.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: When applying for a passport online, the photo submitted is subject to an initial check to determine if automated passport office systems would assess that the photo meets the internationally agreed standards for passports.

Where a photo is assessed as not meeting the required standards, it does not routinely mean it is rejected. Customers may override the outcome of this check and submit the photo as part of their application. On receipt of the application, the image will then be assessed by a human to determine whether it is suitable for passport purposes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/hl1679>

New Publication

Muslim women in the workplace and the Equality Act 2010: Opportunities for an intersectional analysis

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/13582291231176513>

News

Funding available for organisations to give evidence to the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva

<http://tinyurl.com/yd7ejny4>

New polling shows concern about inequalities extends beyond regional equalities

<http://tinyurl.com/4dx44mah>

Lit in Colour

<https://www.pearson.com/en-gb/schools/subject-resources/literacy-and-english/diversity-in-lit/lit-in-colour.html>

Unlocking career opportunities for young Black men

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/unlocking-career-opportunities-for-young-black-men>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Museums (Education on Racism and Colonialism)

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6O-03043] To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to ensure that pupils can interact with museums as part of their education to help address racism and the legacy of colonialism.

Reply from tThe Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (Jenny Gilruth): Pupils engage with museums and exhibitions in a number of ways. For example, young people co-curated the “Glasgow—City of Empire” exhibition at Kelvingrove art gallery and museum that was launched in November last year. It is important that we build on that approach, which is why the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development accepted all the recommendations of the “Empire, Slavery and Scotland’s museums” report last week. They include the recommendation that “Museums should support efforts to promote and embed race equality and anti-racism in the curricula in a meaningful, effective, and sustainable way.”

We will continue to work with Museums Galleries Scotland to implement that recommendation, which aligns with our new breaking-the-mould anti-racist curriculum principles and supports our programme for government commitment to advance inclusive education and promote a decolonised curriculum.

Foyso Choudhury: Last week, I visited Kelvingrove art gallery, which has recently launched the exhibition that the cabinet secretary mentioned. The organisers worked with communities to tell the story of the empire and how it still affects communities in Scotland today. What discussion has the Scottish Government had with Education Scotland

regarding access for children across Scotland to such educational exhibitions? How will it ensure that pupils leave school with a robust understanding of racism and colonialism and the impact that they have had on our society?

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: ... I should say that it is for local authorities to support schools in developing partnerships with Kelvingrove art gallery or other museums in their local areas. However, Education Scotland has an important role to play in facilitating and encouraging links between museums and schools and local authorities. For example, it is planning an online webinar for April this year to raise schools' awareness about education resources in museums and how to make use of museums as part of the school curriculum. Important practical materials are contained in National Museums Scotland's Atlantic slave trade learning resources, which support the learning and teaching of the transatlantic slave trade component of a national 5 qualification. Education Scotland will continue to promote such resources to schools.

As we embark on a period of reform in Scottish education, we should be cognisant of the work that Education Scotland has undertaken, and we should support that through the curriculum development that will happen in the coming weeks and months.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15685&i=133834#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

John Hayes (Conservative) [10974] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what information her Department holds on the number of antisemitism incidents there have been on higher education campuses since 7 October 2023.

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

The department also regularly meets with the Community Security Trust (CST), which monitors and reports on antisemitism in the UK. CST's latest report indicates that there were 154 antisemitic incidents in higher education (HE) between 7 October 2023 and 13 December 2023.

This unprecedented level of antisemitism on campus is deeply concerning. On 5 November 2023, the department published a five-point plan detailing concerted action to protect Jewish students in HE. The plan involves:

- Calling for visas to be withdrawn from international students who incite racial hatred.
- Liaising with the Office for Students on its role in reviewing antisemitic incidents.
- Continuing to make it clear in all discussions that acts that may be criminal should be referred to the police.
- Communicating with Vice Chancellors to emphasise the use of robust disciplinary measures and the importance of police engagement.
- Establishing an antisemitism quality seal in HE, which will enable universities

to demonstrate a tangible commitment to tackling antisemitism. In the 22 November 2023 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an additional £7 million of funding over three years for a comprehensive package of measures to tackle antisemitism in schools, colleges and universities. The department will issue an invitation to tender shortly for organisations interested in delivering this package.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/10974>

The online reporting form referred to above can be accessed at
<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

Schools: Antisemitism

Bob Blackman (Conservative) [901201] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle antisemitism in schools.

Reply from Damian Hinds: It is deeply concerning to see the huge rise in antisemitism following Hamas's terrorist attacks in Israel on 7 October 2023. To see this form of hatred also take place in education is unacceptable.

The government took immediate action in October 2023. First, to increase security measures at Jewish schools, colleges and nurseries - we announced £3 million of additional funding to the Community Security Trust.

The Secretary of State also wrote to all schools and colleges on 17 October 2023, urging them to support Jewish students and highlighting our political impartiality guidance and advice on the Prevent programme.

To support schools and colleges we published learning resources on our Educate Against Hate website.

We are also providing over £3 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations, which includes projects to tackle hate-related bullying on the basis of race and faith.

The department has networks of 'Prevent' practitioners who provide training to school staff on radicalisation and empower teachers to challenge extremism in the classroom. We continue to monitor the situation carefully. Ministers have conducted several visits recently to listen to the experience of Jewish communities, including meeting with Dr David Landau who is Chair of Governors Menorah High School, one of the settings that temporarily closed in October over safety concerns.

We are engaging regularly with faith groups and school leadership organisations to understand their concerns and use it to shape our response. This includes the Board of Jewish Deputies and Chinuch UK.

In the Autumn Statement, on 22 November 2023, the government announced a further £7 million of funding over the next three years to help tackle antisemitism. This will help support schools, colleges, and universities to understand, recognise and deal with antisemitism effectively. We are preparing to issue an invitation for interested organisations to tender in the coming weeks.

If anyone feels that specific issues in education are not being addressed, they can raise them directly to the department through the Counter Extremism helpline or our "Report Extremism" online form. We then engage with the police and local authorities to consider what action is needed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/901201>

The funding 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 to schools and colleges referred to above can be read at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDFE/bulletins/3763f13>

The Educate Against Hate website, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

The online form referred to above can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Hate Crime: Alternatives to Prison

Lord Laming (Crossbench) [HL1794] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that non-custodial sentences command public and judicial confidence by ensuring that, when offenders undertake such interventions, they are demanding, well organised, purposeful, and with the clear intention of reducing recidivism.

Reply from Lord Bellamy: The Government is committed to the effective delivery of non-custodial sentences, and it is important that both judges and the public have confidence in the delivery of these sentences.

Courts have the power to impose a range of requirements to sentences served in the community. All community orders must have a compulsory punitive element to ensure that offenders are punished for their crime, and to deter further reoffending. For example, Unpaid Work (UPW) ensures offenders are making visible reparations for their crimes, such as cleaning graffiti. We have invested up to £93m in Community Payback over a three-year period to boost delivery of UPW hours. We have also relaunched the UPW nominations [website](#) on GOV.UK to make it easier and more accessible for the public to have a say in how and where UPW hours should be used.

Electronic monitoring is a well-established tool available to courts and probation staff to strengthen offender management in the community. We are increasing the number of defendants and offenders that can be tagged at any one time to 25,000 by March 2025.

Community Sentence Treatment Requirements (CSTRs) can also be imposed as part of a community sentence for offenders with mental health, drug or alcohol issues, offering a robust alternative to custody which addresses the root causes of offending. We have recruited Health and Justice Partnership Coordinators across all probation regions to ensure strong links between probation and healthcare to support these requirements.

Public confidence is maintained by ensuring our staff are equipped with the right tools so that they can make the most of their expertise and judgement. We have increased funding for the Probation Service by an additional £155m a year to recruit record levels of staff, so that we can bring down caseloads, and deliver better and more consistent supervision of offenders in the community.

We recognise the importance of ensuring the public is properly informed about sentencing as a whole and that the public has access to a range of information to enable this. We are also building and maintaining the confidence of the judiciary by improving arrangements to increase understanding and transparency in probation delivery at national, regional and local levels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-22/hl1794>

Press Release

Irish Traveller settles race discrimination claim with support from equality watchdog
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/irish-traveller-settles-race-discrimination-claim-support-equality-watchdog>

New Publication

Pursuing racial justice in mental health
https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CentreforMH_PursuingRacialJusticeInMH.pdf

News

Scottish far-right splinter group registers as political party
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scottish-far-right-splinter-group-registers-as-political-party-9r5g3jmd9>

NHS race watchdog urges action as new report highlights racism impact on mental health
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-causes-poor-mental-health-and-prevents-people-accessing-support-says-new-report-b2488124.html>

BBC employee called Jewish people ‘Nazis’ and whites ‘parasites’
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/01/bbc-employee-called-jewish-people-nazis-and-uk-bigoted/>

Anti-Semites using AI to promote Holocaust denial
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/03/anti-semites-using-artificial-intelligence-holocaust-denial/>

Man arrested after ‘brandishing knife at staff’ in Jewish supermarket
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/01/29/man-arrested-for-allegedly-brandishing-knife-in-jewish-shop/>

Man arrested over suspected knife attack at kosher shop
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/london-jewish-golders-green-police-metropolitan-police-b2486852.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-12045] Celebrating Chinese New Year 2024 - Year of the Dragon – That the Parliament congratulates all those celebrating Chinese New Year 2024, the year of the dragon, in Scotland and around the world; acknowledges that the festival celebrates the arrival of spring and the beginning of a New Year on the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar; understands that legend states that the festival stemmed from an ancient battle against the Nian; further understands that the ways in which people

celebrate this festival include displaying red paper, burning bamboo, lighting candles, wearing red clothes, giving red gift envelopes, and watching fireworks displays; notes that celebrations of the Chinese New Year traditionally last for 16 days, which this year begins on 10 February 2024, and wishes all those celebrating this occasion a happy and joyous time.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-12045>

New Publication

Building a New Scotland: Culture in an independent Scotland

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

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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/>

News

Councils warn of new wave of Scots homelessness emergencies

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24085677.councils-warn-new-wave-scots-homelessness-emergencies/>

Demand for financial help jumps 34% as UK grapples with debt and cost of living

<https://www.independent.co.uk/money/demand-for-financial-help-jumps-34-as-uk-grapples-with-debt-and-cost-of-living-b2487009.html>

Social tariff would have lifted 2.2m households out of fuel poverty – charities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/age-uk-caroline-abrahams-mencap-snp-government-b2489181.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3530>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3627>

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

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

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3618/stages>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3649>

**** Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3540>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-29/debates/BCBA2022-FFD6-412C-9B2D-A4DBB2E85456/SafetyOfRwanda\(AsylumAndImmigration\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-01-29/debates/BCBA2022-FFD6-412C-9B2D-A4DBB2E85456/SafetyOfRwanda(AsylumAndImmigration)Bill)

Amendment Paper

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/54090/documents/4389>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/54090/documents/4401>

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3660>

Scottish Law Officers (Devolution) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3665>

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

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

Workforce Information (Ethnicity) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3522>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Health and Social Care Workforce – Help Us to Tackle Racism

(closing date 19 February 2024)

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/7K3359S>

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 2024)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

Ending conversion practices in Scotland (closing date 2 April 2024)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-conversion-practices-scotland-scottish-government-consultation/>

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

** Bank of Scotland Empower

Closing date: 15 February 2024

Bank of Scotland funding of up to £150,000 for charities working with vulnerable groups who are more susceptible to experiencing harm, discrimination, or disadvantage as a result of the cost of living crisis. The funding is unrestricted, so it can be used towards core costs, delivery costs, project costs and/or general running costs. For information see <https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/funding-programmes/empower>

Alwaleed Community Grant Scheme

Closing date: 11 March 2024

Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World funding of up to £5,000 for projects which engage with the following themes: Interfaith and intra-faith relations, Islam and the environment, Education and skills development, and Digital Islam. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4atszf5m>

**** Ethnic Minority Development Fund**

Closing date: 15 April 2024

National Lottery Community Fund grants from £500 to £15,000 for projects run by ethnic minority-led third-sector organisations in Scotland that bring ethnic minority people together and build strong relationships across communities, help more ethnic minority people to be the best they can be, by supporting them as soon as possible, or improve places and spaces that matter to ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://cemvoscotland.org.uk/emdf/>

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!**

Tackling Sectarianism CPD for Youth Workers

7 February 2024 (online, 1.00–3.00)

YouthLink Scotland training to provide youth workers with the tools they need to engage young people on the topic of sectarianism, prejudice and hate in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/pmypydnz>

**** this week!**

Pass the Mic Women of Colour Experts in Scotland

Apply by 10 February 2024

Programme runs from March to November 2024

The 2024 women of colour writers group is now open for applications. The programme includes allocation to a media partner (The Scotsman, The Courier, Press and Journal, The National, or The Herald), with payment of £100 for your article, and online development sessions with editors and guest speakers. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/mt9mkpc6>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

15 May 2024 (Glasgow, 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)

13 May 2024 (Glasgow, 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)

22 May 2024 (Glasgow (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>

How To Be a Political Commentator - Broadcast Media Training for Women of Colour

8 March 2024 (Glasgow. 10.30–5.30)

Pass the Mic and Women in Journalism Scotland are working together to host a media commentator training day exclusively for women of colour who are based in Scotland. The purpose of the day is to give you a chance to experience giving interviews on radio and TV. You will meet journalists and presenters, and lunch will be provided. For information see <https://passthemicscotland.org/2024/01/20/media-commentator-training/>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

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

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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