

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	New Publications
Community Relations	Other News
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Independence Referendum and Devolution	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Funding Opportunities
Other UK Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
	Useful Links

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Refugee resettlement

S5O-00809 Christina McKelvie: To ask the Scottish Government what communication it has had with the UK Government regarding the Syrian refugee resettlement scheme.

Reply from Angela Constance: I met the Immigration Minister, Robert Goodwill MP on 11 October 2016 to discuss the Syrian Resettlement Programme and other issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers. I also wrote jointly with the President of COSLA, Councillor David O'Neill to the Immigration Minister on 5 October 2016 about the issues of family reunion and travel documents for refugees arriving under the Programme.

The Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions were represented at official level on the Refugee Taskforce, and Scottish Government and Home Office officials continue to have regular contact in relation to the Syrian

Resettlement Programme.

The Member will be pleased to know Scotland remains committed to welcoming Syrian refugees, and that 30 local authorities have now received refugees into their communities.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-00809>

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Destitution, Asylum and Insecure Immigration Status

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10851&i=99359#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Committee Debate

Immigration Skills Charge Regulations 2017

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-21/debates/0151953E-95D5-44BF-962D-E8667DDCC15E/ImmigrationSkillsChargeRegulations2017>

UK Parliament, Westminster Hall Debate

Syrian Refugee Crisis

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-23/debates/01911205-AB12-4427-AA16-F93D8716E02A/SyrianRefugeeCrisis>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Assessments

Jonathan Ashworth [67631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants failed the Life in the UK Test in each month since January 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Data on the number of Life in the UK tests completed, including pass rates, is published on a quarterly basis as part of the Migration Transparency Data release. Quarterly volumes can be found in the table 'Temporary and permanent migration data'. See tab LUK01. This data can be accessed via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67631/>

Immigration: Health Insurance

Stephen Kinnock [68196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether legal advice was sought on the changes made to comprehensive sickness insurance for non-UK nationals applying for permanent residency.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There have been no changes to the requirement for EU national self-sufficient persons or students to hold comprehensive sickness insurance in order to qualify for a right to reside since it was set out in the Free Movement Directive (2004/38), which was adopted in 2004 and transposed into UK law in the Immigration (EEA) Regulations 2006.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68196/>

Immigration: Health Insurance

Stephen Kinnock [68197] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on the level of comprehensive sickness insurance required as a qualifying criterion for permanent residency.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC) states that EU citizens who are exercising Treaty rights as a self sufficient person or student must not become a burden on the social assistance system of the host Member State and must hold comprehensive sickness insurance.

The Home Office has published guidance on the GOV.UK website which clarifies what is required to satisfy this criterion. The guidance can be found here at pages 30 to 38:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/588174/EEA-qualified-persons-v4_0EXT.pdf

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68197/>

Skilled Workers: Visas

The following three questions all received the same answer

Steve McCabe [68340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU on the need to review the Shortage Occupation List.

Steve McCabe [68342] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to review the Shortage Occupation List.

General Practitioners: Foreign Nationals

Steve McCabe [68341] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to include GPs in the next review of the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The independent Migration Advisory Commission (MAC) reviews the Shortage Occupation List when commissioned to do so by the Government. The MAC's reports and recommendations take account of all of the labour market conditions at the time. As future immigration arrangements for EU nationals are yet to be determined, it would be premature to try to assess the impact on the Shortage Occupation List at this stage.

The MAC has carried out two full reviews and four partial reviews of the Shortage Occupation List since May 2010. This includes a review of GPs in February 2015. The MAC recommended waiting until a Department of Health initiative to incentivise medical graduates to become GPs is evaluated, before considering the addition of GPs to the Shortage Occupation List. The report can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partial-review-of-the-shortage-occupation-lists>.

The Government will consider further reviews of the list as part of the MAC's wider work plan.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-16/68340/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-16/68342/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-16/68341/>

Visas

Corri Wilson [68074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will review the application process for visit visas to ensure the requirements are as clear as possible; and if she will make it her policy to include additional questions

on the financial support of applicants and the family ties applicants retain in their home states.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The visit visa application form already includes questions about an applicant's personal and financial circumstances. There is also a section where an applicant can provide any other information that they may feel is relevant to their application.

However, the Home Office is continuously working to refine and improve the products and services on offer to customers, and keeps the efficiency and effectiveness of the visa application process under regular review. Recent improvements include the launch of a new online application route for visitors, and the expansion of priority visa services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68074/>

Visas: Appeals

Corri Wilson [68073] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to reinstate the right to appeal visa decisions.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government has no plans to reinstate the right to appeal visit visa decisions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68073/>

Immigration

David Lammy [68768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people with dependants who have been granted leave to remain in the UK had a no recourse to public funds condition attached to their leave in (a) 2014-15 and (b) 2015-16.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The published statistics on grants and refusals of extensions of leave by category can be found in table ex_01_q in the Immigration Statistics release. The latest release Immigration Statistics October - December 2016, is available for download at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016> with the extensions tables at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593024/extensions-q4-2016-tables.ods

The published statistics do not differentiate between applicants with dependents and those without and so cannot accurately answer the MP's question.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-21/68768/>

Immigration: Foreign Nationals

Stephen Kinnock [67542] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for permanent residency made by (a) non-UK EU nationals and (b) non-EU nationals were processed within official target times in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All applications by EU nationals for a document certifying permanent residence and by non-EU nationals for a permanent residence certificate were processed within official target times in the last 12 months.

The latest published citizenship and visa application statistics are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-and-permanent-migration-data-february-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67542/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tulip Siddiq [68207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications from EU nationals seeking permanent residency in the UK are currently being processed.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The most recent published figures for the number of applications from EU nationals seeking permanent residency in the UK are available in the Table InC_04 of the Transparency Data which is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594457/UKVI_TM_PM_Transparency

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68207/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Kinnock [67446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to expedite the process of permanent residency applications from nationals of other EU member states.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In fairness to all applicants, applications for residence documentation under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016, including applications for documents certifying permanent residence, are considered in order of date of receipt.

In some exceptional circumstances, European Casework will expedite consideration of an application on grounds of family emergencies such as bereavement or serious illness or the need to travel for essential medical treatment overseas.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67446/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stephen Kinnock [67445] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for permanent residency from EU citizens were successful (a) before and (b) after 23 June 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Statistics on outcomes of applications for documents certifying permanent residence for European Union (EU) nationals are published quarterly in the Immigration Statistics. These include data for documents issued, refusals and applications deemed invalid and hence rejected. The most recent edition (Immigration Statistics October to December 2016, European Economic Area data table ee_02_q,) is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#european-economic-area-eea>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67445/>

Entry Clearances: EEA Nationals

David Hanson [67828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for the European Economic Area family permit have been (a) submitted, (b) rejected and (c) accepted in each year since 2010.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The information requested on the number of applications, grants and refusals for the European Economic Area family permit in each year since 2010 is published in the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics Visa tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#visas>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67828/>

Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alison Thewliss [68734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which organisations she consulted prior to the decision to end automatic settlement of refugees after completion of five years leave to remain in the UK.

Alison Thewliss [68735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the costs of introducing safe return reviews for refugees who have completed five years leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The policy decision on ending automatic settlement for refugees was introduced in 2005. This Government has never operated a policy of automatic settlement for refugees. Those who need protection are normally granted 5 years' limited leave after which they are able to apply for permanent settlement. All settlement applications are carefully considered on their individual merits and this includes assessing whether there have been significant changes in country conditions or personal circumstances, which means that an individual no longer needs our protection.

UK Visas & Immigration already have a dedicated resource in place to undertake safe return reviews when considering settlement applications from those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-21/68734/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-21/68735/>

Refugees: Children

Deidre Brock [67425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has commissioned research into whether the Dubs scheme for unaccompanied child refugees encouraged people trafficking.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The migration crisis has shown that pull factors, such as policy changes and political messaging, can influence the movements of migrants. We are clear that we do not want to incentivise perilous journeys to Europe, particularly by the most vulnerable children. It is for this reason that section 67 is a one-off commitment and only children present in Europe before 20 March 2016 are eligible.

The Government takes the issue of people trafficking extremely seriously and that is why we have commissioned Caroline Haughey to examine the effectiveness of the Modern Slavery Act. Furthermore, the Prime Minister has set up a new Modern Slavery Taskforce to drive improvements to the operational response to trafficking and slavery. This work will support the Government to build on our existing far-reaching approach to tackling people trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-10/67425/>

Asylum

Anne Main [67686] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 March 2017 to Question 65944, on asylum, for what reasons her Department does not record that data; for what reasons the target was set at 28 days; and by what measure targets on asylum seekers' access to benefits, employment and accommodation are met.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All those granted refugee status in the UK are given access to the labour market and benefits, and are encouraged to access organisations that can assist with integration. It is a matter for individuals as to when and where they choose to exercise these rights. Data on the processing times of mainstream benefit applications is a matter for the Department for Work

and Pensions. Following the final determination of a claim for asylum, the grace period during which support continues is prescribed in Regulation 2 of the Asylum Support Regulations 2000 and was developed with input from a range of stakeholders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67686/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65944/>

Asylum

Deidre Brock [67787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to match-fund the costs to local authorities of refugees and asylum seekers with central government funding.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government has committed £129 million to assist with local authority costs over years two-five of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme. This is in addition to the first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs, which are funded by central government using the [Official Development Assistance](#) budget. The grant to local authorities is not ring fenced, and can be used for example towards support for costs such as counselling, social care and other needs. Funding payments (per individual refugee) can be pooled and managed across all the refugees a local authority takes in.

For unaccompanied asylum seeking children, local authorities receive a daily rate towards the costs of care. Last year the Government significantly increased the funding it provides to local authorities caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) by 28% for those aged 16 and 17 and by 20% for those aged under 16. These rates are based on the information provided to the Home Office by local authorities about their actual expenditure in looking after UASC. We will be conducting a review of these rates in the coming months.

Refugees and asylum seekers also have access to health and education services, which are funded through the normal per capita funding routes. In addition, local authorities are also able to apply to the £140m Controlling Migration Fund which was announced by the Home Secretary in October 2016. This fund is intended to cover a broad range of costs associated with migration and local authorities have been encouraged to consider whether the fund could help with any short-term pressures as a result of recent arrivals of UASC.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67787/>

Asylum

Andrew Smith [67904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect of the introduction of safe return reviews on (a) the resources needed by her Department to implement that policy and (b) the integration of refugees into the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: UK Visas & Immigration already have a dedicated resource in place to undertake safe return reviews when considering settlement applications from those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection. Caseworkers must consider whether there have been significant changes in country conditions or personal circumstances which means that an individual no longer needs our protection.

Those who need protection are normally granted 5 years' limited leave after which they are able to apply for permanent settlement. This policy has been in place since 2005 when automatic settlement for refugees was abolished, so this Government has never operated a policy of automatic settlement for refugees. All

applications are carefully considered on their individual merits and we have always been clear that protection will be granted for as long as it is needed. Refugees have and will continue to make a valuable contribution to British society but those who want to remain in the UK permanently need to complete a qualifying period of leave before obtaining the benefits of settlement. Refugees have immediate and unrestricted access to the labour market and where it is clear that they continue to face persecution or serious harm on return to their country they are normally granted settlement. Those who are no longer at risk due to significant change in the country situation are able to return home or can choose to apply to remain here under other provisions of the Immigration Rules.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67904/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Stuart McDonald [67398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2017 to Question 65370, on asylum: advisory services, what procedures govern (a) whether caseworkers should refer medical evidence to an Asylum Support Medical Advisor and (b) how that caseworker assesses the advice provided by that advisor.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The full policy and guidance on the Asylum Support Medical Adviser (ASMA) is set out in the Healthcare Needs and Pregnancy Dispersal instruction which is published:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthcare-needs-and-pregnancy-dispersal-instruction>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-10/67398/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65370/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Stuart McDonald [67399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2017 to Question 65370, on asylum: advisory services, what qualifications are needed, other than registration with the General Medical Council, to be an Asylum Support Medical Advisor; how many such advisors were registered with the General Medical Council in 2016; and whether her Department has any contracts with companies to provide such advisors.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The provision of Asylum Support Medical Advice has principally been provided by Now Medical and payment is made on a case by case basis. The Home Office does not retain information on the number of advisors registered or the qualifications of individual practitioners.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-10/67399/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-23/65370/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Stuart McDonald [67609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2017 to Question 65370, on asylum: advisory services, what steps her Department took to monitor the work of Asylum Support Medical Advisers (ASMAs); what the status is of the current review of her Department's relationship with ASMAs; who is being consulted as part of that review; and when that review is due to be completed.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All referrals to and responses from ASMA are subject to authorisation and oversight by a senior caseworker. The Home Office keeps the work of medical advisors within the immigration system under review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67609/>

Asylum: Housing

Anne Main [67688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 March 2017 to Question 65944, on asylum, for what reasons her Department set a 19-day target within which asylum seekers should move from initial accommodation to dispersed accommodation; and how her Department records the transfer of asylum seekers to dispersed accommodation from initial accommodation.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The transfer of asylum seekers from initial accommodation to dispersal accommodation is managed and delivered by individual accommodation providers. The Home Office measures and monitors the performance of suppliers based against a suite of KPIs, including the timeliness and quality of service provision. The 19-day turnaround for dispersal from Initial Accommodation is an internal management expectation based on established process timescales. UKVI monitors the transfer of asylum seekers to dispersed accommodation using a variety of sources.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67688/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-28/65944/>

Asylum: Children

Deidre Brock [67781] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of parents who have sent their children to the UK as unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Data on the number of parents who have sent their children to the UK as unaccompanied asylum seekers is not recorded centrally. The UNICEF report “Neither Safe Nor Sound” provides accounts of interviews with children in northern France whose decision to migrate is described as part of a family strategy, or a result of a decision by their parents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67781/>

The report referred to in the above answer can be read at

[https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Unicef_NeitherSafeNorSound_\(003\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/files/Unicef_NeitherSafeNorSound_(003).pdf)

Asylum: Children

Thangam Debbonaire [68174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2017 to Question 65067, on asylum: children, how many places offered by local authorities for unaccompanied child asylum-seekers remained unfilled in each local authority as at 7 March 2017.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are very grateful for the way in which local authorities have stepped up to provide places for unaccompanied asylum seeking children under the National Transfer Scheme and we will continue to work closely with local authorities to increase participation. All offers of placements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children will be used to fulfil our existing commitments including ensuring a fairer distribution of children between local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68174/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-22/65067/>

Asylum: Children

David Burrowes [68189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to table AS 08 Q of the Quarterly Immigration Statistics, October to December 2016, how many applications for asylum made during quarter 4 of 2016 were made by unaccompanied children who arrived in the UK (a) under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, (b) through the Dublin III Regulation and (c) by their own initiative.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The period October to December saw 1,161 asylum claims registered by unaccompanied asylum seeking children. It is not currently possible to provide a breakdown however I have committed to publishing more detailed figures in future data releases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68189/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Stephen Timms [68534] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy to recognise the threat of female genital mutilation as grounds for an asylum claim in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Yes. Those who are found to be at risk of female genital mutilation may be granted refugee status.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-20/68534/>

Asylum: Torture

Alison Thewliss [67518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training is provided to those who handle and process evidence for asylum claimants who are survivors of torture.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All members of staff who make decisions in asylum, receive training on inter-national and domestic law and safeguarding issues supplemented by a mentoring programme with an experienced caseworker that can last up to 6 months. Within this course there are specific sections that detail torture and Medico Legal Reports and how they should be used and analysed in asylum claims.

Asylum Operations recently received funding from the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund to review and redevelop its training prospectus. As part of that work, Asylum Operations is liaising with a range of external stakeholders - including migrant charities and non-governmental organisations - to ensure a robust and effective safeguarding training product.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-13/67518/>

Deportation

Shabana Mahmood [67970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with which countries the UK has a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate enforced deportation to a third country.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The UK has a number of agreements with other countries to facilitate the removal and deportation of those with no right to remain in the UK. The Dublin III Regulation is EU law that enables transfer of asylum seekers to other participating States in Europe who are responsible for examining the claim. The UK participates in 14 EU Readmission Agreements, some of which contain clauses to return third country nationals, meaning individuals who are not a national of that country. Returns to other countries may also be on a case by

case basis with the consent of the third country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67970/>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Philip Davies [68153] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who entered the UK illegally in each of the last three years were deported without charge.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Statistics on persons returned from the UK is published in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics. The latest release can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593036/returns5-q4-2016-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68153/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Controls

Baroness Afshar [HL5805] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Anelay of St Johns on 27 February (HL Deb, col 575), what measures they have taken to ensure that, at the point of entry into the UK, passport controllers focus on the legitimate passports presented by passengers and do not ascribe an assumed identity to visitors in terms of their dress code, nationality or religion.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Border Force officers undertake mandatory checks on all passengers arriving in the United Kingdom. Checks include conducting an examination of the person's passport or other documents to establish their right to enter the United Kingdom. Border Force officers receive training and have access to comprehensive guidance to ensure the correct right of entry to the United Kingdom is applied. Border Force also employs a robust assurance programme to ensure passengers are dealt with correctly, consistently and without unlawful discrimination.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5805/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-27/debates/A0B80F7A-616D-4494-9911-F8AE4152658A/UnitedStatesImmigrationPolicy#contribution-A3AD6095-F21C-4DE1-A473-659C63DB0CE3>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6018] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many further leave to remain cases there were in (1) 2015, and (2) 2016, in which a letter was sent by the Home Office advising an applicant for leave to enter or remain in the UK that their application raised complex human rights issues and would therefore fall outside the usual Home Office service standards.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Home Office Systems cannot be interrogated in a way that will provide any meaningful response to the question. A manual review of all applications submitted within the stipulated timeframe would be needed in order to provide an accurate response and this would incur a disproportionate cost to the public purse. Therefore further leave to remain cases there were in (1) 2015, and (2) 2016, in which a letter was sent by the Home Office advising an applicant for leave to enter or remain in the UK that their application raised complex human rights issues and would therefore fall outside the usual Home Office service standards cannot be provided.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-13/HL6018/>

EU Nationals: Immigration

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL5853] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they treat an EU citizen who is living in the UK self sufficiently with no recourse to public funds but who does not possess comprehensive sickness insurance as legally resident in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under EU law, an EU national may remain in the UK for up to three months unrestricted, provided they do not become a burden on the social assistance system of the UK. EU nationals who wish to stay longer can only do so if they are exercising a Treaty right. This means that they must be a jobseeker, worker, self-employed, self-sufficient or a student. The Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) requires self-sufficient people or students to have comprehensive sickness insurance and sufficient resources to support themselves and their families to not become a burden on the UK's social assistance system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5853/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6048] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are on track to meet their target of resettling 20,000 Syrian refugees into the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme by 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Work continues with local authorities and International Partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees over the lifetime of this Parliament and we are on track to do this. Progress on resettlement will be indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 23 February showed that 5,454 Syrians were resettled to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme between October 2015 and December 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-14/HL6048/>

Refugees: English Language

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5870] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 February (HL Deb cols 1860–1861) about unaccompanied child refugees, what is their response to the report by Refugee Action *Locked out of learning: A snapshot of ESOL provision in England* concerning the waiting times to access English language classes faced by refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The government supports English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as part of its wider strategy to improve adult literacy in England, support integration and break down barriers to employment. As soon as adults are granted refugee status or humanitarian protection they become eligible for skills funding – including for ESOL courses – through a provider's adult education budget. In addition to the existing funding, an additional £3 million was distributed to colleges and other providers that deliver to learners in the areas identified by the government as having the greatest ESOL need. All of the geographical areas cited by *Refugee Action* in its report have received additional funding in December 2016.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-07/HL5870/>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Locked_out_of_learning_briefing_paper_February_2017.pdf

Refugees: Europe

Lord Hylton [HL5830] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will fund interpretation and advice services in France, Italy and Greece, so that refugees who are eligible to enter the UK are supported in safely doing so.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The primary responsibility for unaccompanied children in Europe lies with the State in which they are present. However, the UK has established a £10 million Refugee Children's Fund to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. The fund prioritises the needs of unaccompanied and separated children travelling through Greece and the Balkans. Support includes specialised shelters which offer 24 hour care, including psychosocial support, educational activities and legal assistance.

During the first five months of operation 534 safe spaces for unaccompanied children were created or maintained with DFID funding. 1476 children accessed protection or legal support, 294 have been referred to long term alternative care and 168 are undergoing asylum processes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5830/>

Refugees: Families

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5871] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 February (HL Deb cols 1860–1861) about unaccompanied child refugees, what is their response to the briefing note by the Refugee Council, Oxfam UK, the British Red Cross and Amnesty International UK *Together again: Reuniting refugee families in safety – what the UK can do*.

Refugees: Mediterranean Sea

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5872] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 February (HL Deb cols 1860–1861) about unaccompanied child refugees, what is their response to UNICEF UK's examination of the risks facing refugee and migrant children crossing the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy in their report *A deadly journey for children: The central Mediterranean route*.

Refugees: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5873] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 February (HL Deb cols 1860–1861) about unaccompanied child refugees, what is their response to the statement by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner published on 22 February, in particular with respect to his call to address the strain on the Dublin III system; and when they intend to consult him on his assessment of the likely impact of any changes on the scale of trafficking of unaccompanied children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We support the principle of family unity and have several routes for families to be reunited safely. Our family reunion policy allows a spouse or partner and children under the age of 18 of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. We have granted around 23,000 family reunion visas over the last five years. The Government is also fully committed to the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin Regulation, including the family reunification provisions.

The Government works upstream with the aim to stem flows from Libya to Italy. The UK is contributing to the EU's Operation Sophia, which to date has successfully saved over 31,000 lives in the Central Mediterranean. The UK government is providing a £7.5 million package of direct emergency humanitarian assistance – to tackle people smuggling, improve conditions in detention centres and support migrants and asylum seekers, including children, transiting through Libya.

We are working internationally to help prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims of modern-slavery and other forms of exploitation. The Prime Minister (PM) pledged £30m of official development assistance to protect and support victims of trafficking as well saving lives and offering long term solutions to refugees and migrants rescued at sea. The PM Taskforce is also making progress bringing the collective weight of Government to bear. We are already seeing progress in intelligence gathering and are developing our international strategy to tackle the threat overseas and deepen law enforcement cooperation. This will enable us to investigate, prosecute and otherwise disrupt the activity of slave-drivers and traffickers of human beings. We also work closely with Europol and Eurojust to facilitate cross-border operations and joint investigations with European law enforcement agencies. We will continue to engage closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on the issues of human trafficking and exploitation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-07/HL5871/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-07/HL5872/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-07/HL5873/>

The answers referred to in the above questions can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-09/debates/3F7792BE-BBE2-4057-A2F3-3FBCB3E2985A/ChildRefugees>

The report referred to in the first of the above questions can be read at

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0003/9780/ja-together-again-refugee-family-reunion-uk-280217-en.pdf>

The report referred to in the second of the above questions can be read at

https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/EN_UNICEF_Central_Mediterranean_Migration.pdf

The statement referred to in the third of the above questions can be read at

<http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/news-insights/statement-protecting-unaccompanied-child-refugees-against-modern-slavery-and-other-forms-of-exploitation/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6049] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect to have resettled 3,000 vulnerable children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has committed to resettling to the UK up to 3,000 individuals under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme over the lifetime of this Parliament. Data on the number of people who have been resettled under this scheme will be published in future releases of the Home Office's immigration quarterly statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-14/HL6049/>

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Hylton [HL5828] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide basic legal advice to refugee children already in the UK who wish to sponsor close family members to join them here; and what assessment they have made as to whether the admission of such relatives would reduce the costs to local authorities of providing care.

Refugees: Families

Lord Hylton [HL5829] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to expand the definition of refugee family for the purposes of family reunions, beyond its present meaning of partner or dependent child, so that more members of family units may enter the UK and become self-supporting.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government does not intend to extend the provisions of the family reunion Rules. The policy meets our international obligations and we do not believe that widening the criteria to include extended family members, or allowing children to sponsor parents, is appropriate. We must do all we can to encourage those who need protection to seek asylum in the first safe country they reach and to support those countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

We believe that allowing children to sponsor family members would create perverse incentives for them to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family, risk hazardous journeys and seek to enter the UK illegally in order to sponsor relatives, rather than claim asylum in the first safe country they reach. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safe guarding responsibilities.

Legal aid is paid for by tax payers and resources are not limitless. It is therefore provided to those who most need it, including those who claim asylum. For those eligible to sponsor and apply for family reunion, we have already improved our guidance to caseworkers to ensure that applicants better understand the process and what is required of them so the provision of legal aid is not necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5828/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5829/>

Asylum

Lord Ramsbotham [HL5837] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recommendations by Women for Refugee Women for the use of support and engagement in the asylum process as a means of reducing the use of immigration detention, contained in the report *The Way Ahead; an asylum system without detention*, published on 1 March.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We note the recommendations in the report.

Detention is used sparingly, especially in the case of those who have claimed asylum. The overwhelming majority of asylum claimants remain in the community whilst their cases are considered. Only a very small minority of asylum claimants are detained whilst their case is considered and this is normally where they have claimed asylum after already having been detained for removal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-06/HL5837/>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

<https://www.barrowcadbury.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Women-for-refugee-women-The-Way-Ahead-An-asylum-system-without-detention.pdf>

Asylum

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5869] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answers by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 9 February (HL Deb cols 1860–1861) about unaccompanied child refugees, what is their response to the report by the British Red Cross *Can't Stay, Can't Go* concerning refused asylum seekers who cannot be returned.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are reviewing the report and its findings, but our position remains that individuals who have been found not to

need protection and have exhausted all legal avenues in the UK are expected to take steps to leave the UK as soon as possible. If they do not, we will seek to enforce their removal.

The Immigration Act 2016 ('the Act') includes measures to remove incentives for migrants to remain in the UK where they have no lawful basis for doing so.

However, failed asylum seekers, including failed asylum seeking families may be eligible for ongoing support while there is a genuine obstacle to their departure. As now, what constitutes a genuine obstacle is expected to include non-receipt of a travel document or a medical reason why they cannot travel. We would continue to expect failed asylum seekers to demonstrate they are taking all reasonable steps to leave the UK.

We want to support those who genuinely need our protection, but also send out a very clear message to those who seek to use the system to gain an unfair immigration advantage.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-07/HL5869/>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/About%20us/Research%20reports%20by%20advocacy%20dept/Cant%20Stay%20Cant%20Go%20webready.pdf>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5938] To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures are in place to ensure that Home Office decision-making on asylum cases is not unduly influenced by its target of dealing with 90 per cent of asylum applications within six months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The service standard that 98% of straight forward asylum cases have an initial decision within 6 months of their date of claim is allowing a more strategic management of the casework process and a clearer level of customer service expectation.

Asylum Operations has clear internal guidance on what factors can lead to a case being classed as non straight forward and such cases are proactively managed to ensure barriers are cleared and decisions are made as soon as possible.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-08/HL5938/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5939] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to increase the resources for asylum application processing in order to reduce accommodation requirements.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum Operations has recruited and is training additional decision makers to ensure we manage intake levels and continue to meet our customer service standards.

In the coming months we aim to further reduce the time to initial decision and the overall numbers awaiting a decision.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-08/HL5939/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5940] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the adjudication of asylum applications so as to reduce the number of overturned judgments on appeal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a

decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose. We are working to improve the quality of decision-making to ensure that we properly consider all the evidence provided and get decisions right the first time. UK Visas and Immigration has an internal audit process, consisting of reviews by senior case workers and independent auditors, which assesses whether Home Office policy has been followed.

An allowed appeal is not in itself an indication that our decision was incorrect at the time it was made though we aim to reduce the allowed appeal rate by analysing the reasons why appeals are allowed and using this to further improve guidance and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-08/HL5940/>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5941] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to review the restrictions on asylum seekers applying for jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have no plans to review the current policy. It is designed to protect the resident labour market to ensure access to employment is prioritised for British citizens and those lawfully resident here, including refugees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-08/HL5941/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6016] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 22 February (HL5356) stating that in the year ending September 2016 the UK granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children, what forms of asylum or leave were granted to those children; and how many children there were in each category.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016 the UK granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children. This figure includes children granted asylum or another form of leave following an asylum claim, children resettled under our resettlement programmes and those children who were granted family reunion visas.

The forms of leave granted to children who have made an asylum claim can include Refugee Leave, Humanitarian Protection, UASC Leave, Discretionary Leave, Grants of Family or Private Life Leave To Remain or Leave Outside The Rules. Children who are resettled to the UK under our resettlement programmes are granted Humanitarian Protection status or Indefinite Leave to Remain depending on the specific resettlement programme. Family reunion visas can be granted to family members of those granted Refugee Status or Humanitarian Protection in the UK, and are granted Leave in line with their relative.

The Home Office publishes the number of Asylum applications from main applicants, by age in table as_03 of the *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593028/asylum2-q4-2016-tables.ods

The table has also been attached to this answer.

Table as_03 - Immigration Stats

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-13/HL6016/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-08/HL5356/>

Asylum: Children in Care

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL6050] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offers to accommodate unaccompanied young asylum seekers they have received from local authorities; and how many of those offers they (1) have accepted, and (2) propose to accept.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) arriving in the UK has increased significantly in recent years. This has led to a handful of local authorities caring for a disproportionate number of UASC, principally in those local authority areas where unaccompanied children are first encountered and assessed by the local authority under the Children Act 1989. That is why we introduced the National Transfer Scheme for UASC in July 2016. The National Transfer Scheme is a voluntary scheme which is designed to ensure a more equal distribution of UASC across the country and ensure children are given all the support they need.

The National Transfer Scheme has also placed unaccompanied children transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 into local authority care. Following a full consultation with local authorities under section 67 local authorities reported they had capacity for 400 places.

Every region in England is participating in the National Transfer Scheme and we are working closely with the Devolved Administrations to ensure they are able to accept cases under the National Transfer Scheme. We are very grateful for the way in which local authorities have stepped up to accept UASC under the National Transfer Scheme. We will continue to work closely with local authorities to take up offers of placements to help ease the burden on those local authorities caring for a disproportionate number of UASC.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-14/HL6050/>

Asylum: Detainees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5937] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, and if so what, provision is made, or will be made, for the rehabilitation of (1) asylum seekers detained in detention centres whose claims are successful, (2) individuals who have been detained in detention centres and are subsequently released, and (3) individuals who, in exceptional circumstances, are detained in detention centres for a period of (a) 1 to 2 years, (b) 2 to 3 years, and (c) three years or more.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All those granted refugee status in the UK are given access to the labour market and benefits, and are encouraged to access organisations that can assist with integration.

The Home Office provides integration loans, which are designed to help new refugees to integrate into UK society by offering support towards housing costs, employment and training.

For those released after any period of time in detention, service providers in immigration removal centres are required to provide support to detainees to return to life in the community in accordance with Detention Services Order 7/2013, Welfare provision in immigration removal centres, by signposting them to services and organisations which may be able to offer them support.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-08/HL5937/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Paul Monaghan (1093) Government Life in the UK test – That this House expresses grave concern that the Home Office is advising EU nationals, and those from other countries, living in the north of Scotland and wishing to apply for UK citizenship, that they

must be prepared to undertake the Life in the UK test in offices as far away as Newcastle, Preston, Blackpool and Northern Ireland; notes that the closest office authorised to conduct this test is a minimum nine hour return car journey from Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency, and that any individual wishing to use public transport must undertake an overnight stay; further notes that a person living in Durness, Sutherland required to attend Blackpool to undertake this examination will be expected to complete a round trip of almost 1,000 miles; and considers it unacceptable to require people to travel such vast distances simply to meet the requirements of a test in circumstances that promote and encourage disadvantage and discrimination.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1093>

Press Release

Refugee integration strategy

<https://news.gov.scot/news/refugee-integration-strategy>

New Publications

New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities 2014 – 2017

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00515713.pdf>

New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities 2014 - 2017: Key Messages

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00515602.pdf>

Letter from the Minister of State for Immigration to the Chair of the UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee about the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2017-0258/Robert_Goodwill_Yvette_Cooper_Chair_HASC_-_Resettlement.pdf

Letter from the Minister of State for Immigration to Lord Dubs about the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2017-0259/2017-03-22_Robert_Goodwill_to_Lord_Dubs_-_Resettlement_of_refugees.pdf

Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Thematic Report on migrant and refugee children

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016806fdd08

The UK's aid response to irregular migration in the central Mediterranean

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Migration-ICAI-review-EMBARGOED-00.01-10-March-2017.pdf>

News

Refugee Festival Scotland Media Awards 2017 - call for entries

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3088_refugee_festival_scotland_media_awards_2017_-_call_for_entries

Migration Media Award

<http://www.migration-media-award.eu/en/>

Refugee Festival Scotland 2017 - get involved!

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3085_refugee_festival_scotland_2017_-_get_involved

Resettled Syrian refugees finally granted refugee status

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3084_resettled_syrian_refugees_finally_granted_refugee_status

Landlords who flout migrant rules face tougher penalties

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-03-22/news/landlords-who-flout-migrant-rules-face-tougher-penalties-q0m2grjt>

EU migrants keep benefits after Brexit

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/eu-migrants-keep-benefits-after-brexit-zpvcwp8z6>

Age check delay 'risk' for child asylum seekers in Cardiff

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-39311084>

Aid for refugees in Scotland wrecked by mindless vandals who ransacked centre

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/aid-refugees-scotland-wrecked-mindless-10079040>

Syrian asylum seekers in UK forced into poverty

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/26/destitute-syrian-asylum-seekers-fear-deportation>

Self-harming incidents triple at UK immigration removal centre, report reveals

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/self-harm-uk-detention-centre-triples-morton-hall-immigration-removal-centre-a7640301.html>

Visa fraudster who travelled the UK taking English language and British tradition citizen tests for refugees faces jail

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4335720/Man-travelled-UK-taking-tests-refugees-faces-jail.html>

Syrian refugee donates paintings in aid of Edinburgh art school

<http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/art/syrian-refugee-donates-paintings-in-aid-of-edinburgh-art-school-1-4401101>

Syrian refugee donates artwork as thank-you for 'wonderful' support

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/392443/syrian-refugee-donates-artwork-as-thank-you-for-wonderful-support/>

Refugee artist thanks college with paintings

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/refugee-artist-thanks-college-with-paintings-jd236wh78>

From businesswoman of the year to £5 a day in a shared house

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/21/afghanistan-businesswoman-of-year-to-shared-house>

EU migrants leaving for better wages

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/eu-migrants-leaving-for-better-wages-93mxd7nm5>

Pregnant women without legal status 'too afraid to seek NHS care'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/20/pregnant-asylum-seekers-refugees-afraid-look-nhs-maternity-care>

Pregnant immigrants are avoiding natal care because they're afraid of being deported. How has the NHS come to this?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/pregnant-immigrants-refugees-payment-passport-checks-nhs-how-a7641156.html>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

New Publications

Understanding school segregation in England: 2011 to 2016

<http://the-challenge.org/uploads/documents/TCN-Understanding-School-Segregation-in-England-2011-to-2016.pdf>

Race and Class Post-Brexit Perspectives

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Race-and-Class-Post-Brexit-Perspectives-report-v5-1.pdf>

News

Warning over segregation in England's schools

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-39344973>

Thousands of schools segregated by ethnic or social status, study shows

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/392361/thousands-of-schools-segregated-by-ethnic-or-social-status-study-shows/>

Quarter of English state primary schools are 'ethnically segregated'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/mar/22/english-state-primary-schools-ethnically-segregated-white-british-children>

Segregated schools persist because parents maintain the divide

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/mar/24/schools-segregated-parents-children-integration>

Ethnic segregation in schools is getting worse, study warns

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/ethnic-segregation-in-schools-is-getting-worse-study-warns-9jqhrpt2d>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Poverty (Minority Ethnic Groups)

Fulton MacGregor: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in light of the

findings in the report, “Shifting the Curve”, that people in minority ethnic groups are often the most disadvantaged and can face additional barriers when trying to get out of poverty. (S5O-00806)

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): We want to remove the barriers that minority ethnic groups face as we aim to create a fairer, more equal Scotland. Our race equality framework, which was published last year, set out our approach to tackling a range of poverty-related issues through to 2030. Actions include improving information and services on benefit uptake and money advice among minority ethnic groups, and publishing an equalities evidence strategy in spring 2017.

Our fairer Scotland action plan provides a set of poverty and inequality actions that will benefit all of Scotland, including minority ethnic groups, such as bringing forward the Child Poverty (Scotland) Bill, tackling the poverty premium and delivering at least 50,000 affordable homes over the current parliamentary term.

Scottish ministers also benefit from advice on our approach from both the race equality framework adviser and the independent adviser on poverty and inequality.

Fulton MacGregor: Given the Scottish Government’s on-going anti-poverty work, and the aspirations of the race equality framework to tackle poverty for minority ethnic communities, will the cabinet secretary consider asking the independent adviser on poverty and inequality and the race equality framework adviser to meet and discuss the intersections of race and poverty and what could be done to address the disadvantage and barriers that are faced by minority ethnic communities?

Reply from Angela Constance: I am pleased to say that the advisers have already met to discuss their respective roles and are due to meet again next month. I will ensure that both advisers are aware of the concerns that Fulton MacGregor has raised today. In the meantime, we are working to ensure that the advice that we receive from our advisers is joined up and encourages co-ordinated cross-Government action. That is why our fairer Scotland action plan is also committed to establishing a national poverty and inequality commission later this year. I will release details of that commission shortly.

Anas Sarwar: Does the cabinet secretary recognise my concern about the European Court of Justice ruling that says that employers can ban their workers from wearing a headscarf at work? The ruling has a particular impact on Muslim women accessing the labour market, but it also has implications for Catholics who might wear a cross at work, Jewish men who wear a skullcap or Sikhs who wear a turban. Can the cabinet secretary say what the Scottish Government will do to address this issue and what action, if any, needs to be taken here to address the impact on employers and on Scottish courts?

Reply from Angela Constance: We are very much aware of the judgment from the European Court of Justice, which has ruled that, in some instances, employers have a right to have an internal rule to not allow the wearing of philosophical, political or religious symbols, including, for example, the Islamic headscarf for women. My position and the position of the Scottish Government is that we will never tell women what to wear. It is a matter of individual choice and conscience whether a woman wants to wear a headscarf that is of significance to her personal beliefs. I can confirm, as I did yesterday at a race equality framework event to mark the anniversary of the publication of the action that we will take in and around race equality, that we have no plans to introduce any legislation on this matter, and we are not required to do so.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10858&i=99404#ScotParlOR>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00492430.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Race, Ethnicity, and Employment

S5W-08139 Alex Rowley: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the findings in the report, *Removing Barriers: race, ethnicity, and employment*, that unconscious bias training is not a solution and can mask underlying negative attitudes towards people from a minority ethnic background; whether it offers any other anti-racist training besides unconscious bias training to its staff; whether this training is (a) face-to-face or online and (b) conducted by Scottish Government staff or by external trainers, and whether the effectiveness of this training is evaluated.

Reply from Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government puts employee engagement and workforce development at the heart of its organisational transformation programme (SG2020) and underpinning People Strategy. We are committed to giving all our people the opportunity to shine, to nurturing talent at all levels and to having a diverse workforce reflective of the communities we serve.

Diversity and equality by its very nature is not a 'one size fits all' policy or initiative. A fairer, more inclusive society, community or workforce is one where everyone feels confident to play their part. We approach increasing diversity and inclusion in the organisation in the round. We agree that of itself, unconscious bias training is not a solution. We make use of unconscious bias training within an overall approach to become a more open, capable and responsive organisation.

All of our Director Generals are diversity "allies", engaging directly with staff and supporting our many diversity networks. Our diversity networks are supported by senior civil service volunteer "champions", raising awareness and creating dialogue about diversity and inclusion in our organisation. We gather data from our staff and support and challenge teams to enable everyone to be themselves at work. We do also offer access to online Civil Service Learning equality and diversity training, which is created and evaluated by UK Civil Service Learning. Our Diversity and Equality team regularly engages with staff across the Scottish Government. They raise awareness of the Scottish Government Diversity and Equality ambitions and plans and encourage engagement with the wider equalities agenda within teams, both as members of staff and as policy makers to the people of Scotland. The Removing Barriers report recommends that the 'Scottish Government works with public bodies to undertake their own review of equality and diversity training which is offered to employees and to use the specific duty of assessing and reviewing practice in the Equality Act 2010 to drive this work forward.' We are in the process of reviewing and improving the equality and diversity training and development that is offered to SG employees as part of our work to increasing diversity and inclusion in the organisation.

We take positive action to improve our diversity. When we recruit into the organisation, we are deliberately focussing on increasing applicants from underrepresented groups. We are currently recruiting our second Graduate Development Programme cohort. This has included close liaison with our internal Race and Equality Network and with external BME groups. As a consequence of this targeted marketing, the number of BME applicants rose from 10% (148 of 1474) in 2015 to 12.4% (347 of 2790) in 2017. The selection process has also been updated to reduce barriers and features positive action for BME applicants.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-08139>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

http://www.parliament.scot/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Unison.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Neil Coyle [67919] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what plans he has to extend counselling opportunities for BME groups in the NHS.

Reply from Nicola Blackwood: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme enables over 900,000 people a year to access psychological therapy. In 2017/18 part of the Quality Premium (a financial incentive) for clinical commissioning groups is aimed at improving outcomes from Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services for people from black and minority ethnic groups.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67919/>

Apprentices: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Champion [68656] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much funding her Department has (a) allocated and (b) spent on encouraging BME people to take apprenticeships in construction, IT and engineering.

Reply from Robert Halfon: We have set an ambitious public target to increase the proportion of apprenticeships started by people from BAME backgrounds by 20% by 2020.

There is no specific budget allocation to promote apprenticeships to individuals with a BAME background in any sector. Our 'Get In Go Far' campaign, featuring BAME role models, encourages more employers to offer apprenticeship opportunities and more individuals to apply.

Additionally, the Apprenticeships Diversity Champions Network launched on 21st February, is engaging and inspiring employers and communities to ensure apprenticeships are represented by people from a diverse range of backgrounds, reflecting the widest spectrum of our society. It aims to influence the behaviour of other employers to support more people from underrepresented groups, including those with disabilities, women, and members of the black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, to access apprenticeships.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-21/68656/>

Press Releases

Race Equality Framework anniversary

<http://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/speech-race-equality-framework-anniversary>

Our commitment to diversity in our workforce

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/our-commitment-diversity-our-workforce>

New Publications

Briefing: The UK's Universal Periodic Review by the UN Human Rights Council

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7933/CBP-7933.pdf>

Healing the divisions: a positive vision for equality and human rights in Britain

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/healing-the-divisions-a-positive-vision-for-equality-and-human-rights-in-britain.pdf>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, Westminster Hall Debate

UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-21/debates/358A8DEF-77B5-4882-8C0B-C3F2C48B39F1/UNInternationalDayForTheEliminationOfRacialDiscrimination>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Caste Discrimination

Bob Blackman: ... may I ask the Leader of the House for an early statement on the position of the promised consultation document on caste discrimination? It will allow the Hindu community in particular the opportunity to put its perspective on why this unwanted, unnecessary and ill-judged legislation can be removed from the statute book.

Reply from David Lidington: My hon. Friend raises a matter that I know is very important to his constituents, and he does so eloquently. I will suggest to the Minister concerned that she write to him about the Government's current position. As he will be aware, this particular decision involves not only a policy commitment but the allocation of legislative time, which is currently under pressure from many Departments.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-03-23/debates/21613DF3-90F7-4CE7-B62E-D23583C8366E/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-8D577E8E-C0C9-41D5-9954-A9DF78E2F90C>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Elections

John Mann [68403] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the number of racist (a) incidents and (b) crimes occurring during electoral campaigns in each year from 2012.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office holds annual data on the number of racist hate crimes and incidents in England and Wales. We do not hold specific data relating to electoral campaigns.

In the most recent hate crime statistical bulletin, 'Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16', an Annex was included on the level of racially or religiously aggravated offences around the time of the EU Referendum. This analysis, based on 31 forces who supplied detailed data to the Home Office Data Hub, showed that there was an increase in the number of these offences following the announcement of the referendum result. This publication is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-17/68403/>

Antisemitism

Oliver Dowden [68057] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to improve the (a) security and (b) funding for security at synagogues and Jewish schools.

Ben Wallace: During 1016-17 the Government provided a grant of £13.4m to support security measures for the Jewish Community. On 01 March I was pleased to announce a continuation of the grant at the same level for 2017-18.

The Jewish Community Protective Security Grant makes funding available to all Jewish free, state and independent schools, colleges and nurseries to employ security guards during operating hours. Grant funding is also used to improve security at many synagogues through the implementation of a range of solutions including guarding and physical measures. These funded security measures supplement existing site security arrangements and policing measures put in place following the increase in the national threat level in August 2014, and enhanced after the shocking events in Paris and Copenhagen, which has resulted in heightened police activity around Jewish sites.

The Government has also ensured locations such as synagogues and educational establishments have access to high-quality advice and guidance, provided by the police and others, so they know what further steps they can take to reduce vulnerability.

Public vigilance, the work of the police, and of the security and intelligence agencies all contribute to make our communities safer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-15/68057/>

Antisemitism: Publications

The following three questions all received the same answer

John Mann [67208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received on the fact that books denying the Holocaust are available to buy on Amazon UK.

John Mann [67209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what contact she has had with Amazon to discuss the fact that books denying the Holocaust are available to buy on Amazon UK.

John Mann [67210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to prevent the sale of books denying the Holocaust on Amazon UK.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Government deplores attempts to deny the Holocaust, including those views expressed in a pseudo-intellectual manner, and condemns any organisation or individual that does so. If Holocaust denial is expressed in a way that is threatening, abusive, or insulting and incites racial hatred, or is likely to do so, then that would be unlawful under the Public Order Act 1986.

DCLG officials attend the Cyber Hate Crime working group where Amazon is represented and will raise these issues with them at the next meeting.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67208/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67209/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-09/67210/>

Social Networking: Crime

Stephen Doughty [67847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) Facebook, (b) Twitter, (c) Google+, (d) YouTube, (e) Snapchat and (f) Whats

App accounts have been closed or suspended on request of the Government due to involvement in (i) terrorism, (ii) hate crime and (iii) targeted harassment in each of the last 24 months.

Reply from Sarah Newton: This Government takes seriously the issue of online terrorist content, hate crime, and abuse.

We work in partnership with major technology firms across the spectrum of online harms, identifying ways to tackle threats.

In the UK our dedicated police Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) refers content that they assess as contravening UK terrorism legislation to industry. If industry agree that it breaches their terms and conditions, they remove it voluntarily. Through this process, in 2016 CTIRU secured the removal of over 120,000 pieces of terrorist material. The Home Office can only obtain the specific data requested on terrorism at disproportionate cost.

Last year we published a new Hate Crime Action Plan which focuses on reducing hate crime both on and offline, increasing reporting and improving support for victims.

As part of this, we agreed with internet service providers including Google, Facebook and Twitter that they would remove illegal content within 24 hours of it being posted, meaning people are better protected online. Snapchat and Whatsapp both contain end to end encryption on their messages, which means the content sent between their users is not publically viewable.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67847/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Naz Shah (1086) UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination –

That this House welcomes the 2017 UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as an opportunity to reaffirm and demonstrate its commitment to eradicating unlawful racial discrimination and promoting racial equality in the UK; is deeply concerned that 40 years after the 1976 Race Relations Act came into force people of BAME origin are still significantly under-represented in many key areas of public life, including membership of this House; notes the disturbing findings of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights major review of race equality in the UK, Healing a divided Britain: the need for a comprehensive race equality strategy, and its stark warning that failure to tackle deep-rooted race inequality will exacerbate divisions in our society unless urgent Government action is taken; further notes the significant challenges identified in Baroness McGregor-Smith's recently published review of race in the workplace and its clear message that the time for talking is over. Now is the time to act; calls on the Government and employers to implement the 26 recommendations of the McGregor-Smith review without delay; and further calls on the Government to develop and implement a comprehensive race equality strategy in line with the five recommendations of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights' review as a matter of urgency.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/1086>

Press Releases

Ahead of International Day, UN rights chief urges governments to target hate speech, crimes

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56379#.WNE3pXR945s>

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/21-march-2017-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discriminati-1>

Declaration by the High Representative Federica Mogherini on behalf of the European Union on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<http://tinyurl.com/Inojb76>

Education to promote inclusion and mutual respect is essential to counter hate speech

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2017/education-promote-inclusion-and-mutual-respect-essential-counter-hate-speech>

States urged by UN experts to act now against racial profiling and incitement to racial hatred

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21416&LangID=E>

Target hate speech and hate crimes, Zeid urges States

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21407&LangID=E>

Human Rights Council holds a general debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21414&LangID=E>

and

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21419&LangID=E>

International Day Against Racial Discrimination: Are EU institutions serious about racism?

<http://www.enar-eu.org/International-Day-Against-Racial-Discrimination-Are-EU-institutions-serious>

News

Jewish and Muslim women MPs 'face most abuse'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-39339487>

London's black male graduates less likely to get jobs

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-39302804>

Extremists say they "will not be silenced" as they are told Scots White Pride demo cannot be outlawed

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15162398.Extremists_say_they_will_not_be_silenced_after_Scots_White_Pride_demo_is_deemed_legal/?ref=mr&lp=2

Nazis are pure s*e by the way' Protesters gather in Edinburgh in counter demo to White Pride March**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nazis-pure-se-way-protesters-10097426>

'White Pride' marchers make Nazi salutes on Royal Mile

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/video-white-pride-marchers-make-nazi-salutes-on-royal-mile-1-4403564>

Ten arrested during Edinburgh fascist rally

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/ten-arrested-during-edinburgh-fascist-rally-1-4403588>

10 arrested after fascist protest in Edinburgh

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/394173/10-arrested-after-fascist-protest-in-edinburgh/>

Islamophobic attack victim urges judge not to jail her assailant after finding out he has cancer

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-woman-niqab-islamophobic-attack-victim-peter-scotter-sunderland-judge-cancer-no-jail-a7646306.html>

Bigots are clowns blasts anti-sectarian charity

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/bigots-are-clowns-blasts-charity>

[TOP](#)

Independence Referendum and Devolution

Scottish Parliament Debate

Independence Referendum

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10855&i=99383#ScotParlOR>
and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10858&i=99417#ScotParlOR>

Press Release

Will of Scotland's national parliament must be respected

<http://news.gov.scot/news/will-of-scotlands-national-parliament-must-be-respected>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

First Minister statement following the London terror attack

<http://news.gov.scot/news/first-minister-statement-1>

London Incident

<http://news.gov.scot/news/london-incident>

News

Scottish Government has no plans to introduce hijab ban legislation

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15171879.Scottish_Government_has_no_plans_to_introduce_hijab_ban_legislation/

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Slaughterhouses: Animal Welfare

Derek Thomas [67950] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps her Department takes to ensure that welfare standards are met in slaughterhouses; and what steps her Department takes in particular relation to such standards as they relate to pre-stunning.

Reply from George Eustice: The Government encourages the highest standards of welfare at slaughter. The Government would prefer all animals to be stunned before slaughter but respects the right of the Jewish and Muslim communities to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Official veterinarians (OVs) from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are present in all approved slaughterhouses in England and take a prompt, proportionate and risk based approach to enforcement action when animal welfare breaches are identified.

Defra works closely with the FSA to ensure that the welfare of animals is protected in all slaughterhouses. There is a wide ranging, systemic programme of animal welfare monitoring activity including strengthened verification of compliance through the establishment of welfare assurance teams; a welfare themed audit programme; targeted unannounced inspections; additional checks for non-compliant business operators; and improved education and instruction through an animal welfare publicity campaign in slaughterhouses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-14/67950/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL5953] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the Metropolitan Police Service and other police forces properly investigate and take action in cases of forced marriage and honour based violence; and what assessment they have made of whether police officers, such as DS Pal Singh, who make allegations of inaction by the police should be protected by whistleblowing legislation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: So-called 'Honour-based' violence (HBV), including forced marriage, is a terrible form of abuse, and this Government is clear that we will not allow political or cultural sensitivities to get in the way of tackling it. No-one should suffer because of who they are or what community they are born into.

Ending these brutal practices in all their forms is a key priority for this Government and HBV is a key part of our violence against women and girls strategy published in March 2016.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's recent report into HBV found some areas of good practice. However, it also raised some serious concerns about the police's handling of these issues. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that the police response is as good as it can be, and we want to see more victims coming forward. We have significantly strengthened the law on forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation, our Forced Marriage and FGM Units are carrying out ongoing programmes of outreach for professionals and communities, including the police, and the Home Secretary is chairing a National Oversight Group to drive progress against HMIC's recommendations.

We know there is more to do and we will continue to work with the police, Crown

Prosecution Service and others to drive progress, including hosting a Ministerially chaired roundtable on HBV on 15 March.

The Government is committed to ensuring that those working for the police have the confidence to come forward to report concerns of malpractice and misconduct in their own forces. This includes ensuring that measures are in place to protect and support police “whistle-blowers” when they come forward, and that the systems for reporting and investigating their concerns are effective.

In 2015 the Government made changes to the Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012 to give police whistle-blowers further express protection from unfair disciplinary action or repercussions. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 further increase protections for whistle-blowers providing an additional avenue for individuals in the police to raise concerns with confidence, free from any fear of a detrimental effect on their career or reputation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-09/HL5953/>

Forced Marriage: Trials

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL5954] To ask Her Majesty’s Government what progress has been made by the Attorney General in his review of the alleged mishandling by the Crown Prosecution Service of forced marriage trials.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The UK Government is committed to tackling the brutal practice of forced marriage. The Attorney General has spoken with the Director of Public Prosecutions about the Crown Prosecution Service’s (CPS) long term strategy to increase the number of prosecutions for ‘honour based’ violence. The CPS is committed to improving its response to these crimes. It has implemented an action plan relating to ‘honour-based’ violence and forced marriage which will be taken forward by the CPS Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Team, working in close partnership with the police and third sector experts. Further to the action plan, a joint protocol was published in December 2016 outlining the CPS and police commitment to the successful investigation and prosecution of these crimes. The protocol enables police and prosecutors to quickly understand the action they must take when a crime is reported to the police and referred to the CPS for a charging decision, ensuring the safety of the victim is at the heart of the process.

The Attorney General will be updated on the implementation of the action plan and joint protocol at regular intervals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-09/HL5954/>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's statement following attack in Westminster

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-statement-following-attack-in-westminster>

PM Commons statement on Westminster attack

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-commons-statement-on-westminster-attack-23-march-2017>

No matter how hard they try to divide us, they will fail

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/no-matter-how-hard-they-try-to-divide-us-they-will-fail>

Defence Secretary pays tribute to Sikh community

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defence-secretary-pays-tribute-to-sikh-community>

Nowruz 2017: Prime Minister's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nowruz-2017-prime-ministers-message>

Foreign Secretary's Nowruz message 2017 (1396)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-nowruz-message-2017-1396>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Joint protocol between Police Scotland and the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service In partnership challenging domestic abuse

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/images/Documents/Our%20Priorities/Domestic%20abuse/Join%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Protocol.pdf>

Charities and Auto-Enrolment – what you need to know

http://www.oscr.org.uk/media/2592/v10_charities-and-auto-enrolment-what-you-need-to-know_pdf.pdf

Young People's Views on the Benefits of Volunteering in Areas of Multiple Deprivation

http://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1034157/benefits_of_volunteering_-_vs_summary_2017.02.27a.docx

[TOP](#)

Other News

London terror attack

Moderator joins with faith leaders to condemn Westminster attack

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/moderator_joins_with_faith_leaders_to_condemn_westminster_attack

Westminster terror attack condemned by faith leaders

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/393121/westminster-terror-attack-condemned-by-faith-leaders/>

Westminster terror attack condemned by Faith Leaders

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15178221.Westminster_terror_attack_condemned_by_Faith_Leaders/

Extremists Will Not Divide London Nor Intimidate us

<https://tellmamauk.org/extremists-will-not-divide-london-intimidate-us/>

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities statement on London terrorist attack

http://www.scojec.org/news/2017/17iii_london_terror_attack.html

Westminster Attack: Call for Solidarity and Prayer

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/westminster-attack-call-for-solidarity-and-prayer/>

'We Will Not Let Hatred Come Between Us' – Secretary General's Message (Muslim Council of Britain)

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/we-will-not-let-hatred-come-between-us-secretary-generals-message/>

“An attack on Parliament is an audacious assault on democratic values” says Primus
<http://www.scotland.anglican.org/attack-parliament-audacious-assault-democratic-values-says-primus/>

CST pays tribute to PC Keith Palmer
<https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2017/03/23/cst-pays-tribute-to-pc-keith-palmer>

Other news

Children’s panels ‘should hear FGM risk cases’
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/children-s-panels-should-hear-fgm-risk-cases-1-4403473>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Domestic Abuse Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Bill as introduced

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08S052017.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08ENS052017.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08PMS052017.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08FMS052017.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBILL08DPMS052017.pdf>

Statements on Legislative Competence

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08LCS052017.pdf>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/ethnicitypaygap.html>

EU Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom (Right to Stay)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/eucitizensresidentintheunitedkingdomrighttostay.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/studentssupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Household Survey 2018-21 Questionnaire review (closing date 27 March 2017)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514493.docx>

**** closes this week!**

Commission on Parliamentary Reform (closing date 27 March 2017)
<https://parliamentaryreform.scot/have-your-say/>

**** closes this week!**

EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (closing date 31 March 2017)
http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=54326

Housing for disabled people (closing date 18 April 2017)
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-housing-disabled-people>

Policing 2026: Draft Strategy (closing date 8 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures (closing date 28 May 2017)
<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/support-and-wellbeing/improving-educational-outcomes-for-children/>

Here to Stay? Young Eastern Europeans' experiences of life in the UK (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/heretostayproject>

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Creative Communities Fund**

Closing date for applications: 28 April 2017

Community groups from across Scotland that are led by refugees or that have a focus on working with refugees can apply for up to £500 to participate in the festival. Groups can apply for funding to deliver an event or activity with their members and local audiences

that will help to strengthen their connections, partnerships and networks with receiving communities. For more information and guidance please contact:

communitydevelopment@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_festival_scotland

[TOP](#)

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

Code of Fundraising Practice Consultation Events

29 March 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-2.30)

31 March 2017 in Glasgow (3.00-4.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator discussions on the proposed changes to the Code of Fundraising Practice. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/code-of-fundraising-practice-consultation-events>

**** *this week!***

Brexit and its implications for rights

27 March 2017 in Edinburgh (2.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland seminar to provide information around the structure and law on rights in Europe currently and the Brexit process in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z6csuts> or contact hrcscotland@gmail.com

**** *this week!***

Refugee Rights to Housing

30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course about refugee housing rights. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** *this week!***

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People

30 (9.30-4.30) and 31 (9.30-12.30) March 2017 in Edinburgh

26 (9.30-4.30) and 27 (9.30-12.30) April 2017 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to include definitions of domestic abuse; how domestic abuse affects women and families from BME communities, and BME children and young people; the concept of 'honour' and how it affects BME women experiencing domestic abuse; forced marriage; and immigration issues including entitlement to support. For information see <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/events-training/> or contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

Cultural Competence

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jdfkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Separated Children

11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about supporting separated child refugees. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Working with Interpreters

31 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** Making change happen: Using the courts to make rights a reality**

1 June 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland workshop to discuss how organisations can use the law and the courts to bring about social change. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/l8hfxsm>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

7 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

[TOP](#)



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) <http://www.scojec.org/>



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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.