

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.*

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites 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.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Immigration

5. **Stuart McDonald:** What assessment [the Secretary of State for Scotland] has made of the effect of immigration on Scotland's economic performance. [908169]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): Migrants from outside and within the UK make a significant contribution to Scotland—to its economy, of course, but also to its society and wellbeing. The Government will always welcome the brightest and the best who have come here to work.

Stuart McDonald: We know that about 180,000 EU nationals make a hugely valuable contribution to the Scottish economy and that Governments such as Canada's and Australia's successfully apply different immigration rules to different parts of their countries. Going beyond warm words, will the Secretary of State listen carefully to proposals for a different arrangement for Scotland, allowing EU citizens freedom to continue to come and live and work there, benefiting us all?

Reply from David Mundell: I will always look at evidence-based proposals; that is our commitment, for example, in relation to the Scottish Government's paper

produced just before Christmas. However, it was clear within the settlement agreed under the Smith commission that immigration would remain a reserved power. ...

I find it surprising that the Scottish Government always seem to fail to acknowledge that they have very significant powers to attract people to Scotland. At the moment, about 4% of migrants who come to the United Kingdom go to Scotland. Clearly, more needs to be done to encourage people to come to Scotland, and the Scottish Government need to address that. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-01-18/debates/9014F3EF-4638-43A4-A98C-5C26D275146E/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Scotland

Paul Monaghan [59574] To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what assessment he has made of the effect of levels of immigration on Scotland's economic performance in the last five years.

Reply from David Mundell: Migrants from outside the UK and within the UK make a significant contribution to Scotland – not only in terms of its economy, but also society and wellbeing. This Government will always welcome the brightest and the best who come here to work.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-11/59574/>

Immigration

Ian Murray [60189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what forecast the Government has made of the effect of immigration policy on the ratio of working people to retired people in the next (a) five, (b) 10 and (c) 20 years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to make such forecasts. There are numerous different factors that can affect migration flows.

UK Population projections (including variants based on alternative assumptions of future fertility, mortality and net migration) are published by the independent Office for National Statistics at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60189/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn [60048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government's statement of 11 July 2016, The status of EU nationals in the UK, setting out the criteria under which EU nationals automatically have a permanent right to reside, whether EU nationals that (a) fulfilled those criteria on 23 June 2016, (b) fulfil those criteria on the date when Article 50 is triggered and (c) fulfil those criteria on the date when the UK leaves the EU will be required subsequently to register for documentation to confirm their resident status at those respective dates.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: At present, the UK remains in the EU. This means that EEA and Swiss nationals in the UK, as well as UK nationals in other Member states, continue to have the same rights and status that they had before the referendum. Until the UK leaves the EU, an EU national who meets the conditions set out in regulation 15 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 automatically acquires a right of permanent residence. They may obtain confirmation of this status by applying for a Document Certifying Permanent

Residence, however, such documentation is not mandatory.

The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals already living here, and the only circumstances in which that wouldn't be possible is if British citizens' rights in European Member states were not protected in return. Following the UK's exit, we will decide for ourselves how we control immigration and we will be free to pass our own laws.

There are a number of options as to how EU migration might work once we have left. We are considering various options and it would be wrong to set out further positions at this stage.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60048/>

Refugees: Children

Roger Godsiff [60114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee children have been supported to enter the UK in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: From within Europe, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK in 2016 under the Dublin Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. In 2015, there were around 20 transfers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe under the Dublin Regulation.

From outside of Europe, 2,059 children were resettled to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme in year ending September 2016.

The UK also supports refugee children to enter the UK via our Gateway and Mandate resettlement schemes and our refugee family reunion policy, however the published statistics do not break down these figures by those aged over and under 18.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60114/>

Refugees: Children

Roger Godsiff [60137] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the UK is taking to provide support for refugee children in (a) Europe and (b) the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The UK has contributed significantly to hosting, supporting and protecting the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis. In the year ending September 2016, we granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children in the UK. The Government has also established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe.

In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum seeking children from within Europe to the UK. More eligible children will be transferred from Europe under the Immigration Act 2016 in the coming months and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation to reunite asylum seeking children with their close families.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children are supported by local authorities in accordance with the relevant children's legislation in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In July last year the Government introduced the National Transfer Scheme to ensure there is a more even distribution of caring responsibilities for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children across the country. To support the scheme, the Home Office significantly increased the funding available to local authorities for the care and support of unaccompanied children.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60137/>

Refugees: Children

Royston Smith [60143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress has been made on resettling unaccompanied child refugees in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance.

In addition, the Government has committed to resettle up to 3,000 individuals under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by the end of this Parliament. The scheme is open to unaccompanied children where resettlement to the UK has been determined to be in the child's best interests.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60143/>

Refugees: Children

Ian Murray [60199] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress the Government has made on relocating child refugees from France, Greece and Italy; and how many child refugees have been so relocated to the UK since the Immigration Act 2016 came into force.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. Approximately 200 of these children met the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

More eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months and we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. In addition to our long standing secondee in Italy, we have seconded an expert to Greece who has been working closely with UNHCR, IOM and the Greek authorities to identify potentially eligible children under section 67 of the Immigration Act and support transfers under the Dublin Regulation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60199/>

Refugees: Children

Rachael Maskell [60471] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many child refugees are planned to be resettled in the UK in 2017.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: From within Europe, we will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation and more unaccompanied children will be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act in the coming months. An announcement will be made in due course on the total number of children to be transferred to the UK under the Immigration Act.

From outside of Europe, the Government has committed to resettle up to 3,000 individuals under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by the end of this Parliament, the majority of which will be children. We will also resettle 20,000 Syrians under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPR) over the same period. Around half of those resettled under the Syrian VPR so far are children. We do not publish the numbers to be resettled in a given year; whilst we have an internal trajectory, we will manage the flows based on need and in support of the wellbeing of the people and communities involved, rather than rushing to meet targets.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-17/60471/>

Asylum

Shabana Mahmood [59773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what geographical unit of measurement her Department uses to determine whether its 1:200 ratio of asylum seekers to resident population has been breached.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The 1:200 population ratio is a longstanding operating principle that is generally applicable to Local Authority area.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59773/>

Asylum

Alison Thewliss [59646] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims in 2015 were (a) refused within six months of being lodged and (b) subsequently granted on appeal.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes figures on the outcome of asylum claims made during each calendar year in table as_06 of the *Immigration Statistics* release.

The Home Office also publishes figures on asylum appeals and determinations, in table as_14_q of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release.

A copy of the latest release, *Immigration Statistics July to September 2016*, is available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

In addition, as part of its Transparency agenda the Home Office publishes data on decisions made within 6 months. Figures for the financial year 2015/16 can be found at tab Asy 01 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2016>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-11/59646/>

Asylum

The following four questions all received the same answer

Caroline Lucas [59796] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests were (a) made and (b) accepted for transfer of an asylum application from the UK to another country under (i) article 8, (ii) article 9, (iii) article 10 and (iv) article 17 of the Dublin III Regulation during the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Caroline Lucas [59797] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests were (a) made and (b) accepted for transfer of an asylum application to the UK under (i) article 8, (ii) article 9, (iii) article 10 and (iv) article 17 of the Dublin III Regulation during the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Caroline Lucas [59798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests the Government made under the Dublin III Regulation for an asylum application to be transferred to another country; and how many of those requests were agreed to during the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Caroline Lucas [59799] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many requests the Government made under the Dublin III Regulation for an asylum application to be transferred to another country; and how many of those requests were agreed to during the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which you can find at

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59796/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59797/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59798/>

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<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59799/>

Asylum

Alex Cunningham [60192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate the Government has made of (a) the number of asylum seekers who have had to wait more than six months for their application to be decided, (b) the total number of applications outstanding and (c) the need for additional resources to clear the backlog.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Information on asylum decision times and cases awaiting decision is published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda the latest release of which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2016>.

The Home Office no longer has an asylum backlog. In the year ending 31 March 2015 we completed a significant exercise in clearing all straightforward cases with a claim date preceding 1 April 2014. This required the progression of a number of cases far older than 12 months. We are now in a position where the majority of cases receive a decision within 6 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60192/>

Asylum: Appeals

Caroline Lucas [59800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refusals of an application for asylum resulted in the right of appeal being non-suspensive in each of the last three years; and in asylum cases where a right of appeal is non-suspensive, how many appeals were (a) submitted from outside the UK, (b) successful, (c) refused and (d) outstanding, in each of those years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publish the number of main claimants refused asylum and eligible for the non-suspensive appeals process each quarter in table as_13_q of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572377/asylum3-q3-2016-tables.ods

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-12/59800/>

Asylum: Housing

Chris Stephens [60419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 January 2017 to Question 58482, what discussions the Government has had with (a) the Scottish Government and (b) Glasgow City Council on ensuring that contractors comply with the provisions of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2011 and relevant local authority rules.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office and our asylum accommodation provider in Scotland are in regular contact with representatives from the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council on accommodation standards through forums such as the Scottish Asylum Dispersal Strategy Group, Asylum Stakeholders Forum and the Scottish Asylum Procurement Group.

In Glasgow, all new property procurement proposals are individually considered by the Local Authority to ensure that they meet local legislation requirements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-17/60419/>

Asylum: Children

Kevin Brennan [60385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to ensure that more unaccompanied children are granted asylum in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Over 8,000 children were granted asylum or another form of leave in the UK in the year ending September 2016.

Each claim for asylum is considered on its individual merits and asylum decision makers receive extensive training on considering asylum claims, including claims made from unaccompanied children. Protection is normally granted when a claimant establishes a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or their particular circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 (ECHR).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-17/60385/>

Undocumented Migrants: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Stuart McDonald [60157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children of undocumented migrants who have been denied access to the private rental market under the right to rent scheme have subsequently applied for support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Undocumented Migrants: Social Rented Housing

Stuart McDonald [60158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many undocumented migrants who have been denied access to the private rental market under the right to rent scheme have subsequently been (a) housed by a local authority and (b) referred by a local authority to a housing scheme.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office does not hold the figures requested. This is because as with right to work checks, the Right to Rent scheme is predicated on checks being carried out by third parties (in this case landlords and lettings agents). This means that the majority of illegal migrant prospective tenants will be denied access to the private rented sector as a result of these checks with no intervention by enforcement officers or reference to the Home Office.

An evaluation of the first six months of the scheme, published by Home Office Science in October 2015, showed there was no evidence of an increased burden on local authorities in the West Midlands. Monitoring of the effects of the Right to Rent scheme on landlords and tenants is also ongoing through the expert Landlords Consultative Panel, co-chaired by the Immigration Minister and Lord Best, an acknowledged expert in the fields of housing and planning. The Panel comprises bodies representing landlords, lettings agents, housing charities, local authorities and the Equality and Human Rights Commission amongst others. The Panel meets periodically, and communication channels outside these meetings allow for reporting by private rented sector and third sector groups of the experience of those they represent.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60157/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-16/60158/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Kate Osamor [59369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2016 to Question 56463, when in 2017 her Department will ask Stephen Shaw QC to carry out a review of the adults at risk guidance.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We have invited Stephen Shaw to carry out a short review in autumn 2017 in order to assess progress against the key actions from his previous report. This will not specifically be a review of the adults at risk guidance - Mr Shaw's previous report covered a range of issues related to vulnerable people in immigration detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-10/59369/>

Prisoners: Deportation

Tim Farron [59268] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign nationals who had been held in UK prisons were removed on chartered deportation flights in the last 12 months; and what the cost of chartered deportation flights for such foreign nationals has been in the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In 2015/16, we removed 5,810 Foreign National Offenders (FNOs), the highest number of returns ever. Full details regarding returns and deportations can be found on the Gov.UK website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2016-data-tables>

Details regarding Home Office expenditure can be found on the Gov.UK website.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/566256/Home-Office-Spending-Over-25000-June-2016-CSV.csv/preview

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-10/59268/>

Immigration: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart [59379] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-British citizens who were conclusively identified as trafficked have received a residence permit since 2010.

Reply from Sarah Newton: In the period 2010-2016 there were 661 confirmed victims of trafficking with a positive outcome at the conclusive grounds stage who have an outcome linked to a grant of Discretionary Leave. Confirmed victims of trafficking granted leave under other criteria such as asylum, humanitarian protection or under categories of the Immigration Rules are not included in the data above.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-10/59379/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: Housing

Lord Green of Deddington: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of new homes that will be required for migrants in England in each year up to 2039 on the basis of the most recent high migration variant of the population projections published by the Office for National Statistics.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government and Wales Office (Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth): ... the higher migration scenario of the department's household

projections shows that there are projected to be an average of 243,000 new households forming each year between 2014 and 2039. Net migration accounts for an estimated 45% of this growth. In the main scenario, there are projected to be an average of 210,000 households forming per year, of which 37% is attributable to net migration.

Lord Green of Deddington: ... These are projections, not forecasts, but does he agree that the difference between projections can give you quite a good idea and that the other projection to look at is the one based on zero net migration? The difference between high and zero migration is 110,000 households being formed every year. That is 300 every day. To put the point slightly more dramatically, that would mean building a home every five minutes, night and day, for new arrivals until such time as we get those numbers down. I know there is a strong view in the House that there is a lot to be said for migration. All I am pointing out is that there are also costs.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, as I have indicated, just over a third of the growth in the main scenario is attributable to migration. It is a two-year cycle and we review the figures every two years. The next review will be at the end of this year, when some of the scenarios may well change because of the impact of Brexit over the period. But the noble Lord is absolutely right about the challenge of building more houses. That is certainly true, but most of it is not to do with migration. ...

Baroness Maddock: ... people will recognise that many immigrants and refugees end up living in some of the poorest parts of our country. Can the Government tell us what steps they are taking to make sure that local councils have sufficient resources to support infrastructure in their communities, and also the special resources that people need when they are trying to acclimatise to a very different environment?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Baroness addresses a broader point. Some of that will be addressed by the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, which I know she is participating in, and some will be addressed in the housing White Paper that is expected shortly. We have of course committed money to infrastructure, which she refers to, but the Controlling Migration Fund also allows money for some of the challenges that local communities face.

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: ... does the Minister agree that there is an unfortunate perception that migrants take our social housing, as it were, whereas the majority of migrants—over 74% of them, I believe—live in the private rented sector?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: ... the noble Baroness brings up a valuable point. Let us be clear: migration has contributed massively to the quality and diversity of life in this country. It is certainly not true to say that immigration has led to a drain on our resources. ...

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: ... I have never denied that we need migrants; it is just that we do not want to go on letting in Bulgarian and Romanian gangsters at their will. Do the Government believe our NHS and social care can survive this sort of increase with their present funding arrangements, or do we have to consider something more radical for the longer term?

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: ... it is certainly the case that across broad sections of public life, certainly including the NHS, we are heavily dependent on people from the immigrant communities. There is no doubt about that. Net migration will probably fall as a result of Brexit, but it will be some time before that happens. Still, we face all sorts of challenges in seeking to address that.

Lord Beecham: ... will the Government review the contracts with organisations such as G4S relating to the housing of asylum seekers and refugees? Under the Labour Government, those contracts required more than simply housing; they required an element of support for the tenants of those organisations. That changed under the coalition Government, and that is now imposing considerable pressures on local authorities and communities because there is not that visible support which formerly

existed under previous contracts.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Lords, the noble Lord raises an important issue in relation to asylum seekers and housing and services for them. I have experienced this in going around the country and visiting particular communities. I will write to the noble Lord, if I may, on the particular point about G4S, and again I will ensure that that is copied to the Library. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-01-19/debates/F1E3490F-14E3-402D-BB1C-D217EACE6D8D/ImmigrationHousing>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Naturalisation

Lord Hylton [HL4399] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any applications for naturalisation have been awaiting a decision from the Home Office for longer than two years; and if so, why.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office aim to process 95% of naturalisation applications within six months. In some cases, applications for naturalisation have been outstanding for more than two years. These cases are of a more complex nature where further investigation is required, often involving other government departments and external agencies. The extent and length of time taken to complete these investigations varies according to the particular circumstance of each application.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-09/HL4399/>

Immigration: Appeals

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Ahmed [HL4313] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken for immigration and asylum tribunals to process and hear cases.

Lord Ahmed [HL4314] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many cases are awaiting appeal hearings at immigration and asylum tribunals in England and Wales.

Lord Ahmed [HL4315] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the speed at which cases are handled in immigration and asylum tribunals in England and Wales.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The average waiting times for immigration and asylum appeals in 2015/16 was 34 weeks.

As at 30 September 2016 there were 57,290 registered appeals awaiting hearing. This figure is based on internal management information which is not subject to the same rigorous verification processes as published data.

We do everything we can to avoid unnecessary delay in the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal and we have provided an additional 4,950 tribunal sitting days for this financial year to ensure current caseloads continue to decrease. We are keeping performance under close review.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4313/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4314/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4315/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4525] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the

Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 10 January (HL4287), how many of the 750 children brought to the UK have been transferred under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 without reference to the Dublin Regulation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Approximately 200 of the children brought over from France as part of the Calais camp clearance were transferred as a result of them meeting the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-10/HL4525/>

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-20/HL4287/>

Asylum: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4583] To ask Her Majesty's Government which local authorities in England and Wales have accepted Syrian asylum seekers; and how many have been accommodated in each area.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation by country of nationality and UK region in the Immigration Statistics release. These figures do not include those asylum seekers who do not receive Home Office support and who either accommodate themselves or stay with family and friends.

In addition for those refugees resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme the Home Office publishes the number of people resettled, broken down by local authority, on a quarterly basis

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-11/HL4583/>

Asylum: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4630] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied young asylum seekers from Syria, aged (1) 1 to 8, (2) 9 to 12, and (3) 13 to 18, have been accepted into the UK since the September 2015 commitment was made.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes the number of initial decisions on asylum applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, each quarter in table as_09_q of the Immigration Statistics release.

To include these data would exceed the word limit for a PQ response, but the latest figures are available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546760/asylum3-q2-2016-tabs.ods and are also attached to this answer.

Table for answer

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-12/HL4630/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4582] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they are ensuring that there are sufficient numbers of foster parents to accept unaccompanied young asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord Nash: The Government is committed to ensuring that every looked after child receives the high quality care they need in a placement that is suitable for them. We are working with partners to increase the number of suitable placements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Local authorities may apply for funding through the £140m Controlling Migration Fund to support capacity building including the recruitment, approval and training

of foster carers. In addition, we are funding the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers across the country who are not experienced in working with unaccompanied asylum seeking or refugee children. We have also committed to evaluate the need for any additional training required by foster carers looking after unaccompanied children as part of our wider safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children, which will be published by 1 May 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-11/HL4582/>

Press Release

Migrants welcome

<http://news.gov.scot/news/migrants-welcome>

New Publications

Home Affairs Committee Inquiry on Immigration - Scottish Government response

<http://cdn.prgloo.com/media/download/7960979c5fb84e5d844521b654453d2d>

EU rights guide: workers

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EU-residence-rights-workers.pdf>

EU rights guide: self employed

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EU-residence-rights-self-employed.pdf>

EU rights guide: self sufficiency

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EU-residence-rights-self-sufficiency.pdf>

EU rights guide: students

<https://www.freemovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/EU-residence-rights-students.pdf>

News

Scottish Guardianship Service wins ECPAT UK's 2016 Children's Champion Award

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3061_scottish_guardianship_service_wins_ecpat_uk_s_2016_children_s_champion_award

Call to devolve immigration powers rejected by UK government

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/call-to-devolve-immigration-powers-rejected-by-uk-government-1-4344656>

Holyrood fails to secure control over immigration

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/351032/holyrood-fails-to-secure-control-over-immigration/>

UK immigration limit 'could seriously harm Scotland'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38704218>

Immigration limits could damage Scottish economy, minister warns

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/immigration-limits-could-damage-scottish-economy-minister-warns-1-4345211>

UK community refugee scheme has resettled only two Syrian families

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jan/18/uk-community-refugee-scheme-has-resettled-only-two-syrian-families>

High court rules more than 10,000 asylum seekers treated unfairly

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jan/20/uk-high-court-rules-10000-asylum-seekers-treated-unfairly-detained-fast-track>

Asylum seekers told they can do volunteer work after SNP MP highlights Christian pastor's case

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15036067.Asylum_seekers_told_they_can_do_volunteer_work_after_SNP_MP_highlights_Christian_pastor_39_s_case/

Fivefold increase in number of EU citizens held in UK detention centres since Tories took power

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-citizens-detention-centres-immigration-detained-five-times-theresa-may-brexite-hostile-environment-a7534231.html>

Trafficking victim told by judge she is a burden on state

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15038914.Trafficking_victim_told_by_judge_she_is_a_burden_on_state/

Nurses, engineers and ballet dancers will be the first in line for visas as Britain plugs the skills gap after Brexit

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4144756/UK-visas-based-skill-offered-Brexit.html>

Thousands use 'fake life' scam to get into the UK

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38597384>

Immigration scam uses 'fake lives' in Ireland to create back door into UK

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/immigration-scam-uses-fake-lives-in-ireland-to-create-back-door-into-uk-th20ltwwf>

More Britons 'should learn immigrants' languages such as Polish and Urdu'

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/350271/more-britons-should-learn-immigrants-languages-such-as-polish-and-urdu/>

Britons 'should learn Polish, Punjabi and Urdu to boost social cohesion'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/jan/18/britons-should-learn-polish-punjabi-and-urdu-to-boost-social-cohesion>

Mój przyjaciel! Why you should learn Polish

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/m-j-przyjaciel-why-you-should-learn-polish-sxk8k792b>

When I moved from South America to the UK, I didn't speak English – and I learned a lot about integration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-integration-brexite-migrants-speak-english-compulsory-learn-move-south-america-uk-learned-a7512661.html>

Syrian refugee family to be given home inside London synagogue

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/21/syrian-refugee-family-given-home-in-london-synagogue>

Why I – a German GP in Britain for 20 years – believe patients who won't learn English are crippling the NHS

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-4138760/Patients-won-t-learn-English-crippling-NHS.html>

Patients at 20 NHS hospitals forced to show passports and ID in 'health tourism' crackdown

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nhs-hospitals-20-forced-show-passports-id-health-tourism-crackdown-healthcare-jeremy-hunt-government-a7530931.html>

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Community Relations

News

Police Taser their own race relations adviser in Bristol

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/20/police-taser-race-relations-adviser-bristol-judah-adunbi>

Police Taser their own black race relations adviser after mistaking him for wanted man

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/20/police-admit-tasing-own-black-race-relations-advisor-after-mistaking/>

Police taser their adviser on race relations

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-21/news/police-taser-their-adviser-on-race-relations-dgl5qxm9>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Time for Reflection

Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10733&i=98465&c=1965203#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-01-19/debates/760B4F72-36DA-469F-A484-7F595AB84FFD/HolocaustMemorialDay>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

UN Resolutions: Racial Discrimination

Chris Stephens [60420] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 6 December 2016 to Question 55858, what progress has been made by his Department on securing amendments to UN General Assembly Resolution 70/140 in order for the Government to support that resolution.

Reply from Alok Sharma: As stated in our answer in response to Question 55858, the Government remains firmly committed to the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The UK, along with EU partners, abstained in the vote on the resolution "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" in November 2016 as we considered the resolution, tabled by the Russian Federation, to be unbalanced and politically motivated. Furthermore, the resolution did not address all contemporary forms of racism in a comprehensive way.

Negotiations on the text for the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly will begin later this year. We will continue to engage on this issue with Russia, who table this resolution annually, and seek to secure further amendments when negotiations formally begin.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-17/60420/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-01/55858/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Brexit: Hate Crimes

Baroness Smith of Basildon: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of concerns raised by the Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, what assessment has been made of the likelihood of increased hate crimes against non-UK EU nationals living in the UK, following the publication of the Supreme Court's decision on Article 50 and the capacity of relevant authorities to deal with the consequences of any such crimes.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): ... we are working very closely with the police and community organisations to monitor any changes in hate crime levels. One of the first things that the Home Secretary did in July last year was to publish a comprehensive new hate crime action plan to drive forward work to tackle hate crime. The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have both said on numerous occasions that there is no place in the UK for hate crime.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: ... We do not want another spike in hate crime, as we saw following the referendum, or the attacks on judges following the court decision. This week the Prime Minister said that, "every stray word and every hyped up media report is going to make it harder for us to get the right deal for Britain".

Did the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, not get the memo? Can the noble Baroness confirm whether the Prime Minister has conveyed the Government's concern to those sections of the media to which she alluded, as we all agree that such histrionic reports can only damage the interests and the reputation of the UK?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness makes a very valid point in terms of the spike in hate crimes that we saw last year following the referendum on our membership of the EU. Some of the spikes in hate crime that

we saw were quite unexpected, particularly as regards the Polish community. I know that the Home Secretary is today meeting consular staff from all the EU embassies. After the referendum last year and the spike in hate crime, we engaged very quickly with the ambassadors, and they now have a single point of contact. The noble Baroness is mouthing “media” to me across the Dispatch Box and I will get to that. The point she makes is very important: we all have a duty to behave in a responsible way. However, it is through society being not just tolerant but welcoming of the various communities who live in our country that we will make progress, and the media are part and parcel of that.

Lord Forsyth of Drumlean: ... can she think of a single precedent of when Ministers have been asked to answer a hypothetical Question in connection with a hypothetical outcome? Is it not extraordinary that it is in order to ask a Question of this nature?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is hypothetical but I hope I can reassure my noble friend that the Government are prepared and have learned the lessons from some of the events we have seen in the last year. Again, to go back to the noble Baroness’s Question, some of the language has been quite inflammatory, both in the media and from some members of the community following the EU referendum. I think that both as a society and as a Government, we are prepared, and we are engaged consistently and constantly with representatives of the various communities across the country.

Lord Paddick: ... the latest crime figures show an increase of about 200 hate crimes a week in 2015-16 compared with the previous year. There has been a 40% increase in hate crime since 2013-14. This is not a spike but a trend and police action is simply addressing the symptoms. What assessment have the Government made of the causes of these increases and do they believe, as we do, that the increase in populism and nationalism is behind these significant and worrying increases? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will get to the point about pre-referendum, because in fact the numbers of hate crimes reported are now down to pre-referendum levels. The reasons behind some of the hate crime were many and varied. The Polish community, for probably the first time in its history in this country, experienced in Hammersmith an unprecedented attack, and the Polish centre in Hammersmith was one of the first centres to benefit from the community demonstration project funding. As I say, the reasons that motivate people to provoke hatred against other people are many and varied, and it is generally based on certain characteristics of those people and those communities, and it has gone down to pre-referendum levels since then.

Lord Ouseley: ... on 24 June we were all shocked by the level of responses of hate demonstrated by the recorded and reported incidents. I declare an interest in my work as chair of Kick It Out, where we monitor—and have done for the last 23 years—hate incidents that are at the lower level of everyday abuse. There is nothing new about the level of hatred that exists within our society. We have to tackle the issue of prejudice, which we are not doing sufficiently. To blame Brexit as a cause of what we saw on 24 June and since is delusional. Quite frankly, in the context of racial abuse, you cannot blame the levels of homophobic abuse and abuse of disabled people that we are witnessing specifically on Brexit. How are we taking action to effectively tackle prejudice, which is what feeds bigotry and hatred?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... it was not Brexit per se that was the cause of this hatred but Brexit was used as an occasion to promote prejudice and hatred. The Government have done many things since 2010 to try to tackle this. I mentioned the hate crime action plan that the Home Secretary produced upon becoming Home Secretary. We have made changes to legislation that offer further protection for transgender and disabled people, and those have led to the first convictions for the offence of stirring up hatred on grounds of sexual orientation. We have also improved the police recording of hate crime. Forces now capture data on all five of the monitored hate crime strands. We have also

recently launched a funding scheme to help protect places of worship from hate crime and to tackle hate crime at a local level.

Lord Blair of Boughton: ... does the Minister agree that drawing the line between hate crime and the protection of free speech is one of the most difficult jobs that the police service has to do? In the event of difficulties following this judgment, will she ask the Home Secretary to support police action, perhaps slightly more quickly than the Lord Chancellor did on the last occasion?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with the noble Lord that there is a distinction. How the police operate is of course up to the police, but we certainly support them.

Lord Kinnock: Is the Minister satisfied with the level of punishment of perpetrators of hate crime and with the provision for education of such people? Is it not clear that, unless and until those guilty of hate crime are taught a lesson in both senses of the term, they are likely to continue with their poisonous attitude?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am satisfied with the level of punishment. The noble Lord raises a point that was mentioned in previous Questions today—that is, education. We engage the Anne Frank Trust in going into schools, which is an incredibly important initiative. It is essential not to forget what happened in the past. We always say that it will never happen again but it does, and for children to have at the forefront of their minds man's inhumanity to man in the past helps us in the future.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-01-19/debates/8A2985D4-328C-44E1-9D8C-7549E921D1B7/BrexitHateCrimes>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (870) Adoption of a formal definition of anti-semitism – That this House welcomes the Prime Minister's announcement of 12 December 2016 that Britain will adopt a formal definition of anti-Semitism in response to the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA); recognises that a recommendation formally to adopt a definition was first made in the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism report of 2006; further welcomes the stated cross-party support for the definition, including from the Leader of the Opposition; congratulates the IHRA and its 31 member countries for adopting the definition; supports efforts to ensure wider adoption of the definition across the continent at the Organisation for Security and Co-Operation in Europe and elsewhere; believes that a single definition will help identification of anti-Semitism; further recognises that police forces have for some time already used the definition for training purposes; welcomes the Government's update report on progress made in addressing the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism report of 2015; and calls on all political parties and other organisations formally to adopt the definition and use it to take action against anti-Semitism.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/870>

Press Release

High Level Forum on Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Hatred

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/18773/high-level-forum-anti-muslim-discrimination-and-hatred_en

News

'Keep Safe Scotland' – free phone app

<https://www.actiononsectarianism.info/news/keep-safe-scotland-free-phone-app-download-now>

Rise in Offensive Behaviour at Football prosecutions as SNP hail controversial legislation

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15028398.Rise in Offensive Behaviour at Football prosecutions as SNP hail controversial legislation/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15028398.Rise_in_Offensive_Behaviour_at_Football_prosecutions_as_SNP_hail_controversial_legislation/)

Equalities chief fears a surge in hate crime

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/equalities-chief-fears-a-surge-in-hate-crime-3tb7xh9bt>

Hate crime doesn't deserve a special status

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-16/comment/hate-crime-doesnt-deserve-a-special-status-0rx78tb9r>

Man admits racist fire attack on Edinburgh mosque

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-38668607>

Swastika tattooed thug who hates Muslim men launched petrol bomb attack on Scottish mosque

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/swastika-tattooed-thug-who-hates-9647507>

Murderer of Asad Shah sends hate messages from his jail cell to extremist supporters

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/murderer-asad-shah-sends-hate-9640645>

'Greetings from Uncle Adolf': Amazon worker is sacked after putting a sick anti-Semitic note about Hitler in a parcel to a Jewish mother

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4123944/Greetings-Uncle-Adolf-Amazon-worker-sacked-putting-sick-anti-Semitic-note-Hitler-parcel-Jewish-mother.html>

Antisemitic note found in Amazon parcel

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-17/news/antisemitic-note-found-in-amazon-parcel-6tsp0zqpb>

Boy, 12, to face charges over Fife church incident

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15038149.Boy_12_to_face_charges over Fife church incident/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15038149.Boy_12_to_face_charges_over_Fife_church_incident/)

Eggs hurled at priest and churchgoers in hate crime

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15035583.Eggs_hurled_at_priest_and_churchgoers_in_hate_crime/

Police charge 12-year-old boy after alleged anti-Catholic attack at Fife church

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/police-charge-12-year-old-9660167>

Black students 'feel excluded by tutors'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-16/news/black-students-feel-excluded-by-tutors-fvjp63t2p>

Arrest after 'racist' abuse of Wrexham football player

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-38712111>

Vile racists target dad of two from Hull after brain injury leaves him with a Polish accent

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/vile-racists-target-dad-two-9664803>

'F* Muslims': Tourists racially abused in wake of Old Firm Game**

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15039095.F_Muslims_Tourists_racially_abused_in_wake_of_Old_Firm_Game/

Racial bias can change in a heartbeat

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-18/news/racial-bias-can-change-in-a-heartbeat-r77jxzmdf>

Yellowface protest over 'racist' casting at London theatre

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/theatre/what-to-see/yellowface-protest-racist-casting-london-theatre/>

New online generation takes up Holocaust denial

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/22/online-conspiracy-theories-feed-holocaust-denial>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Help for charities and sports clubs

Eligible charities registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, as well as community amateur sports clubs with an income of less than £200,000, do not need to pay water and sewerage charges. Those with incomes between £200,000 and £300,000 will pay a reduced rate. ... Charities and community amateur sports clubs must apply each year to the Scheme. Applications can now be made for the 2017-18 scheme. Applications for 2016-17 can continue to be made up until 31st March 2017.

<http://news.gov.scot/news/help-for-charities-and-sports-clubs>

£29 million to build fairer Scotland

<http://news.gov.scot/news/gbp-29-million-to-build-fairer-scotland>

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2015-16

<http://news.gov.scot/news/criminal-proceedings-in-scotland-2015-16>

New Publications

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2015-16

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512934.pdf>

Brexit: What Scotland thinks: summary of evidence and emerging issues

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_European/Reports/CTEERCS052017R01.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Mandatory reporting duty (England and Wales)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525405/FGM_mandatory_reporting_map_A.pdf

FGM Safeguarding Pathway (England and Wales)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/542650/FGM_Flowchart.pdf

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New Publications

Muslims in Numbers: Offenders from Muslim backgrounds

http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Briefing-11_Offenders-from-Muslim-Backgrounds.pdf

Video: Raising a concern about a Scottish Charity

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/hot-topics/video-raising-a-concern-about-a-scottish-charity>

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Other News

The man correcting stories about Muslims

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38655760>

Press publishing 'consistent stream' of inaccurate stories about Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/19/press-publishing-consistent-stream-of-inaccurate-stories-about-muslims>

British newspapers accused of publishing 'consistent stream' of inaccurate stories about Muslims

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-newspapers-islam-publishing-consistent-stream-inaccurate-stories-muslim-clouncil-britain-a7535551.html>

Queen's chaplain resigns over cathedral Koran reading row saying he has a 'duty' to defend Christianity

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/22/queens-chaplain-resigns-cathedral-koran-reading-row-saying-has/>

Queen's chaplain condemns Koran reading in cathedral

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-17/news/queen-s-chaplain-condemns-koran-reading-in-cathedral-5x2g3czx9>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

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/studentsupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities [England and Wales] (closing date 27 January 2017)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2015/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities-inquiry-launch-16-17/>

Racism at work (closing date 27 February 2017)

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

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (closing date 14 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/draft-gender-representation-on-public-boards/>

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>

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Social Economy Growth Fund**

closing date for applications: 17 February 2017

The Scottish Government Social Economy Growth Fund will enable the third sector/social economy to improve and increase services and support for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. It will help organisations to increase their capacity to support disadvantaged people – for example by expanding existing services and employing additional staff. The Fund will support organisations with a proven track record of working successfully with individuals and families who experience disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion. For more details, and an application form, see

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-economy-growth-fund-guidance/>

**** Social Innovation Fund**

closing date for applications: 17 February 2017

The Scottish Government Social Innovation Fund enables social economy organisations to work in collaboration with research institutions, the public and private sector to develop, test and scale up new ideas and solutions to tackle poverty and disadvantage. For more details, and an application form, see <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-innovation-fund-guidance/>

Europe of Diversities

closing date for applications: 28 February 2016

European Union funding for projects to promote unity in diversity, support sharing of good practices in fighting discrimination and promoting diversity at local and regional level, and help to identify and target discriminatory practices at local and regional level and build understanding between majority and minority societies. For information see <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rppi-eudi-ag-2016.html>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Discrimination Law in 2017

23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to review recent changes in employment law. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

**** this week!**

Inspiring Careers, Modern Apprenticeships & Volunteering

23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

BEMIS event to encourage young people and their families to gain stronger insight and connections within the Modern Apprenticeship family. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jtgtyl4>

**** this week!**

The Holocaust: an Introduction - Part 1

Online – three sessions: 23 and 30 January, and 6 February

Yad Vashem course about the Holocaust, an inconceivable historical event, an idea so inhumanly warped that spread like wildfire through an entire continent, instigating the systematic annihilation of millions of Jews. For information see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-1>

**** this week!**

Hate Crime and Islamophobia

25 January 2017 in Dundee (10.00-2.00)

Amina roadshow to share views on hate crime and islamophobia. For information see <https://twitter.com/AminaMWRC/status/819167661615710208> or contact 0141 212 8420 / info@mwrc.org.uk

**** this week!**

BEMIS celebrates BURNS: A Toast Tae the Lassies

25 January 2017 in Glasgow (8.00)

BEMIS celebration of Rabbie Burns' iconically internationalist outlook and egalitarian spirit. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zv86ylz>

**** this week!**

Meet the Funders/Capacity Building

26 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15am and 4pm)

Glasgow City Council event for Third Sector organisations throughout Glasgow to engage with funders, fundraisers, and capacity building and support organisations. For information contact Karen Latta 0141 276 9906 / karen.latta@glasgow.gov.uk.

**** this week!**

National Holocaust Memorial Day

26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)

The theme of this year's memorial event is "How can life go on?" For information please contact Maureen Sier maureen@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening

27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for women, particularly disabled, BME, older and trans women, to volunteer to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hz2vvf9>

Cultural Competence

31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines 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.

Zero Tolerance to FGM

4 February 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-3.30)

African Women in Scotland against FGM conference to highlight that 'FGM is more than Cutting' and that leaders have a significant role in combating Harmful Traditional Practices'. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hysoho8>

Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study

8 February 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-3.30)

The Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study used the 2001 census findings and various health datasets to compare the health of ethnic groups in Scotland. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shels-dissemination-seminar-2-tickets-29978191578> or contact Theresa Kirkpatrick Theresa.kirkpatrick@ed.ac.uk

Separated Children

9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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.

Evaluating Anti-Prejudice Projects

16 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.3—3.30)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights capacity building session on evaluating anti-prejudice projects. The session will focus on developing effective, proportionate approaches to evaluating anti-prejudice projects or interventions, and will be especially useful for organisations with more limited experience of evaluation. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zlr3tot>

Area Partnerships: Engaging BME Communities

17 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights workshop to explore why minority ethnic community groups are still under-represented in accessing Area Partnership funding, and

how to engage better, and encourage participation and representation. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zr6fsdc>

**** The Holocaust: an Introduction - Part 2**

Online – three sessions: 20 and 28 February, and 6 March

Yad Vashem course about the Holocaust, an inconceivable historical event, an idea so inhumanly warped that spread like wildfire through an entire continent, instigating the systematic annihilation of millions of Jews. For information see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-2>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

8 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.

Working with Interpreters

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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

2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

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.

Engaging hard to reach groups

8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Honour-Based Violence: Who is Doing What to Whom, and Why?

14 March 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to discuss the meaning of Honour in the context of Honour-based violence, the influence of family, community, faith, tradition, migration and gender in victims/survivors' experiences, links to domestic abuse and gender-based violence, the long term impact and consequences of Honour-based violence on minority ethnic women children and young people, and appropriate service responses to supporting survivors. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hzeo96f>

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training on issues related to EEA nationals' access to services and important changes in regulations. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers

21 March 2017 in Dumfries (1.15-4.15)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system operates, and barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

Talking to Young People about Equality

23 March 2017 in Fife (venue tbc) (6.00-9.00)

Youth 1st workshop to help Youth Workers to begin a dialogue about equality with young people and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information contact Gayle Brown 01592 645 355 / gayle@youth1st.co.uk or see <https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8004>

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.

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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



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/>

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