



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

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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

#### Dallas Family (Asylum Appeal)

**Bob Doris (SNP):** My constituents, the Dallas family, have had their appeal for asylum refused. I understand that they fled to the United Kingdom in December 2017, after Mrs Dallas escaped a gun attack in Karachi that was fuelled by a fatwa against her, simply because she did not agree to convert from Christianity to Islam.

It would appear that the Home Office may place an undue weight on local police reports in making such determinations. Does the First Minister share the concern of the European Centre for Law and Justice over police torture of Christians in Pakistan, which makes victims nervous of reporting such incidents? Will the Scottish Government make representations to the UK Home Office asking it to take such concerns into account when cases such as that of the Dallas family are being considered?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** I thank Bob Doris for raising

that issue. I share the concern of the European Centre for Law and Justice and I strongly condemn—as I am sure everybody in the chamber does—any persecution of people from minority communities. Nobody should ever feel at risk because of their faith or beliefs.

The Scottish Government will always seek to champion human rights and we strongly support international processes such as United Nations scrutiny of individual member states.

Sadly, asylum is reserved to the UK Government and handled by the Home Office. The Scottish Government has consistently urged the Home Office to adopt fair and humane asylum policies and to ensure that full account is taken of all the individual circumstances in every case. We will continue to do that and if there is any assistance that we can offer to the Dallas family, we would be happy to discuss that with Bob Doris.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11995&i=108518#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Immigration

**S5W-21858 Emma Harper (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact reduced levels of immigration as a result of Brexit could have on Scotland's public services.

**Reply from Ben Macpherson:** The UK Government proposal to end free movement will significantly reduce the number of people coming to Scotland to live, work and study. The recently published independent report of the Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population estimates a reduction in net migration to Scotland of between 30% and 50% over the coming two decades if the UK Government puts in place the measures set out in its White Paper on immigration. Key services, such as health and social care, depend on EU workers to make up a significant proportion of their workforce. A reduction in migration to Scotland of the level suggested in the White Paper will have severe consequences for Scotland's public services. A 5% decline in Scotland's working age population, as the Expert Advisory Group estimates, will reduce the number of workers available to fill roles, affect the Scottish Government's abilities to raise revenue for public services, and therefore increase the challenge of managing the consequences of an ageing population.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21858>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**S5M-16306 Stewart Stevenson (SNP): UK Government's Migration Proposals Damaging to Scotland's Economy** – That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to abandon its current post-Brexit migration proposals that would, it considers, see an end to freedom of movement and set a salary threshold for labour migrants at £30,000; believes that these proposals would have a disproportionate negative impact on Scotland's economy by sending the working age population into decline and causing serious staff shortages in key sectors; considers that sectors such as textiles, hospitality, sales, seasonal agriculture and vital social care service are most at risk, with almost no jobs qualifying for the £30,000 threshold; acknowledges the recent report from the Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population, which it understands found that less than 40% of workers in the Aberdeenshire Council area, and less than 30% of workers in the

Moray Council area, earn above the £30,000 threshold, limiting jobs in the Banffshire and Buchan Coast constituency; recognises what it sees as the huge benefits that migration brings to Scotland and the valuable contribution that EU nationals have made to communities across the country, and agrees that Scotland's economy now depends on a fair, tailor-made approach to migration that works for all sectors and regions of Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16306>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/y2qq56hv>

**S5M-16255 John Mason (SNP): Glasgow Leading the Way in Asylum Reform** – That the Parliament acknowledges that Glasgow could become the first UK city to pilot changes to the asylum process based on the recommendations of a multi-agency taskforce; understands that, if implemented, the reforms would allow asylum seekers in Glasgow to enter employment from six months after their asylum claim has been submitted, and to register and make further submissions in Glasgow, instead of having to travel to Croydon and Liverpool, respectively, at their own cost; considers that these changes would help those fleeing persecution, famine and war to feel more at ease during the stressful application process, and commends Glasgow City Council for, it considers, leading the way in asylum reform to the benefit of all in society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16255>

## UK Parliament Debate

**Draft Immigration (European Economic Area Nationals) (EU Exit) Order 2019**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-11/debates/68c43e66-f2e4-4991-a674-4927e8de009c/DraftImmigration\(EuropeanEconomicAreaNationals\)\(EUExit\)Order2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-11/debates/68c43e66-f2e4-4991-a674-4927e8de009c/DraftImmigration(EuropeanEconomicAreaNationals)(EUExit)Order2019)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Immigration

**Kate Green (Labour)** [228716] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Immigration White Paper, published in December 2018, if he will publish his Department's engagement proposals as described in that White Paper.

**Kate Green (Labour)** [228719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Immigration White Paper, published in December 2018, what type of engagement he plans to undertake in relation to the proposals described in that White Paper.

**Kate Green (Labour)** [228720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Immigration White Paper, published in December 2018, when the engagement set out in that White Paper will take place.

**Kate Green (Labour)** [228721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Immigration White Paper, published in December 2018, if he will hold discussions with (a) the Royal College of Nursing and (b) other organisations representing the health and social care workforce on the proposals in that White Paper.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government's White Paper, "The UK's future skills-based immigration system" (Cm 9722), published on 19 December 2018, provides a platform for further discussion. We have launched an extensive

programme of targeted engagement across the UK, to capture views and ensure that we design a future system that works for every nation.

There are three approaches to this engagement programme. The Government is engaging with specific sectors to communicate proposals and understand their priorities for a future system. We will hold cross-sector forums in the nine regions of England and all the nations of the UK to hear views from across the country.

We are also creating advisory groups that will have detailed discussions with private, public and voluntary sector employers and industry representatives as the policy and system is developed

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228716/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228719/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228720/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228721/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Immigration: Research**

**Chris Green (Conservative)** [229276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to review the immigration rules in relation to the medical research sector; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government values the contribution which migrants makes to the medical research sector.

There are generous provisions for PhD-level occupations, which include medical researchers. These occupations have higher priority when allocating monthly places within the Tier 2 cap. We have also exempted these occupations from the £35,000 earnings threshold for settlement applications and exempted them from the Immigration Skills Charge.

The Government is committed to developing a future borders and immigration system that will cater for all sectors of the UK, including for those who make a very valuable contribution to our research sector.

Proposals in the White Paper published in December provide a platform for further discussion. The Home Office has launched engagement over 2019 with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229276/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**Kate Green (Labour)** [228723] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will publish the full analysis his Department undertook that concluded that the NHS spends £470 on average per person per year on treating people required to pay the immigration health surcharge.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2018 was introduced in Parliament on Thursday 11 October 2018 alongside a published impact assessment which is available at the following link:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111172995/impacts>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228723/>

### **Visas: Sponsorship**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [229193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Tier 2 (General) Certificate of Sponsorship have been submitted in each month since November 2018; how many of those applications were granted; and how many of those applications were refused as a result of the annual cap having been reached.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** No applications for Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship have been refused in the period in question due to the cap being reached under Tier 2 General. The information requested is set out below.

Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship (RCoS)

Month	Submitted	Granted	Refused as a result of the Cap being reached
Nov-18	2206	1919	0
Dec-18	2422	2018	0
Jan-19	1838	1597	0
Feb-19	2093	1691	0

Applications can be refused as they don't meet the criteria set out under Tier General. In addition, applications are rejected for being incomplete, withdrawn by the sponsor or kept under review to be decided at a subsequent monthly allocation panel. This accounts for the difference between the number of applications submitted in a month and the number of grants in the same month.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229193/>

### **Visas: Applications**

**Laura Pidcock (Labour)** [229242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the accessibility of online visa applications.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** UK Visas and Immigration are rolling out a new application platform across all application routes. The new application forms have been built to comply with the Government Digital Service standard, which in turn ensures compliance with wider standards on usability and accessibility.

Extensive testing has taken place with real users of the service, observing how they interact with the forms and adapting the design and questions in accordance with feedback from those testing sessions. In addition, we offer Assisted Digital support for customers who have difficulty completing online immigration applications, for example, if they do not have the appropriate access, skills or confidence to complete an online application without assistance.

Support is provided over the phone or face-to-face in locations across the UK, in a library or other voluntary sector centre or by a home visit from a tutor. This service has been available since September 2017 to customers who are based in the UK and has recently been extended to include the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229242/>

### **Visas: Applications**

**Gareth Thomas (Labour Co-op)** [228556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many and what proportion of applications to UK Visas and Immigration under the new super priority service were not decided within the twenty-four hour service standard; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Published information on in-country visa applications and service standards can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228556/>

#### **Visas: Married People**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [229177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many spouse visas were granted on the basis of exceptional circumstances where the sponsor did not meet the minimum income requirement in each year since 2012.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office does not collate or publish the information requested. Published statistics on spouse visas can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/list-of-tables#visas>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229177/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Immigration: Married People**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [229178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the minimum income requirement on the integration of non-EEA partners of British citizens.

#### **Immigration: Income**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [229180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the findings of his Department's most recent review into the effects of the minimum income requirement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Supreme Court has upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement, which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration, ruling that it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a partner to settle in the UK and of the community in general. The Court found that the minimum income requirement is not a breach of the right to respect for private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and is not discriminatory.

We continue to keep the family Immigration Rules under review and make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. Our overall assessment is that the family Immigration Rules are having the right impact and are helping to ensure public confidence in the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229178/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229180/>

#### **Windrush Lessons Learned Review**

**Emma Reynolds (Labour)** [229187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to announce the final results of the Windrush lessons learned review.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Secretary is absolutely determined to learn from and right the wrongs of the past, and he looks forward to receiving the lessons learned report when the review concludes. He will consider the

recommendations from the review carefully and announce appropriate action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229187/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Windrush Generation: Compensation**

**Emma Reynolds (Labour)** [229188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department plans to announce the final details of the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Emma Reynolds (Labour)** [229189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the length of time it will take to fully compensate everyone eligible under the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government has committed to putting into place the Windrush compensation scheme and is grateful to those who responded to the public consultation that closed on 16 November.

As the Home Secretary announced on 8 February, we are considering the outcome of the consultation exercise and will respond as soon as possible with further details, including when the scheme will be open for claims and for how long.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229189/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229188/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-02-08/debates/19020852000010/Immigration>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Connor McGinn (Labour)** [229264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2019 to Question 213222 on Immigration: EU Nationals, what the differences are between the rights retained by Irish citizens under the (a) EU Settlement Scheme and (b) Common Travel Area.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Irish citizens have long-held a status in the UK that, like EU Treaty rights, allows them to live, work, study and access benefits and services without being subject to a requirement to obtain leave to enter or remain. This status will not be affected by the UK leaving the EU. Irish citizens resident in the UK can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if they choose, though they are not required to given that the relevant rights are protected under the Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements.

The arrangements for existing close family members, who are not Irish citizens or British citizens, to remain in the UK with, or join, EU citizens resident in the UK in the future are not provided for by the CTA arrangements but under the draft Withdrawal Agreement. Irish citizens will be able to support an application from family members without applying to the EU Settlement Scheme themselves.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229264/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213222/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [228745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing exemptions from the requirement to apply for the settled status scheme for non-UK EU citizens who are of pensionable age and have lived in the UK for more than five years.

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [228746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of introducing exemptions to the requirement to apply for the settled status scheme for non-UK EU citizens who are spouses of UK citizens.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** We have considered carefully the introduction of the EU Settlement Scheme and its implications for EU citizens and their family members.

Exempting any cohort of EU citizen from the requirement to apply to the scheme could leave them at a disadvantage because they may be unable to demonstrate their entitlements to employment, benefits and services in the same way that other EU citizens who had applied to the scheme would be able to.

We are clear that we want all resident EU citizens to stay and have de-signed the EU Settlement Scheme to make the application process as simple and easy as possible for all cohorts of applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228745/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228746/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [231405] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 February 2019 to Question 222793 on applications for looked-after children through the EU Settlement Scheme, how many of the 19 applications made on behalf of looked-after children were made by (a) local authorities and (b) supporting organisations.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** In the most recent phase of testing, the Government made provision for eligible children and care leavers looked after by one of five local authorities specified in Immigration Rules to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme. The five local authorities participating made 19 applications on behalf of looked after children.

Seven voluntary support organisations were also permitted to support EU citizens to make an application during this test phase.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231405/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-18/222793/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

### Entry Clearances: EU Nationals

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [229227] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens will be able to enter the UK with an EEA National identity card under current terms after the UK leaves the EU.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As set out in the Government's white paper 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' (Cm 9722, published 19 December 2018), if we leave the EU with a deal, we intend to phase out the use of insecure national identity cards as soon as practicable after the end of the implementation period and will give fair notice of moving to a different arrangement, and time to adjust.

EU citizens covered by the citizens' rights deal will be able to travel using a national identity card or a passport, as now, for five years from the end of the implementation period (so until 31 December 2025) and thereafter if the cards meet the relevant International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) biometric standards.

As set out in DExEU's policy paper on citizens' rights (published 6 December 2018), in the event that we leave the EU without a deal, EU citizens will be able to enter the UK by showing either a valid national identity card or a passport until 31 December 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229227/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

*The policy paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/762222/Policy\\_paper\\_on\\_citizens\\_rights\\_in\\_the\\_event\\_of\\_a\\_no\\_deal\\_Brexit.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762222/Policy_paper_on_citizens_rights_in_the_event_of_a_no_deal_Brexit.pdf)

### Entry Clearances: EU Nationals

**Conor McGinn (Labour)** [230087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to his Department's White Paper on The UK's future skills-based immigration system, Cm 9722, how the proposed future introduction of Electronic Travel Authorisation for EU nationals set out in that White Paper will operate within local journeys in the Common Travel Area and local journeys over the Irish land border.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government intends to introduce a requirement for visitors and transit passengers who do not need a visa to come to the UK to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). The requirement will not apply to Irish nationals,

The detail of our ETA scheme is currently under development and requires primary legislation before it can be introduced.

The UK does not operate routine immigration controls on local journeys from within the Common Travel Area and the ETA scheme will be developed to operate in a way which is consistent with those arrangements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230087/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

### Refugees: Children

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [229183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to reduce the number of dangerous journeys being taken by unaccompanied child refugees with family in the UK.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government has a number of policies in place

to prevent children from undertaking dangerous journeys to reach family in the UK – our family reunion policy, the Dublin Regulation, and the Mandate resettlement scheme.

This Government's family reunion policy allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Under this policy, we have granted visas to over 26,000 partners and children of those granted protection in the UK in the last five years – that is over 5,000 a year. There are also separate provisions in the Immigration Rules to allow extended family to sponsor children to come to the UK where there are serious and compelling circumstances.

We continue to meet our commitments to transfer unaccompanied children in another EU Member State with qualifying family in the UK, under the Dublin Regulation for the purpose of assessing their asylum claim. We accept all requests for transfer of an unaccompanied child's asylum claims with qualifying family in the UK where transfer is in the child's best interests.

On a specific point, as part of the Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France in January 2018, we committed to deploying a UK Asylum Liaison Officer to support the transfer of eligible children under section 67 and the Dublin Regulation. We also allocated £3.6 million specifically to fund the development of the Dublin process to support transfers of eligible children to the UK, including training for those working with unaccompanied children, family tracing and targeted information campaigns.

And lastly, the Mandate resettlement scheme resettles recognised refugees who have a close family member in the UK who is willing to accommodate them. The refugee must be a minor child, spouse, or parent or grandparent aged over 65 of someone in the UK who is willing to accommodate and support them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229183/>

*The Sandhurst Treaty, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/674885/Treaty\\_Concerning\\_the\\_Reinforcement\\_Of\\_Cooperation\\_For\\_The\\_Coordinated\\_Management\\_Of\\_Their\\_Shared\\_Border.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674885/Treaty_Concerning_the_Reinforcement_Of_Cooperation_For_The_Coordinated_Management_Of_Their_Shared_Border.pdf)

### **Refugees: Children**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [229185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied minors have been resettled in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The government remains fully committed to delivering on our commitment to relocate the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and we continue to work very closely with participating States -France, Greece and Italy - and local authorities and delivery partners in order to meet this commitment as soon as possible.

Over 220 unaccompanied children have been transferred to the UK, and transfers of eligible children are ongoing. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details once all children are in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-06/229185/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Refugees: Syria**

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [230629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to extend funding for the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement

Scheme beyond 2020; and if he will make a statement.

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [230630] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support family reunification as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme; and if he will make a statement.

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [230653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support local authorities seeking to facilitate family reunification as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme; and if he will make a statement.

**Clive Betts (Labour)** [230654] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme, if he will expand the definition of a family unit beyond a spouse and minor children of a refugee.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Work continues with local authorities and international partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) by 2020, including those with family links in the UK, and we are on track to do this. The Mandate Resettlement Scheme also allows those recognised by the UNCHR as refugees to join close family members here in the UK.

We always aim to resettle families referred to the UK's resettlement schemes by the UNHCR as close as possible to any family members already here in the UK, however this is subject to the availability of suitable and sustainable accommodation and relevant support services in that area.

We are working with key stakeholders and international partners on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy. This includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230629/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230630/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230653/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230654/>

### **Asylum: Contracts**

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [217596] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the transition from the asylum accommodation COMPASS contracts to the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation contracts, whether transition, risk management and contingency plans have been shared with local authorities in participating asylum dispersal areas.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office has designed the Asylum Accommodation and Support Transformation project to replace the current asylum accommodation and support services to ensure a smooth transition of services from one Provider to another.

The current timetable allows eight months for mobilisation and transition activities, which is similar to the time that such activity took when the current contracts came into operation.

The transition governance structure means that we are now working closely with local authorities and other statutory partners to ensure a smooth transition. Regional Transition leads are working to ensure that their regional plans are co-ordinated on a local basis with strategic stakeholders to manage risks and to ensure

effective contingency measures are in place to minimise impacts to all Service Users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-06/217596/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Health Professions: Migrant Workers

**Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14156] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford on 27 February (HL13739), what plans they have, if any, to abolish the health surcharge for overseas health workers in order to recruit more health professionals from overseas; and if not, why not.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** There are no plans to exempt international healthcare professionals from the requirement to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. It is right that healthcare professionals subject to immigration control who come to the UK for more than six months make a fair contribution to the running of the NHS, as do other providers of essential public services, including teachers.

The Government recognises the major contribution that overseas health workers, and other highly skilled professionals make to the UK. Nurses currently benefit from an exemption from the minimum salary threshold for Tier 2 and a number of health professions appear on the Shortage Occupation List.

In addition, on 6 July 2018 we took action to exempt doctors and nurses entirely from the annual Tier 2 cap that applies to skilled workers. This change means that there is no limit on the number of overseas doctors and nurses needed in the UK who can be sponsored to work here. The Home Secretary has recently made clear that he has no plans to remove that exemption.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-01/HL14156/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-14/HL13739/>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Migrant Workers: Tourism

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14163] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to adapt their post-Brexit immigration plans to ensure that skills relevant to the tourism industry are included within their definition of high and intermediate skilled workers.

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14164] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to a tourism and hospitality sectoral exemption in their proposals for intermediate and high-skilled migrants to earn a minimum salary of £30,000 per annum.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As set out in the White Paper, 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system', we propose to define high, medium and lower skilled occupation by referring to the national Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) levels.

Occupations falling into each of these skills will be set out in codes of practices.

In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing £30,000 minimum salary

threshold. We are launching an extensive year long programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, including the private, public and voluntary sector, employers and businesses, as well as the EU and international partners. We are also launching a number of new advisory groups and expand on existing forums, consisting of business and employer representatives, to help inform the detailed design of the future immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-01/HL14163/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-01/HL14164/>

*The White Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf)

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/741926/Final\\_EEA\\_report.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF)

### **Youth Mobility Scheme**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14165] To ask Her Majesty's Government what further plans they have to expand the availability of Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) visas beyond their proposals to expand their availability to EU citizens.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We have proposed a UK-EU Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) as part of our Mobility Framework to ensure that young people can continue to enjoy the social, cultural and educational benefits of living in the EU and the UK.

We will ensure that our future immigration system continues to support the thriving cultural exchanges that the YMS cultivates.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-01/HL14165/>

### **Youth Mobility Scheme**

**Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14166] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to increasing the period of validity for Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) visas from two to four years, or for providing for the possibility of an extension.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Tier 5 Youth Mobility Schemes provide a cultural exchange programme that allows young people aged 18 to 30 from participating countries and territories to experience life in the UK for up to two years. We are not proposing to increase the validity of Leave to Remain under the Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-01/HL14166/>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14055] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that there is no gender discrimination built into the application scheme for settled status, including for (1) women who do not have continuous HMRC records, (2) people whose documents are largely in their husband's name, (3) people who have changed their name due to marriage, change of gender or other reasons, and (4) women who are victims of domestic violence or whose present or former husbands or partners are not willing to co-operate.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The EU Settlement Scheme will accept a wide range of documentation as proof of residence. We have worked closely with our Safeguarding User Group to establish the types of evidence that vulnerable applicants will have available to them. The automated checks with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions will, in most cases, provide us with the information we need to confirm residence. Where these checks are not sufficient, we allow for alternative ways of proving residence, including methods which do not rely on access to formal documentation.

When the scheme is rolled out fully from 30 March there will be additional provisions allowing applicants who are unable to provide identity documents due to circumstances beyond their control, or for compelling practical or compassionate reasons, to provide alternative evidence of their identity. This may include where such documents are being held by abusive partners or employers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-26/HL14055/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

### **Universal Credit: Refugees**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL13996] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Buscombe on 4 February (HL13023), what assessment they have made of any potential issues that could arise as a result of making Universal Credit payments into someone else's bank account where a refugee does not have their own account.

**Reply from Baroness Buscombe:** Individuals nominate the bank account that they want their Universal Credit award to be paid into, and can therefore choose the bank account holder responsible. Universal Credit awards do not have to be paid into another bank account; as previously stated, Universal Credit awards can be paid through a Post Office Card Account or payments can be made using the Government Payment Exception Service.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-25/HL13996/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13023/>

### **Yew Fook Sam**

**Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14077] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria were used by the Home Office to determine that Yew Fook Sam is not gay.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The United Kingdom has a long and proud history of granting asylum to those who need our protection, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention. Each claim is carefully considered on its individual merits; however we cannot comment on individual cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-27/HL14077/>

### **Deportation: Malaysia**

**Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat)** [HL14078] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to determine whether it is safe to deport LGBT asylum seekers to Malaysia.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations. Each individual assessment is made against the background of the latest available country of origin information and any relevant caselaw.

Guidance on how the Home Office considers claims from Malaysian nationals, and how we consider claims based on sexual orientation more generally, is available on the Gov.UK website.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-27/HL14078/>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/774875/Malaysia\\_-\\_Background-\\_CPIN\\_January\\_2019\\_ex.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/774875/Malaysia_-_Background-_CPIN_January_2019_ex.pdf)

and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543882/Sexual-orientation-in-asylum-claims-v6.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543882/Sexual-orientation-in-asylum-claims-v6.pdf)

## Press Releases

**EU Settlement Scheme: how we use your personal information**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-how-we-use-your-personal-information>

**EU Settlement Scheme: information needed when applying for your child's first British passport**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-a-child-passport-if-granted-ilr-under-the-eu-settlement-scheme/eu-settlement-scheme-information-needed-when-applying-for-your-childs-first-british-passport>

**Asylum applications in EU+ remain broadly stable despite spike in January**

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/asylum-applications-eu-remain-broadly-stable-despite-spike-january>

**Asylum in the EU Member States 580 800 first-time asylum seekers registered in 2018, down by 11% compared with 2017**

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/9665546/3-14032019-AP-EN.pdf/eca81dc5-89c7-4a9d-97ad-444b6bd32790>

## New Publication

**Court of Justice of the European Union Ruling: Where they have been granted on the basis of falsified documents, residence permits obtained for the purpose of family reunification and long-term resident status may be withdrawn, even if the holders of such permits or status were unaware of the fraud committed**

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-03/cp190030en.pdf>

## News

**Fifth of UK's Syrian refugees settled in Scotland**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47597458>

### **Sajid Javid urged to act on refugee family reunification bill**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/15/sajid-javid-urged-to-act-on-bill-to-ease-reunification-of-refugee-families>

### **ID cards a possibility after Brexit, says UK immigration minister**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/13/id-cards-a-possibility-after-brexit-says-uk-immigration-minister>

### **Visa extension to boost numbers of overseas students in UK after Brexit**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/mar/16/visa-extension-overseas-students-uk-brexit>

### **Foreign students can stay in UK for longer after their degree ends to boost post-Brexit economy**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/16/foreign-students-can-stay-uk-longer-degree-ends-boost-post-brexit/>

### **British amateur sports clubs cry foul as new visa rules hit home**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/16/tier-4-foreign-student-visa-rules-hit-amateur-sports-clubs>

### **NHS 'hostile environment' and charges limiting care to children of migrants in breach of UN pledges, doctors say**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-hostile-environment-child-migrants-un-a8823616.html>

### **Visiting Dungavel**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/blogs/3418\\_visiting\\_dungavel](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3418_visiting_dungavel)

### **Home Office under fire over man's death in immigration detention**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/11/home-office-under-fire-over-mans-death-in-immigration-detention>

TOP

## **Community Relations**

### **UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers**

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Street Preachers**

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [230673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance he has provided to the police on street preachers; and what lessons have been learned from the arrest and subsequent release of Oluwole Ilesanmi in Enfield.

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [230674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the arrest and release of Oluwole Ilesanmi in Enfield, what steps he is taking to ensure that church groups can preach on the street.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** The Government does not prevent individuals from following their religious beliefs or cultural traditions provided they do so within the law. The diversity of modern Britain is one of our strengths and many British people of different faiths follow religious codes and practices.

The right to freedom of expression is a vital part of a democratic society. It is a long-

standing tradition in this country that people are free to share their views with others. Decisions on arrests are an operational matter for the police working within the provisions of the legal framework set by Parliament.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230673/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230674/>

## News

**Bangla Bantams: Bringing 'inclusivity and diversity' to the game**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-47545056/bangla-bantams-bringing-inclusivity-and-diversity-to-the-game>

**Fearing people because of their religion is easier than you think – but it lets the terrorists win**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/new-zealand-shooting-attack-christchurch-mosque-terrorism-islamophobia-a8825356.html>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Topical Questions: Women and Equalities

**Bob Blackman (Conservative):** Will my right hon. Friend set out the legislative timetable for removing caste as a protected characteristic from the Equality Act 2010? [909826]

**Reply from Penny Mordaunt:** We are proceeding with this as soon as a suitable legislative vehicle is available. However, I can update my hon. Friend and tell him that the guidance that we promised to publish alongside it has now been produced. It is there to help employers, service providers and individuals to understand the context of the Equality Act, and it is going out for consultation with stakeholders this week.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-14/debates/B48CCFFD-B5D1-4C17-9A58-BE2C0ECF1166/TopicalQuestions#contribution-0BE95386-3543-4904-92C4-FE7AB4B4A6F6>

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Equality

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [228058] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, if she will make it her policy to update the Government's guidance on positive action; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** Both the Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) have issued guidance - including in EHRC Statutory Codes - on how employers, service providers and other organisations can use positive action measures in a proportionate way, to address under-representation, disadvantage or low participation in activities by people with specific protected characteristics.

The guidance can be found at the following links:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice> for the EHRC Statutory Codes and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85014/positive-action-recruitment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85014/positive-action-recruitment.pdf) &

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85015/positive-action-practical-guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85015/positive-action-practical-guide.pdf) for Government Quick Start Guides.

The Government keeps the Equality Act 2010 and its related guidance under review; however, we have no current plans to revise the guidance on positive action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228058/>

### **Equality Act 2010**

**Jess Phillips (Labour)** [228059] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Equality Act 2010.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government published the five-year review of the Equality Act 2010 in July 2015, through a Memorandum to the Women and Equalities Select Committee. We continue to keep the Equality Act 2010 under review, and, look forward to the contribution which the committee's forthcoming report on Enforcing the Equality Act and the role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, will make to this process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228059/>

*The Memorandum referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/441838/Memo\\_to\\_Women\\_Equalities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441838/Memo_to_Women_Equalities.pdf)

### **Business: Ethnic Groups**

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [229655] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure the Industrial Strategy supports BAME-owned businesses.

**Reply from Richard Harrington:** The Government is committed to supporting all entrepreneurs to start and grow a business and is a key aspect of our ambitious Industrial Strategy. The government supports diversity in business and recognises the valuable contribution of BAME communities to our economy.

British Business Bank programmes are also currently supporting over £5.9bn of finance to over 82,000 SMEs. The Start-Up Loans programme, now part of the British Business Bank, has delivered nearly 61,000 loans totalling over £464m, and was extended in the autumn budget to April 2021 to enable up to an additional 10,000 loans to be made to entrepreneurs. Of these 22% of loans were made to entrepreneurs with a BAME background (4% of existing SMEs have a BAME owner). ...

As a key part of the Industrial Strategy, Sector Deals are supporting business of all sizes across the economy and ensuring that businesses meet our wider goals to improve diversity and inclusion in our workforce. For example, the Offshore Wind Sector Deal commits the sector to calculating a baseline figure for BAME representation and to set a stretching target for improving this by the end of 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229655/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Business: Ethnic Groups**

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [229656] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to support BAME-run businesses.

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [229657] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to encourage entrepreneurship in BAME communities.

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [229658] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that business start-up support schemes funded by his Department are engaging with BAME communities.

**Reply from Kelly Tolhurst:** The Government is committed to supporting all entrepreneurs to start and grow a business and is a key aspect of our ambitious Industrial Strategy. The government supports diversity in business and recognises the valuable contribution of BAME communities to our economy.

British Business Bank programmes are also currently supporting over £5.9bn of finance to over 82,000 SMEs. The Start-Up Loans programme, now part of the British Business Bank, has delivered nearly 61,000 loans totalling over £464m, and was extended in the autumn budget to April 2021 to enable up to an additional 10,000 loans to be made to entrepreneurs. Of these 22% of loans were made to entrepreneurs with a BAME background (4% of existing SMEs have a BAME owner).

On 6<sup>th</sup> March BEIS launched the Young Entrepreneurs Review, independently led by the Prince's Trust. The Review will close in September 2019 and will seek to better understand young entrepreneurs, the specific barriers and opportunities they face, and what more can be done to support them to start and grow a business, including young entrepreneurs from a BAME background.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229656/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229657/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229658/>

*The launch of the Review referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-help-next-generation-of-young-entrepreneurs-turn-their-ideas-into-reality>

### **Travellers: Caravan Sites**

**Oliver Heald (Conservative)** [228542] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to issue good practice guidance to support local authorities' use of powers to deal with unauthorised encampments; what his timetable is for issuing that guidance; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Kit Malthouse:** Although the majority of the travelling community are law-abiding, it is clear that unauthorised encampments can pose serious difficulties for local residents.

The Government is determined to tackle this issue. This is why, in the Government response to the consultation on powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments published 9 February

[\[https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/powers-for-dealing-with-unauthorised-development-and-encampments\]](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/powers-for-dealing-with-unauthorised-development-and-encampments), my Department and the Home Office set out a comprehensive range of measures including a commitment to

produce good practice guidance to support local authorities' use of existing powers to deal with unauthorised encampments. We have committed to initially publish non-statutory guidance, which we will develop in consultation with local authorities and the travelling community. We will, in due course, create a power to place this guidance on a statutory footing and confirm the timetable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-05/228542/>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

### Health Services: Travellers

**Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL14076]** To ask Her Majesty's Government which of the eight key recommendations they plan to implement from the final report by Leeds GATE, the University of Dundee and the University of York Enhancing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples' trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream service provision, published on 14 September 2018.

**Reply from Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford:** The Department is currently considering the recommendations set out in the report Enhancing Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples' trust: using maternity and early years' health services and dental health services as exemplars of mainstream service provision to improve uptake of services and reduce inequalities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-26/HL14076/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*  
<https://tinyurl.com/y552vb9z>

## News

### School stops teaching LGBT rights after protests

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-14/news/school-stops-teaching-lgbt-rights-after-protests-m9tc3qs8b>

### Birmingham primary school suspends LGBT+ lessons after weekly protests from parents

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/school-lgbt-lessons-protests-parkfield-community-school-birmingham-a8822621.html>

### If black TV stars are treated so differently, what can the rest of us expect?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/14/black-tv-stars-differently-hairstyling>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Sectarianism (Reduction and Prevention Funding)

**James Dornan (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it provides to organisations that aim to reduce and prevent sectarianism in society. (S5O-02982)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf):** The Scottish

Government has invested £13.5 million to support anti-sectarian education in schools, prisons, workplaces and communities over the past seven years, which has supported more than 100 projects to deliver anti-sectarian education and activity across Scotland. In 2018-19, that includes £515,000 for nine projects, including Nil by Mouth and sense over sectarianism. We intend to build on that work in 2019-20 by ensuring that there is a real-terms increase to the funding for work in the area. I will shortly make an announcement about the specific work that will be funded in 2019-20.

**James Dornan:** It is clear from the cabinet secretary's answer that third sector organisations are undertaking a lot of work to eradicate sectarianism in Scotland. They include the aforementioned Nil By Mouth as well as the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council and North Kelvin Sports Development Group, all of which are members of my cross-party group on combating sectarianism in Scottish society.

Does the cabinet secretary agree that, although sectarianism is undoubtedly a societal issue, football is a huge part of Scottish society and therefore football, too, must play its part in the eradication of this terrible problem, which so often rears its ugly head in football stadia?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** I thank James Dornan for raising that issue. He has raised it many times in the chamber, for which he should be given credit. I know that he has suffered a lot of abuse because he has raised his head above the parapet to mention the issue very publicly in the chamber. I thank him for that. James Dornan is absolutely right that sectarianism is a wider societal issue, and therefore the work that has been done in communities is very important. However, it would be silly and ignorant of us—we would be burying our heads in the sand—to ignore the obvious recent unacceptable conduct in that regard in and around football. I have said many a time, but I will repeat and re-emphasise it, that football clubs have to take real responsibility in this area; if they do not, the Government of course reserves the right to act.

**Liam Kerr (Conservative):** The cabinet secretary has talked about where the funding is going, but a written answer that the Scottish Government provided to me in October revealed that, of the nine organisations that are funded by the Scottish Government to tackle sectarianism, only one—Nil by Mouth, which James Dornan mentioned—takes its message to workplaces. Education in schools is of course vital, but what steps is the Scottish Government taking to improve the number of initiatives that are aimed at working-age adults?

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** That is a good point. As I said, I will shortly make an announcement on the specific work that will be funded in 2019-20. We have to work in schools, workplaces, prisons and communities. I will have another look at the organisations that we are funding, and if we think that we can build on that and do more in specific sectors or areas of society, we should do that. I am afraid that the issue is a society-wide one that goes from young people all the way to old people, and we should cover as much of society as possible. I will reflect on what the member says. As I said, I will make an announcement on the matter shortly, but I am happy to keep the conversation going with him and with anybody else who has an interest in tackling this scourge.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11994&i=108477#ScotPariOR>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### Topical Questions: Women and Equalities

**Naz Shah (Labour):** The primary victims of religiously motivated attacks are women, but

how can the Government reassure Muslim women that they are serious about tackling Islamophobia when they choose to ignore and shut down the voices of the British Muslims in their own party who are calling for an independent inquiry into institutional Islamophobia? Speaking as a British Muslim, I believe that it is disgraceful and patronising that the Conservative party continues to refuse to act and tells British Muslims in the party that there is not a problem. Will the Minister at least accept that her party has a problem?

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Heather Wheeler):** The Conservative party took immediate action to suspend 14 members who put issues in, so we are not going to take any lectures from a party that refuses to suspend people or throw them out of the party for antisemitism.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-14/debates/B48CCFFD-B5D1-4C17-9A58-BE2C0ECF1166/TopicalQuestions#contribution-2BA872F1-9A82-466E-8A12-DDF0BF6A3A6C>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Schools: Racial Discrimination

**Giles Watling (Conservative)** [228161] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to encourage anti-racism initiatives in schools.

**Reply from Anne Milton:** All schools are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. Schools are also required to promote equality and respect for others, with particular regard to the protected characteristics. Promotion of these values is part of Ofsted's inspection framework and the department has published guidance to schools on promoting these important values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In 2016, the department also launched the Educate Against Hate website which provides resources for teachers and school leaders to support their promotion of these values. This includes the department's Respectful Schools Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline.

Additionally, subject to the passage of regulations through parliament, schools will be required to teach relationships education to all primary pupils and relationships and sex education to all secondary pupils from September 2020. The focus is on building positive, respectful relationships, including online, and understanding the impact of harmful stereotypes and bullying.

The department also supports a number of specific initiatives in schools to combat bullying. The department is providing over £2.8 million of funding, between September 2016 and March 2020, to 4 anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying, along with a project to report bullying online. These projects contribute towards the government's Hate Crime Action plan.

Finally, as part of our commitments in the government's Integrated Communities Action Plan, the department has funded an expanded national school linking programme. This seeks to encourage meaningful social mixing between different types of schools and foster understanding of those with different backgrounds, faiths and beliefs. Last year, the Linking Network worked with over 400 schools leading to 17,635 pupils taking part in activities supporting integration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228161/>

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

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/748175/Hate\\_crime\\_refresh\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF)

The Integrated Communities Action Plan referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/778045/Integrated\\_Communities\\_Strategy\\_Govt\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf)

## News

**Anti-Semitism row existential threat, Lord Falconer says**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47526016>

**Anti-Semitism row: John McDonnell would welcome Labour probe**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47514251>

**Antisemitism row as ex-MP shares offensive cartoon**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-12/scotland/antisemitism-row-as-ex-mp-shares-offensive-cartoon-ksv52nc2q>

**Jeremy Corbyn snubs activists with Jewish links**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-11/news/jeremy-corbyn-snubs-activists-with-jewish-links-wvcjmrs7q>

**Labour officials 'minimised' accusations of anti-Semitism against party activist**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/09/labour-officials-minimised-accusations-anti-semitism-against/>

**Jeremy Corbyn is 'poison', says interfaith expert and former government adviser**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/09/jeremy-corbyn-poison-says-interfaith-expert-former-government/>

**Former Rotherham chief Jahangir Akhtar posts 'antisemitic' images**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-15/news/former-rotherham-chief-jahangir-akhtar-posts-antisemitic-images-5wttf3nxq>

**Tory chairman accused of inconsistency over Islamophobia claims**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/11/tory-chairman-accused-of-inconsistency-over-islamophobia-claims>

**My complaints of Tory Islamophobia were ignored, so I had to resign**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/12/conservative-party-islamophobia-institutional-racism>

**Tories made racist comments to me, claims ex-activist**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-47585200>

**Controversial 'Dear bigots' campaign sparks backlash**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/controversial-dear-bigots-campaign-sparks-backlash-1-4889830>

**Half of children shot by police stun guns are from BAME groups – report**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/12/half-of-children-who-are-tasered-come-from-bame-groups-report>

**Stand up to Racism protests held in Glasgow**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-47597456>

**Anti-racism marchers take to the streets of Glasgow**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17506761.anti-racism-marchers-take-to-the-streets-of-glasgow/>

**Hundreds attend Glasgow anti-racism in wake of Christchurch terror attack**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hundreds-attend-glasgow-anti-racism-in-wake-of-christchurch-terror-attack-1-4890618>

**Rise in UK use of far-right online forums as anti-Muslim hate increases**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/16/rise-far-right-online-forums-anti-muslim-hate-wave>

**British record labels join campaign against far-right movement**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/15/british-record-labels-join-campaign-against-far-right-movement>

**London mosque attack: Men assault Muslim worshipper with 'batten and hammer' after shouting Islamophobic abuse**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/london-mosque-attack-cannon-street-muslim-islam-a8825541.html>

**Glasgow Tory MSP Annie Wells tells of fear over online abuse**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17507025.glasgow-tory-msp-annie-wells-tells-of-fear-over-online-abuse/>

**Tory MSP 'fears for safety' after online threats and abuse**  
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/tory-msp-fears-for-safety-after-online-threats-and-abuse-1-4890795>

**Fines for internet giants that fail to remove antisemitism**  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-11/world/fines-for-internet-giants-that-fail-to-remove-antisemitism-3f3w23767>

**Jewish student societies forced to use security at social events amid antisemitism concerns**  
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/jewish-students-antisemitism-university-societies-holocaust-denial-a8814841.html>

**The bitter battle for a travellers' site at Blackwood Farm**  
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17506876.the-bitter-battle-for-a-travellers-site-at-blackwood-farm/>

**Changing Face of Wales: Is racial prejudice alive and kicking?**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-47538946>

**White British people 'twice as likely to hold extremist views as people of Pakistani descent'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/white-british-people-extremist-views-pakistani-research-a8822801.html>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Mortgages: Islam**

**Matthew Pennycook (Labour)** [229779] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many high street banks offer Islamic mortgage services.

**Reply from John Glen:** The Government is committed to the availability of Islamic finance in the UK to ensure that no one is denied access to competitive financial products for reasons of faith.

Sharia-compliant home purchase plans are enabled by regulations overseen by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). They are currently offered by four UK banks.

Beyond the requirements set out in the FCA regulations, decisions around the pricing and availability of individual mortgage loans remain commercial decisions for lenders, and the Government does not seek to intervene in these decisions.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-07/229779/>

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## Responses to the New Zealand Mosque Attacks

### UK Parliament, House of Commons

#### **Speaker's Statement: New Zealand Terror Attacks**

**Mr Speaker:** In respectful memory of the 49 people who horrendously lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, and of the apparently dozens who were injured in the attack on the two mosques, as well as in solidarity with the people of New Zealand and Muslims around the world, I humbly suggest to the House ... that we hold one minute's silence at 11 am. ...

**The Minister for Security and Economic Crime (Ben Wallace):** Let me say to the House on behalf of the Government that we send our sincere condolences to the victims and people of New Zealand for their loss, and that they have our offer of any assistance required to deal with this repugnant attack. The UK stands shoulder to shoulder with New Zealand against terrorism, and we will not falter in our commitment to uphold the values of tolerance, religious freedom and democracy that we both hold so dear.

Later today, the Home Secretary and I will be speaking to police counter-terrorism leaders and the security services to discuss what further measures we can take to protect our mosques and communities from any threat here in the United Kingdom. No one should be in any doubt that our police and security services treat all threats the same and all terrorists the same. No matter what community, religion or background they come from, a terrorist is a terrorist, and we shall deal with them exactly the same.

**Mr Speaker:** I thank the Minister for the clarity and passion with which he has addressed

the House. Colleagues will not be surprised to know that I intend to write to my opposite number in New Zealand, and I know that I will be able to do so conveying the sympathies of the House and the collective outrage of the House at this bestial slaughter.

**Wes Streeting (Labour):** As the co-chair of the all-party parliamentary group on British Muslims, I thank you, Mr Speaker, for what you have just said. I also thank, most deeply and sincerely, the Security Minister for what he said about reassuring our own Muslim community in this country. Any of us who understand the Muslim community will understand why what has happened in Christchurch will be felt deeply by Muslims in this country and right across the world, but we do not have to be Muslim to understand their loss, and their sense of grief and fear; we just have to be fully paid-up members of the human race.

Mr Speaker, I warmly endorse what you and the Security Minister have said. Through you, may I express our solidarity with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, all the people of Zealand and Muslims right across the world? In the wake of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim prejudice not just in this country but right across the world, let us say plainly and simply that we are not blind to what is going on; we have been here before on many different fronts and in the face of many different types of prejudice. ...

It is time for all of us in this House, across the country and around the world to think about the hatred and prejudice facing not only Muslims but lots of minorities, and to understand what it genuinely means to be an ally and never to be a bystander. As we have seen painfully in Christchurch, this is where hatred and prejudice lead, but this is not necessarily how it needs to end. ...

**Thangam Debbonaire (Labour):** ... I have the great honour and privilege of representing a constituency where there is a large faith community of many faiths. I want to say to the Muslims in my constituency, as Jacinda Ardern said this morning to Muslims in New Zealand: we are you, and you are us, and this hatred is not us; it is not for us. I know the pain that my Muslim constituents will feel. The thought that people could walk into a place of prayer and face this is unbearable. It will give my constituents comfort that you have extended your thoughts to them, Mr Speaker, and that the Security Minister is attending to this. I wish to add my thanks to him and ask him to do everything he can to ensure that those in mosques across this country feel safe not just today but forever, and that they are welcome, because they are us and we are them. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-15/debates/FE8474F0-3B39-47A0-B3D3-9530C18AD1A7/Speaker%E2%80%99SStatementNewZealandTerrorAttacks>

### **Remarks during the Third Reading Debate on the Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative):** ... As we prepare to reflect in this debate on the horrors to which hatred, prejudice and extremism can lead, I join others in expressing my shock and revulsion at what happened in New Zealand overnight. There is something deeply evil about attacking people in their place of worship. That the individuals responsible apparently planned, organised and even filmed this atrocity shows a truly appalling and stomach-churning degree of barbarity and callousness. I extend my support, sympathy and solidarity to everyone who has been injured, bereaved or harmed as a result of this terrible crime. I send my sympathies to all who are anxious and afraid as a result of what has happened, perhaps even including some of my own constituents.

**Wes Streeting (Labour):** I say to the right hon. Lady, as the co-chair of both the all-party group on British Jews and the all-party group on British Muslims, that Islamophobia and antisemitism are fellow travellers. She spoke powerfully about the events in Christchurch, and everyone in the House will share those sentiments. ...

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-03-15/debates/BBEF2566-96AF-45E7-842A-1A66E194F49A/Holocaust\(ReturnOfCulturalObjects\)\(Amendment\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-03-15/debates/BBEF2566-96AF-45E7-842A-1A66E194F49A/Holocaust(ReturnOfCulturalObjects)(Amendment)Bill)

## Press Releases

### **PM statement on the New Zealand attack: 15 March 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-the-new-zealand-attack-15-march-2019>

### **Police Scotland: Statement released after New Zealand terror incident**

... DCC Will Kerr said, "We are monitoring events in New Zealand closely and send our condolences to all those affected.

We benefit from having strong and cohesive communities in Scotland. We stand together with all our communities and partners here and overseas, and will continue to work with them to counter the threat no matter where it comes from.

There is no intelligence to suggest there is any specific threat to Scotland.

Today we will be stepping up reassurance patrols around mosques and increasing engagement with communities of all faiths, giving advice on how people and places can protect themselves.

As ever we would urge the public to get in touch to report anything suspicious by calling the confidential anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 or in an emergency by calling 999."

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news/2019/march/statement-released-after-new-zealand-terror-incident>

### **Scottish Refugee Council: Racism anywhere is racism everywhere**

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/blogs/3421\\_racism\\_anywhere\\_is\\_racism\\_everywhere](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3421_racism_anywhere_is_racism_everywhere)

### **Muslim Council of Britain: New Zealand terror attacks at Friday prayers**

<https://mcb.org.uk/press-releases/new-zealand-terror-attacks-at-friday-prayers/>

### **Church of Scotland: New Zealand tragedy - a prayer**

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2019/new\\_zealand\\_tragedy\\_-\\_a\\_prayer](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/new_zealand_tragedy_-_a_prayer)

### **Scottish Episcopal Church: Primus says "we must be prepared stand together when people are attacked"**

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/primus-says-we-must-be-prepared-stand-together-when-people-are-attacked/>

### **Jewish Communities of Scotland: Solidarity with the Muslim Community**

[https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii\\_solidarity/solidarity.html](https://www.scojec.org/news/2019/19iii_solidarity/solidarity.html)

### **Action on Prejudice: When Silent Prejudice Turns To Violence**

<https://actiononprejudice.info/2019/03/silent-prejudice-turns-violence/>

### **Shocked, Appalled at Terrorist Attack on Mosques in New Zealand, Secretary-General Extends Condolences to Families of Victims**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sqsm19495.doc.htm>

### **Stories of the Victims of the Christchurch Shootings**

<https://tellmamauk.org/stories-of-the-victims-of-the-christchurch-shootings/>

## News

### **Scottish politicians react to New Zealand attack**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-47584828>

### **'Horrific and heartbreaking': Nicola Sturgeon reacts to Christchurch mosque shootings**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17503143.horrific-and-heartbreaking-nicola-sturgeon-reacts-to-christchurch-mosque-shootings/>

### **Christchurch shooting: 'Beyond awful', Nicola Sturgeon and world react to terror attack**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/christchurch-shooting-beyond-awful-nicola-sturgeon-and-world-react-to-terror-attack-1-4889883>

### **Christchurch shootings: Sajid Javid warns tech giants over footage**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47593536>

### **Christchurch attack: tech firms must clean up platforms – Javid**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/16/christchurch-attack-tech-firms-must-clean-up-platforms-says-javid>

### **New Zealand attack: Downing Street demands all media firms remove video of Christchurch mosque shooting**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/new-zealand-attack-video-theresa-may-shooting-facebook-twitter-youtube-a8824491.html>

### **Christchurch shootings: Social media races to stop attack footage**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-47583393>

### **Social media firms fight to delete Christchurch shooting footage**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/15/video-of-christchurch-attack-runs-on-social-media-and-news-sites>

### **The whole world shares New Zealand's sorrow over this far-right act of terror**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/new-zealand-shooting-attack-christchurch-mosque-global-a8825446.html>

### **'Not only the perpetrators, but also politicians and media': World leaders blame global rise of Islamophobia for New Zealand terror attack**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/new-zealand-shootings-christchurch-terror-islamophobia-world-leaders-react-a8824436.html>

### **Christchurch shooting: Police step up patrols at Scottish mosques**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/christchurch-shooting-police-step-up-patrols-at-scottish-mosques-1-4890432>

### **New Zealand mosque shootings: Welsh police step up patrols**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-47588783>

### **New Zealand mosque shooting: Increased security at UK mosques**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-15/news/increased-security-at-uk-mosques-ntnx9pgm0>

**New Zealand attack: Police patrol UK mosques and vow to 'stand together' with Muslims after deadly shootings**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/new-zealand-attack-christchurch-mosque-uk-police-terror-shooting-a8824136.html>

**UK Muslim leaders urge protection for mosques after Christchurch**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/15/uk-muslim-leaders-urge-protection-for-mosques-after-christchurch>

**Anger and solidarity at UK gathering for New Zealand attack**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47590209>

**Christchurch shootings: Outpouring of UK support to Muslim community**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47583215>

**Christchurch shootings: 'You can respond with fear or friendship'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-47595582>

**'Friendship over fear': Manchester man shows solidarity with local mosque**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/16/friendship-over-fear-manchester-man-shows-solidarity-with-local-mosque>

**New Zealand attacks: Finsbury Park imam condemns far-right extremism**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-47589423/new-zealand-attacks-finsbury-park-imam-condemns-far-right-extremism>

**Finsbury Park mosque worshippers shocked by New Zealand terror attack**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/15/finsbury-park-mosque-worshippers-shocked-by-new-zealand-terror-attack>

**New Zealand shootings: Muslims are fearful and hurting but we must not give in to hate**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-16/news/muslims-are-fearful-and-hurting-but-we-must-not-give-in-to-hate-fcqz00nfp>

**Christchurch shootings: Arrest over 'malicious' social media post**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-47597710>

**Oldham man arrested for Facebook post 'supporting' New Zealand mosque terror attack**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australasia/new-zealand-christchurch-mosque-attack-man-arrested-oldham-social-media-post-a8826576.html>

**After the New Zealand terror attack, the positive teachings of the Quran are a force for good in my life**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/new-zealand-mosques-shooting-islamophobia-religion-faith-a8826211.html>

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**Bills in Progress**

\*\* new or updated this week

**Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

## **\*\* Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

Justice Committee, Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11993&i=108464#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20\(Criminal%20Evidence\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill34AS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20(Criminal%20Evidence)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill34AS052019.pdf)

## **UK Parliament**

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontowork.html>

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2)**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontoworkno2.html>

### **Border Control Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/bordercontrol.html>

### **\*\* Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

Report Stage and Third Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-11/debates/A5AEF02E-19BF-4569-AF50-0A7F3102BEA7/ChildrenAct1989\(Amendment\)\(FemaleGenitalMutilation\)Bill\(Lords\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-11/debates/A5AEF02E-19BF-4569-AF50-0A7F3102BEA7/ChildrenAct1989(Amendment)(FemaleGenitalMutilation)Bill(Lords))

### **EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

### **Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/gypsyandtravellercommunitieshousingplanningandeducation.html>

### **Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

### **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

### **\*\* Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

Scottish Parliament Legislative Consent Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/S5ChamberOffice/SPLCM-S05-23.pdf>

### **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

## **\*\* Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationtimelimitondetention.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0302/19302.pdf>

## **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

## **Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

## **Online Forums Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

### **Police Scotland: Shaping our direction and delivery 2019-2022**

(closing date 18 March 2019)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape/>

### **Scottish charity law** (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

### **Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

(closing date 4 April 2019)

[www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108\\_Gil\\_Paterson\\_Consultation\\_document.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf)

### **Defamation in Scots law** (closing date 5 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7dv8tu>

### **The Law of Succession** (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

### **Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act** (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/111249.aspx>

**Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

**Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers**

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

**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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## **Job Opportunities**

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

**Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

**\*\* begins this week!**

**Forth Valley Employment Club**

19 March 2019 in Falkirk (9.30-12.00)

and then every Tuesday except 2 and 9 April until 18 June 2019

CSREC employability club for young people from minority ethnic communities facing barriers to employment or training. For information contact [admin@csrec.org.uk](mailto:admin@csrec.org.uk) / 01324

610 950 or see [https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi\\_csrec.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi_csrec.pdf)

**\*\* this week!**

**Employability Programme for New Scots (Women only)**

19 March 2019 in Dundee (11.30-2.30)

26 March 2019 in Dundee (11.30-2.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre opportunity for New Scots (women only) to explore skills and opportunities and find out about the Scottish job market. For information see

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1StellWwAETieT.jpg> or contact [info@mwrc.org.uk](mailto:info@mwrc.org.uk) / 01382 787 450

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

PAiH course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier3>

**\*\* this week!**

### **UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

21 March 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.30)

CRER event with Glasgow City Council to mark the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and preview CRER's forthcoming Virtual Museum of Empire, Colonialism, Slavery and Migration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y32groho>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Women only: Training for Trainers: Confidence Building and Hate Crime Reporting**

22 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.45-2.15)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training for women to learn how to deal with discrimination and hate crime, build confidence, learn new skills, and learn how to train other women in the community. For information contact 0141 212 8420 / [info@mwrc.org.uk](mailto:info@mwrc.org.uk) or see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D0f28QVX4AU5xS4.jpg:large>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Refugee rights to housing**

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

**\*\* this week!**

### **Discover your Journey: Police Scotland women-only event**

23 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-3.30)

30 March 2019 in Jackton (9.30-3.30)

Police Scotland event to encourage women to consider a career in policing. For information about the Edinburgh event see [www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii\\_ps2.jpg](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps2.jpg) , and about the Jackton event see [www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii\\_ps3.jpg](http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps3.jpg) contact [recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

### **Glasgow Grants 2020 Stakeholder Engagement**

25 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

29 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

Glasgow City Council is developing plans for a new grant fund to tackle specific city priorities, allowing resources to be directed where they are needed most. These events provide an opportunity for organisations to be involved in the discussion and provide views around how these funds should impact within communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6lw6ouq>

### **Engaging with seldom heard voices**

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **2021 Ethnic Group and Religion Questions Update Event**

27 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-11.30)

28 March 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

National Records of Scotland events about the ethnic group and religion questions that are being proposed for Scotland's Census 2021. For information <https://tinyurl.com/y2dfndfx>

### **Equality and intersectionality**

29 March 2019 in Edinburgh (12.00-4.00)

University of Edinburgh and Equality Network event to share learning about equality work and applying intersectionality across cities, sectors and countries of the UK, and network with people working in equality third sector organisations in England and Scotland, people in the public sector, academics and equality policy makers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaerx9fm>

### **\*\* Scottish Parliament Family Day**

6 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

13 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Parliament free drop-in science activity days in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. For information see <https://www.visitparliament.scot/family-days/>

### **Interfaith Youth Conference: What is Justice**

13 April 2019 in St Andrews (11.00-4.00)

St Andrews Coexistence Initiative conference with Interfaith Scotland conference. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4lmggyw>

### **Inclusion Cultivation**

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

### **\*\* BAME Disabled People Peer Group**

17 April 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-3.30)

Glasgow Disability Alliance peer group for people from minority ethnic communities who are disabled or living with a long term condition. For information see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1xnCROW0AEavwf.jpg> or contact 0141 556 7103 / text: 07958 299 496 / [info@gdaonline.co.uk](mailto:info@gdaonline.co.uk)

### **Working with Interpreters**

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision,

looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Working with unaccompanied refugee children**

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Age assessment awareness**

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Working with refugees and the asylum process**

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

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 exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Refugee community sponsorship**

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/training](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training) or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement**

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

**European Parliament** <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**

The Scottish Council of  
**Jewish Communities**

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



**gov.scot**

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

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