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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

SNP Debate on A Fair Immigration System: Government Response

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Seema Kennedy) [HCWS14] People from all over the world have come to the UK and helped make this nation what it is today, and this Government welcome the contribution migrants make to the UK's economy, society and culture.

Leaving the EU allows us to introduce a new points-based immigration system and we have commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to conduct a review of the Australian immigration system and other international comparators, as the first step in creating our new fairer immigration system.

The new immigration system will be a single system, where it is people's skills that matter, not where they come from. For example, our new graduate route will be open to

international students who have successfully completed a course of study in any subject at undergraduate level or above at an approved UK higher education provider. It will build on action to help recruit and retain the best and brightest global talent.

But a fair system also means a controlled system. My right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, has confirmed he is not getting into a numbers game in respect of migration, but it is only fair to those who play by the rules and everyone else that those working, living and accessing public services are doing so legally. It is right that the system distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally.

In that respect, we are keen to ensure that the experiences of the Windrush generation are not repeated. One of the key lessons we have learnt is that declaratory systems do not work. The EU settlement scheme means that, in years to come, EU citizens will always have the evidence that they need to continue living in the UK as they do now. Simply to grant all EU citizens a status in law, and not require them to obtain evidence of this, would significantly increase the risk of another Windrush.

The EU settlement scheme, is a fair, simple and straightforward system for EU citizens to secure their immigration status in UK law. The system is working well, and the latest internal figures show we have received two million applications and are processing up to 20,000 a day.

Settled and pre-settled status reflects the residence rights that EU citizens currently have under EU free movement rules. EU citizens resident in the UK for less than five years can get pre-settled status, which protects their current rights to live, work, receive benefits and access services, qualifying for settled status once five years residence is complete.

Fairness also means ensuring we provide protection to those most in need of it. This Government have great respect for human rights and has evidenced this through a long and proud history of supporting refugees and other vulnerable people. Over 75,000 individuals have been granted some form of protection since 2010.

In 2015 we committed to resettle up to 20,000 refugees affected by the conflict in Syria by 2020—and we are well over three-quarters of the way there, resettling over 17,000. We have re-affirmed this commitment to resettlement beyond the current commitments by creating a new consolidated global resettlement scheme, resettling in the region of 5,000 refugees in its first year of operation.

Immigration is a reserved matter and this Government believe it is right that it stays that way, but we do recognise the need for some regional variation, which is why Scotland already benefits from a separate shortage occupation list.

It is also why, earlier this year, we commissioned the MAC to advise on issues concerning potential future salary thresholds.

This Government believe that a controlled immigration system that serves the best interests of the whole of the UK, that rewards hard work and talent, that is based on a person's skills and what they have to offer rather than where they come from; and that provides protection to the most vulnerable, is a system that constitutes fairness. That is the system this Government are working to deliver.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-16/debates/19101651000013/SNPDebateOnAFairImmigrationSystemGovernmentResponse>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics dated 22 August 2019, for

what reasons settled status applications are classified as invalid.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The rules for the EU Settlement Scheme state that an application is valid where it has been made using the required application process, the required proof of identity and nationality has been provided, and the required biometrics have been provided. An application is recorded as invalid if it does not meet these criteria.

The user guide accompanying the EU Settlement Scheme statistics published on 22 August setting this out can be found here

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826757/euss-quarterly-statistics-user-guide.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/163/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-june-2019>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the EU Settlement Scheme Statistics dated 22 August 2019, for what reasons 88,900 outstanding applications have yet to be concluded.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the EU Settlement Scheme Statistics dated 22 August 2019, how many of the 88,900 applications that have yet to be concluded have been referred to immigration enforcement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It usually takes around 5 working days for applications for status under the EU Settlement Scheme to be processed, but it can take longer. An application may take longer to process if:

- UKVI need to request more information from the applicant.
- The applicant is a minor and their application is not linked to an adult.
- The applicant has submitted a paper application.
- The applicant has a relevant criminal record.
- The applicant is a non-EEA or non-Swiss citizen and is applying on the basis of a relationship that they have not relied on in a previous application to the Home Office.

Any applications that have not been concluded remain under consideration. The EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics show that up to 30 September 2019, only two applications have been refused.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/589/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/593/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-june-2019>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether her Department plans to make the EUSS App available on iOS smartphones.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so. The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app is an optional aspect of the service which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely using their biometric identity document and a smartphone device.

We have been working closely with Apple over a number of months to make the app available on iPhones and have now released a beta version of the iOS app, initially available on iPhone models 8 and above.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/509/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to increase the number of ID scanning centres for EU citizens applying to the EU settlement scheme available in Wales.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the applicant is to the individual of the use the scanning equipment for the EU Settlement Scheme in each of the four centres in Wales.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so.

The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme is straightforward and user-friendly, and is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

There are multiple ways to freely have identity documents checked, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office. There are also over 80 locations nationwide, provided by local authorities, where applicants have their passport scanned and verified.

The ID document scanning service is provided at the discretion of each local authority. The viability and cost of offering the ID document scanning service in each location is a matter for each local authority. There are currently four local authorities participating in Wales; Bridgend, Caerphilly, Ceredigion and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Home Office would encourage as many local authorities as possible to offer this service, and we continue to work with local government bodies across the UK to increase the provision of this service.

Participating local authorities do not receive funding from central Government to provide this service. Charges for using this service, payable directly to the local authority, can be set by the local authority to cover the cost of providing the service. Some local authorities have elected to provide the service for free to residents, whilst others have elected to set a fee.

Bridgend: The service is free of charge to residents of Bridgend County Borough, and costs £14 for non-residents.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/council-priorities-and-performance/preparing-for-brexit/>

Caerphilly: The cost of the EU Settlement Service is £14 (including VAT).

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Births,-marriages,-deaths/EU-Settlement-Scheme>

Ceredigion: A fee of £14 per transaction will be required. In line with other authorities who deliver this service, Ceredigion County Council Staff are exempt from the fee.

<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/council-to-provide-support-for-european-union-settlement-scheme-applicants/>

Rhondda Cynon Taf (Pontypridd): *No fee listed on their website. Assumed free to all users.*

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/BirthsMarriagesandDeaths/EUSettlementSchemelntityVerification/EUSettlementSchemelntityVerification.aspx>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/508/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/513/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [515] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in Wales who have applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme have (a) received settled status (b) been declined, (c) received pre-settled status, and (d) applications that are unresolved.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information of EUSS applications concluded by type and UK country to 30 June 2019 can be found in 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics' at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826751/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-30-june-2019.ods

Updated quarterly statistics to 30 September 2019 are planned for publication in November 2019.

The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications concluded for the UK can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-september-2019>.

It was noted in this release that, as of 30 September 2019, two applications have been refused on suitability grounds. Of these, one application was refused in August 2019 and one application was refused in September 2019.

The Home Office does not currently publish statistics on EU Settlement Scheme applications that are in the process of being resolved but is committed to publishing more detailed quarterly statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content of the next quarterly release.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/515/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [743] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency have applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme, and have (a) received settled status, (b) been

declined, (c) received pre-settled status, and (d) applications that are unresolved.

Jonathan Edwards (Plaid Cymru) [625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the constituency of Carmarthen East and Dinefwr have applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme and have (a) received settled status, (b) been declined, (c) received pre-settled status, and (d) have applications that are unresolved.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in the constituency of Ceredigion have applied for status under the EU Settlement Scheme and have (a) received settled status, (b) been declined, (c) received pre-settled status, or (d) applications which are unresolved.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications by region and local authority can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', local authority statistics tables, table EUSS_LA, available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826752/eu-settlement-scheme-local-authority-statistics-28-august-2018-to-30-june-2019.ods.

Information of EUSS applications concluded by type and UK country can be found in 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics' at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/826751/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-tables-28-august-2018-to-30-june-2019.ods

The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications concluded for the UK can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-september-2019>.

It was noted in this release that, as of 30 September 2019, two applications have been refused on suitability grounds. Of these, one application was refused in August 2019 and one application was refused in September 2019.

The Home Office does not currently publish statistics on EU Settlement Scheme application outcomes by local authority but is committed to publishing more detailed quarterly statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme. Home Office statisticians are currently considering the content of the next quarterly release.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/743/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/625/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/744/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [592] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's funding for voluntary and community sector organisations to support vulnerable and at-risk EEA citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, what criteria her Department uses to determine whether applicants are (a) vulnerable and (b) at-risk.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There is no one definition of vulnerability, and to

define vulnerability as a particular set of characteristics or groups could risk us missing particular individuals. However, following extensive consultation both internally within the Authority and across Other Government Departments (OGDs,), UKVI has set out the groups likely to be identified as vulnerable and who may therefore have additional needs to be met to enable them to apply for the Scheme. The following key groups are likely to be identified as vulnerable and therefore would have additional needs to be met in order to apply for the Scheme. These may include but are not limited to the following:

Some elderly people, disabled people and people with serious health conditions (e.g. physical or mental impairment, are socially excluded as a result of their circumstances);

Those who have experienced modern slavery and/or trafficking;

Those who have experienced domestic abuse (to include non-violent forms of abuse (emotional, psychological etc);

Those with no fixed abode (e.g. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, rough sleepers); Vulnerable children.

Whilst many EU citizens may only fall under one of these categories, it is by no means an exhaustive list and it is likely that some will have multiple needs which will have to be met in a clear and accessible way.

The Home Office is in favour of implementing a mixed model approach, which can meet the needs of the diversity of vulnerable EU citizens, enabling a combination of offerings to give citizens the best chance of making their application. This user-needs approach is deployed by a range of other organisations who need to handle vulnerable citizens, including those in OGDs and private sector organisations, such as those providing financial services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/592/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Asylum

Peter Grant (SNP) [1068] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Secretary of State for International Development of 2 October 2019, Official Report column 1205, when she plans to (a) publish the timescale for informing local authority and civil society partners of and (b) begin supporting those organisations to prepare for that commitment to resettle 5,000 refugees every year post-2020.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are grateful to the many local authorities and civil society organisations who have participated in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). Through the collective goodwill and efforts of all involved over 17,000 vulnerable refugees fleeing conflict have now found safety in the UK to rebuild their lives.

Delivery of our resettlement schemes has relied strongly on the principles of collaboration and co-design between central and local government and other partners. We continue to engage closely with regional Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMP), local authorities and other stakeholders as we collectively prepare to transition to the new resettlement scheme in 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-16/1068/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-02/debates/0A3B0D93-D89E-470A-A861-D37634F9F2B8/ForcedMigration>

Asylum: Travel

Ruth Smeeth (Labour) [1077] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the frequency of requirements for asylum claimants to attend a Home Office centre are not excessively (a) burdensome and (b) expensive for people more than five miles away from such a centre.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Asylum seekers in receipt of section 95 asylum support are provided with a weekly allowance which can be used to cover expenses such as travel costs.

The assistance available to people supported under section 4 of the 1999 Act consists of accommodation (with gas, electricity and water provided free) and provision of a debit card (the "Aspen Card") which can be used to buy food and other essential items. The Aspen card cannot be used to withdraw cash, but it bears the visa logo and can be used at retail outlets that accept visa transactions.

If the supported person is required to report as a condition of their immigration bail their travel costs are also covered if they are accommodated more than 3 miles away from the reporting centre or in certain other circumstances, for example if they are unable to walk because of a disability.

In practical terms the travel costs are covered by issuing tickets or by uploading further funds on to the person's Aspen card.

The Home Office keeps these arrangements under regular review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-16/1077/>

Asylum: Employment

Catherine West (Labour) [301] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress the Government has made on its review of the restrictions on asylum seekers' rights to work.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We fully recognise that this is an important and complex issue and as the Prime Minister has said, the Home Office is currently reviewing the matter. That work is ongoing and Parliament will be updated accordingly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/301/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Visas

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the visa system for non-European (1) academics and (2) musicians visiting the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, UK Visas and Immigration continually reviews its global visa operation to improve its performance and deliver fast and fair decisions to customers while protecting the integrity of our immigration controls. UKVI continues to work with all stakeholder sectors, including artistic and academic bodies, to deliver improvements to the way we process visa applications from those who seek to enter the UK.

The Earl of Clancarty: My Lords, there is mounting concern for the health of academic and cultural exchange between the UK and other countries. Is the Minister aware of universities' concerns about the number of academics now refused entry and the worry that ambitions for conferences might be scaled down? Is she further aware of the treatment of some here in the longer term, including, shockingly, that of medical researcher Dr

Furaha Asani, who is threatened with deportation to the Democratic Republic of Congo—a ruling decried by the University of Leicester? There is a disconnect between our academic interests and Home Office decisions that needs to be addressed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Earl will appreciate that I cannot discuss individual cases, but I hope that he will also be aware that on 8 August the Government announced a new fast-track system for top scientists and researchers, and the numbers are uncapped. Overall, our visa grant rate is 87%, and 98% of tier 2 applications are granted.

Lord Clement-Jones (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, many creative organisations have been forced to use standard visitor visas or the PPE route, despite their preference for the security of the sponsored tier 5 system. Will the Government accept the recommendations of the Creative Industries Federation and ensure that any new immigration proposals reduce the administration and costs for tier 5 certificates and enable artists to undertake multiple engagements with different organisations while they are here on a temporary stay?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I appreciate the point the noble Lord makes. He has made it before, particularly on the route from Ireland. There is a concession under the tier 5 route for creative workers and entertainers for non-EEA and non-visa nationals. That concession, as he knows, allows them to enter the UK without obtaining entry clearance. But he will also know that new guidance is now out for those multiple applications. Indeed, not only has the route through Ireland been temporarily clarified since February this year, but we plan to make secondary legislation changes to the Immigration (Control of Entry through the Republic of Ireland) Order 1972 so that non-EEA and non-visa nationals who hold a valid COS not only will receive deemed leave but will not have restrictions on paid entertainment.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, the Minister has heard a couple of examples of the problems that academics and visiting musicians are having getting visas to work and perform in the UK. What effect does she think these cases are having on our international reputation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I outlined the visa acceptance grant rates, which are extremely high— 98% for tier 2—and the speed at which they are granted. I think 97% are now granted within the 15-week service standard.

Lord Cashman (Non-affiliated): My Lords, the noble Earl raises a very serious issue with his Question. Across the creative industries and the talent unions, there is concern about being able to forward plan programmes and artistic festivals. Will the Minister consult with talent unions and the creative industries to ensure a degree of certainty in these visa applications?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I thank the noble Lord for that. I misspoke in my previous answer: I said “15 weeks” when I meant 15 days. The whole point of a visa system is not to deter people or keep them out but to encourage the creative industries from around the world, while keeping our borders under control.

Lord West of Spithead (Labour): My Lords, talking of musicians, the Minister will be aware that, 214 years ago today, musicians were playing on the decks of the battleships of the British fleet as it bore down on the Franco-Spanish fleet. Will the Minister pass the regards of the House to the Royal Navy, who still protect the freedom of the seas for our nation, on this very special day for the naval service?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I shall do that with gusto. Every time the noble Lord asks me a question, I am educated.

Lord Fox (Liberal Democrat): Turning from the high seas to our green and pleasant land, the Minister will be aware that there is already a recruitment problem for workers coming to harvest the crops in this country. The upcoming Immigration Rules will exacerbate this

problem massively. It is not only tier 1 academics and people like that, but also people who work on the land, in our care homes and across our economy. That economy is going to be damaged by these rules. Can the Minister undertake to reassess the thresholds that are being used?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are trying to achieve a fair immigration system for those who are visiting, those who are staying for a short time and those who are coming to work, from EU and non-EU countries. Looking forward, we are going to create a points-based system so that we can attract the brightest and the best to this country.

Baroness Bull (Crossbench): My Lords, like many noble Lords, I am sure, I welcome the intention within the Queen's Speech for a more accessible visa system that attracts global scientific talent to tackle the greatest challenges facing our society, but does the Minister agree that science alone will not be enough to solve those challenges and that the perspective of the humanities and the social sciences will be essential if we are to take lessons from history, understand how people engage with technology and communicate the messages in a way that will drive changes in human behaviour?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with the noble Baroness that science alone will not solve the problems that we face, but science is hugely important, particularly given that we have a shortage of scientists in this country and a shortage of specialist engineers. That is why I think noble Lords focus on this area.

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, does the Minister's definition of "the brightest and the best" extend to the brightest and best fruit-pickers?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think that the noble Lord is conflating two issues. In terms of our future immigration system, yes, we want the brightest and best, but it must be a system that works for people coming here both temporarily and for work.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-21/debates/B7297074-08BC-421B-A874-58FAA35B8EB9/Visas>

Press Releases

Scotland's population projections

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-population-projections/>

Home Office launches £1 million advertising campaign for EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-launches-1-million-advertising-campaign-for-eu-settlement-scheme>

Human trafficking and exploitation: guidance for health workers

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/human-trafficking-exploitation-health-workers-need-know/>

Government recommits support to victims on Anti-Slavery Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-recommits-support-to-victims-on-anti-slavery-day>

European Anti-trafficking Day: Victims must have justice, including compensation, says Council of Europe Secretary General

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/anti-trafficking-day>

Integrating migrants: survey finds language courses more beneficial than tests
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/language-courses-more-beneficial-for-integration-of-migrants-than-tests>

New Publications

Freedom of Information Release: Refugees and children in homelessness
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-19-02173/>

Update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Windrush: 22 October 2019
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/841185/Windrush_update.odt

Briefing: Should asylum seekers have unrestricted rights to work in the UK?
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01908/SN01908.pdf>

Briefing: Migration Statistics
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

2019 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery October 2019
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840059/Modern_Slavery_Report_2019.pdf

Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants: Requirements and Learning Opportunities for Migrants
<https://rm.coe.int/prems-112819-gbr-2518-liam-report-2019-couv-texte-16x24-provisoire-web/16809838b3>

The 2018 Council of Europe and ALTE survey on language and knowledge of society policies for migrants (summary)
<https://rm.coe.int/prems-112719-gbr-2518-depliant-e-liam-2019-a5/1680983929>

News

Inward migration 'needed to boost Scotland's population'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50124333>

SNP demand immigration powers as population growth stutters
<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17982766.snp-demand-immigration-powers-population-growth-stutters/>

Hundreds of highly skilled people left destitute as Home Office fails to act on legally flawed policy
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-highly-skilled-migrants-jobs-court-appeal-a9152021.html>

Home Office forced to pay £25,000 in damages after unlawfully trying to deport trafficking victim
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-modern-slavery-victim-damages-unlawful-detention-deportation-a9161946.html>

Australian-style migration system will push skilled workers to northern towns
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-14/news/australian-style-migration-plans-will-prioritise-skilled-workers-for-northern-towns-qnt0b9863>

Essex lorry deaths: 39 bodies found in shipping container
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-50150070>

Safe and legal routes urgently needed
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3501_safe_and_legal_routes_urgently_needed

Channel migrants: Boat containing 13 people intercepted
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-50118495>

Patrols doubled to curb migrant Channel crossings from France
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-16/news/patrols-doubled-to-curb-migrant-channel-crossings-from-france-2wwhz6x35>

Home Secretary agrees to underwrite AMIF funding in event of no-deal Brexit
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3500_home_secretary_agrees_to_underwrite_amif_funding_in_event_of_no-deal_brexit

Swansea toddler faced with deportation given hope of staying
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-50144879>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Adoption: Ethnic Groups

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [31] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to encourage the adoption of children (a) from BAME backgrounds and (b) over the age of five.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government has invested £645,000 to boost adoption recruitment during 2019-20. We have funded the sector through the National Adoption Recruitment Steering Group, which has run both the National Adoption Week campaign and wider recruitment projects to target potential adopters in their areas for the children they have waiting. This will include children from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds and children over the age of 5. Part of this work has included work with churches and mosques to encourage adopters from a range of different backgrounds.

We are commissioning behavioural insights research to better understand the motivations and barriers for people who are interested in becoming foster carers or adopters. This piece of work is focused on wider recruitment but should give us insight into how we better engage adopters for children who are harder to place.

In addition, at a recent No 10 roundtable, I gave commitments that the department will be:

- Exploring through the Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board decision making at Local Authority level and reported barriers to BAME families becoming adopters;

- Reviewing how we can improve support in schools and in particular how designated teachers for adopted children and Virtual School Heads can best support adopted BAME children;
- Improving working with BAME stakeholders, to ensure their viewpoints are included in policy development and implementation;
- Asking Regional Adoption Agencies to create a national BAME recruitment strategy in collaboration with key stakeholders such as the voluntary sector organisation Homes for Good; and
- Considering how best to ensure all their frontline social workers understand the law and are supportive of BAME families coming forward to adopt.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/31/>

Press Release

Race and the City: from demonstrations to data: speech to the conference 'Race and the City: Tackling Race Inequality'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/race-and-the-city-from-demonstrations-to-data>

New Publication

Enforcing the Equality Act: the law and role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission: Equality and Human Rights Commission

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201920/cmselect/cmwomeq/96/96.pdf>

News

The extra barriers faced by dementia patients from ethnic minorities

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50068269>

Black boys wait too long to be adopted. Is the system institutionally racist?

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/15/adoption-system-institutionally-racist>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hate crimes were recorded in each category in (a) 2010 and (b) the most recent period for which data is available.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics annually on the number of hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, broken down by monitored strand in the 'Hate Crime, England and Wales' statistical bulletin. The latest available data, covering the period 2011/12 (when the data collection began) to 2018/19, can be found in 'Table 2' of the data

tables, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/433/>

Twitter: Discrimination

Ian Austin (Independent) [937] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to tackle (a) sexism and (b) racism on Twitter.

Matt Warman: The Online Harms White Paper sets out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. We intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users, overseen by an independent regulator. The duty of care will ensure companies have appropriate systems and processes in place to deal with harmful content on their services to keep their users safe. Compliance with this duty of care will be overseen by an independent regulator, which will have a range of enforcement powers.

Alongside the White Paper, the government published the Social Media Code of Practice. This voluntary guidance sets out actions that the Government believes social media platforms should take to prevent bullying, insulting, intimidating and humiliating behaviours on their sites.

Government has also asked the Law Commission to conduct a second phase of its review of the legal framework around abusive and offensive communications online. This will make specific recommendations for legal reform and is due to report in early 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-16/937/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793360/Online_Harms_White_Paper.pdf

The Code of Practice referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793324/Code_of_Practice_for_providers_of_online_social_media_platforms.d.pdf

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-to-undertake-phase-2-of-the-abusive-and-offensive-online-communications-project/>

Twitter: Harassment

Ian Austin (Independent) [938] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will make an assessment of the effectiveness of Twitter's appeals process for people that have suffered abuse on Twitter.

Matt Warman: The Online Harms White Paper sets out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. We intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users, overseen by an independent regulator. The duty of care will ensure companies have appropriate systems and processes in place to deal with harmful content on their services to keep their users safe. Compliance with this duty of care will be overseen by an independent regulator, which will have a range of enforcement powers.

As part of the new duty of care, we will expect companies, where appropriate, to have effective and easy-to-access user complaints functions, which will be overseen by the regulator. Companies will need to respond to users' complaints within an appropriate timeframe and to take action consistent with the expectations

set out in the regulatory framework

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-16/938/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793360/Online_Harms_White_Paper.pdf

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Catherine West (Labour) (51) Racism in football – That this House condemns the appalling racism at the Haringey Borough v. Yeovil Town FA Cup game on 19 October; applauds the Haringey players and management for their brave and principled decision to walk off in the face of such abuse; calls on the Football Association to ensure that those players do not face disciplinary action for their decision; further calls on the Football Association and the Government to increase their efforts to stamp out racism in all its forms from football in light of this incident and the scenes in Bulgaria involving the English national team.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53397/racism-in-football>

Press Releases

Teenager jailed over unprovoked racist attack in Brighton

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/south-east/news/teenager-jailed-over-unprovoked-racist-attack-brighton>

Learning from a Kent teenager's experience of hate crime

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/south-east/news/learning-kent-teenagers-experience-hate-crime>

New Publications

Tackling racial harassment: Universities challenged

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/tackling-racial-harassment-universities-challenged.pdf>

Racial harassment in British universities: qualitative research findings

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/racial-harassment-in-british-universities-qualitative-research-findings.docx>

Racial harassment inquiry: survey of universities

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/racial-harassment-inquiry-survey-of-universities_0.docx

Protecting the Jewish community from antisemitism on Facebook

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/f/Facebook-AntiSemitism-Brochure-03-DIGITAL-SINGLEPAGE.pdf>

News

Hate crimes double in five years in England and Wales

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/oct/15/hate-crimes-double-england-wales>

Jeremy Corbyn says voter ID plans will discriminate against ethnic minorities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jeremy-corbyn-voter-id-laws-boris-johnson-queens-speech-a9155966.html>

Louise Ellman: MP quits Labour over anti-Semitism concerns

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50077384>

Jewish Labour MP Louise Ellman quits party

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17973690.labour-mp-louise-ellman-quits-party-corbyn-danger/>

Former party chair: I won't vote Labour until anti-Semitism problem is sorted

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17976060.former-party-chair-wont-vote-labour-anti-semitism-problem-sorted/>

Dundee Labour General Election candidate Jim Malone under fire for backing anti-Semitism row MP

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/1001964/dundee-labour-general-election-candidate-jim-malone-under-fire-for-backing-anti-semitism-row-mp/>

Ex-chairman Jamie Glackin deserts Labour until antisemitism dealt with

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/ex-chairman-jamie-glackin-deserts-labour-until-antisemitism-dealt-with-v8w5mjtq8>

Politicians are accused of being blind to racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-16/scotland/politicians-are-accused-of-being-blind-to-racism-cfk8w28x6>

Home Office using 'go home' as example of racist hate crime – despite emblazoning same message on vans

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-go-home-vans-racist-hate-crime-campaign-a9161196.html>

Universities oblivious to scale of racial abuse on campus

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/universities-oblivious-scale-racial-abuse-campus>

Universities 'oblivious' to campus racial abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-50123697>

Scottish universities 'oblivious' to extent of racial abuse

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-50141372>

Scottish universities unaware of extent of racial abuse, finds report

<https://www.scotsman.com/education/scottish-universities-unaware-of-extent-of-racial-abuse-finds-report-1-5031100>

Black, asian and ethnic minorities more likely to be targeted in stop-and-search, Home Office report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/stop-and-search-racist-bame-crime-home-office-a9160826.html>

'More BAME people likely to be targeted' under relaxed stop-and-search rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/oct/18/more-bame-people-likely-to-be-targeted-under-relaxed-stop-and-search-rules>

Scots history teaching 'reinforces racism'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scots-history-teaching-reinforces-racism-mvj9mbz6g?shareToken=9f4f3e74ecde27f3eb1e015a629559a1>

Manchester students want statue of 'racist' Gandhi rejected

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-50062791>

Manchester council urged to reject statue of 'anti-black racist' Gandhi

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/17/manchester-council-urged-reject-mahatma-gandhi-statue-racism>

Revulsion over Nazi salutes is 'moral panic', says Scots university tutor

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/revulsion-over-nazi-salutes-is-moral-panic-says-scots-university-tutor-1-5031106>

Teacher sacked 'after gas chamber joke to Jewish pupils'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teacher-sacked-gas-chamber-newberries-primary-school-hertfordshire-a9157896.html>

Social media blamed for rise in racial and transgender hate crime allegations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-15/news/social-media-blamed-for-rise-in-racial-and-transgender-hate-crimes-pd2pdqjdq>

Racism 'creeping back' in Scottish football, says Kevin Harper

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/50066351>

FA Cup tie abandoned after reports of racial abuse at Haringey Borough v Yeovil

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/50111754>

If we want to end racism in football, we have to abandon nationalism too

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/bulgaria-racism-england-racism-turkey-syria-war-meat-vegan-a9158656.html>

England will be applauded for handling of racist abuse but to send out the strongest message this match should have been abandoned

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/10/14/england-will-applauded-handling-racist-abuse-send-strongest/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scotland's population projected to increase but at a slower rate

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2019/scotlands-population-projected-to-increase-but-at-a-slower-rate>

News

Modern slavery victims urged to share views on Scottish Government measures

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/modern-slavery-victims-urged-to-share-views-on-scottish-government-measures-1-5028936>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

House of Lords Debate

Debate on the Queen's Speech

col 231 **Baroness Mallalieu (Labour):** ... In some respects, sadly, we are not world leaders ... This is my personal red line. In countries across the world, non-stun slaughter is already prohibited, including in parts of the EU. The British Veterinary Association is very clear that millions of farm animals are slaughtered here in a manner which causes unnecessary suffering. I recognise the cultural and religious sensitivities and applaud the Muslim population who, in many parts, have agreed to changes to what would have been the requirements. Indeed, the majority of halal meat is now pre-stunned. I would prefer a ban here but surely, at the very least, consumers who want to buy only pre-stunned meat should be able to identify it.

I am very disappointed that the new Environment Secretary, Theresa Villiers, who had hitherto an excellent record on animal welfare, apparently recently ruled out such labelling. I hope her view will change, especially in the light of the Government's emphasis on the importance of animal welfare and the development of new stunning methods which appear to comply with religious requirements. If this Government are really serious about animal welfare, the millions of our farm animals destined for slaughter should be at the very top of the list. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-17/debates/33FEA568-1FAF-4F3F-8DF4-B8DB96929A58/Queen%E2%80%99SSpeech#contribution-410A1A40-ECB4-4086-BE8B-A1F1A62AF786>

col 241 **The Earl of Shrewsbury (Conservative):** ... I agree entirely with the remarks made by the noble Baroness, Lady Mallalieu, on the stunning of animals before slaughter; it is high time we took a route down that path. The consumer must be informed about whether the meat they are eating was killed in a pre-stunned manner or not. It is vital. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-17/debates/33FEA568-1FAF-4F3F-8DF4-B8DB96929A58/Queen%E2%80%99SSpeech#contribution-BB9E2EC3-6708-4333-AFBD-BE47E4D89E21>

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New Publications

Preventing Charity Fraud Insights+Action

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840652/Web_CC_Fraud.pdf

Preventing Charity Cybercrime Insights+Action

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840997/Web_CC_Cyber.pdf

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Other News

FGM perpetrators have no hiding place

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/fgm-perpetrators-have-no-hiding-place>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.aspx>

UK Parliament

**** Immigration Detention Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigrationdetention.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2019-2020/0020/20020.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-22/debates/BEC6739F-FDBF-4A30-B857-C76C435D758D/ImmigrationDetentionBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-22/debates/BEC6739F-FDBF-4A30-B857-C76C435D758D/ImmigrationDetentionBill(HL))

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-17/debates/A907A36B-D55A-4DA6-9322-4E0FEE31F904/UnaccompaniedAsylumSeekingChildren\(LegalAdviceAndAppeals\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-17/debates/A907A36B-D55A-4DA6-9322-4E0FEE31F904/UnaccompaniedAsylumSeekingChildren(LegalAdviceAndAppeals)Bill(HL))

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2019-2020/0009/20009.pdf>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Children (Scotland) Bill (closing date 15 November 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/112981.aspx>

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (closing date 17 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/looked-after-children-unit/independent-child-trafficking-guardians/>

Freedom of Information extension of coverage (closing date 22 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/freedom-of-information-extension-of-coverage/>

Widening the scope of the current victim statement scheme (closing date 24 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/current-victim-statement-scheme/>

Financial Redress for Historical Child Abuse in Care (closing date 25 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Glasgow Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 25 October

Glasgow City Council funding of between £20,000 and £200,000 per year for up to three years for community and Third Sector organisations in Glasgow. The Fund aims to tackle poverty and inequality through building the skills, capacity and resilience of individuals and communities, and supporting activities and services that will enable and empower communities to become involved in the social, economic and cultural life of the city.

The Fund has the following overarching outcomes:

- People and communities have access to services, support and opportunities that improve their lives and well-being
- People and communities are more self-reliant and are better able to identify ways to improve and take control of their lives and well-being
- People are better able to gain the skills, capacity and confidence to play an active role in their communities
- People and communities are better able to influence and participate in decision making and service development
- People and communities are better able to identify and deliver solutions that meet their needs

For information see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/glasgowcommunitiesfund>

and for Guidance and application forms see

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/24983/Application-Process>

**** closes this week!**

Celtic Connections in the Community

Closing date for applications: 25 October

BEMIS Scotland in partnership with Unison, Celtic Connections, and the Scottish Government are offering a new opportunity for Glasgow's communities to programme a bespoke *Celtic Connections in the Community* celebratory event, with grants available of up to £1,500.

The events can involve music, song, dance or food or other cultural celebrations. BEMIS wants to support exciting, innovative, diverse events that will celebrate the best of our communities and provide an opportunity for skilled community musicians, singers, dancers and others, who may not have had the opportunity to do so before to perform as part of this world-famous international music festival. For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/project/celtic-connections-in-the-community/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

until 31 October 2019

Black History Month illuminates Scotland's 'hidden history', and brings into sharp relief the various strands of suffering, humiliation, exploitation and denigration of African, Caribbean and Asian people, as well as being about solidarity and the building of allies in relation to experiences of racism in Scotland. To read the full programme of events see

https://docs.wixstatic.com/uqd/7ec2e5_bee1dd34a1e849af9dba0c7afc3112d5.pdf

**** this week!**

Challenging the Hostile Environment

25 October 2019 in Glasgow (11.00)

Positive Action in Housing AGM Conference and workshops to discuss the challenges for refugee, migrant and EU citizens rights, the impact of poverty and discrimination, and ways to further develop crisis services for destitute and homeless people from BME, refugee and migrant communities. For information see <https://paih.typeform.com/to/O2yYFH>

**** this week!**

New Scots Gathering

26 October 2019 in Edinburgh (11.30-4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event inviting refugees, asylum seekers, community groups and neighbours to meet, talk, learn together and engage with the New Scots Integration Strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y579j36k>

**** Brexit: EU Settlement Scheme Information Session**

29 October 2019 in Falkirk (5.30-7.30)

Central Scotland Regional Equality Council information session for EU citizens to find out what the EU Settlement Scheme is, when and how to apply, your rights as an EU citizen living in Scotland, and services and resources to support you. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yxnz8h2h>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

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

Refugee rights to housing

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

Age assessment awareness

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

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

20 November 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explore fundamental issues of settled and pre-settled status, welfare and housing entitlements of EEA nationals. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

20 November 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, 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>

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

St Andrew's Multi-Cultural Cup

1 December 2019 in Glasgow

Closing date for applications 4 November 2019

A 7v7 football tournament hosted by the Scottish FA and BEMIS that will see teams from across Scotland compete for the St. Andrew's Multi-Cultural Cup.

This year's event is themed around [St. Andrews Fair Saturday](#). After Black Friday, thousands of artists and cultural organisations around the world get together in a unique festival and support social causes through their show. Scotland is joining the celebration of Fair Saturday as part of the wider celebration of St Andrew's Day and everyone is invited to take part in St Andrew's Fair Saturday. St Andrew's Fair Saturday is a Scottish Government initiative which is being delivered by the Fair Saturday Foundation. Application form available from <https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/sa-mcc-application.docx>

Engaging with seldom heard voices

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

Refugee community sponsorship

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

No Recourse to Public Funds

11 December 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/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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