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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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**The Scottish Parliament has been suspended until 1 April 2020.**  
**The UK Parliament is in recess until 21 April 2020.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

#### Immigration Rules: Simplification

**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster):** [HCWS186] This Government are committed to creating a firm and fair immigration system that prioritises the skills people have to offer, not where their passport comes from, and restores public trust by ensuring the immigration system truly works for this country.

The immigration rules form one of the foundations of our immigration system. So I am pleased today to publish our response to the Law Commission's report and recommendations on simplifying the immigration rules. I am extremely grateful to the Law

Commission for their detailed and constructive work.

The first recommendation from the Law Commission is we should overhaul the immigration rules, consolidating and streamlining, based on the principles it has identified. I am pleased to announce we accept this recommendation. Our aim is to complete this overhaul by January 2021.

Simplified rules will be at the heart of Britain's new, global points-based immigration system.

For far too long, users have struggled to understand the confusing and complex immigration rules. They create barriers for employers who want to bring skilled workers to the UK; to colleges who want to encourage international students to come to the UK, and to the brightest and best migrants from around the world who want to make a contribution to the UK.

We will cut through the complexity and make the rules clear, consistent and accessible, to encourage those who have the skills or talent to benefit the UK, and to crack down on illegal migration and remove those who abuse our hospitality by committing criminal offences.

In line with the Law Commission's recommendations, I have already established a Simplification of the rules review committee to look at the drafting and structure of the rules. The committee will ensure the simplification principles put in place now continue to apply in future, while providing ongoing support to continuously improve and adapt the rules in our changing world.

The Law Commission made 41 recommendations for change. We accept 24 of the recommendations, and partially accept the other 17 recommendations. Where we have not fully accepted a recommendation that does not mean we disagree with the ambition behind the recommendations; it generally means we want to explore how it can be delivered in practice.

Simplification of the immigration rules, the global points-based immigration system, and the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill which will end free movement, will deliver the biggest shake-up of the immigration system in a generation.

The Government's response has been published on gov.uk and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/simplifying-the-immigration-rules-a-response>.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-25/debates/2003257000010/ImmigrationRulesSimplification)

[25/debates/2003257000010/ImmigrationRulesSimplification](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-25/debates/2003257000010/ImmigrationRulesSimplification)

*The Law Commission review referred to above can be read at*

[https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136_LC_Immigration-Rules-Report_FINAL_311219_WEB.pdf)

[11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136\\_LC\\_Immigration-Rules-Report\\_FINAL\\_311219\\_WEB.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136_LC_Immigration-Rules-Report_FINAL_311219_WEB.pdf)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Settled Status for EU Citizens: Internet Access

**Neale Hanvey (Independent):** What support her Department is making available to EU citizens who are unable to use the internet to apply for settled status to continue living in the UK. [901681]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster):** We are committed to giving all EU citizens living in the UK the certainty they need. Last week, I announced that 3 million people have been granted status under the European settlement scheme. We have made available a further £8 million of funding to help vulnerable EU citizens apply. For those who are unable to access the support mechanisms in place, including assisted digital, a paper application form will be made available.

**Neale Hanvey:** I have met a number of constituents and organisations who are providing

vital support to vulnerable people applying for EU settled status. Some of the stories they have shared about the difficulties faced by those challenged by an internet-based system, such as people with dementia, are harrowing. While the news that funding to support those groups has been extended until this June is welcome, with a bidding process until June 2021, many vulnerable people are currently only able to secure pre-settled status. They will be required to apply again for settled status within five years. Where should those individuals turn when the funding to support them is cut off?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As the hon. Gentleman reflected, we are making funding available, and the current grant-funded organisations will continue until the new funding comes in, one of which is Fife Migrants Forum in his constituency. As with any Member, I invite him, once the current situation is over, to visit the team in Liverpool who are dealing with the European settlement scheme to see at first hand the lengths to which they go to ensure that everyone gets the status they are entitled to.

**Diane Abbott (Labour):** ... On the settlement scheme, we obviously welcome the fact that 3 million persons have been successfully processed, but Ministers will be aware that the number of rejections is on a rising curve, with 300 last month. That is increasingly because of problems with documentation. Last week, the House debated the Windrush lessons-learned review and one of the problems at that time was documentation. Is it not time that the Government ended the uncertainty hanging over the heads of EU citizens and guaranteed the rights of EU citizens in the UK?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** A very small number has been rejected—just 300 out of over 3 million applications—and the core reason for rejection, for saying no to someone, is criminality. Where there are eligibility issues, people can make a free re-application but the evidence levels are quite basic. People must prove their identity; they must prove that they have residence in the UK, particularly for pre-settled status; and they are subject to the eligibility and suitability checks around criminality. Actually, the system is working very well, and again, I extend an invitation to the right hon. Lady to come to meet the team and see at first hand the work that they are doing and why this has been such a success. It is the biggest documentation of immigration status in history and it is going well.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-23/debates/17B6B9C2-A92E-4575-8926-60759CC65AD7/SettledStatusForEUCitizensInternetAccess>

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

### **Covid-19: English Language Testing**

**Caroline Ansell (Conservative):** What plans she has to review the English language testing requirement for student visas as a result of the closure of overseas language test centres in response to the covid-19 outbreak. [901683]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster):** These are extraordinary times, and we are working hard to ensure that no foreign students are penalised unfairly by these events. We recognise the concerns of the education sector about the impact of covid-19, and we are working with it to mitigate the adverse consequences. We are also working closely with secure English language test providers to ensure that there is sufficient capacity for all those who need to take tests while prioritising the health and safety of staff and applicants.

**Caroline Ansell:** I thank the Minister for his answer. Clearly my question was tabled before we hit the mission-critical phase in our actions to combat the virus, and of course it feels rather discordant to talk today about international travel when we are talking self-isolation and social distancing. But below that there is another really important message—that we

will come through this, we will rally and we will rebuild. So can the Minister say what measures are being taken to expedite the process for international students coming to our universities in particular, because it is so vital in towns such as Eastbourne and across the country?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** I recognise the comments my hon. Friend makes, and as she says, at the moment it seems strange to be talking about international travel when we are rightly advising against all non-essential travel within the United Kingdom, let alone abroad. We are very clear that no one will have a negative outcome through the immigration system due to a circumstance that was beyond their control. We have already done a block extension of visas for Chinese nationals, and we are looking at further measures that we can take—for example, allowing in-country switching that we would not normally allow—to ensure that no one is penalised because they followed the advice and did what they could to protect our NHS and save lives.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-23/debates/F33B8BF6-3C5A-4877-AB65-08D32B8F7373/Covid-19EnglishLanguageTesting>

#### **Topical Questions: Home Office**

**Chris Bryant (Labour):** Foreign national doctors and medical students at Morriston Hospital in Swansea are very concerned about their immigration status. They face significant bills if they want to renew their visas now, and obviously want an expedited process. Would it not simply make sense for the Government to announce as swiftly as possible that they will waive all fees for such doctors and medical trainees, that they will try to ensure that those processes can be expedited and that anybody who wants to stay can stay?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** Let me give the hon. Gentleman, his constituents and all public health workers in that category reassurance. Some very fast work is taking place at the Home Office right now to look at exactly that issue. I would be very happy to write to the hon. Gentleman outlining that work.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-23/debates/85919174-3726-42C1-A751-93788ADB2045/TopicalQuestions#contribution-D8ACA090-8DE5-400E-B03F-EB8ACCF346E7>

#### **Topical Questions: Home Office**

**David Linden (SNP):** Before leaving their country of origin, many of my asylum-seeking constituents were skilled doctors or nurses. Given that there is such a shortage of nurses and doctors at the moment, will the Government consider lifting the work ban on asylum seekers to let them take part in this national effort?

**Reply from Priti Patel:** I have already indicated that many measures are under review. We are working at pace across Government to consider what changes we will bring in.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-23/debates/85919174-3726-42C1-A751-93788ADB2045/TopicalQuestions#contribution-D955FBF8-8489-426E-83DF-3C19202C2D91>

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

### **Immigration Controls: Languages**

**Caroline Lucas (Green) [29883]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK's points-based immigration system policy statement, published 19 February 2020, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of including a foreign language competency as a tradeable characteristic.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The new points-based system will be introduced from 1 January 2021.

The operation of the system will be kept under review and, as the policy statement published on 19 February makes clear, the Home Office will continue to refine it in light of experience and will consider adding further flexibility into the system including additional attributes which can be 'traded' against a lower salary.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/29883/>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/866664/CCS207\\_CCS0120013106-001\\_The\\_UKs\\_Points-Based\\_Immigration\\_System\\_print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf)

### **Immigration: Coronavirus**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [30793] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of waiving the requirement for migrants to sign in regularly during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** At present we are looking to pragmatically maintain processes where possible and have put in place appropriate measures to safeguard people against the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

The situation is being monitored closely and we will make appropriate adjustments to requirements where necessary.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-17/30793/>

### **Immigrants: Coronavirus**

**Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat)** [32103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to protect migrants unable to attend (a) reporting appointments, (b) court dates and (c) interviews self-isolating during the covid-19 outbreak from being penalised.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 16 March, and Public Health England (PHE) advice in relation to COVID-19, Home Office Immigration Enforcement are reviewing the frequency with which people need to report. While this goes ahead, we have temporarily deferred reporting.

We will continue to contact all those who report via SMS text message with details of their future reporting dates and will keep this under review in light of the ongoing situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32103/>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-16-march-2020>

*The Public Health England advice referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

### **Visas: Coronavirus**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [30886] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will automatically extend visas due to expire during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We are taking a pragmatic approach to visa extensions due to the coronavirus outbreak.

We continue to monitor the situation closely in all countries and are keeping this under constant review. Individuals who are following official advice will not be penalised as a result of issues arising from the covid-19 pandemic which are beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-17/30886/>

### **Visas: Foreign Nationals**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [31456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2020 to Question 28642 on Foreign Nationals, what plans she has to make provision under paragraph 39E (1) of the Immigration Rules that a good reason for extension of leave will include self-isolation as a result of covid-19.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Paragraph 39E (1) of the Immigration Rules already provides for a limited period of overstaying to be disregarded where an application is made within 14 days of the applicant's previous leave expiring, if it is considered that there was a good reason beyond the control of the applicant or their representative, provided in or with the application, why the application could not be made in-time.

The Home Office has also put in place a range of measures to support those affected by travel restrictions associated with coronavirus, including taking a pragmatic approach to visa extensions. We continue to monitor the situation in all countries, and we are keeping this under constant review.

A dedicated coronavirus immigration helpline

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-immigration-guidance-if-youre-unable-to-return-to-china-from-the-uk#helpline>

has been set up for those who wish to discuss their circumstances. The freephone number is 0800 678 1767 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

No one will be unfairly penalised for events beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-18/31456/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-12/28642/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [31541] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will relax the requirements of the minimum income threshold in spousal visas during the period of the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-18/31541/>

### **Visas: Commonwealth**

**Scott Benton (Conservative)** [30193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of removing visa charges for Commonwealth UK armed forces personnel and their immediate families applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain after completing their service.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office is listening carefully to those with concerns about how members of HM Forces can have the support of their families whilst serving our country.

We are continuing to assess the impact of immigration fees on members of the HM Forces in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/30193/>

### **Migrant Workers: Physiotherapy**

**Baroness Masham of Ilton (Crossbench)** [HL2445] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the points-based immigration system enables registered physiotherapists to be eligible for an NHS visa.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Physiotherapists are already eligible to come to the UK under Tier 2, the UK's main route for skilled migrants. These roles will continue to be eligible under the UK's Points-Based Immigration System. The Government has also accepted the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation in their report on "A Points-based System and Salary Thresholds for Immigration" on occupations which should be subject to formal pay scales. This means physiotherapists will need to be paid in line the 'Agenda for Change' pay scales.

The Government's manifesto set out plans for improving the visa system for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, including physiotherapists. Further details will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-10/HL2445/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873156/PBS\\_and\\_Salary\\_Thresholds\\_for\\_Immigration\\_Annexes\\_word\\_FINAL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873156/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_for_Immigration_Annexes_word_FINAL.pdf)

### **Ministers of Religion: Migrant Workers**

**Bob Blackman (Conservative)** [901701] What steps she has taken through her immigration policies to enable religious workers from India to staff places of worship in the UK.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** This Government recognises the importance of faith across our communities in the UK, welcoming the value added by members of religious institutions from across the world.

This is reflected by dedicated immigration routes for Ministers of Religion and Religious Workers. These enable religious ministers and workers, including those from India, to live and practice their faith in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/901701/>

### **Asylum: Coronavirus**

**Chris Stephens (SNP)** [30003] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking with respect to asylum seekers who cannot attend a meeting due to self-isolation as a result of covid-19.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** At present Asylum Operations are looking to maintain services wherever possible and have put in place the appropriate measures to safeguard people against the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Appointments may be affected, but we will continue to review the service impacts on a daily basis. As the national situation develops, Asylum Operations will take the measures necessary to support appointments, interviewing and decision making including the use of technology, whilst always protecting the needs of the most vulnerable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/30003/>

### **Asylum: Finance**

**Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op)** [32242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether additional support will be provided to asylum seekers using ASPEN

cards to ensure they have access to sufficient food and supplies during the covid-19 outbreak.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** We take the welfare of our service users very seriously and we are considering a range of options to ensure that ensure service users have sufficient support during the COVID 10 outbreak, ensuring that we are adhering to Public Health England guidance.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32242/>

### **Asylum: France**

**Philip Davies (Conservative)** [29919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who have arrived in the UK from France have been returned to France in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

Those found not to need protection are refused and if unsuccessful at a subsequent appeal will be removed from the UK and it is an established principle that those seeking asylum should claim it in the first safe country they reach.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of returns from the UK and Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

However, the data do not show which of these have previously arrived from France. Data on:

1) The number of Returns to country of destination are published in table Ret\_D02 of the Returns detailed datasets,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets>

2) The number of individuals who have been transferred to an EU member state are published in table Dub\_D01 of the Dublin regulation datasets. This data is published annually and includes data dating back to 2015. Please note that this shows the country where the individual has been transferred to and not necessarily the nationality of the individual.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the returns data in the Summary Returns tables and the asylum data in the 'Summary Asylum tables'.

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns, asylum and resettlement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-16/29919/>

### **Asylum: Saudi Arabia**

**Crispin Blunt (Conservative)** [32027] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Saudi citizens applied for asylum in the UK in (a) 2017, (b) 2018 and (c) 2019.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum applications received by the UK in the chapter 'How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?' in the quarterly 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data on the number of asylum applications broken down by nationality are available in tables Asy\_D01 of the 'Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement datasets'.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32027/>

### **Immigrants: Detainees**

**Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour)** [31559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to release immigration detainees to reduce the rate of infection of covid-19 in response to the decision to extend early release for some prisoners.

**Reply from Chris Philp:** The health of those in immigration removal centres is of the utmost importance but we remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules. Detention plays a key role in securing our borders and maintaining effective immigration control.

Decisions to detain an individual are based on all of the information known at the time. As circumstances change, temporary release may then become the most appropriate option.

We are following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place. Measures such as protective isolation will be considered to minimise the risk of Covid-19 spreading to vulnerable groups in the immigration detention estate.

Basic hygiene is a key part of tackling Coronavirus. Handwashing facilities are available in all immigration removal centres and we are working closely with suppliers to ensure adequate supply of soap and cleaning materials.

All immigration removal centres have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-18/31559/>

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

### **Visas**

**Lord Bowness (Conservative)** [HL2422] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek equality of treatment after 31 December for EU citizens visiting the UK who will be entitled to a six month visa and UK citizens visiting the EU who could be restricted to a 90 day visa, if an agreement is not reached.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Government has announced that EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will be able to continue to travel to the UK for holidays or short-term trips without needing a visa from the end of the transition period following the UK's departure from the EU.

From 1 January 2021, EU nationals intending to come to the UK on a long-term basis to live, work or study will need to do so under the Future Points-Based System. This is without prejudice to those who acquire status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

The EU has also legislated not to impose visas on UK tourists or short-term visitors.

In line with the Schengen Border Code, UK nationals who intend to stay in the Schengen area for longer than 90 days in any 180-day period may need a visa or permit from the relevant Member State to do so.

These arrangements are not dependent on whether or not the Government concludes a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-10/HL2422/>

### **Visas: Ministers of Religion**

**The Lord Bishop of Southwark** [HL2370] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the UK's points-based immigration system: policy statement, published on 19 February, what changes, if any, they plan to make to the existing Tier 2 Minister of Religion Category.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Under the current Immigration Rules, there are a range of routes for specialist occupations, including Ministers of Religion and temporary religious workers.

There are no current plans to change these routes, though from January 2021, these routes will be opened to EEA citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-09/HL2370/>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/866664/CCS207\\_CCS0120013106-001\\_The\\_UKs\\_Points-Based\\_Immigration\\_System\\_print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf)

### **Asylum**

**Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench)** [HL2327] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people qualified for asylum in the UK in each of the last three years; and how many of those people were known to be qualified doctors.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office does not record the number of those that have been granted asylum in the UK over the past three years that are known to be qualified

Doctors.

The Home Office publishes a range of data on asylum seekers and refugees in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. The number of asylum grants for the last three years is within the table below and can be found in table ASY\_02a of the published Immigration statistics

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement)

	2017	2018	2019
Total grants	6,779	6,931	10,804
Asylum	5,957	5,557	9,404
Humanitarian Protection	146	582	642
Discretionary Leave	84	104	71
UASC Leave	417	344	181
Other Grants	175	344	506

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-09/HL2327/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Children**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL2580] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offers to receive vulnerable unaccompanied children who are currently in Europe have been

received in (1) 2019, and (2) 2020, by the Home Office from (a) local authorities, (b) care and fostering agencies, and (c) private individuals.

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL2581] To ask Her Majesty's Government what offer the Home Office received from TACT Care, a fostering charity, to place vulnerable unaccompanied children from Europe in appropriate homes in the UK.

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL2582] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Home for Good charity to receive the vulnerable unaccompanied children that it identified as having already been processed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Europe.

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL2583] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comments by Compassion in Politics reported in The Guardian on 29 December 2019 about delays in accepting vulnerable unaccompanied children from Europe, particularly from Greece, for care in the UK.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Home Office works closely with local authorities and third sector partners in order to identify suitable placements for unaccompanied children for transfer to the UK from Europe under our existing obligations.

The Government remains fully committed to relocating the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the Dubs Amendment) as soon as possible. We will publish a full data set on the transfers once we have fulfilled this commitment.

Over 220 children were transferred to the UK under section 67 when the Calais camp was cleared in late 2016. Since then we have been making further progress with Greece and the other participating states, to transfer more eligible children to move closer to achieving this commitment

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-13/HL2580/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-13/HL2581/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-13/HL2582/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-13/HL2583/>

## Press Releases

**Visas extended for those currently unable to return home due to COVID-19**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/visas-extended-for-those-currently-unable-to-return-home-due-to-covid-19>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

**Commissioner calls for release of immigration detainees during Covid-19 crisis**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/commissioner-calls-for-release-of-immigration-detainees-during-covid-19-crisis>

## New Publications

**Simplifying the Immigration Rules: a response A response to the Law Commission's report and recommendations on Simplification of the Immigration Rules**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/875205/24-03-2020 - Response to Law Commission for publication.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875205/24-03-2020_-_Response_to_Law_Commission_for_publication.pdf)

**The Impact of Changes to UK Migration Policy on the Northern Ireland Economy: An Independent Report for the Department for the Economy**

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/Impact-changes-migration-policy-ni-economy.pdf>

## News

**Scottish Refugee Council Service Update**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/important-service-update/>

**Covid-19: call for fast-track registration of refugee doctors in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/25/covid-19-call-for-fast-track-registration-of-refugee-doctors-in-uk>

**The UK Government must allow people in the asylum system to help fight Covid-19 pandemic, say Scots MPs**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/covid-19-right-to-work/>

**Coronavirus: Call to scrap levy paid by immigrant NHS staff**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-03-27/news/coronavirus-call-to-scrap-levy-paid-by-immigrant-nhs-staff-957t2k9qv>

**Windrush compensation scheme to get MPs' backing**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52018824>

**Coronavirus: Scores of migrants take chance to cross Channel**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-03-26/news/coronavirus-scores-of-migrants-take-chance-to-cross-channel-qdxrc5frj>

**Coronavirus: Nearly 100 migrants try to cross English Channel as UK lockdown intensifies**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-migrants-refugees-english-channel-lockdown-calais-dover-a9424641.html>

**Channel migrants: Small boats intercepted off Kent**

[https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-52032819?intlink\\_from\\_url=&link\\_location=live-reporting-story](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-52032819?intlink_from_url=&link_location=live-reporting-story)

**Covid-19: stop evictions from asylum accommodation in the UK**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/covid-19-stop-evictions-from-asylum-accommodation-in-the-uk/>

**High court rejects call to free 736 detainees at risk from coronavirus**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/26/high-court-rejects-call-to-free-736-detainees-at-risk-from-coronavirus>

## Coronavirus: Dozens of asylum seekers forced to eat in communal area in breach of Covid-19 measures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-asylum-seekers-urban-house-a9430991.html>

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## Equality

### News

## Black students will suffer most from A-level cancellations – they routinely outperform their predicted grades

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-schools-gcse-a-level-universities-predicted-grades-a9418471.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Universities: Antisemitism

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL2491] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether universities in England and Wales (1) have breached the public sector equality duty, and (2) are compliant with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism, by permitting Israeli Apartheid Week activities to take place on their campuses.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** There is no place in our society - including within higher education (HE) – for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism, including antisemitism. The government will continue to work with universities to ensure we stamp out antisemitism in all its forms.

The government expects HE providers to take their responsibilities, including those under the Equality Act 2010 (including the Public Sector Equality Duty) and to promote freedom of speech, seriously. We expect HE providers to have robust policies and procedures in place to meet, and balance, their legal obligations effectively and to investigate and swiftly address reports of hate crime, including any antisemitic incidents that are reported.

We expect HE providers to have clearly set out procedures and policies for events and the hosting of external speakers, which allow for open, transparent events, challenge and debate and ensure that lawful speech can occur on campuses. Under the Education (No. 2) Act 1986, HE providers have a legal duty to take reasonably practicable steps to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for their members, students, employees of the establishment and visiting speakers.

In relation to events occurring under the banner of Israeli Apartheid Week, it is crucial that HE providers handle these appropriately, taking into account their legal obligations to ensure that our values, expectations and laws are upheld.

The government strongly encourages HE providers to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. It is an important tool in tackling antisemitism and a strong signal that HE providers take these issues seriously.

## Press Releases

### Man jailed for coronavirus-related hate crime

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/west-midlands/news/man-jailed-coronavirus-related-hate-crime>

### States should take action against COVID-19-related expressions of xenophobia, says UN expert

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25739&LangID=E>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

#### BAME Students: Pupil Referral Units

**Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the experience of BAME students referred to Pupil Referral Units; and what steps they are taking to ensure that any such students are able to re-enter mainstream education.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education and Department for International Trade (Baroness Berridge):** My Lords, 27% of pupils in PRUs, alternative provision academies and AP free schools are BAME, compared with 32% in all schools. There is variation among different groups, however, and it is important that we seek to understand those differences. We are committed to improving outcomes for all pupils in alternative provision and will build on the good practice identified by our £4 million AP innovation fund. Three of the projects focus specifically on reintegration into mainstream education.

**Baroness Lawrence of Clarendon:** I thank the Minister for her Answer. In the last few months, the *Evening Standard* has been running a campaign to raise funds for young people who have been excluded from school, so that the school can keep them and educate them within its premises instead of sending them off into PRU units. As we all know, young people are very vulnerable and are exposed to gangs once excluded from school. We know that the trap exists for young people who are not in mainstream schools. Do the Government have any policies for reducing the numbers of pupils in PRUs and getting them back into mainstream schools? As we all know, the majority are young black boys. Also, with the partial closure of schools that we have now, are there any thoughts on excluded children?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** I am grateful to the noble Baroness for raising a number of issues there. If I may begin with the current policy, yes, AP is included within the request to schools, so that, if at all possible, head teachers should keep that provision open. We believe that about half of the pupils within AP will qualify under the definition of "vulnerable" but we trust that the head teachers will make the correct decisions on the ground. It is of course correct that education is one of the strongest protective factors for young people, and it is this Government's ambition that there should be an expansion of alternative provision and that being excluded from mainstream education settings should not be an exclusion from excellent

education. We have the same aspirations for those in the AP sector as we do in other educational settings.

**Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench):** My Lords, Diane Abbott said many years ago that once you have excluded a black child from school you can almost put a time and date on when they will turn up in prison. That is still true today. According to the excellent coalition of BME education practitioners, there should be no more exclusions. School exclusions cost the taxpayer an eye-watering £2.1 billion a year. Many children go to pupil referral units, but only 1% of them go on to achieve good GCSEs. However, two-thirds of pupils in PRUs will at some point go to prison. Clearly PRUs are not fit for purpose. Does the Minister agree that we should stop all school exclusions, as some places do, such as Northampton? I witnessed that when I was a children's commissioner. Given that BME and other disadvantaged children are more likely to be excluded, I say, as I did last week, that we must recruit more black teachers and teachers from other disadvantaged backgrounds, including Roma, Gypsy, Traveller and white working-class. I apologise for going on.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** The noble Lord makes an important point. We are aware that educational outcomes for students in alternative provision are not high enough, but last year 85% of all state-funded schools did not permanently exclude any pupil. The Government support head teachers having the power, as a last resort, to exclude pupils, but that should not be a ticket into education that is less than excellent. In fact, 83% of alternative providers were judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding. That is only slightly less than overall for schools, which is 86%, and more than for secondary schools. Although there are issues, I pay tribute to the workforce in the alternative provision sector who are doing an excellent job dealing with behavioural and educational issues. ...

**Lord Addington (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, does the Minister accept that certain hidden or non-obvious conditions, such as dyslexia, tend to be even slower to be picked up among the BME community than in others, usually due to things such as it being more commonly working-class, and that many of these conditions are seen to be white, middle-class problems which are identified by the parents and then fought through the education system? When are we going to get better provision in schools to sort this? Having more working-class and black teachers would help.

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** I am grateful to the noble Lord. On the recruitment of teachers, a £2 million project with the diversity hubs is aimed specifically at increasing the diversity of the workforce, which is an important factor. On non-diagnosis, for every child who is not meeting the requisite attainment standards, graduated action on their attainment gap should be taken by teachers and SEN co-ordinators, regardless of a diagnosis. We are aware that 81% of the children in alternative provision also have special educational needs and disabilities, so we need to intervene earlier. That will be part of the SEN review, to avoid this correlation. ...

**Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated):** My Lords, in the other half of the statistic mentioned by my noble friend Lord Woolley and the noble Baroness, Lady Lawrence, lie numbers of Muslim young boys, in particular, as well as those who are autistic. That statistic makes them vulnerable students and pupils. Some of them may be vulnerable to county lines, about which we heard last week, and sexual exploitation, about which we have heard many times. Given the crisis that we face, what will the Minister do to ensure that local authorities take seriously the gaps that may begin to emerge, with these young people falling through the system because they are not classified as vulnerable children?

**Reply from Baroness Berridge:** My Lords, any child who is not in an educational setting should be. We do take action. We recognise that they are particularly vulnerable to the phenomenon now called "county lines". The Government have provided £20 million to fund more national co-ordination on county lines. Since September 2018, four weeks of criminal justice interventions have led to 2,500

arrests; more importantly, they have resulted in more than 3,000 people being identified as having safeguarding concerns. We are doing what we can and taking action to deal with these issues.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-23/debates/07DA9E4B-A60E-4B65-8ABC-2F13E4CC1016/BAMEStudentsPupilReferralUnits>

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## **Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

### **NHS**

#### **NHS Inform (Scotland)**

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **NHS Near Me (Scotland)**

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

#### **NHS (England and Wales)**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## **Scottish Parliament Oral Answer**

### **Covid-19 (Justice)**

**Anas Sarwar (Labour):** ... Will the Scottish Government provide guidance to funeral operators, and particularly community-organised funeral operators? Muslim and Jewish burials are done with a ritual of washing of the body before the burial takes place. Will there be guidance on what should happen with Covid-19 patients in those circumstances? If that is to be done by those community organisations, will the Government help them to acquire PPE so that they can keep themselves safe at this really difficult time? ...

**Reply from Humza Yousaf:** I am happy to answer the question. It perhaps does not fall within the remit of the justice secretary, but I work closely with my colleagues in public health, and Joe FitzPatrick in particular. In addition, Anas Sarwar will understand, as I do, that on matters relating to the Muslim community, he and I will often be approached regardless of what our official remits are or are not.

To answer the question directly, I note that guidance has been provided to Glasgow central mosque, which does the vast majority of such funerals in the west of Scotland, but I have been told that it has also been passed to the Muslim Council of Scotland, which will disseminate it across mosques. In relation to the Jewish community, I will have to look that up, but I will ensure that advice is sent to all communities on the specific rituals that they have in dealing with the deceased.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12598&i=113888&c=2252337#ScotParIOR>

## Scottish Government

### First Minister COVID-19 update

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-minister-covid-19-update-5/>

### Effective 'lockdown' to be introduced

<https://www.gov.scot/news/effective-lockdown-to-be-introduced/>

### New NHS 24 arrangements for coronavirus

<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-nhs-24-arrangements-for-coronavirus/>

### Social care at heart of response to coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.gov.scot/news/social-care-at-heart-of-response-to-coronavirus/>

### Call for action to help self-employed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/call-for-action-to-help-self-employed/>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Library

### Coronavirus: Powers to direct between burials and cremation

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/home-affairs/communities/coronavirus-powers-to-direct-between-burials-and-cremation/>

## UK Government

### Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-coronavirus-information-service-on-whatsapp>

### Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

#### English

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### Easy-Read

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874281/COVID-19\\_easy\\_read.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874281/COVID-19_easy_read.pdf)

#### Arabic

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874000/Stay\\_at\\_home\\_guidance\\_for\\_households\\_with\\_possible\\_coronavirus\\_COVID-19\\_AR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874000/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_AR.pdf)

#### Bengali

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874302/Stay\\_at\\_home\\_guidance\\_for\\_households\\_with\\_possible\\_coronavirus\\_COVID-19\\_Bengali\\_BN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874302/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_Bengali_BN.pdf)

#### Traditional Chinese – Cantonese

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874005/Stay\\_at\\_home\\_guidance\\_for\\_households\\_with\\_possible\\_coronavirus\\_COVID-19\\_ZH\\_hk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874005/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_ZH_hk.pdf)

**Simplified Chinese – Mandarin**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874005/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 ZH hk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874005/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_ZH_hk.pdf)

**French**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874003/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 FR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874003/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_FR.pdf)

**Gujurati**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874303/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 Gujarati GU.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874303/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_Gujarati_GU.pdf)

**Polish**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874002/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 PL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874002/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_PL.pdf)

**Portuguese**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874299/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 Portuguese PT.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874299/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_Portuguese_PT.pdf)

**Punjabi**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874300/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 Punjabi PA.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874300/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_Punjabi_PA.pdf)

**Urdu**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874301/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 Urdu UR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874301/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_Urdu_UR.pdf)

**Welsh**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874001/Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 CY.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874001/Stay_at_home_guidance_for_households_with_possible_coronavirus_COVID-19_CY.pdf)

**Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK****English**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

**Arabic**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873984/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults AR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873984/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_AR.pdf)

**Bengali**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874385/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults Bengali BN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874385/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_Bengali_BN.pdf)

### **Traditional Chinese – Cantonese**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873994/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults ZH hk.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873994/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_ZH_hk.pdf)

### **Simplified Chinese – Mandarin**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873992/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults ZH cn.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873992/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_ZH_cn.pdf)

### **French**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873985/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults FR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873985/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_FR.pdf)

### **Gujurati**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874386/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults Gujarati GU.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874386/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_Gujarati_GU.pdf)

### **Polish**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873988/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults PL.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873988/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_PL.pdf)

### **Portuguese**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874387/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults Portuguese PT.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874387/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_Portuguese_PT.pdf)

### **Punjabi**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874388/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults Punjabi PA.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874388/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_Punjabi_PA.pdf)

### **Urdu**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874389/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults Urdu UR.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874389/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_Urdu_UR.pdf)

### **Welsh**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873986/Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and protecting older people and vulnerable adults CY.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873986/Guidance_on_social_distancing_for_everyone_in_the_UK_and_protecting_older_people_and_vulnerable_adults_CY.pdf)

## **Other Organisations**

### **Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network**

BEMIS Scotland have set up a dedicated online registration hub to identify where you are and in turn make efforts to ensure that local support organisations and community response initiatives are able to respond to you. You can [register here](#).

- They have set up contacts with our networks across Scotland to offer a peer to peer support service and sharing best practice from local community responses. ...
- and are in the process of establishing a support groups for mental health/counselling support with trained culturally skilled counsellors for supporting individuals and families with anxiety fearing isolation over the coming weeks and months. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://bemis.org.uk/coronavirus/>

**SCVO: Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub**

<https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus>

**Muslim Council of Scotland: Muslim Community Update on COVID-19**

<https://mailchi.mp/df5446209d6f/mcs-covid-19-news-bulletin>

**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities: Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information and Support: “*Col Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh* – Our responsibility as a Jewish Community is to take care of one another”**

<https://www.scojec.org/news/2020/coronavirus/community.html>

## News

**Emergency coronavirus legislation altered after Muslim and Jewish communities raise concern over forced cremation**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/23/emergency-coronavirus-legislation-altered-muslim-jewish-communities/>

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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>

### UK Parliament

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

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

**Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill**

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

**\*\* Coronavirus Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/coronavirus.html>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-03-23/debates/F4D06B4F-56CD-4B60-8306-BAB6D78AC7CF/CoronavirusBill>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/amend/coronavirus\\_daily\\_cwh\\_0320rev.1-7.html](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0122/amend/coronavirus_daily_cwh_0320rev.1-7.html)

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-03-23/debates/1BF3C655-EAD2-45DF-BAE2-30052908F7E6/CoronavirusBill>

First Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-24/debates/3B563BA2-93EF-4888-9D2B-67C84CF7B81A/CoronavirusBill>

Second Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-24/debates/3B3D6FC6-499A-422B-B2DD-B06D6802844D/CoronavirusBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-24/debates/8570A6D4-3516-4114-B70C-A57638B56C08/CoronavirusBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/58-01/110/5801110-l.pdf>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/3C266E78-4BB7-4330-9199-D361CDBAE2AD/CoronavirusBill>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/630D8AAE-9C0B-4283-BFD2-F786C2AB4873/CoronavirusBill>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/3EA1E44D-1D7A-4494-B5F8-7FBE073F9D5E/CoronavirusBill>

Royal Assent

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/025CBE1A-37B3-4362-9FAC-94359D78E325/RoyalAssent>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

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

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

### **Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill**

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

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

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

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

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

## **\*\* Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-24/debates/08EDEF46-F8BF-45C7-A211-6372BDDC1FB4/WindrushCompensationScheme\(Expenditure\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-24/debates/08EDEF46-F8BF-45C7-A211-6372BDDC1FB4/WindrushCompensationScheme(Expenditure)Bill)

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/10C4FFD5-90CA-4406-979B-1D137777C288/WindrushCompensationScheme\(Expenditure\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-25/debates/10C4FFD5-90CA-4406-979B-1D137777C288/WindrushCompensationScheme(Expenditure)Bill)

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## **Consultations**

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**Race equality, employment and skills inquiry** (closing date 17 April 2020)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

**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**

**\*\* Third Sector Resilience Fund**

*Closing date not stated*

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency

fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

### **Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020**

*Closing date not stated*

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

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

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Advancing Human Rights & Inspiring Equal Citizens for Torture Survivors**

**EVENT POSTPONED** ~~24 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–3.30)~~

Freedom from Torture event to share learning and experiences from the Healing Neighbourhood Project, in relation to promoting human rights, equality, and the empowerment of torture survivors through community learning and development, and enhancing democratic participation in all aspects of Scottish life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wdpzwnv>

### **Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities**

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Talking Prejudice**

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

### **Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue**

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities**

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politics. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

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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/>

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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