



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

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

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

**Because of the Jewish Festival of Succot,
the next two issues of MEMO will be published midweek on 7 and 14 October.**

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Draft Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2020 [House of Commons]
[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-22/debates/4878fcf3-a910-49d1-85da-0a98aa748a69/DraftImmigration\(HealthCharge\)\(Amendment\)Order2020](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-22/debates/4878fcf3-a910-49d1-85da-0a98aa748a69/DraftImmigration(HealthCharge)(Amendment)Order2020)

Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2020 [House of Lords]
[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-23/debates/4919B4DF-CB8C-4909-8717-1B8D6D2950D6/Immigration\(HealthCharge\)\(Amendment\)Order2020](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-23/debates/4919B4DF-CB8C-4909-8717-1B8D6D2950D6/Immigration(HealthCharge)(Amendment)Order2020)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Cross-Channel Illegal Migration

Henry Smith (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [906710]

Shaun Bailey (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [906715]

Mark Eastwood (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [906721]

Robbie Moore (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [906725]

Jack Brereton (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to stop migrants crossing the English Channel illegally. [906728]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): The Government are committed to ending completely these dangerous crossings facilitated by ruthless criminals. These crossings are also unnecessary because France is a safe country. Our clandestine channel threat commander, newly appointed, is working closely with his French colleagues to stop these embarkations in the first place, and we are also working tirelessly to return people who have made this journey.

Henry Smith: ... Can [the Minister] say when legislation will be brought forward to update immigration and asylum law, and whether it will contain provisions such as stopping those who enter the United Kingdom illegally subsequently applying to stay in this country?

Reply from Chris Philp: My hon. Friend is quite right to draw attention to the legal system. It is quite frankly not fit for purpose in this area when it comes to asylum and immigration enforcement matters. We are often frustrated by repeatedly vexatious legal claims, often made at the last minute with the express intention of frustrating the proper application of the law. I can confirm that we are working at pace on legislative options in the way that he describes, and that everything is on the table.

Shaun Bailey: My constituents in Wednesbury, Oldbury and Tipton are rightly angry at the images that they are seeing of people arriving on our shores illegally, often in small boats. To solve this crisis in the long term will require co-operation, and, whereas we in this country seem to be gold-plating a lot of the regulations that would enable us to solve this problem, many of our European partners are not. What representations is my hon. Friend making to our European partners to ensure that they actually follow through with the obligations that they have made?

Reply from Chris Philp: We are working at the moment with other European countries to return people to those European countries where they have previously claimed asylum. Indeed, return flights went last week and are going this week as well. However, my hon. Friend is right to say that leaving the Dublin regulations creates new opportunities. We have already tabled a draft readmissions agreement for consideration by the European Commission, but he can rest assured that once we are out of the transition period on 1 January, this Government will be redoubling their efforts to make sure that people who come here from safe countries, for example, are rapidly returned.

Mark Eastwood: I know the Minister is working tirelessly to bring the criminals facilitating the illegal channel crossings to justice and to tackle this exploitative crime. Does he agree

that, while we must uphold our obligations to genuine asylum seekers, there can be no justifiable reason for migrants to be crossing the channel, putting themselves and our Border Force at risk when France remains a safe option?

Reply from Chris Philp: My hon. Friend puts it very well. We are pursuing the ruthless criminals who facilitate this wicked process. Twenty-four of them have been convicted so far this year. He is right to say that, where people are in genuine fear of persecution, we should protect them. Indeed, we do so and our resettlement scheme has been the leading scheme in Europe over the past five years. He is also right to say that, when people are in France, they are already in a safe country and if they want protection they can obtain it by applying to the French Government.

Robbie Moore: The channel-crossing route is clearly being promoted by people smugglers as an easy route in. These individuals do not give a damn about the welfare of those whom they exploit or the lives that they put in danger. What steps is my hon. Friend taking to ensure that this route becomes entirely untenable and illustrates loud and clear to organised crime gangs that Britain's border is closed to such illegal crossings?

Reply from Chris Philp: My hon. Friend is quite right to say that our objective, and the Home Secretary's objective, is to make this route completely unviable, so that nobody attempts it in the first place. It is dangerous, it is illegally facilitated and it is unnecessary. We are working with the French to prevent the embarkations happening in the first place. We are looking at tactics that we can deploy at sea to prevent the crossings from happening, and we are looking at what more we can do to return people once they make the crossing. Those measures, taken together, will make this route unviable and end these crossings.

Jack Brereton: People across Stoke-on-Trent are extremely concerned about the number of people we are seeing crossing the English channel illegally. Does my hon. Friend agree that asylum should be claimed in the first safe country and that we should deport those here illegally?

Reply from Chris Philp: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. France is a safe country and, as I said, people who wish to claim protection from persecution when they are in northern France should do so by claiming asylum in France. There is no need at all to attempt this dangerous and illegally facilitated crossing. When people do make the crossing, we are using all the legal means available to us to ensure that they are returned—for example, to countries where they previously claimed asylum under the Dublin regulation—and flights doing that took place last week and will take place this week.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/ED55CECA-288D-4141-9C4A-C550CF1E0DF6/Cross-ChannelIllegalMigration>

Cross-Channel Migrant Trafficking

Roger Gale (Conservative): What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to help bring to an end the cross-channel trafficking of migrants. [906704]

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... The UK Government are working with law enforcement and intelligence networks to address the issue of illegal migration and the cross-channel trafficking of migrants. Our work continues, and we are arresting and prosecuting those responsible for the illegal trafficking of people.

Roger Gale: ... All the children, women and men who seek to cross the channel are the victims of criminal activity. Further to her answer, can my right hon. Friend tell the House how many perpetrators of these vile crimes, in either France or the United Kingdom, have been arrested and sentenced? Can she also tell us what discussions she has had with her German counterparts to seek to prevent the provision of the outboard motors and inflatable dinghies used in these crossings that I understand emanate from Germany?

Reply from Priti Patel: My right hon. Friend raises important points about the illegal

trafficking of people via small boats. We have arrested 179 individuals, resulting in 24 convictions relating to people smuggling this year. There have been a further 296 disruptions of organised criminal gangs and individuals who are responsible for the organisation of immigration crime, 124 of which related to people smuggling. We also have 176 live investigations into illegal maritime activity.

My right hon. Friend also mentions Germany. It is not just Germany. Discussions are taking place with counterparts in not just Germany but France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The issue of boats also relates to criminal upstream activity. When it comes to convictions, we are of course working with the courts, the Crown Prosecution Service and our intelligence networks to ensure that more work is taking place to pursue those who are responsible.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... On 4 November last year, when the Home Secretary was still a member of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee found that “A policy that focuses exclusively on closing borders will drive migrants to take more dangerous routes, and push them into the hands of criminal groups.”

Does she still agree with that statement, and, if so, does she recognise that safe legal routes for people with a connection with the United Kingdom must be part of the answer to the problem we face in these channel crossings?

Reply from Priti Patel: I fundamentally agree that we need safe legal routes, and that is part of the work that the Home Office is currently looking at and working on. The fact of the matter is that too many individuals are coming to the United Kingdom and, it is fair to say, to other EU countries, because over recent years we have seen the mass movement of people. People are being exploited and that exploitation is fundamentally wrong. We owe it to everyone, including those individuals who are being trafficked, those who are vulnerable and those who are being exploited, to ensure that there are safe legal routes, but at the same time we have to go after criminals—the perpetrators of illegal migration and exploitation—and it is right that we do. We want to ensure that our asylum system is not abused by those who, quite frankly, are not genuine asylum seekers.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/EEEC5D8D-869B-4F15-8D3D-17B167AF2BBB/Cross-ChannelMigrantTrafficking>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmfa/107/10702.htm>

Refugee Resettlement

Gill Furniss (Labour): What plans [does the Minister have] for refugee resettlement after September 2021. [906711]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): The United Kingdom, over the past five years, has, I am proud to say, run Europe’s leading resettlement scheme; we have resettled more people directly from conflict zones than any other European country. It is currently paused owing to coronavirus, but as soon as we are safely and properly able to resume activity, we will do so.

Gill Furniss: The UK’s refugee resettlement schemes have been a lifeline to many thousands of people who have come to the UK after escaping some of the world’s most brutal conflict and regimes. However, the Government have still not allocated any funding for these schemes beyond September 2021. What assurances can the Minister give me that the UK will continue to provide safe sanctuary to those fleeing war and persecution after that date?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. Member will know that we are going through a spending review process, where questions of funding will be considered. Although the resettlement programme is currently paused owing to coronavirus, it is our

intention to appropriately recommence it when circumstances allow. I thank her for the tribute that she paid to the scheme that has operated for the past five years. As she said, it is the leading scheme anywhere in Europe.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/9682429C-7668-490F-8E73-408931C612B9/RefugeeResettlement>

Asylum Seekers: Resettlement and Relocation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): What [is the Minister's] policy is on the resettlement and relocation of refugees and asylum seekers to the UK from (a) Greece and (b) other countries. [906713]

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op): [Will the Minister] relocate a number of unaccompanied refugee children affected by the recent fire at Moria refugee camp on Lesbos from Greece to the UK. [906714]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): ... On the question of resettlement, we are continuing to welcome family reunion cases, as we are obliged to do under the Dublin regulations, including from Greece—in fact, particularly from Greece. Already this summer, three flights have brought in refugees to reunite them with family members in the United Kingdom, so we are continuing to discharge our obligations.

Stuart C McDonald: Conditions on the Aegean islands were an overcrowded living hell for asylum seekers, even before the fire at Moria left 13,000 homeless. Given what the Home Secretary said to my hon. and learned Friend the Member for Edinburgh South West (Joanna Cherry) about the importance of safe legal routes, surely the Government must now join Germany and France in offering to relocate some of the most vulnerable asylum seekers from the Aegean islands, even beyond those for whom they have responsibility under family reunion rules.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are investigating ways that the United Kingdom Government can help our colleagues in Greece. That includes the possibility of using overseas aid money to assist them, as well as looking at people who are entitled to be relocated to the UK under the Dublin regulations, and at what we can do to assist and expedite that process.

Stella Creasy: I have some numbers to put this issue in context. Some 13,000 refugees are without any shelter as a result of the recent fires in Greece, 3,800 of whom are children. There are 21 confirmed cases of covid in the camp, which has a quarantine capacity of just 30. Ten countries, including France, Germany, Croatia and Portugal, have already agreed to take some of the hundreds of unaccompanied young minors in the camp. At present, we have taken just 16, but this place promised to take 3,000 under the Dubs scheme. Will the Minister give me and others who are concerned about this issue just one meeting to discuss what more we can do on our obligations to those vulnerable young children?

Reply from Chris Philp: We have fulfilled our Dubs obligation in full: 380 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been brought to the UK from European countries, in addition to 3,500 who came here last year. That is higher than any other country in Europe. In addition to that, we are honouring our Dublin obligations to Greece. It is not 16; well over 100 people have been taken from Greece directly back here. Where we have further obligations, we will do everything we can to make sure we meet them. In addition to that, as I said in response to an earlier question, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is looking at ways that we can help to provide the kind of shelter that the hon. Lady referred to. There is a lot that the Government have done and will continue to do. If she would like to meet me to discuss that, I would be delighted to do so.

Holly Lynch (Labour): I understand that on 15 September partner agencies were notified that the Home Office was lifting a ban on asylum evictions with immediate effect. I

appreciate that the pause in the system cannot continue indefinitely. However, to evict people into destitution and homelessness as we enter a second wave of infections completely undermines public health efforts to keep everyone safe from the virus, especially in areas like mine that have local restrictions in place. Can the Minister share with us the plan to ensure that these risks do not become a reality?

Reply from Chris Philp: As the shadow Minister says, on 27 March we paused cessations whereby people leave asylum accommodation when their decision is made positively or negatively. On 11 August, we resumed those for positive cases where they have been granted asylum, in a very phased, very careful, week-by-week, step-by-step way, moving them, where necessary, into local authority and other kinds of accommodation. We are now just beginning the process for the negative cases where asylum has not been granted, because clearly we cannot accommodate people at public expense indefinitely when their asylum claim has been rejected. We are doing this in a very careful, phased, week-by-week way to make sure that the sorts of risks that she describes do not come to pass. Where there are safe routes home to the country of origin for people whose claims have been rejected, we are working to make sure that those safe routes home are taken.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/CB8D5365-4BB4-40C8-8DF5-BD55E6EC4EF7/AsylumSeekersResettlementAndRelocation>

Asylum Accommodation: Covid-19

Martyn Day (SNP): What [is the Minister's] policy on the provision of asylum accommodation during the covid-19 pandemic. [906718]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): As I have mentioned, during the coronavirus pandemic we have been allowing people to remain in their asylum accommodation even after their asylum decision has been made, positively or negatively. We started cessations in August for positive cases, and more recently in England for negative ones. As a result, the number of people we have been supporting has gone up hugely, from about 48,000 to about 60,000 across the UK. That has put enormous strain on the system, but we have been working night and day to accommodate that strain.

Martyn Day: As covid's second wave hits, the Minister must recognise that evicting asylum seekers into destitution will be a disaster for both asylum seekers and the communities into which they are evicted. Will she reverse these utterly reckless plans and confirm whether public health directors and bodies were consulted about this specific decision, and what they advised?

Reply from Chris Philp: I am a he, not a she. We will not reverse the decision, because we need to make sure that when their asylum decisions have been made, people are moved on into the community. We cannot accommodate people indefinitely. As I said in answer to the hon. Gentleman's first question, the number of people we are accommodating has gone up from 48,000 to 60,000 as a result of stopping move-ons over the summer period. The system is under huge strain, and it is not reasonable to ask the taxpayer to accommodate people on an indefinite basis. We are doing this in a very careful and measured way. We are not doing it all in one go; we are doing it week by week, very slowly and carefully, and at all times in consultation with public health bodies.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): I wonder whether the Minister could make me two promises today: first, to publish in Parliament the report of his evaluation of asylum accommodation and support in Glasgow, including the use of hotels and the tragic deaths that have occurred; and, secondly, to provide a copy of that report to the Lord Advocate, who is considering whether to initiate a fatal accident inquiry into the tragic deaths of asylum seekers in Glasgow during the lockdown?

Reply from Chris Philp: As the hon. and learned Lady says, formal investigations are going on, and of course the Home Office will support them in any way that we are asked. In relation to the internal review that is taking place, I have not received that report yet, but when I do, I will look at it carefully and consider how best to proceed thereafter. On the question of hotel use, I think we all agree that it is not ideal. We are working as rapidly as we can to reduce and eventually end the use of hotels, not just in the city of Glasgow but across the whole United Kingdom.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/OCC85578-10C1-4DB2-B456-BDF0EC08A947/AsylumAccommodationCovid-19>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Appeals

David Lammy (Labour) [89594] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and what proportion of proceedings before the (a) First-Tier Immigration and Asylum Tribunal and (b) Upper-Tier Immigration and Asylum Tribunal were attended by parties litigant in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Chris Philp: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The term “litigant in person” (“party litigant” in Scotland) applies to appellants without a legal representative. In the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) any person may be permitted to act as a representative, including an immigration advisor, friend, relative or litigation friend. The case management system cannot provide a statistical breakdown between different types of representative.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89594>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: Immigrants

Apsana Begum (Labour) [91809] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to provide financial support to those with No Recourse to Public Funds conditions who are currently supported by the furlough scheme, when the scheme ends.

Reply from Steve Barclay: The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) is an unprecedented scheme that was designed to be in place only as a temporary measure while businesses regrouped and responded to the crisis. Building on the action taken in the face of the immediate threat posed by the virus, the government is now proceeding with the second phase of its response with a targeted Plan for Jobs which will support the UK’s economic recovery while continuing to prioritise people’s health.

The Home Office leads on policy towards those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and is working closely with the Treasury and other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health and Social Care to support people, including migrants with NRPF, through this crisis. Departments are sharing what they are learning from other bodies and charities with each other to ensure that the government continues to take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91809>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [89586] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of change of conditions applicants with no recourse to public

funds were required to respond to a request for additional information in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017; and what proportion of those applications were (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [89587] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of change of conditions applications made by people with no recourse to public funds were successful following administrative review in each quarter since the third quarter of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [89588] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what reasons for refusal were given to unsuccessful change of conditions applications from people with no recourse to public funds, in each quarter since quarter 3 of 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [89589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether administrative review was offered to people with no recourse to public funds who applied unsuccessfully for a change of conditions since quarter 3 of 2017; and in how many cases administrative review was sought.

Reply from Chris Philp: Following previous questions and the commitment given to UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), Change of Conditions information is now part of the transparency data which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-august-2020>.

The relevant data is in tab CoC_01.

Currently we cannot provide the data that you have requested because this information is not readily available and would require a more detailed examination of all Change of Conditions cases to establish whether the data requested is held and would meet the quality requirements for release.

As part of the regular publication of this data the Home Office will review whether the data can be meaningfully broken down any further. The next update of this data is due to be published in November 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89586>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89587>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89588>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89589>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Paula Barker (Labour) [92936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims have been made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Paula Barker (Labour) [92937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush compensation claims have been processed; and how much compensation each claimant has received.

Paula Barker (Labour) [92938] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is from a claim being made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme and a payment being made.

Reply from Priti Patel: Information on the amount of compensation claims made, processed and how much compensation each claimant has received, is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-august-2020>.

The data will be updated on the 28th September 2020 and cover the period up to 31st August 2020. In relation to the average time taken from a claim being made to

the Windrush Compensation Scheme and a payment being made, we are processing claims as quickly as possible – this is our absolute priority. We are making interim payments where parts of a claim can be resolved more easily and quickly than others. But this is not a one size fits all compensation scheme. Each person's claim is deeply personal and requires detailed consideration to understand their individual circumstances and experiences. Some claims are more complex than others and it is right we take the time to ensure each one is considered carefully. We want each person to get the maximum compensation to which they are entitled and we will work with individuals on their claims accordingly. This holistic approach necessarily takes time but ultimately is beneficial to individuals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92936>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92937>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92938>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [93691] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme are yet to be considered by her Department.

Reply from Priti Patel: All claims received by the Windrush Compensation Scheme are registered and acknowledged upon receipt of the claim. The subsequent consideration of a claim consists of different essential stages, including a Windrush Compensation Scheme eligibility check and an assessment of compensation entitlement.

Data on the Windrush Compensation Scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-august-2020>

Figures will be updated on the 28th September 2020, covering the period up to 31st August 2020. The data includes the number of claims received and the number which have received a payment, as well as the number which have been determined ineligible or not entitled to compensation. The remaining number are under consideration with the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93691>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [93692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing application forms for the Windrush Compensation Scheme that have been accredited by the Crystal Mark scheme.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Windrush Compensation Scheme and application process was designed, with the independent oversight of Martin Forde QC, to be as clear and simple as possible. Claim forms for the scheme were tested with users to ensure they are easy to understand and complete. While the forms may appear long, people only need to complete the sections of the form that relate to their individual claims.

Guidance on how to complete a claim for compensation can be found on gov.uk at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-claim-forms-and-guidance

For those who want or need support to make a claim, the Home Office has funded Citizens Advice to provide free independent advice and support. A referral to Citizens Advice can be made via the Windrush Help Team. The team can also assist individuals should they have questions about the claim form or process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93692>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [93693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to include a statement of apology from her Department on all Windrush Compensation Scheme compensation award letters.

Reply from Priti Patel: All individuals who receive an award of compensation from the Windrush Compensation Scheme receive an apology from the Home Office with their full and final offer of compensation. This is set out in paragraph 3.1 of the scheme rules available on gov.uk here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-full-rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93693>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Kate Osamor (Labour) [93653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to invite external organisations to contribute to the upcoming review of the compliant environment recommended to be undertaken by the Windrush Lessons Learned Review.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [93655] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to invite non-government (a) migrant rights and (b) No Recourse to Public Funds experts to contribute to the upcoming review of the compliant environment recommended in the Wendy Williams Windrush Lessons Learned Review, published in March 2020.

Gill Furniss (Labour) [93656] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she (a) has had and (b) plans to have with organisations to contribute to the review of the compliant environment as recommended by the Windrush Lessons Learned Review.

Reply from Priti Patel: My officials are consulting external experts, community organisations and the very people the Home Office has failed in the past in an extensive programme of engagement to ensure officials understand the change that is needed and that the organisation at every level learns the lessons of what went wrong. I have accepted the Windrush Lessons Learned review's important findings and I will be updating the House in the coming weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93653>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93655>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-22/93656>

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [82644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigrants who have crossed the English Channel illegally since 1 January 2018 remain in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: Details on the number of people who have crossed the Channel in small boats between January 2018 and June 2020 was published, via a letter from the Home Secretary to the Home Affairs Select Committee, in September 2020. The information is available at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2333/documents/22962/default/>

We remain committed to removing those with no right to be in the UK, and who do not comply with our immigration laws.

The Home Office continues to work closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six-month timeframe for a return.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

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

Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables Dub_D01 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-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://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82644>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

David Amess (Conservative) [89585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether illegal immigrants who have recently crossed the English Channel are being housed in hotels in Southend West constituency.

Reply from Chris Philp: We do not provide accommodation to illegal immigrants. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free, fully furnished accommodation while applications are considered. The number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-support>

this includes the numbers of those accommodated in hotels

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89585>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Coronavirus

Neil Coyle (Labour) [94438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 September 2020 to Question 91653, what comparative assessment she has made of the barriers the UK is facing to resettlement activity due to the covid-19 pandemic with France where resettlement activity has recommenced.

Refugees

Neil Coyle (Labour) [94439] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 September 2020 to Question 91653, what discussions her Department has had with local authorities on readiness for restarting the resettlement programme.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain unable to undertake resettlement activity at this stage due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. We are continuing to evaluate how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume when safe. Our plans for restarting depend on a variety of factors, including the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of host refugee countries, local authority and central government capacity, and recovery of the asylum system from the impact of COVID-19.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and remain in regular dialogue with our international and domestic stakeholders. When the above conditions have been satisfied we will engage with our local authority partners on their readiness and appetite for restarting resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-23/94438>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-23/94439>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-17/91653>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Resettlement

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [88331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the resettlement of refugees into the UK will resume.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [88332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to continue resettlement of refugees in the long term; and if she will make a statement.

Refugees

Neil Coyle (Labour) [91653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to restart the UK Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Chris Philp: It is not currently possible to undertake resettlement activity due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are evaluating how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe and operationally viable to do so. We continue to closely monitor the situation and remain in regular dialogue with our international and domestic stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88331>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88332>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-17/91653>

Refugees: Resettlement

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [91778] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to resume refugee resettlement schemes.

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [91779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on accepting more refugees through the resettlement scheme each year.

Reply from Chris Philp: In June 2019, the Government reaffirmed the UK's commitment to refugee resettlement by announcing a new, global UK Resettlement Scheme. We had anticipated – prior to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) –

that this scheme would have begun in the second quarter of 2020. Unfortunately, we remain unable to undertake resettlement activity at this stage due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.

We are evaluating how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe. Our plans for restarting depend on a variety of factors, including the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of host refugee countries, local authority and central government capacity, and recovery of the asylum system from the impact of COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91778>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91779>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-global-resettlement-scheme-for-the-most-vulnerable-refugees-announced>

Refugees: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [91780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken to ensure that safe and legal pathways remain open from 2021 for unaccompanied children within Europe (a) with and (b) without families in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government remains fully committed to ensuring eligible individuals seeking asylum in Europe, including unaccompanied children, who have family members in the UK can continue to be transferred under the Dublin III Regulation throughout the transition period. Furthermore, the Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 include 'saving' provisions under which transfer requests under the Dublin family reunion provisions which entered the system before the end of the transition period will continue to be processed after that date.

The UK has presented a genuine and sincere offer to the EU on a future reciprocal arrangement for the family reunion of unaccompanied children seeking asylum in either the EU or the UK, with specified family members in the UK or the EU, where it is in the child's best interests. On 19 May we published draft legal text as a constructive contribution to negotiations.

Furthermore, we continue to provide safe and legal routes to bring families together through our refugee family reunion Rules, and Part 8 and Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules. These routes have not been affected by the UK's exit from the EU.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91780>

Asylum

John Hayes (Conservative) [91824] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the report on Asylum accommodation and support published by the National Audit Office in July 2020, what estimate her Department has made of the potential number of asylum applications up to April 2022.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office project a range of possible asylum applications for operational and financial planning which take into account past variance and upcoming system changes.

These are subject to high levels of uncertainty due to the complex and unpredictable drivers of migration and the emerging impacts of Covid on migration patterns.

The Department have estimated that asylum applications for the period from April 2020 to March 2021 could total between 26000 and 30000, and from April 2021 to March 2022 could total between 30000 and 38000, though actual numbers of applications could fall outside these ranges.

The Home Office are taking steps to reform the asylum system by developing an asylum transformation programme that seeks to simplify, streamline and digitise processes as part of the plans to speed up asylum decision making.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91824>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Asylum-accommodation-and-support.pdf>

Asylum

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [91769] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to increase the asylum support rates, beyond the increase made in June 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The standard allowance given to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute was raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week with effect from 15 June, an increase of around 5%. This increase was significantly higher than the general rate of inflation, which Office for National Statistics data shows was only 0.5% in the 12 months period to May. Further work is being done, as it is every year, to ensure the rate is enough to meet the essential living needs of asylum seekers (the legal test) and we will announce the outcome in due course. The taxpayer also provides free accommodation, with utilities and council tax paid for and there is free access to the NHS and free access to education for their children.

The UK has a generous record in supporting asylum seekers. Last year, we made around 20,000 grants of asylum or protection (one of the higher figures in Europe), as well as offered protection to 3,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – the highest number of any country in Europe. In addition, we have directly resettled around 20,000 people from the most dangerous areas of the world (especially Syrians) in the UK over the last 5 years. Finally, we spend around £14 billion per year in Overseas Aid, helping millions of people around the world. This is the highest amount of any country in Europe and we are the only G7 country to meet the 0.7% of GNI Overseas Aid target.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91769>

Asylum

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [92768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether asylum applicants are required to claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

Reply from Chris Philp: We believe that those who reach safe countries should stay and claim asylum without delay, rather than make further, unnecessary and often dangerous journeys in order to claim asylum in a country of their own choosing. Illegal migration from safe countries undermines our efforts to help those most in need - controlled resettlement direct from conflict zones via safe and legal routes is the best way to protect such people and disrupt the organised crime groups that exploit migrants and refugees.

To support these principles, the UK, the EU and other countries in the world employ legal procedures to return people to the safe countries through which they have passed. In the case of the UK, the majority of such returns presently take place under the Dublin Regulation, but from 1 January, such returns will take place according to our domestic rules.

Where the UK considers the claim of someone who has failed to take advantage of a reasonable opportunity to make an asylum claim or human rights claim while in a safe country, the law requires that behaviour to be taken into account as damaging to the claimant's credibility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92768>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to complete and publish the full report of its evaluation of asylum accommodation and support services relating to Glasgow during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are committed to improving accommodation and support services experienced by asylum seekers, as evidenced by the evaluation of the provisions in Glasgow during the pandemic and our commitment to act on the findings. The evaluation is on-going, and publication will be considered once the evaluation has been concluded.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89738>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Hilary Benn (Labour) [92701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure people seeking asylum are protected from covid-19 in the even that they are evicted from accommodation provided by her Department.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are committed to preventing the further spread of Covid-19. Cessations are taking place in a phased way and we will keep them under review to ensure that this does not place people at greater risk.

We will work closely with accommodation providers to make sure people are moved on safely and in line with public health guidance. We will consider local lockdowns and other factors as part of this process.

People who are awaiting a Covid test result should not be asked to leave their current dwelling until they receive a negative test result and are symptom free and that those self-isolating due to a positive test result should adhere to the full 14-day self-isolation period for close contacts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92701>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Slavery

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [91796] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of the victims of (a) human trafficking or (b) modern slavery who were granted asylum or humanitarian protection in each of (i) 2016, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2018 and (iv) 2019 were granted asylum or humanitarian protection on the grounds of circumstances unconnected to human trafficking or modern slavery.

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [91797] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of foreign national victims of human trafficking and modern slavery (a) applied for and (b) were granted (i) asylum (ii) humanitarian protection or (iii) Discretionary Leave to Remain in each year from 2016 to 2019 inclusive were EU nationals.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not publish data on how many and what proportion of the victims of human trafficking or modern slavery, and those who are foreign national victims, who were granted asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave for the years 2016 to 2019, as this information is not held in a reportable format. This also includes those who are EU nationals and/or on the grounds of circumstances unconnected to human trafficking or modern slavery. However, The Home Office can state how many people were granted asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave, and can be found at Asy_02a of the published Immigration Statistics:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/list-of-tables>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91796>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91797>

Asylum: Poverty

Steve Baker (Conservative) [92762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the extent of destitution among asylum seekers; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: All asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can apply for accommodation and other support to meet their essential living needs. Individuals are notified of the availability of this support at the point they make their asylum claim and it can be applied for by emailing Migrant Help at:

ASCORespondence@migranthehelpuk.org

or by telephone on: 0808 8010 503.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92762>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [91770] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment the Government has made of the potential merits of direct funding to asylum dispersal local authorities in recognition of dispersal area status.

Reply from Chris Philp: Local authorities receive funding for their costs of providing support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

However, they do not receive funding for adult asylum seekers and their dependants; this is because the costs of providing these individuals with any necessary accommodation and other support to cover their essential living needs are met by the Home Office. There are no plans to change these arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-18/91770>

The following three questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89731] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on support and standard operating procedures in relation to its hotel accommodation; and whether those procedures are published.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason it is her policy to exclude financial support to asylum residents in full board hotels.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department pays its three accommodation contractors directly for meeting its definition of essential living needs in relation to hotel residents in full board asylum accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seekers who are accommodated in "dispersal" accommodation (generally flats and houses) receive £39.60 per week to cover their other essential living needs. Asylum seekers accommodated in hotels and other full-board facilities do not receive this payment because their essential living needs are provided for in kind, or a mixture of in kind support and some cash.

The detail of the support arrangements for those supported in full-board accommodation are set out in the contracts with the accommodation providers; specifically the "Statement of Requirements", which can be found at:

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC -
Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC-_Schedule_2_-_Statement_of_Requirements)

The accommodation providers receive payments for providing services consistent with those requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89731>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89740>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89741>

Asylum: Hotels

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89739] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the safety of asylum seekers in hotel accommodation across the UK in response to recent Far-Right activities and harassment at those hotels.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are working closely with our providers to review security arrangements within all of the hotels currently being used to accommodate asylum seekers. Our accommodation providers liaise closely with local Police colleagues and asylum seekers are briefed as to risks and encouraged to report Hate Crimes accordingly.

We are also working with Home Office and local authority colleagues to develop strategic responses to any further harassment of asylum seekers accommodated in hotels nationally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89739>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Evictions and Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89743] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to implement asylum support cessations and evictions of people in asylum accommodation who have been refused asylum.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [89746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish any public health guidance or advice that informed her decision of 11 August 2020 to restart asylum support cessations and evictions.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are resuming negative asylum support cessations in England, and soon after in the rest of the United Kingdom following discussion with officials in the Devolved Administrations. Those without an ongoing right to be in the UK should be taking steps to leave the country. All cases that receive a negative cessation will have an available route of return and we offer support through a Voluntary Returns Scheme that will pay for travel and provide a cash amount, and this can and should be utilised whenever possible.

The general advice received was that people who are awaiting a Covid test result should not be asked to leave their current dwelling until they receive a negative test result and are symptom free and that those self-isolating due to a positive test result should adhere to the full 14-day self-isolation period for close contacts.

These factors, applied to an individual case, might mean that a failed asylum seeker continues to be eligible to receive support because they are unable to leave the UK or take the necessary practical steps to enable them to leave (for example by attending an interview for the purposes of obtaining a necessary travel document).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89743>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89746>

Asylum: Evictions and Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [92790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the decision to resume cessations of support and evictions of unsuccessful asylum seekers, what (a) public health and (b) other criteria will be used to inform decisions on whether to evict and cease support for individual unsuccessful asylum claimants.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has started cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within the asylum system. This means moving people out of Home Office accommodation and ending subsistence payments from the Home Office. For those whose asylum claims have been rejected and appeal rights exhausted, they will be expected to leave the country, assistance is available to those who opt to leave voluntarily. The Voluntary Returns Scheme will pay for travel and provide a cash amount, and this can and should be utilised whenever possible. People who are awaiting a Covid test result should not be asked to leave their current dwelling until they receive a negative test result and are symptom free and that those self-isolating due to a positive test result should adhere to the full 14-day self-isolation period for close contacts.

These factors, applied to an individual case, might mean that a failed asylum seeker continues to be eligible to receive support because they are unable to leave the UK or take the necessary practical steps to enable them to leave (for example by attending an interview for the purposes of obtaining a necessary travel document).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92790>

Asylum: Evictions and Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [92789] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she had with local authorities in asylum dispersal areas prior to the decision to resume cessations of support and evictions of unsuccessful asylum seekers; and in which dispersal areas the first cessations of support will take place.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are resuming negative asylum support cessations in England, and soon after in the rest of the United Kingdom following discussion with officials in the Devolved Administrations.

Local authorities have been consulted about cessations and we continue to work closely with councils to plan for these changes. Data has been shared with authorities as part of move-on planning and communication channels are open throughout the move-on period.

We remain committed to working closely with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as possible, however it is only right that recently granted refugees move into local authority care to assist with their integration. It is also right that those no longer entitled to asylum support leave the United Kingdom.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92789>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Evictions and Finance

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [92787] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the (a) evidence, (b) reasons and (c) analysis for the decision to resume cessations of support and evictions of unsuccessful asylum seekers.

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [92788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she had discussions with (a) Public Health England, (b) Public Health Scotland, (c) Public Health Wales and (d) local public health officials, prior to the decision to resume cessations of support and evictions of unsuccessful asylum seekers.

Reply from Chris Philp: Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Home Office paused ending support for people who had been granted asylum, or whose claim had been refused. This was to ensure that people were not made homeless and able to follow social distancing.

We said from the outset that this was a temporary measure which would be brought to an end as soon as it was safe to do so.

The Home Office has started cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within

the asylum system. This means moving people out of Home Office accommodation and ending subsistence payments from the Home Office.

We have been working closely with National and Local health Colleagues throughout the pandemic to inform our approach and will continue to do so.

We remain committed to working closely with the accommodation providers and communicating with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as possible and ensure that health guidance is being followed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92787>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-21/92788>

Asylum: Homelessness

Olivia Blake (Labour) [906736] What steps [is the Minister's] Department is taking to protect people seeking asylum from homelessness.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to house asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, and we have met that obligation during the national crisis.

During lockdown we procured additional accommodation to ensure asylum seekers avoid homelessness despite increases in the asylum population following our decision to allow people who would ordinarily leave the asylum estate to remain.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-28/906736>

Asylum: Employment

Neil Coyle (Labour) [90143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the time taken for decisions to be made on asylum seekers applications before being eligible to find employment.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has not made an estimate of this cost. Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

It is important to distinguish between those who need protection and those seeking to work here, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider policy could be undermined if migrants bypassed work visa Rules by lodging unfounded asylum claims here.

As part of the plans to speed up Asylum decision making, over the last 18 months, UK Visas and Immigration have increased the number of Asylum decision makers and support staff as part of a rolling recruitment campaign and mobilised a transformation programme that seeks to simplify, streamline and digitise processes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-15/90143>

Human Trafficking

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [86742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who had been identified as trafficked used her Department's Voluntary Returns Service during (a) 2017, (b) 2018 and (c) 2019; and which were the top five countries they returned to.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes statistics on all types of removals from the UK which includes voluntary departures. The latest statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020>

Table Ret_D01 shows returns from the UK by type. The Home Office holds data on

those identified as having been trafficked into the UK, but not in a format which can easily be reported. To provide the data requested would require examination of individual case files which could only be done at prohibitive cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86742>

Human Trafficking

Karen Bradley (Conservative) [88311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) identified potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and (b) persons prosecuted for human trafficking or modern slavery offences were stopped from entering the UK having tried to enter with forged, illegal or fraudulent documents or were otherwise undocumented in each calendar year from 2016 to 2019 inclusive.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The specific information requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is because a manual search through individual records would be required to identify individuals who have been refused entry to the UK from 2016 to 2019 as well as searching such records to identify victims of modern slavery who were identified and referred to the National Referral Mechanism

Tackling human trafficking and modern slavery, both in the UK and overseas, is a priority for the government. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery and provides protection for victims. The Modern Slavery Act also includes powers which enable law enforcement officers, including Border Force, to pursue modern slavery perpetrators at sea.

Border Force has a duty of care to all crossing the border and adults with vulnerability for any reason will be dealt with respect and care.

The Home Office publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. These reports detail the number of referrals submitted into the NRM by Border Force, however they are not broken down by port. These reports can be located via the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20170404150655/http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

[https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications?search=&category%5B%5D=3&=%2Fwho-we-are%2Fpublications%3Flimit%3D15%26sort%3Dtitle%26direction%3Dasc&limit=100&tag=](https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications?search=&category%5B%5D=3&=%2Fwho-we-are%2Fpublications%3Flimit%3D15%26sort%3Dtitle%26direction%3Dasc&limit=100&>tag=)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/88311>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum System

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reform the asylum system.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Home Office is working to improve asylum decision-making processes. The work will simplify, streamline and digitise processes, ensuring that asylum claimants are treated quickly and fairly and that claims which do not qualify are rapidly identified and prepared for return.

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate: I thank my noble friend for that reply; clearly, she agrees that it is only fair that applications for asylum be considered as speedily as possible and that those who fail to meet our conditions are removed from the country, also as quickly

as possible. But in this context, will she confirm that the Government still adhere to the important criteria set down in the United Nations refugee convention of 1951 in determining our cases?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can certainly confirm that. Clearly, it is in everybody's interests, including somebody who is coming here to claim asylum, that we process cases quickly and expedite them through the system.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester: My Lords, the Minister will know the importance for those in need of asylum of safe and legal routes to the UK directly, rather than undertaking hazardous journeys on land and sea. The UK's vulnerable persons resettlement scheme was one such route and has been something of a success story. However, with the scheme still paused, I believe, due to Covid, what discussions have the Government had with local authorities, and perhaps with voluntary sector groups, about their capacity in the light of Covid to restart it and—dare I say it?—extend it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the right reverend Prelate, absolutely rightly, points to the work that local authorities are doing and we are most grateful to them; 80 local authorities have pledged more than 330 places to support our national transfer scheme. But he is also right to point out that in parallel with requests for more local authorities to support the NTS, we have launched a consultation on a more sustainable long-term model for the NTS.

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative): My Lords, given that my noble friend has committed to the importance of resettlement as the best means of avoiding dangerous routes and people trafficking of asylum seekers, will she commit once again to investigate the expansion, post Covid, of person-to-person interviews in refugee camps, especially in Jordan and Lebanon, as opposed to virtual interviews?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In an ideal world, we would have been doing face-to-face interviews, but for the simpler cases, if you like, virtual interviews have been more efficient. That is not right in every case, but clearly, we should make the most of our digital capabilities where it is appropriate.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, will the Minister see whether the Government will consider giving to victims of modern slavery who have passed successfully through the NRM similar rights to those of refugees?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble and learned Baroness will know that a victim of modern slavery is not necessarily a refugee or someone who needs asylum; many of them are UK nationals. What is important is that victims of modern slavery receive the right support and help to get them out of the situation in which they have become embroiled.

Lord Dubbs (Labour): My Lords, will the Minister confirm that the right to family reunion will be a basic feature of any reformed asylum system?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, outside the EU, last year we granted family reunion visas to almost 7,500 people, and have granted 29,000 since 2015, so there is a family reunion route through resettlement and we have no intention of stopping that.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, if the asylum system is not institutionally homophobic and transphobic, what explanation can the Minister offer as to why the latest Home Office figures show that, yet again, the grant rate for applicants for asylum identifying as LGBT+ was significantly lower, as a percentage, compared with those granted asylum from the general cohort?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: What I can tell the noble Lord is that, as he will know, caseworkers have gone through an awful lot of training with the help of UKLGIG and Stonewall to ensure that people who apply on the grounds of homophobia in their country of origin have their cases treated fairly. I hope that that is reflected—although the noble Lord disagrees with me—in the outcome of those cases.

Baroness Stroud (Conservative): What assessment has my noble friend made of Talent Beyond Boundaries' remote recruitment model as she looks to reform the current asylum system?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I was very pleased to meet my honourable friend Kevin Foster MP and the right reverend Prelate the Bishop of Durham last week to establish how people, whether they are fleeing a country because of persecution or conflict, can apply for jobs. Many of these people do not want to come here to claim benefits; they want to work. We have been discussing that with the right reverend Prelate, and those discussions will be ongoing.

Lord Rosser (Labour): The UK requires asylum seekers who wish to work and contribute to our economy to wait up to 12 months, pending their application being processed. The application process surely needs to be speeded up. The Government have said that over the past approximately 18 months, they have increased the number of decision-makers from about 350 to more than 630. By how much has the average time taken to consider asylum cases been shortened since the beginning of 2019, and what is now the target figure for the average time taken to determine asylum cases?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will appreciate that the past nine months have been unprecedented in terms of being able efficiently to deliver certain things, including the outcome of asylum cases. I do not have the exact figure to hand—I can get it for him—but I would imagine that that process has slowed, given the Covid-19 restrictions we have all been living under.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench): My Lords, why is the Home Secretary not willing to use the discretion she has to revert to the rates of financial support for asylum seekers which were abandoned in 2008, when support was set at 70% of income support levels for adults and 100% for children?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think the noble Baroness will know that, in discussion with the ONS and others, we have set that rate as the one we think appropriate.

Lord Randall of Uxbridge (Conservative): I declare my interest as a vice-chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation. Further to the answer given to the noble and learned Baroness, Lady Butler-Sloss, can my noble friend confirm that victims of modern slavery who are not from the UK could be treated in the same way as those who are seeking asylum?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Victims who are not from the UK will have the support and help they need to get out of the situation into which they have been forced or in which they find themselves, which is a slightly different issue from seeking asylum. In other words, you are either a victim of trafficking and slavery, in which case you need one set of support, or you are seeking asylum from a dangerous country.

Lord Dubbs: What discussions are taking place with the Government of France about the new arrangements for asylum co-operation? If the present Dublin agreement fails and we fail to reach an agreement, what will happen regarding asylum seekers settling in this country and the future prospects of settlement?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Clearly, France is geographically very close to us. We are in constant dialogue with France. We do not seek to replicate Dublin, of course, but in our reaching out to the EU with legal texts to see what happens after the transition period, we remain hopeful that those discussions will be fruitful.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-28/debates/3914C676-AD38-4CD9-80BD-8735AD33D3A5/AsylumSystem>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Undocumented Migrants

Lord Lilley (Conservative) [HL7667] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether (1) EEA citizens, and (2) citizens of countries requiring visas to visit the UK, are permitted to enter the UK at a point on the coast which does not have a port or any form of border control.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All passengers arriving in the UK at passport control are checked against Home Office databases. The majority of these are checked against our systems before they even travel, through the collection of advanced passenger information (API).

Border Force defines General Aviation (GA) and General Maritime (GM) as any arrival into the UK that is not operating to a specific and published schedule and departing at both small airports and marinas with no Border Force presence, and at major airports where Border Force officers are located. Both EU/EEA citizens (1) and visa nationals (2) may arrive at General Aviation or General Maritime ports. There is a requirement for advance passenger information to be submitted for General Aviation and General Maritime arrivals. When the relevant information is received, and there is a requirement to examine the passenger, Border Force Officers will be deployed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7667>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL7960] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of voluntary organisations in meeting the needs of asylum seekers in terms of the supply of (1) accommodation, (2) food, and (3) other essential items, where there is no eligibility or access on the part of individual asylum seekers to public funds; and how they consult such organisations to inform their understanding of (1) the nature of unmet needs, and (2) the impact on affected individuals and local services, of asylum seekers.

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL7961] To ask Her Majesty's Government when Ministers last met representatives of voluntary organisations working to meet the needs of asylum seekers to discuss the concerns such organisations have about the impact of the Government's policies on asylum seekers and the communities in which they are based; and which (1) Ministers, and (2) Departments, were involved in any such meetings.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In March the Home Office set up a dedicated engagement channel with the Voluntary and Community sector on asylum and resettlement matters related to Covid-19. The British Red Cross were nominated by the sector as the single point of contact, and they were provided with a dedicated single point of contact within the Home Office. This allowed the Home Office to better understand the impact of Covid-19 on affected individuals and local services, and to work collaboratively with the sector to keep people safe. At the request of the sector, we have returned to a business as usual approach, but are continuing to speak regularly with relevant organisations.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation and other assistance to cover their essential living needs.

The accommodation is arranged by private sector providers through contractual arrangements with the Home Office. There was extensive consultation with the voluntary sector about these arrangements before the contracts were let. Support to cover essential living needs is generally provided through a weekly cash allowance, currently set as £39.60 for each person in the household. The level of the allowance is reviewed annually, and voluntary groups are invited to submit their views.

Discussion about on-going matters generally takes place through the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum, which includes key voluntary groups such as the Refugee Council, Refugee Action and the British Red Cross.

The Home Office engages with non-government organisations (NGOs) on the needs of asylum seekers primarily through the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF). This consists of two Strategic Engagement Groups (SEG), one for asylum and one for resettlement. Underpinned by NASF Sub-Groups; including groups focused on asylum decision making, asylum support, integration and mental health. These forums provide a strategic and constructive space for discussion and consultation on asylum and resettlement matters, identifying areas where the Home Office and stakeholders can work jointly to make improvements to the asylum and resettlement systems and their underpinning policies and processes. SEG and NASF meetings are held quarterly and are jointly chaired by senior Home Office officials and their NGO counterparts.

The last Asylum SEG was held on 11 June 2020, the next being 17 September 2020. Immigration ministers have met with NGOs previously, such as Caroline Noakes, the then Immigration Minister, in July 2019.

In addition, the Home Office regularly engages with the sector through informal routes such as bilateral or small group meetings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7960>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7961>

Refugees: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL8010] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied children have been transferred since June to the care of councils since arriving in England from crossing the English Channel; to list the countries of origin of such children, including the number of children for each such country; what their policy is in regard to the long term needs and care of these children; and what plans they have to make the National Transfer Scheme compulsory.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government remains committed to helping and supporting children in need of international protection. Since 2010, the UK has received over 23,700 asylum claims from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) supports local authorities to transfer responsibility for these children to another participating local authority and seeks to achieve a fairer allocation of caring responsibilities across the country so that all children get the care and support they need.

We publish data on the number of transfers completed under the scheme each quarter as part of the Home Office Migration Transparency Data (NTS_01), which is available on GOV.UK. As at June 2020, over 1,050 children had been transferred under the scheme since it began. We do not currently publish a nationality breakdown of those children transferred under the scheme, however these children would be a subset of the UASC data published as part of the 'asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement' volume of the quarterly Immigration Statistics (Asy_D01), which is also available on GOV.UK.

UASC have often suffered deep trauma and they should receive the same level of care and support we would expect for any looked after child. In 2017, we published our Safeguarding Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children which sets out the Government's commitments to safeguard and promote their welfare.

Whilst there are statutory powers to mandate a transfer scheme, our preference is to continue to operate the NTS on a voluntary basis. We recognise a need to

achieve a more equitable distribution of UASC and have therefore worked with local government partners to develop proposals to further improve the scheme. On 28 August we launched an informal consultation with local authorities on these proposals. The consultation also seeks views on a potential mandatory approach should participation in the voluntary scheme not achieve a more proportionate distribution of UASC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/hl8010>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8087] To ask Her Majesty's Government, what plans they have to make new arrangements for the welfare of asylum seekers following the UK's departure from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Adult asylum seekers and their children who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the Home Office under arrangements set out in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children are supported under arrangements provided for in the Children Act 1989, or equivalent legislation in the devolved administrations. As the support arrangements are provided for in domestic legislation there is no need to make changes to them as a result of our departure from the EU.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/hl8087>

Children: Asylum

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL7958] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of (1) homeless, and (2) unaccompanied child, asylum seekers (a) in total, and (b) in each local authority area.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: (1) Homeless

The Government publishes quarterly statistics on statutory homelessness, and the latest published statistics covering January – March 2020 are available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910414/DetailedLA_202003.xlsx

The number of households that have been initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness can be found in Table A1 in the link below. Tables A5P and A5R show the household composition of those owed a homelessness duty.

(2) Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

The number of looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) are published annually in the statistical release 'Children looked after in England including adoptions'. The latest data refers to the year ending 31 March 2019 and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2018-to-2019>

Figures by local authority are available in table LAA4.

UASC are not distributed evenly around the country. The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) was established in July 2016 to achieve a more equitable distribution of UASC. We have worked with local government partners to develop proposals to further improve the NTS. On 28 August we launched an informal consultation with local authorities on these proposals.

[Stats release - "Children looked after: Eng adopt](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7958>

Children: Asylum

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL7959] To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional

funding is available to local authorities to meet the needs of (1) homeless, and (2) unaccompanied child, asylum seekers; and what plans they have to address the impact of disproportionate patterns of settlement on specific local authority areas.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: (1) Homeless

We provided £4.3 billion to help councils to manage the impacts of COVID-19 which includes their work to support homeless people, including £3.7 billion which is not ringfenced, and £600 million to support social care and a further £3.2 million in emergency funding for local authorities to support vulnerable rough sleepers.

On 18 July, we launched the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP). This makes available the financial resources needed to support local authorities and their partners to prevent people from returning to the streets. The NSAP is made up of two sources of funding: £161 million to deliver 3,300 units of longer-term move-on accommodation in 2020/2021; and £105 million of additional funding to pay for immediate support to ensure that people do not return to the streets.

£23 million will be provided so that vulnerable individuals experiencing rough sleeping, including those currently in emergency accommodation as a response to COVID-19, can access the specialist help they need for substance dependency issues, in order to rebuild their lives and move towards work and education. This funding is part of the £262 million funding announced at Spring Budget 2020.

274 local councils will share £91.5 million of government funding to ensure interim accommodation and support for the most vulnerable people, including by helping people into the private rented sector, secure interim accommodation such as supported housing, and assess the wider support these people need in order to rebuild their lives. An additional £13.5 million fund will be used to enable local authorities to tackle new or emerging challenges.

(2) Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

In addition to the money paid to local authorities through the local government finance settlement the Home Office provides additional funding contributions to the costs incurred by local authorities looking after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and former UASC care leavers. Increases to these contributions for 2020-21 were announced on 8 June.

For each former UASC care leaver supported, local authorities now receive £240 per person per week. This represented a 60% increase to the lowest rate that was previously paid.

Local authorities supporting UASC totalling 0.07% or greater of their general child population receive £143 per person per night for each UASC. All other local authorities receive £114 per person per night for each UASC in their care.

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) was established in July 2016 to achieve a more balanced distribution of UASC. The scheme was initially successful, achieving nearly 900 voluntary transfers of UASC from entry local authorities between July 2016 and December 2018.

More recently the NTS has not been working as intended and there is a need to achieve a more equitable distribution of UASC. We have therefore worked with local government partners to develop proposals to further improve the NTS. On 28 August we launched an informal consultation with local authorities on these proposals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7959>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) (922) Relocation of asylum seekers and refugees from the Aegean Islands – That this House recognises the deteriorating conditions faced by

asylum seekers and refugees on the Aegean Islands and notes the recent fire at the Moria camp in Lesbos which has left 13,000 people without shelter; welcomes the fact that Germany, France and Norway have agreed to take some of those vulnerable people; and calls on the UK government to participate in relocating asylum seekers and refugees from the Aegean Islands to local authorities in the UK and to provide the necessary support to enable that relocation.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57475/relocation-of-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-from-aegean-islands>

Press Releases

Migration Advisory Committee reviews shortage occupation lists

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-reviews-shortage-occupation-lists>

New Pact on Migration and Asylum, setting out a fairer, more European approach

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news20200923/new-pact-migration-asylum-setting-out-fairer-more-european-approach_en

New Publications

Review of the Shortage Occupation List: 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/922019/SOL_2020_Report_Final.pdf

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: September 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921818/Windrush_Compensation_Scheme_August_2020..ods

Posters and booklets promoting the Windrush Help Team service in English, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu and Welsh

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-help-team-posters>

Guidance for Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs), Residential Short-Term Holding Facilities (RSTHFs) and escorts during the COVID-19 pandemic

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921491/detention-and-escorting-services-guidance-during-covid-19_v3.0.pdf

News

Migrants: More people arrive in September than all of 2019

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-54266961>

'Pointless and dangerous': Asylum seekers forced to travel miles to sign on again with Home Office

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-asylum-seekers-home-office-modern-slavery-trafficking-b534172.html>

MPs call for asylum seeker deaths investigation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mps-call-for-asylum-seeker-deaths-investigation-f2gjpz8qr>

More migrants have crossed Channel and arrived in UK this month than in all of last year
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/23/migrants-have-crossed-channel-arrived-britain-month-whole-last/>

Migrant Channel crossings could hit another record as '27 boats counted in'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/22/migrant-channel-crossings-could-hit-another-record-27-boats/>

Migrants rush to cross Channel by boat before weather changes
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-rush-to-cross-channel-by-boat-before-weather-changes-f2hgb2573>

Border Force jet skis set to patrol Channel
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/border-force-jet-skis-set-to-patrol-channel-7nbs975bj>

France rebuffs UK's drone offer to stop Channel migrants leaving beaches in first place
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/22/france-rebuffs-uks-drone-offer-stop-channel-migrants-leaving/>

Migrants who crossed Channel could be sent to controversial detention centre
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/24/migrants-who-crossed-channel-could-be-sent-to-detention-centre>

First arrivals at Kent Army barracks converted into migrant camp
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/22/first-arrivals-kent-army-barracks-converted-migrant-camp/>

From diplomat to dinghy: why people are risking the Channel in small boats
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/24/from-diplomat-to-dinghy-why-people-are-risking-the-channel-in-small-boats>

Risking the Channel 'death route' to Britain – a photo essay
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/sep/23/risking-the-channel-death-route-to-britain-a-photo-essay>

'We should be ashamed': Lord Dubs berates UK ministers over Lesbos refugees
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/22/we-should-be-ashamed-lord-dubs-berates-uk-ministers-over-camp-fire-refugees>

Penally: Protest over asylum seekers' camp
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54307210>

'Far-right' protesters clash with police as migrants arrive at Wales camp
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-protesters-clash-with-police-as-migrants-arrive-at-wales-detention-camp-sn7lhjwb6>

Home Office under fire as Welsh migrant camp becomes a target for 'extremist groups'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/24/home-office-blamed-lack-consultation-welsh-migrant-camp-becomes/>

Lone children who seek asylum double in a year
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lone-children-who-seek-asylum-double-in-a-year-87mwkz0cj>

'Wild' plan to privatise asylum seeker process criticised by SNP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/wild-plan-privatise-asylum-seeker-process-criticised-snp-2985574>

People seeking refuge in UK face 'serious risk' of injustice as Home Office plans more asylum outsourcing despite warnings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-asylum-seekers-uk-interviews-outsourcing-b550247.html>

UK should follow Scotland's approach to child refugees

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18745734.uk-follow-scotlands-approach-child-refugees---agenda/>

Foreigners don't take our jobs — they create them and boost the Treasury

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/foreigners-don-t-take-jobs-they-create-them-and-boost-the-treasury-m8fmx6z3w>

TOP

Community Relations

New Publication

Roma and Travellers in Six Countries

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-roma-travellers-six-countries_en.pdf

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Debate

Minority Ethnic People and Communities

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12835&i=116043#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Race Equality, Employment and Skills Inquiry: evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12850&i=116169#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Maternal Mortality: Ethnic Groups

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [90226] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the Government is taking to end the increased risk of maternal death for Black women.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: Work to reduce health inequalities around maternal

mortality rates is being led by Professor Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent OBE, Chief Midwifery Officer. This includes understanding why mortality rates are higher, considering evidence about what will reduce mortality rates and taking action. The NHS Long Term Plan outlines plans to reduce health inequalities and address unwarranted variation in maternity care. Targeted and enhanced continuity of carer can significantly improve outcomes for women. The Long Term Plan sets out that 75% of black women will receive continuity of carer from midwives by 2024. NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to Local Maternity Systems on 22 June 2020 to ask them to take four specific actions to minimise COVID-19 risk for minority ethnic women and their babies: increase support for at-risk pregnant women; reach out and reassure pregnant black, Asian and minority ethnic women with tailored communications; minimise the risk of Vitamin D insufficiency; and ensure correct ethnicity and postcode data are collected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-15/90226>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Suicide: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL8017] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there is any disparity in the rate of suicide between different (1) ethnic groups, and (2) genders within those groups, in England; and what plans they have to address any such disparity in the implementation of the suicide prevention strategy for England.

Reply from Lord Bethell: We do not currently have official data on suicide rates broken down by ethnicity. We are exploring ways to improve the quality and timeliness of suicide and self-harm data, including for ethnic groups, to allow national and local partners to monitor rates, identify trends and develop effective prevention plans.

Preventing suicide in England: Fourth progress report of the cross government outcomes strategy to save lives, published in 2019, recognises that there are certain groups, including the black, Asian and minority ethnic community, with specific needs and characteristics that may expose them to more risk factors for suicide. We expect local agencies to work together to ensure that their plans are tailored to meet the needs of these groups.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/hl8017>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/772184/national-suicide-prevention-strategy-4th-progress-report.pdf

BBC: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8210] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the BBC about increasing the number of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic leaders within that organisation.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The government is clear that the BBC should be leading the way on both on and off-screen diversity, and the BBC Charter specifically requires the BBC to ensure its organisation and management reflects the diversity of the UK.

The government looks forward to the BBC's new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which will be published later this year, and to see how the BBC will work to better serve all diverse audiences across the UK nations and regions in future.

However, the BBC is independent of the government and responsible for decisions on its editorial and operational matters, including those on recruitment and staffing.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Two weeks ago, I promised that I would return to the chamber to outline changes that I look to make to the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. Those changes are in response to the very genuine concerns that I have heard from a number of stakeholders and members over the past few months. ...

We cannot let down victims of hate crime. We must take forward our plans to legislate in order that we ensure that our hate crime legislation is fit for the 21st century and, most important, that it affords sufficient protection to those who need it.

I highlighted in Parliament two weeks ago how hate crime remains a significant issue that we must tackle. More than 5,600 hate crimes were reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service last year, but they are only the tip of the iceberg, because we know that much hate crime is not reported at all. We cannot afford to be complacent. Effective hate crime legislation makes it clear to victims, perpetrators, communities and wider society that offences that are motivated by prejudice will be treated seriously.

I have listened to the voices that have expressed concerns about the bill ...

The operation of the new stirring up hatred offences has raised concerns that the offences can be committed where behaviour is “likely” to stir up hatred, whether or not the accused intended to stir up hatred. Stirring up hatred offences are not new and have, in relation to race, existed across the countries of the United Kingdom for decades. The bill introduces new offences of stirring up hatred that cover the characteristics of age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity and variations in sex characteristics. ...

Behaviour that stirs up hatred is corrosive. It can incite people to commit offences against individuals in the targeted group, and it can contribute to an atmosphere in which prejudice and discrimination are accepted as normal. It can leave entire communities feeling isolated, scared and vulnerable to attack. In the most serious cases, it can directly encourage activity that threatens or endangers life. ...

People are concerned that the offence could be committed by people who are expressing controversial views but have no intention of stirring up hatred against any group.

The bill contains some protections against that, and the offences themselves set a significant threshold for criminal sanctions. Behaviour must be threatening or abusive and must be likely to stir up hatred, and not merely dislike, disapproval or disrespect. There is also a defence that the accused’s behaviour was, in the particular circumstances, reasonable.

However, having heard the views that have been expressed in Parliament and by a range of key stakeholders, I recognise that even with the protections that I have just outlined, there is a real risk that if the offences do not require intent to stir up hatred, there could be uncertainty and a perception that operation of that aspect of the offences might be used to prosecute entirely legitimate acts of expression, which might lead to an element of self-censorship.

That is not the aim of the legislation. The bill does not seek to stifle robust debate, public discourse or artistic freedoms. ...

I can advise that the Scottish Government will lodge stage 2 amendments to the bill to make the new offences of stirring up hatred based on intent only. I hope that that fundamental change will provide the necessary reassurance that the new offences of stirring up hatred strike an appropriate balance between respecting freedom of expression and protecting people who are affected by those who set out to stir up hatred.

In making the change, I will maintain the distinct approach of the bill to the stirring up racial hatred offences, which will continue to apply as they do at the moment, and as they have done for the past 34 years. Stirring up racial hatred offences in the form that they take in the bill have existed across the United Kingdom, including in England and Wales, for decades. I see no reason to fundamentally adjust a long-standing approach and protection that has worked well in practice. I would be concerned about community cohesion were there to be any weakening of the existing protections in respect of race. ...

I know that hate crime is an emotive subject; I know all too well that it is a deeply personal one, too. I want to give this criminal law legislation the best chance of affording protection to those who need it. ...

Liam Kerr (Conservative): ... The amendments that the Cabinet Secretary for Justice proposes do not begin to go far enough and respondents will note that the cabinet secretary has not admitted that the first draft of the bill is a threat to free speech. He makes no mention of the threshold for criminality, with regard to “threatening or abusive” behaviour or communication, which represents a significant difference to the legislation south of the border. There is still no protection in the bill for anything that is said in the privacy of one’s own home and the bill’s vague clauses on “inflammatory material” are not mentioned. ...

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Dealing effectively with the new stirring-up offences by changing them to intent-only offences will mitigate and ameliorate the vast majority of concerns that a number of stakeholders have expressed. ...

... simply scrapping the stirring-up offences is not an option, because those offences are corrosive to society. ... we should not shy away from that vital protection. ...

Patrick Harvie (Green): ... Why has the cabinet secretary not chosen to take a similar approach to that taken in the Public Order Act 1986 in relation to stirring up racial hatred, where intent or likelihood are both covered? Where intent is not proved, it is a defence that the accused was not aware that their behaviour might be threatening or abusive. Surely, if we do not take that approach, we will risk a situation in which very extreme actions that clearly stir up hatred will be legitimised on the basis that an accused can merely argue that their intention was something else.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... I tested that proposition with the Faculty of Advocates, the Law Society of Scotland and some lawyers and solicitors that I know. They provided me with a significant degree of reassurance that it is not simply a case of the accused saying that they did not intend to do something and that therefore a judge, jury or sheriff would accept that as the word of the accused. The judge, jury or sheriff would look at all the contextual factors surrounding an incident and determine whether there was an intent to stir up hatred or not. It is not simply the case that an accused could say, “I did not intend to do that.” ...

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): ... the proposed stirring-up offence in the bill has led to serious widespread and legitimate concerns about the consequences for freedom of expression, and the “intent to” safeguard is a welcome step in the right direction. However, Lord Bracadale said: “almost every case which could be prosecuted as a stirring up offence could also be prosecuted using a baseline offence and an aggravation”

Can the cabinet secretary offer examples of behaviour that would be caught by a stirring-up offence but would not be caught by the bill’s aggravation provisions?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... The reason why a stirring-up offence is needed is

because it does not require an individual to be on the receiving end of it; it could be an entire community, such as the Muslim community, the gay community or people who have disabilities, that is affected by a stirring-up offence, whereas the statute of aggravators in part 1 of the bill ... generally involve offences that are attached to an individual. ...

Alex Rowley (Labour): ... the Faculty of Advocates has suggested that some of the definitions in the bill—for example, those that concern perceived religious affiliation—are too broad and too vague. To avoid a repeat of the problems of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, is the cabinet secretary considering amendments that would tighten the definitions in the bill?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... In short, my answer is yes ...

Donald Cameron (Conservative): ... the references to freedom of expression in sections 11 and 12 are controversial, because they relate only to two protected characteristics: sexual orientation and religion. Why is that? ...

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... the point that he made about the specific nature of the freedom of expression provisions was made to me by the Equality Network, the Faculty of Advocates, the Roman Catholic Church and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, and my answer was that I absolutely will look again at the provisions. ...

John Mason (SNP): ... Can the cabinet secretary reassure us that the bar will not be raised too high, such that it will become too difficult to get a conviction? Can he also reassure us that there will not be confusion if race is treated differently from other protected characteristics?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... I had exactly the same concern about a move to intent only; I did not want an offence that, frankly, could not be prosecuted or that would be extremely difficult to prosecute. ...

The assurances that I got from the Faculty of Advocates and the Law Society of Scotland, in particular, were extremely helpful in that regard. ...

To read the full transcript see

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12839&i=116077#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Anglophobia

S5W-31727 Miles Briggs (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of so-called Anglophobia, or anti-English abuse, have been reported to the police in each year since 2007.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government does not hold the information requested. Whilst we have previously published figures on racist incidents or racially aggravated hate crime up to 2017-18, this does not include information on the social group the perpetrator was perceived to be showing malice or ill-will towards.

We made clear during the Showing Solidarity with Anti-Racism debate in parliament on 10 June 2020 that data on police recorded hate crime in Scotland needs to show a greater level of disaggregation. This is being taken forward in two ways. The first is a study by Scottish Government statisticians into the characteristics of police recorded hate crime in 2018-19, based on a review of crime records. The findings will present information on the social groups that perpetrators were perceived to have shown prejudice towards, including an estimate of how many cases were anti-English in nature. This project had been postponed due to COVID-19 as data could not be collected when working from home, however it has now resumed and

analysts will announce a publication date in the near future.

As a second action, we are also setting up a cross justice system working group to improve the collection and reporting of evidence on race, whose remit will include identifying how more detailed hate crime statistics can be produced on an ongoing basis. Justice partners and stakeholder groups have been invited to join, with further announcements on the group to follow in due course.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31727>

The debate referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12685&i=114774#ScotParlOR>

Anglophobia

S5W-31728 Miles Briggs (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to address so-called Anglophobia, or anti-English abuse.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: This government takes any form of hate crime or prejudice, including anti-English abuse, very seriously. It has a hugely damaging effect on both victims and communities so it's important that everybody plays their part to challenge it at all times.

We published our Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities Action Plan in June 2017 and I chair an Action Group to take this work forward. Among other things, this group has prioritised raising awareness of hate crime and encouraging reporting through, for example, campaign activity.

We encourage anyone who has experienced or witnessed hate crime to report it to Police Scotland or by using a third party reporting centre, details of which can be found on Police Scotland's website.

We are committed to working across government in order to build a fairer Scotland where there is simply no place for hatred and prejudice and where everyone feels connected, has a sense of belonging and feels valued.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31728>

The action plan referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yy4b7xht>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Online Hate Speech and Extremism

Mick Whitley (Labour): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on tackling online hate speech and extremism. [906705]

Julie Elliott (Labour): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on tackling online hate speech and extremism. [906722]

Kate Osborne (Labour): What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on tackling online hate speech and extremism. [906742]

Reply from the Minister for Security (James Brokenshire): As a Government, we are committed to vigorously countering extremist ideology by making sure that every part of government is taking action. That includes ongoing conversations between the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Home Office on the implementation of the online harms framework to tackle hateful content. We will continue to work across government to challenge extremism in all its forms.

Mick Whitley: At a Home Affairs Committee session last week, the national lead for counter-terrorism, Neil Basu, warned of growing numbers of young people being drawn

towards right-wing terrorism. During this pandemic, social media have done much to amplify hateful extremism. What steps will the Minister take to prevent young people from being drawn into extremism?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The hon. Gentleman highlights an important point about the exploitation of the online world to attract the unwary and what that can lead to, which is why we are working with the companies concerned to see that content is removed. I highlight the online harms work, which will lead to a new regime to put new responsibilities on those companies to provide support in respect of the challenge of extremism and content that might not be illegal but profoundly is harmful.

Julie Elliott: A recent Home Affairs Committee session heard that Facebook had deleted 9.6 million posts about hate speech in the first quarter of this year. The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Sub-Committee on which I serve has considered online disinformation during covid. What assessment has the Minister made of the links between hate speech and disinformation? Is there discussion between his Department and the DCMS?

Reply from James Brokenshire: As I indicated in response to the previous question, we are in discussion with the DCMS about these issues. It troubles me that sometimes this disinformation and these conspiracy theories can be used to galvanise more extremist behaviour. We are very alive to that in terms of working with our colleagues at the DCMS and in terms of our broader work in the Prevent space where this issue can move into terrorism. The issue of the extreme right-wing and far-right extremists seeking to exploit the online world and trap some quite young people is something we are very focused on and conscious of.

Kate Osborne: For two weeks running, we have seen anti-lockdown conspiracy theorists clashing with police throughout the country, with four people having been arrested in Newcastle over the weekend. This behaviour is being fuelled online by far-right opportunists and some high-profile individuals, such as Ian Brown of the Stone Roses. Will the Minister outline what his Department is doing to build trust in Government information and in respect of scepticism and concern about vaccination?

Reply from James Brokenshire: I highlight to the hon. Lady the work that is being led by the DCMS, with which we are working on the cross-Whitehall counter-disinformation unit, which has been stood up during this time of acute disinformation to challenge some of the conspiracy theories and false information. I assure her that there is extensive work across government to analyse and then work with the companies to take false or misleading information down. Clearly, it is an ongoing challenge, but we are determined to take firm action where false narratives are being perpetrated.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour): The scale and accessibility of hateful extremist content online is deeply worrying and causing serious damage to society, and it needs to be identified speedily and dealt with. Last week, in her evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, the commissioner for countering extremism called for a more rigorous classification system for assessing hateful extremist material in the online harms Bill to get to grips with the vast spread of extremism online. Does the Minister support this call, and does he agree with the commission's report last year that the Government's counter-extremism strategy, drawn up in 2015, is insufficient, too broad and out of date?

Reply from James Brokenshire: The 2015 strategy was the first of its kind in the world in having a unit dedicated to countering extremism. I pay tribute to the work of the commissioner, and I read very carefully her words to the Select Committee last week. We will work with the commissioner—indeed, the Home Secretary met her last week—and we are working with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Ofcom to consider the appropriate design for the regulatory framework. We will continue to develop this as we prepare to introduce the legislation, and we will consider the commissioner's proposals as part of that work.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-28/debates/27404EC0-8F80-4CAB-B9A7-0B612AA59FAB/OnlineHateSpeechAndExtremism>

The transcript of the Home Affairs Committee meeting with Neil Basu and the commissioner for countering extremism, referred to above, can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/901/html/>

The transcript of the Home Affairs Committee meeting relating hate speech on facebook, referred to above, can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/359/default/>

(see Q544)

The strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470088/51859_Cm9148_Accessible.pdf

Protected Characteristics: Caste

Bob Blackman (Conservative): With reference to the written statement of 23 July 2018, HCWS898, when she plans to bring forward proposals to remove caste as a protected characteristic from the Equality Act 2010. [906544]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): I would like to make it clear that caste is not a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010. Case law has shown that a claim of caste discrimination may already qualify for protection under the race provisions in the Act. We therefore intend to repeal the uncommenced duty in the Act to make caste an explicit aspect of race discrimination as soon as practicable.

Bob Blackman: ... The fact is that we have had a large-scale consultation of the community. We have had a written ministerial statement making it clear that we are going to remove this protected characteristic from the Equality Act. So I urge her to bring forward, without delay, proposals to remove this unnecessary, ill-thought-out and divisive move in the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I thank my hon. Friend for that question. We do agree with him. The Government completely oppose any discrimination because of a person's origins, including any perception of their caste, and we do remain committed to repealing the duty as soon as the opportunity arises.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-23/debates/0EAFD757-72BC-43F9-936C-B9EDD22F9DC0/ProtectedCharacteristicsCaste>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2018-07-23/hcws898>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Hatred: Internet

Jonathan Gullis (Conservative): To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle (a) anti-semitism and (b) islamophobia online.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: The Government is absolutely clear that there is no place for hateful content online. In April 2019 the Government published the Online Harms White Paper setting out our plans for world-leading legislation to make the UK the safest place to be online. In February 2020 the Initial Government Response to the consultation was published indicating the direction of travel for the legislation. The Full Government Response detailing proposals for the legislation will be published later this year.

Government recognises that incidents of online hate crime are becoming more prevalent and we are taking action to tackle the issue. We allocated £200,000 for a new national police hub to tackle the emerging threat of online hate crimes which went live in January 2018. We have been supporting initiatives specific to tackling islamophobia and anti-semitism. We have committed £100,000 for the Antisemitism Policy Trust to support their work to tackle online antisemitism, and acknowledge this as a growing area of concern. We have also supported Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8m between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred (including online).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89876>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/online-harms-white-paper>

The initial Government response referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper/public-feedback/online-harms-white-paper-initial-consultation-response>

Hate Crime: Females

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [81895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle misogyny and racism experienced by Muslim women.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: This government recognises the discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted.

The Government has taken steps to combat anti-Muslim Hatred through supporting Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8m between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

In addition, the Places of Worship protective security funding scheme, which provides security measures for mosques and other places of worship, has been allocated £3.2m for 2020-21, double what was awarded last year.

We also funded a national public awareness hate crime campaign in 2018 and 2019 which includes a specific example of anti-Muslim hatred to make clear the Government's position that such incidents are unacceptable and are a crime.

The Home Office have also funded specific locally targeted projects including through the Building Stronger Britain Together programme tackling both the far right and perceptions of Islamophobia

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81895>

Information about the Places of Worship protective security funding scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Information about the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-a-stronger-britain-together>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Police: Racial Discrimination

Lord Pendry (Labour) [HL7982] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address inequality in the treatment of black people by the police.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The strength of policing in England & Wales lies in its relationships with the communities it serves. The measures being introduced by this Government to support officers, broaden representation and enhance accountability will help the police make these relationships even stronger. We have put in place measures to ensure that policing is subject to appropriate levels of transparency and accountability – with regular inspections of the way forces engage with communities, frequent publication of data on use of police powers and strengthening the police complaints system. The public rightly expect police officers to meet high standards of professional conduct and the vast majority of officers do so.

We know that black people, particularly black men, are over-represented in the criminal justice system, and this Government is tackling the broader structural inequalities that lead to this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-09/hl7982>

Pharmacy: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7725] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of research, published in Chemist+Druggist on 3 August, which showed that 51 per cent of BAME pharmacy staff have considered leaving their jobs due to racial discrimination.

Reply from Lord Bethell: No assessment has been made of the research, published in Chemist+Druggist on 3 August, in respect to black, Asian and minority ethnic pharmacy staff and racial discrimination. However, equality and diversity are central themes in the NHS People Plan of 30 July 2020. This sets out practical actions for employers and systems to tackle the discrimination that some staff face and includes principles to apply across all National Health Service organisations, including for pharmacy staff employed by the NHS.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society published *Improving Inclusion and Diversity across our profession: our strategy for Pharmacy 2020-2025* strategy in June 2020. This provides further information and pathways for tackling discrimination in pharmacy. A copy of the report is attached.

[Improving Inclusion and Diversity](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/hl7725>

A report of the research referred to above can be read at

<https://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/news/51-bame-staff-would-leave-job-over-racism-pharmacy-cd-finds>

Press Release

Hate Crime law reform

<https://www.gov.scot/news/hate-crime-law-reform/>

News

Controversial hate crime legislation to be changed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54269380>

SNP announce Hate Crime Bill climbdown after free speech row

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18742331.snp-announce-hate-crime-bill-climbdown-free-speech-row/>

Humza Yousaf u-turns and agrees to amend hate crime Bill

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-u-turns-and-agrees-amend-hate-crime-bill-2981355>

Hate Crime Bill climbdown in freedom of speech backlash

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/hate-crime-bill-climbdown-freedom-22730200>

SNP concede ground on hate crime law but critics maintain it poses threat to free speech

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/09/23/snp-concede-ground-hate-crime-law-critics-maintain-poses-threat/>

Hate crime laws watered down over concerns about free speech

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hate-crime-laws-watered-down-over-concerns-about-free-speech-gmg236jhq>

MPs urged to do unconscious bias training as dozens of Tories set to reject it

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/21/mps-urged-to-do-unconscious-bias-training-as-dozens-of-tories-set-to-reject-it>

One-third of children in UK 'have heard racist comments at school'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/sep/22/one-third-of-children-in-uk-have-heard-racist-comments-at-school>

Black barrister mistaken for defendant three times

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-54281111>

Alexandra Wilson: Courts head apologises after black barrister is mistaken for defendant

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/alexandra-wilson-courts-head-apologises-after-black-barrister-is-mistaken-for-defendant-b9nnw3qb2>

UK barrister mistaken for defendant calls for compulsory anti-racism training

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2020/sep/26/uk-barrister-mistaken-for-defendant-calls-for-compulsory-anti-racism-training>

Equity reports an 'enormous' rise in complaints of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2020/sep/24/equity-rise-in-complaints-of-racism-new-gen-secretary-paul-fleming>

Hate crimes recorded at one in 10 football games in England and Wales

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/sep/24/hate-crimes-recorded-at-one-in-10-football-games-in-england-and-wales>

Arrests for hate crime at football more than doubled last season before lockdown

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/09/24/arrests-hate-crime-football-doubled-last-season-lockdown/>

'Fat water buffalo' not a racist insult, says FA panel in Adebayo Akinfenwa case

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/09/24/fat-water-buffalo-not-racist-insult-says-fa-panel-inadebayo/>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Recorded Crime down 24% over the decade

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-down-24-percent-over-the-decade/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): supporting people and communities - call for ideas

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-people-and-communities-call-for-ideas/>

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2019-20

<https://tinyurl.com/y25q4cq7>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Compulsorily Detained Psychiatric Patients: Ethnic Groups

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [89849] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many Black people are in psychiatric custody; how long they have been in psychiatric custody; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for the use of that custody.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: In 2018/19 there were 5,137 people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 whose ethnicity was recorded as Black or Black British. Analysis of length of stay and length of detention has not yet been undertaken. This analysis is complex and as such would exceed the proportionate costs available to answer this question.

Detentions are made under the Mental Health Act 1983 to enable the treatment of patients who require care in hospital for their mental health and who may otherwise present a risk to themselves or others. The operation of the Mental Health Act 1983 is regulated by the Care Quality Commission, which produces an annual report, Monitoring the Mental Health Act, the most recent edition of which is available at the following link:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/major-report/monitoring-mental-health-act-201819>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89849>

TOP

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/coronavirus>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

Healthcare for overseas visitors

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

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/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

BAME Women: Covid-19

Theresa Villiers (Conservative): What steps the Government have taken to protect women in BAME communities from the disproportionate effect of covid-19 identified by Public Health England. [906537]

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): The Government have taken a number of steps to protect all those who may be disproportionately affected by covid-19 to reduce the spread of the virus. This includes targeted testing of occupations and groups at higher risk, including ethnic minority women. We have also translated the latest information into multiple languages in accessible formats to help to ensure that our public health communications reach all communities across the country.

Theresa Villiers: Women from black and minority ethnic backgrounds are strongly represented in the workforce in our care system, so will the Minister have a strong focus on keeping care workers safe from covid, with a particular emphasis on the higher risk faced by women from black and minority ethnic communities in those jobs?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: My right hon. Friend is absolutely right: there are very many BME workers in the social care sector and they must be properly supported. That is why in June, the Department of Health and Social Care published a covid-19 adult social care workforce risk reduction framework to help to manage

specific risks to staff, including risk by ethnicity. We are also providing financial support to the Race Equality Foundation to provide additional services to BME communities with dementia during the covid-19 pandemic.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-23/debates/C963035D-BA89-4454-B8BF-AA97ED00E8BE/BAMEWomenCovid-19>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [89843] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to Public Health England's review of the effect of covid-19 on BAME communities, whether she has written to all stakeholders who engaged with that review on continuing that work.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities will engage across Government, and with as broad a range of public bodies, the voluntary and private sectors, and members of the public as is possible over the course of its duration.

The Commission will be launching a public call for evidence in due course. Organisations or individuals seeking to submit evidence to the Commission can already do so if they wish – contact details are published on its website. No discussions have been had about organisations to exclude from consultation.

Finally, on 10 August the Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch MP, wrote to all of the stakeholders who participated in the Public Health England review thanking them for their contribution and asking whether they wished to be involved in future engagement. A number of the stakeholders responded positively to this and the Race Disparity Unit has included them in its ongoing engagement strategy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-14/89843>

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7895] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the National Centre for Social Research Wellcome Monitor 2020: COVID-19 study, published in August, which concluded that (1) the BAME population were “less likely to receive information about staying safe from COVID-19 that they find clear or that they trust”, and (2) “consideration should be given to how health information engages people from BAME groups”; and what steps they intend to take in response.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Government is working with COVID-19 teams across departments and agencies to communicate and engage directly with ethnic minority communities across the country.

This includes a national campaign that spans owned, earned and paid-for channels to maximise reach and engagement. To increase accessibility, Government advice, guidance, legislation, and the support measures announced were translated into over 25 different languages.

The Race Disparity Unit has been working closely with faith leaders, the voluntary sector, community representatives and black, Asian and minority ethnic business

leaders to ensure that advice and relief measures announced are available to those who need it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/hl7895>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://wellcome.org/sites/default/files/wellcome-monitor-2020-covid-19-report.pdf>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL8015] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic people; and what action has been taken by (1) Public Health England, and (2) the NHS, taken to address any such impact.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) has been monitoring the mental health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19, including the impact on people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. The latest report concluded that the evidence of association between ethnicity and pandemic related impacts on mental health and wellbeing remains inconclusive; some studies report disproportionate effects on some but not all BAME groups, and others reporting no relationship. PHE continues to track and report on the impact as more evidence becomes available.

NHS England is working closely with ethnic minority experts by experience, health professionals, voluntary and community partners and others to support rapid knowledge and information sharing to encourage timely access to National Health Service mental health services, and just as importantly, good ethnic minority experiences within those services.

PHE is running the Better Health-Every Mind Matters campaign to support children and young people's mental wellbeing. It is working with BAME organisations and experts to deliver campaign messages in culturally-appropriate ways, through dedicated BAME media channels, translated into other languages, where required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-10/hl8015>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-surveillance-report>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 29 September 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-29-september-2020/>

Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): wedding ceremonies and civil partnership registrations

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

Other Organisations

Institute for Jewish Policy Research

Renew our days as of old: Will we go back to Jewish activities and events?

https://www.jpr.org.uk/documents/JPR_2020_The_Coronavirus_papers_1.1.Renew_our_days_as_old.pdf

News

Nicola Sturgeon says human rights issues outweighed by right to not get Covid-19

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-says-human-rights-issues-outweighed-right-not-get-covid-19-2986057>

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New Publications

Scottish Charity and Public Surveys 2020 Report June 2020

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3990/2020-07-27-scottish-charity-and-public-surveys-2020-report-june-2020-v2.pdf>

Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 Handy guide for enrolled bodies

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1663935/disclosure_scotland_act_2020_-_handy_guide_.pdf

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Other News

Public trust in charities increases significantly but transparency is still vital

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/public-trust-in-charities-increases-significantly-but-transparency-is-still-vital/>

Donations fall to lowest level in 10 years

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/donations-fall-to-lowest-level-in-10-years>

Muslim man wins UK tribunal case over Cognac raffle switch

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2020/sep/24/muslim-man-wins-uk-tribunal-case-over-cognac-raffle-switch>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

**** Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: Stage 1 Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2020/9/24/Post-mortem-Examinations--Defence-Time-Limit---Scotland--Bill--Stage-1/DPLRS052020R54.pdf>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

**** Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0048/200048.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0048/en/200048en.pdf>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

An inspection of UKVI's 'Front End Services' (closing date 1 October 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-ukvis-front-end-services>

**** Coronavirus (COVID-19): supporting people and communities** (closing date 16 October 2020)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-people-and-communities-call-for-ideas/>

**** Hate crime laws [in England and Wales]** (closing date 24 December 2020)

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

Your Police 2020-2021 (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19 (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

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

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

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

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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

Grants online: Coronavirus

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020
- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrn/transition-fund/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

3 Mottos to Guide our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

29 September 2020 online (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, and looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of 'human neutral', why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3d47pyr> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

Keeping your charity safe online

1 October 2020 online (2.00–3.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar to provide a review of the most common types of cyber-crime and fraud along with providing plenty of practical advice for you and your charity on how to protect against these. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3x6pvjk>

**** this week!**

Changing inequality in exposure to crime

1 October 2020 online (3.00–4.30)

Understanding Inequalities webinar to enable participants to gain insights into some of the drivers of crime inequality and key lessons for policing policy and practice. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3hpqnuu>

**** this week!**

Young People's Guarantee Workshop Jam

3 October 2020 online (10.30–3.30)

Young Scot event in partnership with the Scottish Government for young people from 16 to 24 to influence the Young People's Guarantee which will provide young people with the opportunity, based on their own personal circumstances and ambitions, of going to university or college, an apprenticeship programme, training, fair employment including work experience, or participating in a formal volunteering programme. For information see <https://young.scot/get-involved/national/yshive-young-people-s-guarantee-workshop-jam>

Developing Management and Leadership Skills Programme for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

21 October 2020 to 20 May 2021 (online)

PATH training programme to address imbalances in the representation from black and minority ethnic communities in all aspects and levels of public life. For information see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gztq5btqsfhvukh/dmls%202020-21%20course%20outline.docx?dl=0>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

4 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** Scottish Interfaith Week**

8-15 November 2020

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. The full programme of events is available at <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2020>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

11 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

No Recourse to Public Funds

18 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course 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 contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Equality and Diversity in Workplace

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Interpreting Culture

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/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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*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** 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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