



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.

The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 25 March until 4 May 2021, and the UK Parliament will be in recess until 13 April 2021.

The Scottish Parliament will be dissolved on 5 May, and the Scottish Parliament elections will take place on 6 May 2021.

The next two issues of MEMO will be published on 31 March, and 19 April.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Visa Requirements (Work and Student Internships)

Colin Beattie (SNP) [S5O-05127] ... To ask the Scottish Government what recent representations it has made to the United Kingdom Government regarding visas for people

wishing to work in Scotland, and whether it is able to clarify the visa requirements for student internships to ensure that these international exchanges can continue.

Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Jenny Gilruth): Scotland must be able to attract talented people from across the world to work and study here, and migration policy should support mobility, collaboration and innovation.

The UK Government did not seek an extensive mobility framework with the EU, which has created barriers to cross-border exchanges in both directions, and there is no clear visa route for young Europeans to undertake internships in the UK. We have urged the UK Government to enable mobility of European students to the UK, especially now that we are, sadly, no longer full participants in the Erasmus+ programme.

As we face the biggest economic crisis in decades, the UK Government must allow for the level and type of migration that the economy and our communities need in order to prosper.

Colin Beattie: What steps is the Scottish Government taking to ensure that visa issues resulting from exit from the EU are resolved swiftly to ensure that native speakers who work in foreign language teaching in Scotland do not face further barriers to working here?

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: We welcome the UK Government's recent announcement that some regulated qualifications framework roles in levels 3 to 5, including secondary school modern foreign language teachers, will be added to the shortage occupation list from 6 April this year. Although that falls far short of the benefits of free movement, those skilled teachers will now be exempt from the minimum salary threshold of £25,600 when applying to work in the UK.

However, the UK Government's decision to delay further the inclusion of all recommended RQF level 3 to 5 roles means that many workers who are vital to our economic recovery will have no route to enter the UK until the list is reviewed in 2022. Denying access to those uniquely skilled workers risks acute labour shortages across many sectors, and will compound the damaging effects of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13208&i=119586#ScotParlOR>

Settled Status Scheme (Deadline)

Gail Ross (SNP) [S5O-05128] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to raise awareness ahead of the June 2021 deadline of the European Union settled status scheme.

Reply from the Minister for Europe and International Development (Jenny Gilruth): More than 250,000 applications have been made to the EU settlement scheme by people in Scotland, but many more people have yet to apply. That is why we have provided more than £1 million of support through our stay in Scotland campaign.

To increase awareness of the deadline, the Scottish Government is running a campaign on radio, on digital services and on social media. I wrote to MSPs on that matter last week, and I encourage all members to share that information via their social media channels.

We are also supporting our partners to inform EU citizens about the need to apply before the deadline. Together with our partners, we fund a network of qualified advisors to help people to apply to the scheme. Anyone can call the EU citizens support service for advice and support on 0800 916 9847.

Gail Ross: I know that the minister will agree with me that it is essential that we treat EU citizens with dignity and respect, and that we do all that we can in Scotland to educate people and encourage them to apply in time. However, what can be done to assist those

who, through no fault of their own, miss the June deadline?

Reply from Jenny Gilruth: I agree with Gail Ross: EU citizens who fail to apply to the scheme before the deadline will, at best, face the hostile environment and will, at worst, be subjected to enforced removal. The Windrush scandal demonstrated the United Kingdom Government's callousness; we must do everything that we can to prevent the same thing from happening again to our European friends and family. That is why I am pleased to say that the Scottish Government will continue to fund our third sector partners after the EUSS deadline in order to assist our EU citizens in making late applications.

The Scottish Government has long argued that the UK Government should adopt a declaratory system, which would allow our EU citizens to retain their rights without the need to apply. We are concerned that some people might remain unaware of the scheme, or might think that it is not for them. The pandemic might have impacted on people's ability to apply by the deadline in June. In the light of that, we are calling on the UK Government to extend the deadline.

Our message to EU citizens in Scotland is clear: Scotland values you, and you will always be welcome here.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13208&i=119587#ScotParlOR>

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

Giorgi Kakava

Bob Doris (SNP): I have previously raised the plight of my Springburn constituent Giorgi Kakava—a young man of 13 whose mother tragically passed away in 2018. Giorgi was three when they arrived in Scotland, fleeing danger.

The Home Office granted Giorgi and his grandmother leave to remain in 2018, but that has now expired. Once again, they will have to apply for permission for the right to stay in Scotland. Given the ordeal that Giorgi has already been through, that Glasgow has been his home since he was three years old, that the family's friends are here and that the family is a valued part of the Springburn community, does the First Minister agree that the Home Office should move quickly to end uncertainty over the family's future and confirm the right of Giorgi and his grandmother to stay in Scotland permanently?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I hope that everyone in the chamber would agree that Giorgi is Scottish. This is his home and he should get to stay here with his grandmother for as long as he wants to be here.

Giorgi and his grandmother are among the many families who fall victim to a United Kingdom Government policy that sees family migration as some kind of burden on society. We want to see a different approach. We have set out our own policies for a far more compassionate and flexible approach to cases, particularly those involving young people. Children who were born in Scotland or who have spent their formative years here should have the opportunity to stay here with their adult guardians. That is a fundamental and simple principle, based on what is right. It is also in our interests: we need to encourage people to come here and make a contribution to our society and economy. We should be making it easier for people such as Giorgi to stay here, not more difficult.

That is another of the many reasons why we need to be in charge of these things ourselves, so that Scotland can have a compassionate and humane immigration policy that is not only right in terms of the values that underpin it, but in the best interests of our economy and society.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13211&i=119641#ScotParlOR>

Evidence session: No Recourse to Public Funds

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13196&i=119488#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Refugee Protection and Integration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel) [HCWS855] Global Britain has a proud record of helping those fleeing persecution, oppression or tyranny from around the world. In addition to providing £10 billion each year to support people in need through overseas aid, the UK is a global leader in refugee resettlement. Between 2016 and 2019 we resettled more refugees from outside Europe than any EU member state.

In 2015, we committed to resettle 20,000 of the most vulnerable refugees who fled the brutal conflict in Syria through the vulnerable persons resettlement scheme (VPRS). This included people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk.

Today we are delighted to be able to confirm that we have now met that commitment. We have resettled 20,080 vulnerable refugees across the UK since September 2015.

In total, this means that, across all Government-funded resettlement schemes, more than 25,000 refugees have been resettled in the UK over the past six years, around half of whom were children.

This achievement has been made possible thanks to the outstanding work and dedication of many partners, including non-governmental organisations in the UK and international partners, community and faith groups, local authorities, devolved Administrations and individual members of the public. I am truly grateful for this collaborative effort.

Resettlement is vital to safely and legally provide a path to settlement for vulnerable people fleeing persecution and it is right that we continue to offer safe pathways for those in need of protection. The launch of our new global UK resettlement scheme will now build on the success of previous schemes and we will continue our proud record of resettling refugees who need our help from around the world.

We want refugees in the UK to have the freedom to succeed and that means access to the tools they need to become fully independent, provide for themselves and their families and the ability to contribute and integrate into the economic and cultural life of the UK.

That is why today I have also announced £14 million of funding to help newly granted refugees to integrate in the UK. The £14 million fund will pilot new approaches across the country to support newly granted refugees to learn English, move into work, access housing and build links in their local communities. Lessons learned from these pilots will inform future support available to all refugees.

This Government continue to step forward to provide help to those facing oppression or tyranny. This year we have also introduced a new pathway to citizenship for British national (overseas) status holders and their family members who are facing draconian new security laws in Hong Kong, which may see an estimated 320,000 people come to the UK over the next five years.

We have also enabled over 29,000 close relatives of refugees to join them in the UK through refugee family reunion in the last five years.

Looking ahead, as we reform the asylum system, global Britain will continue its proud tradition of providing safe haven to those in need through safe and legal routes.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-18/debates/21031834000019/RefugeeProtectionAndIntegration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

International Law on Rights of Refugees: Government Compliance

Kenny MacAskill (SNP): What recent assessment [has the Attorney General] made of the effectiveness of his Department in helping to ensure the Government's compliance with international law on the rights of refugees. (913655)

Reply from the Attorney General (Michael Ellis): Any request for my advice is subject to the Law Officers' convention, but I must make it clear that the UK prides itself on its leadership within the international system and that it discharges its international obligations in good faith. I also point out that the Solicitor General, whom I very much welcome to her place, attends the Parliamentary Business and Legislation Committee, which scrutinises all the Government's legislation before it reaches Parliament.

Kenny MacAskill: All are equal before the eyes of the law, and that includes those coming here seeking asylum. Why then are we using military camps, which are entirely unacceptable at the best of times and most certainly during a pandemic? Rather than seeking to copy Australia and transport asylum seekers abroad, is it not time that this Government accepted that refugees have rights and that the Attorney General took action to ensure that the Government adhered to their responsibilities?

Reply from the Attorney General: Frankly, as the Home Office has made quite clear, the UK is a world leader in resettlement, so I do not recognise the point that the hon. Gentleman makes. If one looks at the actual figures, one sees that we have resettled nearly 30,000 people in the past five years, which is more than any other country in Europe. As for the use of former military barracks, if Her Majesty's armed forces personnel can be housed appropriately in those barracks, there is no reason why anyone else cannot be. We adhere to our international and national obligations. This country is extremely open and generous in these matters. As I have said, we are the most open in Europe in terms of resettlement.

Angela Crawley (SNP): Reports in the press this morning indicate that the Home Secretary plans to send asylum seekers coming across the channel offshore, thousands of miles away, to have their claims processed. May I welcome the Attorney General to his place and ask him whether he has been consulted on the legality of these proposals yet? Can he reveal which countries his Government are doing this reprehensible deal with, given that this would be relevant to the legality of the proposals?

Reply from the Attorney General: ... I am afraid that I cannot discuss what advice I give in other Departments and I cannot comment on legislation that the Government have not presented to Parliament. What I can say is this: the Government's position is that refugees should claim asylum in the first safe country in which they find themselves. That is an international understanding, and European countries through which they have travelled to board boats to the UK, such as France, are of course manifestly safe.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-03-18/debates/253A2993-93FB-4C6B-891A-BCA98FD15606/InternationalLawOnRightsOfRefugeesGovernmentCompliance>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality Act 1948

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [165453] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the British Nationalities Act 1948 to enable citizenship to be passed down from the mother as well as the father.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Women have been able to pass on British nationality in the same way as men since 1983.

The British Nationality Act 1981 now also provides for the registration of those who would have become British citizens had women been able to pass on their citizenship in the same way as men before 1983.

We are also looking at legislative options to introduce a similar registration provision in relation to British Overseas Territory citizenship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-09/165453>

Immigration

Neil Coyle (Labour) [166455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of decisions made by the UK on applications for family reunification with a beneficiary of international protection in 2020 were (a) accepted and (b) rejected.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on Family Reunion in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on grants of Family Reunion visas are published in table Fam_D01 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Data on applications and outcomes of Family Reunion visas by nationality are included in the 'Family: other' visa subgroup in tables Vis_D01 and Vis_D02 of the [entry clearance visas detailed datasets](#). Although 'family reunion' visas are not separately available, the vast majority of 'Family: other' visas are family reunion.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to year ending December 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the [asylum summary tables](#) and [entry clearance summary tables](#). The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and entry clearance visas.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-10/166455>

Immigration

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [152564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many UKVI applications have had an official positive decision implemented at a different time from family members under the same application in (a) 2018, (b) 2019 and (c) in 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office are unable to state how many UKVI applications have had an official positive decision implemented at a different time from family members under the same application in 2018, 2019 and 2020 as this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Asylum claims may include one or more family members who are accepted as dependant on the principal applicants claim. It is important to fully consider all the evidence available, including that provided by dependants or other family members who have made claims in their own right, and to recognise protection issues which may arise in the family context when considering such claims.

Dependants of an asylum applicant who have been included in the initial asylum claim will, if the principal applicant is granted Asylum, HP, Family or Private Life leave to remain (LTR) or Discretionary Leave, normally be granted leave of the same duration and status as the principal applicant

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-10/152564>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Patrick Grady (SNP) [137232] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on ensuring that asylum seekers are able to access the covid-19 vaccination programme.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regularly meets with the devolved administrations to discuss a range of topics. The Government is working closely with the devolved administrations to ensure successful delivery of the vaccination programme across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Entitlement to free National Health Service treatment is generally based on ordinary residence in the UK based on clinical need. As there is no charge for the COVID-19 vaccine, the immigration status of a patient is not relevant and therefore no proof of residence is required and there is no requirement to report anyone to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-13/137232>

Coronavirus: Undocumented Migrants

Barry Gardiner (Labour) [142758] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on ensuring illegal migrants and overstayers cooperate with public health services during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has regular discussions with his counterparts across Government.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a primary care service. It is therefore not within scope of the Charging Regulations and is available free of charge to anyone living in the United Kingdom, including those living here without permission. If an individual is registered with a general practitioner (GP) practice, they will be invited for the vaccine at the appropriate time based on the prioritisation set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. If an individual is not registered with a GP, National Health Service regional teams working with the appropriate local system will contact unregistered people to ensure they are offered the vaccine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/142758>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Sarah Owen (Labour) [162706] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help ensure covid-19 vaccine acceptance by undocumented migrants.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Entitlement to free National Health Service treatment is generally based on ordinary residence in the United Kingdom. If individuals are not registered with a general practitioner NHS regional teams working with various appropriate local systems will contact unregistered people to ensure they are offered the vaccine. This includes those experiencing homelessness, people who may not live in a fixed location, refugees and those seeking asylum.

Locally commissioned arrangements to reach these groups may include local NHS community and mental health trust providers, Primary Care Networks or partnership activity with statutory and voluntary services. Because there is no charge for the vaccine for people living in the UK, the immigration status of a patient is not relevant, therefore no proof of residence is needed and there is no requirement to report anyone to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-03/162706>

Visas: Applications

Chris Grayling (Conservative) [166332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the priority service for visa applications will be reinstated.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Priority Visa services are currently available in some locations overseas, but availability will differ by territory depending on Covid restrictions in place in a specific area at any one time. If available, customers are able to purchase these services when booking an appointment at a visa application

centre. Super Priority and Priority services have also been reinstated in the UK for Work and Study routes, including applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain. It is anticipated these services for Marriage and Settlement routes in the UK will be reinstated by the end of March 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-10/166332>

Immigration

Taiwo Owatemi (Labour) [167330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Leave to Remain private life applications were processed within six months in (a) 2019 and (b) 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Private life is an element within Family and Private Life applications, which is collectively captured as part of the data referred to as “HR Complex” here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-february-2021>

Private Life is not recorded as a discrete category of application and therefore it is not possible to separate this element out.

We are unable to provide the number of Private Life applications processed within six months during 2019 and 2020 because to do so would result in publication of unassured data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167330>

Immigration: Married People

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [163746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will conduct a review of the effect of income requirements for spouse visas, as recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee in its December 2020 Report.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In February 2017 the Supreme Court upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement, which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration, ruling it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a partner to settle in the UK and of the community in general.

We continue to keep the family Immigration Rules under review, including taking into account recommendations made by the Migration Advisory Committee, and will make adjustments should these prove necessary. However, our overall assessment is the Rules, including the minimum income requirement, are having the right impact and building public confidence in the immigration system, by ensuring migration to the UK is not based on access to public services and welfare systems paid for by UK taxpayers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-05/163746>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944234/Annual_Report_2020_BB.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Married People

Drew Hendry (SNP) [167262] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of reducing the income threshold for spousal visa applications where one of the spouses has worked for the NHS during the covid-19 outbreak.

Drew Hendry (SNP) [167263] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of whether the spouse visa income threshold should be reduced in the event that one of the spouses works in the NHS.

Drew Hendry (SNP) [167264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the ability of families to earn enough to meet the increased income threshold requirements for a spouse visa following the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Minimum Income Requirement is set at the level which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration. We remain committed to those aims but have made relevant adjustments to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes those who have worked for the NHS during the pandemic. Further details are available here:

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

Many NHS workers and their dependants are also eligible for free visa extensions as set out on GOV.UK here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-health-worker-visa-extension>

The minimum income requirement has not increased since it was first introduced in July 2012 and there are no plans to reduce it.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167262>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167263>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167264>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [167971] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance has been issued by her Department to (a) prison and (b) probation services throughout the UK to help people in custody either on remand or serving a sentence to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [167972] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will issue guidance that will allow for imprisonment as a reasonable ground for a late EU Settlement Scheme application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The EU Settlement Scheme guidance published on GOV.UK applies to all those who may apply under the scheme, including prisoners. HM Prison and Probation Service has been working closely with the Home Office to ensure those who are eligible to apply under the scheme are aware of it and are able to do so.

In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the Government has made clear, where a person eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications by those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

We will publish clear, non-exhaustive guidance in the near future on what constitutes reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. For now, the focus remains on communicating information about the scheme and helping people to apply before the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-12/167971>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-12/167972>

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

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

Refugees: Hong Kong

Janet Daby (Labour) [163722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how many refugees from Hong Kong the UK has received since 31 January 2021; and what support the Government has put in place to help those refugees settle in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Tables Asy_D01 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#) include the number of asylum applications, broken down by nationality. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data is up to the end of December 2020. 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.

Data on asylum applications for January – March 2021, as well as data on the [Hong Kong BN\(O\) visa route](#) will be published in the next quarterly Immigration Statistics on 27 May 2021. Further information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those that need it – and this Government is committed to ensuring that they can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK.

All refugees and those granted protection in the UK should be able to fully integrate into life here and become self-sufficient, providing for themselves and their families, and contributing to the economy.

Refugees in the UK have access to mainstream benefits and services to enable their integration; and we are working across Government to ensure these services meet the needs of refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-05/163722>

Asylum: Military Bases

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [167289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the publication of site inspection findings by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of waiving the 1 per cent threshold requirement for special grant funding for policing costs relating to the temporary asylum accommodation sites at Penally training camp and Napier barracks.

Reply from Chris Philp: All police forces should have reasonable contingency within their budgets for unplanned or unexpected events, but in some cases we recognise that these events may place force finances under additional pressure, and in those instances the Police and Crime Commissioner may apply for additional funding through the Police Special Grant. Any force applying for Special Grant funding must meet the criteria set out in the published guidance.

We continue to work closely with the local police forces at Penally training camp and Napier barracks, and have provided £2.5m of funding to Dyfed Powys and £1m to Kent police for costs incurred to date.

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration announced an inspection of contingency asylum accommodation on 25 January 2021. The department acknowledges the ICIBI's decision to publish on 8 March the initial findings from site visits to Napier Barracks and Penally. The ICIBI's inspection continues and a full inspection report will follow. The duration of the inspection is a matter for the ICIBI and upon its conclusion, following standard procedure set out in the UK Borders Act 2007, the Department will issue a formal response alongside the inspection report as it is laid before Parliament and published on Gov.UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167289>

The findings referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/an-inspection-of-the-use-of-contingency-asylum-accommodation-key-findings-from-site-visits-to-penally-camp-and-napier-barracks>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: Site Visits

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's site visits (1) to Penally camp, and (2) to Napier barracks, published on 8 March.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, during the pandemic, the number of accommodated asylum seekers has increased and we have sought alternative accommodation options, including two MoD sites. We expect the highest standards from providers and have instructed them to make improvements following the interim report from the independent chief inspector. We await his full report on contingency accommodation and will lay that in Parliament with the department's response, as usual, after the inspection is completed.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: I have been assured many times that the Penally camp and Napier barracks sites are adequate, safe, secure, habitable and fit for purpose as accommodation for refugees. Then the inspector's report comes out. It is totally contradictory and supports the views expressed by Public Health England, the Red Cross and others that these sites are not suitable. Some of the words describing them, such as "filthy" and "decrepit" are totally unacceptable. Then we find that in Napier, 197 of the refugees are infected with the virus. What is the difference between what the Home Office sees as adequate accommodation and the damning report of the inspectorate?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, as I said, this is an interim report from the independent chief inspector, which made important findings that we are of course acting on. We look forward to seeing his report in full, once it is complete. It is important to remember the context in which we are operating—the additional pressures that the Covid-19 pandemic has put on the asylum accommodation estate. Establishing extra sites to react to that has been challenging. We recognise that there is room for improvement and we look forward to seeing the full report so that we can continue to improve.

Lord Boateng (Labour): My Lords, this latest, albeit interim, report reveals that the health of all the residents at Napier barracks is at risk. A third are reported to be suicidal. Although the report is interim, it joins the reports of the Crown Premises Fire Safety Inspectorate and Public Health England in presenting a damning picture of the place. At Christmas, I attended church with residents of Napier barracks. It shames us all. We know that it is not easy to be a Home Office Minister but what more does the Minister require before the Home Office stops placing people in the barracks and decants those who are there, before we see loss of life and still further damage to the United Kingdom's international reputation for human rights?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, the Home Office has been working with Public Health England and Public Health Wales, as well as the Crown fire inspectorate, in respect of Penally to make sure that the temporary accommodation that we have had to set up in light of the pandemic is safe and in line with their recommendations. As of last Friday, 12 March, there are 48 people at Napier and 55 at Penally. This is temporary accommodation and we are working to make sure that it is indeed that.

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend has a difficult task today because he will be aware that this issue was raised by noble Lords on 11 February, when we were told that the accommodation was "safe, warm, fit for purpose".—[*Official Report*, 11/2/21; col. 489]

It is clear from the latest findings of the ICIBI that this is not the case. What is the Government's response now in relation to the findings about what is actually going on in these barracks? Serious safeguarding concerns have been raised, specifically in relation

to people who have self-harmed and those at high risk of doing so who have been relocated to accommodation that is unfit for human habitation.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My noble friend is right to point to the fact that many people who come to the UK seeking asylum have been through traumatic experiences and have important safeguarding needs. Given that, safeguarding has been at the heart of the activity of the Home Office in the setting up and running of Napier and Penally. An on-site nurse and migrant help are available at both sites to ensure that people who are at risk of harm get the help that they need. We are continually improving our safeguarding measures, including in the light of the interim report from the chief inspector, and we have commissioned further work from our providers to make sure that all staff are fully trained in this important area.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, in answer to a previous Question, a Minister in the other place said that the barracks “were good enough for the armed services and they are certainly more than good enough for people who have arrived in this country seeking asylum.”—[*Official Report*, Commons, 8/2/21; col. 10]

However, on 3 February the National Audit Office said that the barracks had suffered from “decades of under-investment” and that troops were living in substandard accommodation. Is the Home Office saying that substandard accommodation is more than good enough for those seeking sanctuary in this country?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, we do not think that this is substandard accommodation. The noble Lord is right to point out that this is accommodation in which we ask those who serve our country and put their lives at risk to stay. We have undertaken work to improve the sites at Penally and Napier to make them safe and habitable for those who are coming here seeking asylum.

Lord Robathan (Conservative): My Lords, some years ago I stayed in Napier barracks and more recently, about four years ago, I showered and had lunch there at the start and end of a charitable bicycle ride around France. The barracks are comfortable. While they are pretty basic, they are warm and dry, the food is good and the showers work. Can my noble friend explain how it can be that these barracks have been used for many years by soldiers, who defend us and our country without complaint in the House of Lords, and yet now for people who understandably have fled poverty and violence in their own countries and have almost certainly come through a safe country—namely, France—they are deemed not to be acceptable?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, my noble friend speaks from personal experience which I think might be unique in your Lordships’ House. He is right to point to the fact that we have tried to make the accommodation suitable for those who need to be there. We want them to stay there for as short a time as possible, but because of the constrictions of the pandemic, in some cases they have had to stay for longer than we would have liked.

Baroness Wheatcroft (Crossbench): My Lords, I declare an interest in having a home that is half a mile away from the Napier barracks, and I must say that the site has looked near derelict for several years. However, in November a letter was sent to the Home Secretary and the Department of Health signed by Doctors of the World, the Faculty of Public Health and the Royal College of Psychiatrists saying that these premises were not suitable, that in a time of pandemic they were positively dangerous, and urging the Home Secretary to close them down immediately. Can the Minister tell us why, despite that letter and other evidence to the contrary, the Home Secretary has continued to insist that these premises are safe, although nearly half the inmates have contracted Covid?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: As I have said, we are working with Public Health England and Public Health Wales to make sure that the accommodation is in line with recommendations. We have taken additional measures to mitigate the risks of Covid transmission, such as increased distance

between beds, staggered mealtimes, one-way systems and advice for the people staying there. I am pleased to say that there have been no positive tests for Covid at Penally and no people currently in Napier testing positive for Covid either.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, the findings of the chief inspector are shocking and scathing about the failures in the preparation of a Covid-safe site, poor leadership, “inadequate oversight” by the Home Office and “serious safeguarding concerns” at these unsuitable locations. Does the noble Lord agree that the report is shocking and scathing, and can he tell me who is taking responsibility for these failures?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, this is an interim report, but there are some troubling findings and we are acting on them. We look forward to seeing the full report so that we can do that. The Home Office takes this issue very seriously. While the full report has not yet been given to the Home Secretary, when it has been, she will take it very seriously.

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated): My Lords, for the avoidance of doubt, can the Minister indicate what action will be taken to improve fire safety at Napier?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My Lords, we have been working with the Crown Premises Fire Safety Inspectorate throughout and have had further advice from the Kent Fire and Rescue Service. We are grateful to them for their proactive work and we continue to work with them both to make sure that the accommodation is safe.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-16/debates/09EA88F1-6B46-4639-9C81-800466A4B908/IndependentChiefInspectorOfBordersAndImmigrationSiteVisits>

The above reference made by Baroness Warsi can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-02-11/debates/37B2C3E3-9F96-4B50-AA3C-73D0A3CABF51/RefugeesNapierBarracks#contribution-189375B0-2345-4B3D-AF77-340FD1F62679>

The above reference made by Lord Paddick can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-02-08/debates/F2E3BFED-B7B5-47C0-8E0D-8BBEB21A179E/AsylumSystemReform#contribution-D6EF7ED2-9C7F-4F81-B9A4-0825FA10F6FE>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Married People

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL13813] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many applications for indefinite leave to remain from spouses of UK citizens are outstanding; and what is the target response time for such applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The normal service standard for applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications is six months.

The Home Office publishes transparency data on the number of outstanding applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the spouse/partner route, the Home Office also publish transparency data on the performance against service standards for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications under the spouse/partner route. This can be found in our transparency data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-february-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-02/hl13813>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Hong Kong

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL13867] To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) discussions they are having with, and (2) guidance they have issued to, (a) local authorities, (b) landlord representatives, and (c) housing associations, to ensure that people coming to the UK from Hong Kong under the British National (Overseas) visa are able (i) to secure appropriate housing, and (ii) are not disadvantaged under the Right to Rent scheme by the need to demonstrate their immigration status.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL13868] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the likely number of people coming from Hong Kong under the British National (Overseas) visa moving to different geographic regions in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 31 January the Home Office launched the new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route.

Since then, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has been working with partners across Whitehall and beyond to help new arrivals to settle into life in the UK. Planning assumptions and guidance on which services may need to prepare for BN(O) arrivals have been shared with local authorities and MHCLG will continue to work closely with local authorities to ensure that impacts on existing service provision are understood and addressed as appropriate.

We are clear landlords must take extra care to ensure no-one is discriminated against when carrying out right to rent checks. Successful applicants for the BN(O) route will receive either a biometric residence permit (BRP) or digital status, which will enable them to evidence their right to rent a property in the UK.

It is not standard practice for the Home Office to collect data around where people choose to settle once they receive their migration status. BN(O) status holders are entitled to settle wherever they choose within the United Kingdom.

The UK Government looks forward to welcoming applications from those individuals who wish to make our United Kingdom their home.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-03/hl13867>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-03/hl13868>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Lord Bishop of Bristol [HL13731] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office on 7 October 2020 (96911), what further plans they have to publish guidance on what constitutes reasonable grounds for missing the deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL13745] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish guidance on reasonable grounds for a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme; and if so, when.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In line with the Citizens' Rights Agreements, the Government has made clear, where a person eligible for leave under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline for applications by those resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

We will publish clear, non-exhaustive guidance in the near future on what constitutes reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. Yet our focus remains on communicating information about the scheme and helping people to apply within the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/hl13731>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/hl13745>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-29/96911>

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

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

Asylum

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL13905] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum claims in (1) January, (2) February, and (3) to date in March, 2021, have been treated as inadmissible on the basis that the claimant was judged to have travelled through or have a connection to a safe third country; and which those countries were.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of asylum applications are published in Table Asy_D01 and data on the number and type of asylum initial decisions are published in table Asy_D02 of the Asylum and Resettlement datasets.

Figures on the number of asylum application decisions made in the first quarter of 2021 are due to be published on 27 May 2021. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'. We are working to bring inadmissibility decisions in line with current reporting and hope to publish that information in the same timeframe.

We are reviewing the cases of those who claimed asylum before 1 January and their suitability for decision-making under the new rules. If it is appropriate for any claimants to receive decisions under the new provisions, they will be informed of that, in line with the Home Office published policy guidance.

The Home Office current published guidance is clear that we will serve an inadmissibility decision only when an individual's return is agreed by a third country. The Home Office continues to work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development to secure agreements to enable returns to be made. Any case where return is not agreed within 6 months from the date of claim will be admitted to the asylum process and will have their asylum claim substantively considered in the UK.

Information on the Home Office inadmissibility rules can be found on gov.uk under 'Inadmissibility: third country cases'.

[Inadmissibility - Third Country Cases](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-04/hl13905>

The Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at

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

Asylum: Families

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL13877] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their policy paper Statement in relation to legal routes from the EU for protection claimants including family reunion of unaccompanied children, published on 8 February, when they intend to fulfil their commitment to review legal routes of entry to the UK for people seeking asylum and refugee family reunion, including for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in EU member states seeking to join relatives in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has committed to review safe and legal routes to the UK and has a statutory duty to conduct a public consultation on family reunion for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the EU.

This review and public consultation will cover legal routes by which protection claimants who are in the EU can enter the UK, to reunite with family members. The review will go beyond those who are in the EU, reflecting our new global approach

to the immigration system. This wider review of safe and legal routes will fully address our statutory duties as set out in the Act and the timetable of the two will run together.

The Home Secretary has set out the Government's ambition to overhaul our approach to asylum and illegal migration, delivering a firm but fair system, including bringing forward new legislation this year. The review and consultation are an important part of this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-03/hl13877>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/2cw8a3uu>

Migrants: Detainees

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL13746] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many places in immigration removal centres are (1) currently occupied, and (2) available; and what assessment they have made of the number of immigration removal centre places for (a) men, and (b) women, that will be required within their current planning period.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient capacity, in the right places and that it provides value for money. We will maintain sufficient capacity to support the removal of those who abuse our hospitality by committing serious, violent and persistent crimes as well as those who do not comply with our immigration laws.

The Home Office publishes statistics on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the Immigration statistics quarterly release - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Data on people in detention under immigration powers are published in Table Det_03a of the 'Detention summary tables - List of tables - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

The total operational capacity for the immigration removal centres (if all rooms and beds are in use) is 2462 and the current occupancy rate is 367 as of 3 March 2021.

[Detention Summary - List of tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/hl13746>

Asylum: Detainees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL13819] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are ending pilot schemes for community-based alternatives to detention for female asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As part of the Department's immigration detention reform programme, we are conducting a series of two pilots exploring alternatives to detention. In line with international best practice, each pilot will run for two years before a final evaluation.

The first of these pilots, Action Access, has provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community. This pilot concludes on 31 March 2021 after operating for two years. The second pilot, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, is supporting both men and women and is running until June 2022.

We are working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on these pilots and they have appointed the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to independently evaluate this work. These evaluations will be published, with the evaluation report of the Action Access pilot scheduled for early Summer 2021. We will use the evaluations of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-02/hl13819>

Detention Centres

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL13749] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the role of Detention Gatekeepers in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no plans to review the role of Detention Gatekeepers in immigration removal centres at this time.

The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration annually inspects how the Government manages vulnerable persons in detention. Should recommendations be made around the efficacy of the Detention Gatekeeper, they will be considered in line with Governmental priorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/hl13749>

Offenders: Deportation

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL13747] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of (1) women, and (2) men, currently held in immigration removal centres are classed as 'foreign criminals' according to section 32 of the UK Borders Act 2007.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford): This Government puts the rights of the British public before those of criminals, and we are clear that foreign criminals should be deported from the UK wherever it is legal and practical to do so.

The Home Office publishes data on people in detention by gender, as at the last day of the quarter in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', Immigration statistics quarterly release - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) published on the 25 February 2021, and is available from table Det_D02 of the Detention detailed datasets. Information on those held in immigration removal centres that are classed as 'foreign criminals' by gender, is not separately available in a reportable format.

We make every effort to ensure that a person's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with their release from prison on completion of sentence. Where an FNO refuses to cooperate with the removal or deportation process, they may be detained. Foreign national offenders held in detention have the option to apply to an independent immigration judge for bail at any point, irrespective of gender.

Since January 2019, we have returned 7,240 FNOs, and we make no apology for protecting the public.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-01/hl13747>

Section 32 of the UK borders Act 2007, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/30/section/32>

The Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at

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

Press Releases

Integrating New Scots

<https://www.gov.scot/news/integrating-new-scots/>

Tackling Scotland's population challenges

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

8 out of 10 last-minute attempts by immigration offenders to avoid removal are rejected, study finds

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-out-of-10-last-minute-attempts-by-immigration-offenders-to-avoid-removal-are-rejected-study-finds>

Prime Minister meets Hong Kong BN(O) families who have come to the UK
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-meets-hong-kong-bno-families-who-have-come-to-the-uk-19-march-2021>

New Publications

A Scotland for the future: opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population
<https://tinyurl.com/yj33pf6d>

Letter from Priti Patel MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements with France about their deployment of 'Sea marshals' on French-flagged cross-Channel ferries
http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0238/Home_Secretary_to_HASC_Chair-Sea_Marshals.pdf

Letter from Kevin Foster MP regarding amendments to published service standards for out of country Super Priority Visa applications
http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0242/Kevin_Foster_to_HASC_Chair-Super_priority_visas.pdf

Issues raised by people facing return in immigration detention
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/issues-raised-by-people-facing-return-in-immigration-detention/issues-raised-by-people-facing-return-in-immigration-detention>

News

Illegal immigrants clog courts with 'meritless' claims
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/illegal-immigrants-clog-courts-with-meritless-claims-l6v0kxng0>

Asylum lawyers must pay for 'hopeless' deportation appeals
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-lawyers-must-pay-for-hopeless-deportation-appeals-slsxqt6k9>

Channel migrants will be sent to new reception centres instead of hotels
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-will-be-sent-to-new-reception-centres-instead-of-hotels-5xwrmk8nf>

Refugees encouraged to take legal routes into UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/20/refugees-encouraged-take-legal-routes-uk/>

UK to consider sending asylum seekers abroad
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56439093>

Asylum seekers could be removed from Britain while their claims are processed
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/17/asylum-seekers-could-removed-britain-claims-processed/>

UK considers sending asylum seekers abroad to be processed
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/18/asylum-seekers-could-be-sent-abroad-by-uk-to-be-processed>

UK plans for offshore asylum 'processing centres' could struggle to find a home
<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/offshore-asylum-processing-centres-uk-b1819211.html>

Home Office plans to process asylum seekers overseas branded 'inhumane and unworkable'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-offshore-plans-home-office-b1818959.html>

Asylum seekers sent abroad under plans to deter migrants
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-sent-abroad-under-plans-to-deter-migrants-wzc95zq57>

Boris Johnson defends asylum seeker plan as Isle of Man asks: Is this a joke?
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boris-johnson-defends-asylum-seeker-plan-isle-of-man-australia-0qnlqxtvd>

'Run-down' Penally asylum camp to close on 21 March
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-56418361>

Outcry as UK asylum-seekers camp remains open as sister site shuts
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/16/former-military-barracks-used-to-house-asylum-seekers-to-shut>

Home Office facing calls to end practice of housing asylum seekers in army barracks after camp closure
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/penally-barracks-close-asylum-seekers-home-office-b1818010.html>

Blind asylum seeker suicidal after Home Office inaction on claim
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/17/blind-asylum-seeker-suicidal-after-home-office-inaction-on-claim>

Child asylum seekers threatened with deportation after being wrongly deemed adults by Home Office staff
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/children-asylum-deportation-adult-age-assessment-home-office-uk-b1810618.html>

Foreign criminals and asylum seekers will only get one chance to appeal against deportation
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/18/foreign-criminals-asylum-seekers-will-get-one-chance-appeal/>

Eight in 10 flights to deport illegal migrants blocked by human rights challenges
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/16/eight-10-flights-deport-illegal-migrants-uk-blocked-human-rights/>

Priti Patel risks forgetting the lessons of Windrush
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-risks-forgetting-the-lessons-of-windrush-zltnkhs0>

First Minister defends right of orphan, 13, to remain in Scotland
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/first-minister-defends-right-of-orphan-13-to-remain-in-scotland>

Kirk campaign launched for teen orphan facing second deportation threat
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/kirk-campaign-launched-for-teen-orphan-facing-second-deportation-threat>

A 'scandal and a moral outrage' – Scots minister calls for halt on deportation of orphan who arrived in Scotland aged three
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/a-scandal-and-a-moral-outrage-scots-minister-calls-for-halt-on-deportation-of-orphan-who-arrived-in-scotland-aged-three-3167418>

Rescued Syrian academic shares experience of escaping to Scotland
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19163440.rescued-syrian-academic-shares-experience-escaping-scotland/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Funding: Polish People in Scotland

Claire Baker (Labour) [S5W-35755] To ask the Scottish Government (a) whether and (b) how the needs of Polish people in Scotland are taken into account in its allocation of funding to organisations that support BAME people.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Scottish Government is committed to creating a fairer Scotland for all, including minority ethnic people in Scotland. This includes all racial and ethnic groups protected under the Equality Act 2010, which defines race as colour, ethnicity, nationality and citizenship. This definition of minority ethnic includes Polish people.

Over the last four years, we have allocated over £6m to support organisations working with minority ethnic people in Scotland, including those belonging to White minority ethnic communities. Our new Equality and Human Rights Fund, which was launched on 22 February 2021, is open to applications from any organisation working to advance race equality, including those from organisations representing Polish people.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-35755>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Catherine West (Labour) [140223] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to improve care for black women in the NHS.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: On 8 March the Government launched a call for evidence and is seeking to collect views on women's health. It will run for a period of 12 weeks until 30 May 2021 and is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/womens-health-strategy-call-for-evidence>

With the Maternity Transformation programme there is greater service user participation in the design and delivery of maternity services through Maternity Voices Partnerships which is making efforts that diverse voices are heard. The NHS Long Term Plan committed to implementation of an enhanced and targeted

continuity of carer model for black, Asian and minority ethnic women, as well as for women living in the most deprived areas.

The National Health Service is providing additional support for pregnant women from ethnic minorities during the COVID-19 pandemic, as research shows heightened risks.

The Department's policy research programme is funding the National Institute for Health Research's Policy Research Unit in Maternal and Neonatal Health and Care to conduct research to identify the factors associated with the excess risk of maternal death experienced by black and South Asian women.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/140223>

Ethnic Groups: Criminal Proceedings

Ruth Jones (Labour) [166634] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the increasing number of Black, Asian and ethnic minority people in the criminal justice system.

Reply from Alex Chalk: This government is committed to tackling inequality and all forms of discrimination. No one should face discrimination, which is why we welcomed David Lammy's 2017 review which shone a necessary light on disparity in the treatment of Black, Asian and ethnic minority individuals in the criminal justice system. The actions the Government committed to undertake in response to the 35 recommendations made in the Lammy Review have either been completed or reasonably require an extended timeframe. The range of our current work is now broader than the agenda set out by the Review. I have been working with the Home Office and Cabinet Office on the establishment of the Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in addition to the focus my department is bringing to HM Prison and Probation, and the work of the Youth Justice Board with young people. A cross-governmental approach with the Criminal Justice Board also allows us to work with senior officials to assist in generating cross-system impetus to drive forward the race agenda. We are also aware that the Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities is looking into issues pertaining to this area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/166634>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Press Release

Supporting Gypsy and Traveller communities

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-gypsy-and-traveller-communities/>

New Publications

Race Equality Action Plan: Final Report

<https://tinyurl.com/4c9vw7bm>

Race and the justice system research audit: findings report

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/race-and-the-justice-system-research-audit-findings-report/>

Gypsy Traveller Action Plan: letter from Scottish Government and COSLA
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/gypsy-traveller-action-plan-letter-from-scottish-government-and-cosla/>

Graduate Outcomes in London
<https://www.smf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Graduate-outcomes-in-London-March-2021.pdf>

News

One in three BME workers say they have been unfairly turned down for a job: TUC poll
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/one-three-bme-workers-say-they-have-been-unfairly-turned-down-job-tuc-poll>

Black graduates get worse degrees and earn less than white peers, report says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/black-graduates-university-race-b1818967.html>

Black history lessons to be made mandatory in Welsh schools
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56447682>

Black history lessons to become mandatory in Welsh schools
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/mar/19/black-history-lessons-mandatory-welsh-schools-bame>

New studies to examine racial inequality in UK art and music
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/mar/15/new-studies-to-examine-racial-inequality-in-uk-art-and-music>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Universities: Antisemitism

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [165688] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many universities have adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism; and what action is being taken against those universities that have not adopted that definition.

Further Education and Higher Education: Antisemitism

Alicia Kearns (Conservative) [167338] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) higher and (b) further education establishments have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [169020] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all universities in England adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: The government has asked all English higher education providers registered with the Office for Students (OfS) to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. The IHRA definition is an important tool in tackling antisemitism.

Adopting this widely recognised definition sends a strong signal that higher education providers take these issues seriously. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, wrote to higher education leaders, most recently in October 2020, to reiterate the importance of the definition and to urge all providers to consider adopting it.

The government is pleased to report that at least 91 providers have now adopted the definition, with many more preparing to adopt. The decision on adoption of the definition rests with individual providers, but the government will continue to urge them to adopt the definition, and ensure that higher education is a genuinely fulfilling and welcoming experience for everyone.

I am proud that so many providers have taken a positive step towards eradicating antisemitism by adopting the IHRA definition, but further progress is still needed to stamp it out. This is why, in the Secretary of State's most recent strategic guidance letter to the OfS, the government asked the OfS to undertake a scoping exercise, to identify providers which are reluctant to adopt the definition. The letter asked them to consider introducing mandatory reporting of antisemitic incident numbers by providers, with the aim of ensuring a robust evidence base, which the OfS can then use to effectively regulate in this area.

The Secretary of State also asked the OfS to ensure that, if antisemitic incidents do occur at a provider, they should consider if it is relevant in a particular case whether the provider has adopted the IHRA definition when considering what sanctions, including monetary penalties, would be appropriate to apply.

We will continue to work across government to ensure that racism and religious hatred of any kind is not tolerated anywhere, including in our world-leading universities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-09/165688>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167338>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-15/169020>

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Tracy Brabin (Labour) [166505] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking in response to allegations of racism in cricket.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The government is clear that racism has no place in cricket, sport, or society at large. The sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' has diversity and inclusion at its heart. However, it is ultimately for individual sports to decide on the appropriate initiatives for their circumstances.

The Government welcomes the steps taken by the English Cricket Board (ECB) in recent years to increase diversity in cricket, including the most recent establishment of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, chaired by Cindy Butts. This body looks to examine all issues relating to race and equity in cricket. It will play an important role in ensuring inclusivity, and that cricket is a game for everyone, at all levels.

There is still more to do, however, and we will continue to liaise with the ECB to ensure this issue is tackled effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-10/166505>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

The following ten questions all received the same answer

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167362] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Racial Equality in Cricket Report, published in 1997, what assessment he has made of the England and Wales Cricket Board's progress on the implementation of the recommendations in that report.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167363] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with the England and Wales Cricket Board on the (a) number of grievances raised against that Board on the grounds of (i) racial discrimination and (ii) victimisation since 2010 and (b) the number of those grievances in that period that were (A) upheld and (B) dismissed.

Cricket: Afro-Caribbeans and Asians

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167364] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many (a) African Caribbean and (b) Asian umpires have applied to be part of the England and Wales Cricket Board panel in the last 29 years; how many such applications were rejected; and on what basis those applications were rejected.

England and Wales Cricket Board: Equality

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167365] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how much of the £60 million Sport England budget allocated to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) between 2009 and 2017 has been spent on achieving equality and diversity on that board; and if his Department will undertake a cost benefit analysis of the money spent to date.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167366] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps Sport England takes to ensure that funding provided to the England and Wales Cricket Board achieves sustainable diversity at all levels.

England and Wales Cricket Board: Staff

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167367] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what the (a) ethnic and (b) gender breakdown is of the (i) management and (ii) staff of the England and Wales Cricket Board at all levels.

Cricket: Bullying

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167368] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what bullying, harassment and anti discrimination policies apply to members of the (a) England and Wales Cricket Board, (b) County Cricket Boards and (c) County and regional management; how many allegations concerning that policy have been made against members of those boards in the last five years; and how many of those allegations have been (i) upheld and (ii) rejected.

England and Wales Cricket Board: Training

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167369] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of (a) unconscious bias and (b) anti-racism training for decision makers of the England and Wales Cricket Board and its delegated authority to its regional bodies.

Cricket: Ethnic Groups

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167370] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that (a) African, (b) Caribbean and (c) Asian (i) players, (ii) umpires, (iii) coaches (iv) and staff are protected when alleging (A) race discrimination, (B) ball tampering and (C) any other form of unlawful behaviour within the game.

Cricket: Equality

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [167371] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if he will publish an annual report on the progress being made to achieve diversity and equality targets within cricket at all levels.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The Government is clear that racism has no place in cricket, sport, or society at large. Our sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting

Future' has diversity and inclusion at its heart. In addition, Sport England's new ten year strategy, "Uniting the Movement", reinforces their commitment to increasing diversity and inclusion in grassroots sport and physical activity. However, it is ultimately for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), as for all individual sports' national governing bodies, to decide on the specific aims and appropriate initiatives to increase diversity in their organisations, and to evaluate progress with these.

We welcome the steps taken by the ECB in recent years to increase diversity in cricket, including the recent establishment of the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, chaired by Cindy Butts. This body looks to examine all issues relating to race and equity in cricket. The evaluation will play an important role in ensuring inclusivity, and that cricket is a game for everyone.

Since 2009, Sport England funding has directly contributed to a number of cricket participation projects with an equality, diversity and inclusion focus run by the ECB. This is in addition to the requirements around diversity set out in the UK Sport and Sport England Code for Sports Governance since 2017.

One example of the ECB's work on diversity, funded by Sport England, is the South Asian Action Plan. This focuses on increasing racial diversity and opening up access to cricket, including facilities and delivery of bespoke formats of the sport for the community's needs. After the success of the first investment of £1 million, this has recently been awarded an additional £1 million for the next 2 years.

There is still more to do, however, and we will continue to liaise with the ECB ensure this issue is tackled effectively and that recommendations from the commission are implemented.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167362>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167363>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167364>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167365>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167366>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167367>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167368>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167369>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167370>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-11/167371>

The report referred to above is not available free online.

Information about the strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.sportengland.org/why-were-here/uniting-the-movement>

The Code for Sports Governance referred to above can be read at

https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/a_code_for_sports_governance.pdf?qKUYxIN.mAu2ZOBeGifxGGxy54PxZ8oI

The action plan referred to above can be read at

<https://platform-static-files.s3.amazonaws.com/ecb/document/2018/05/09/5c30a116-33f0-4b3e-8874-c0948f0eb0ae/Engaging-South-Asian-Communities-An-ECB-Action-Plan-2018.pdf>

Racism

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, what steps they are taking to tackle (1) institutional, and (2) structural, racism in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, this Government campaigned on commitments to tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination. That is why the Prime Minister established the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities last July, to examine all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic disparities in Britain. The commission has focused on areas including education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The commission is currently finalising its report; this will be submitted to the Prime Minister shortly.

Lord Woolley: My Lords, Covid-19 has had a devastating and disproportionate impact on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. This disease has laid bare and exacerbated racial structural inequalities. Does the Minister agree that, when the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities reports in a few days' time, it must include a Covid-19 race equality strategy, to comprehensively deal with inequalities in health, employment, education and housing?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, on 26 February we released a second report on the progress being made on tackling Covid-19 disparities experienced by individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds. I am sure this will be part of the outcomes of the commission that the Prime Minister will shortly receive.

Baroness Verma (Conservative): My Lords, given the spotlight put on the levels of racism still found across all levels of society—public, private, civil society and institutions—will the Government, following the review, also review their own processes across Whitehall in order to root out all barriers that prevent people of colour accessing the same opportunities as their white colleagues? There seems to be a gap between those coming in at entry level and at senior and middle management. Will my noble friend meet with me and others who understand these issues very well, as someone who has had personal experience herself, to help shift the dial?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My noble friend is correct, but the Government are campaigning on their commitments to tackle racism and discrimination. They are committed to increasing ethnic minority representation at senior levels within the Civil Service, across all government departments and their agencies. We have taken a number of clear steps in recent years that are already having a very positive impact. I am certainly very happy to discuss a meeting with my noble friend and the department.

Lord Hastings of Scarisbrick (Crossbench): My Lords, 22 years ago Sir William Macpherson declared the Metropolitan Police to be institutionally racist and the law was changed, but little has changed. The *Guardian* editorial today, in the light of Saturday's grossly over-the-top and aggressive use of police power against women, states: "The commissioner declared the service no longer institutionally racist, while a surge in stop and search has alienated many people of colour ... this weekend, many more women and men are questioning whom exactly the police serve."

Is it not time to abandon the unaccountable notion of operational independence and direct the police to abandon racist practices, notably stop and search?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, there was obviously, in the last few years, a large report on racism within the police. However, we will continue to work on this, and the commission will continue to look at what more we can do to ensure that all the systems—education, policing et cetera—have no racism in the future.

Lord Hendy (Labour): My Lords, the Office for National Statistics analysis in October 2020

showed that the ethnicity pay gap between white and ethnic minority employees has narrowed but persists, with marked regional variations. The largest is in London, at 23.8%, and the smallest is in Wales, at 1.4%. There are also gaps between ethnicities. Will the Minister consider amending legislation to impose a duty on employers to report the ethnicity pay gaps in parallel to those under Section 78 of the Equality Act 2010 in respect of the gender pay gap?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, the Government are already looking at this issue and will report in due course. However, the important thing to note is that because of the pandemic we look at unemployment among all the people of this country, and for that aim there has been a £30 billion investment in the Plan for Jobs, which obviously will include looking at the issues that ethnic minorities have in particular.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): Institutional and structural racism is real and affects every aspect of black and minority ethnic people's lives. A recent report showed that black women are still four times more likely than white women to die in pregnancy or childbirth in the UK, and that 85% of black people are not confident that they would be treated the same as a white person by the police. The Government seem to be taking a rather piecemeal approach. Will they take their responsibilities seriously, bring forward a plan for a comprehensive race equality strategy and, in doing so, implement the outstanding recommendations of the reviews that they commissioned, such as the 2016 Lammy review and the 2017 Angiolini review into deaths in police custody?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, the race disparity unit has been supporting the Department of Health in driving positive actions in maternity services to improve, quite rightly, the outcomes for ethnic minority women, including the NHS Help Us Help You campaign. As I have said, the commission will bring all these issues together and we will look at moving that work forward on the back of all those reviews that we have had in the past, taking them all into account.

Baroness Wilcox of Newport (Labour): My noble friend Lady Lawrence's recent report exploring the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus crisis on black, Asian and minority ethnic communities concluded that the virus has both exposed structural racism in the UK and itself fuelled racism. It was not just a random case of above-average infection rates; it was a result of decades of social and economic inequalities and of structural injustice, inequality and discrimination. When do the Government intend to publish the delayed report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities that was submitted to the Prime Minister on 28 February?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: As I have said, the commission has one final meeting to finalise its report. After that, the report will go to the Prime Minister and then it will come back for us to look at its recommendations.

Baroness Deech (Crossbench): My Lords, David Baddiel's latest book is called *Jews Don't Count*. Bigotry against Jews and Israel is rampant in our universities, from the top of the administrations through the academics to the students, as evidenced by the Community Security Trust. The problem is institutional—for example, at Bristol University right now. The Universities UK report last November on racial harassment ignored it. Will the Minister make sure that the Office for Students uses its current consultation on harassment on campus to bring forward plans to address anti-Semitism?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: We certainly will, and I will take that back to the department on behalf of the noble Baroness.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated): My Lords, in reality there is only one race: the human race. What steps are the Government taking to address the fact that, for the first time in six years, there are currently no chairmen or chairwomen, chief executives or finance directors in the FTSE 100 from the black community?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, this issue is something that the Government have been working on with the private sector for a long time and

will continue to do so, particularly on increasing the number of ethnic communities that are at the top of those organisations.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative): My Lords, will my noble friend commend the work done to combat racism and discrimination in football through Kick It Out campaigning? I know the Government are supportive. Will she lend support to the many clubs campaigning to end discrimination, such as my own club, Leicester City?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: My Lords, I congratulate Leicester City on being third in the league and on their 5-0 win yesterday. My noble friend is right: racism or indeed any form of discrimination has no place in football or society, but there is still more to do. The Government continue to liaise closely with the football authorities to tackle this issue.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-03-15/debates/BC9E3706-4FF2-4097-BF21-116C9469495F/Racism>

The report on the progress being made on tackling Covid-19 disparities, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/second-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/second-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities>

The Macpherson report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277111/4262.pdf

The Guardian editorial referred to above can be read at

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/14/the-guardian-view-on-the-met-and-protests-police-need-reform-not-more-power>

The Office for National Statistics analysis referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/ethnicitypaygapsingreatbritain/2019/pdf>

A short video introduction by David Baddiel to his book "Jews Don't Count", referred to above, can be watched at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4UKi3E30zI>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

David Miller

Lord Austin of Dudley (Non-affiliated) [HL13646] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statements by Professor David Miller about Jewish students; and what discussions they have had with (1) the University of Bristol, and (2) the police, about the steps being taken to ensure the safety of such students.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: The government abhors antisemitism in all its forms and has for several years pushed for greater action from higher education providers in addressing it. This has included encouraging them to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, in order to have universal clarity of what constitutes antisemitic behaviour.

The government expects universities and other higher education providers to comply with their legal duties on discrimination and harassment, as well as their legal duties to protect free speech. Universities must balance the exercise of their legal duties, including on a case-by-case basis.

We expect higher education providers to be at the forefront of tackling antisemitism, making sure that higher education is a genuinely fulfilling and welcoming experience for everyone.

All higher education providers should discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and swiftly address hate crime, including any antisemitic incidents that are reported. We expect higher education providers to have robust policies and procedures in place to address staff disciplinary issues.

All higher education providers have procedures for handling student complaints and, if students are unhappy with their experience, they should use the processes in place to complain formally to their provider outlining their concerns. Where a student complaint cannot be resolved through the institution's complaint processes, a student at a provider in England and Wales can ask for his or her complaint to be reviewed by an independent body, the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education. Students also can and should inform the police if they believe the law has been broken.

With regards to the case of Professor David Miller, universities are independent and autonomous organisations which are responsible for the management of their own affairs and for meeting their duties under the law. Accordingly, the government has not intervened directly in this case. It is the responsibility of the University of Bristol to determine whether or not Professor Miller's remarks constitute lawful free speech. In doing so, the government's view is that they may wish to consider, in particular, his remarks about current students at the University of Bristol. It is important to distinguish between lawful, if deeply offensive, views on the one hand, and unacceptable acts of abuse, intimidation, and violence on the other.

Regardless of whether or not it is found that Professor Miller's conduct constitutes lawful free speech, the government considers that the University of Bristol could do more to make its condemnation of that conduct clear to current and future students and to show its commitment to creating a welcoming environment for Jewish students. The government considers Professor Miller's views to be ill-founded and wholly reprehensible, and wholeheartedly rejects them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-24/hl13646>

Press Releases

Unite against racism and stand up for racial equality - Lyons and Kearney

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/unite-against-racism-and-stand-racial-equality-lyons-and-kearney>

Reasonable steps to preventing workplace harassment

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/reasonable-steps-preventing-workplace-harassment>

Respect human rights to rebuild our societies in all their diversity, say human rights heads on International Anti-Racism Day

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2021/respect-human-rights-rebuild-our-societies-all-their-diversity-say-human-rights-heads>

European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) 2020 highlights: deepened inequalities related to COVID-19, BLM movement, growing religious intolerance, backlash against LGBTI people

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/2020-highlights-deepened-inequalities-related-to-covid-19-blm-movement-growing-religious-intolerance-backlash-against-lgbti-people>

Anti-Muslim Bigotry Accords with Other Emerging Trends, Secretary-General Notes, in Message for International Day to Combat Islamophobia

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sgsm20630.doc.htm>

New Publications

In Focus: Black Lives Matter: New race inequalities commission and a London statue review

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/black-lives-matter-new-race-inequalities-commission-and-a-london-statue-review/>

Minority Issues: the widespread targeting of minorities through hate speech in social media

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session46/Documents/A_HRC_46_57.docx

Annual Report on European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) Activities covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020

<https://rm.coe.int/annual-report-on-ecri-s-activities-for-2020/1680a1cd59>

News

Scotland's Hate Crime Bill: How the SNP have let women down with this flawed legislation – Murdo Fraser MSP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/scotlands-hate-crime-bill-how-the-snp-have-let-women-down-with-this-flawed-legislation-murdo-fraser-msp-3167502>

Scottish Conservatives pledge to repeal Hate Crime Bill

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-conservatives-pledge-to-repeal-hate-crime-bill-3165316>

Covid in Scotland: People are treating us like the disease

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-56113045>

Stark reality of anti-Asian racism in the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/19/stark-reality-of-anti-asian-racism-in-the-uk>

Charities unite against online hate

<https://tfn.scot/news/charities-unite-against-online-hate>

Racism by probation service staff is rife, say inspectors

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/16/racism-probation-service-staff-rife-say-inspectors/>

Race issues sidelined since probation service shake-up, says watchdog

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/16/race-issues-sidelined-since-probation-service-shake-up-says-watchdog>

Review exposes prejudice within Royal College of Surgeons

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/review-exposes-prejudice-within-royal-college-of-surgeons-9g7ghpwt>

'Alpha male' surgeons have allowed racism and sexism to thrive, reveals landmark review
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/17/alpha-male-surgeons-have-allowed-racism-sexism-thrive-reveals/>

94% of UK journalists are white - and young people could be discouraged from the profession due to racism denial
<https://www.scotsman.com/read-this/94-of-uk-journalists-are-white-and-young-people-could-be-discouraged-from-the-profession-due-to-racism-denial-3164393>

London Fire Brigade should 'face up' to its culture of racism and misogyny, says chief
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/19/london-fire-brigade-should-face-culture-racism-misogyny-sayschief/>

Head of London fire brigade says it must face up to racism and misogyny
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/mar/19/head-of-london-fire-brigade-says-it-must-face-up-to-racism-and-misogyny?ref=GBVG>

Irish Travellers say UK blacklist a 'campaign of discrimination'
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/17/irish-travellers-say-uk-blacklist-a-campaign-of-discrimination>

Bristol University anti-Semitism row 'putting Jewish students off applying'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/17/bristol-university-anti-semitism-row-putting-jewish-students/>

Oxford students union president 'lynched' over old posts
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxford-students-union-president-lynched-over-old-posts-hf7j5hv8j>

SOAS director steps down during investigation into n-word use
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/soas-adam-habib-university-racism-b1819120.html>

School drops legal action after Muslim girl told her skirt was too long
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/mar/16/school-drops-legal-action-muslim-girl-told-skirt-too-long>

London Pride in race row as 20 volunteers and most senior black member quit over racism concerns
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/17/london-pride-race-row-20-volunteers-senior-black-member-quit/>

Pride in London's top Black member resigns over racism concerns
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pride-in-london-racism-lgbt-b1818113.html>

Norfolk: Actor Ashton Owen's one-man show reflects on rural racism
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-56403411>

Glen Kamara says Ondrej Kudela racism denial a 'complete and utter lie'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/56465292>

Steven Gerrard has fears over whether UEFA will provide a meaningful response to alleged racist abuse of Rangers midfielder Glen Kamara

<https://www.scotsman.com/sport/football/rangers/steven-gerrard-has-fears-over-whether-uefa-will-provide-a-meaningful-response-to-alleged-racist-abuse-of-rangers-midfielder-glen-kamara-3172090>

Rangers racism row: BBC pundit Michael Stewart under fire from ex-England star Rio Ferdinand over Glen Kamara 'caution'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19175898.rangers-racism-row-bbc-pundit-michael-stewart-fire-ex-england-star-rio-ferdinand-glen-kamara-caution/>

Rangers' Glen Kamara demands Uefa action over alleged racist remark

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/mar/19/rangers-glen-kamara-demands-uefa-action-over-alleged-racist-remark>

Rangers' Glen Kamara issues statement on 'vile racist abuse' and demands Uefa action

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/scottish/glen-kamara-ondrej-kudela-rangers-slavia-prague-b1819967.html>

Rangers accuse Slavia Prague defender of racist abuse - but Czech side deny claim and allege their player was attacked

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2021/03/19/rangers-accuse-slavia-prague-defender-racist-abuse-czech-side/>

Rangers' Glen Kamara says rival called him 'a monkey'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/slavia-prague-call-police-over-glen-kamara-race-row-nn2zjgd9v>

Police Scotland charge man over alleged online racist abuse of Yannick Bolasie

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/mar/17/police-scotland-charge-man-over-alleged-online-racist-abuse-of-yannick-bolasie>

Sheffield United's Rhian Brewster racially abused on social media

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/56460266>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publications

Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2019/20

Main findings

<https://tinyurl.com/yz2dtzme>

Associated data tables

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2019-20-datasets/>

Supplementary documents

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-crime-justice-survey-2019-20-suppl/>

News

Humza Yousaf welcomes Scottish Government figures showing crime 'almost halved' in decade

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19163796.humza-yousaf-welcomes-scottish-government-figures-showing-crime-almost-halved-decade/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Forced Marriage

Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative) [166604] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many potential cases of forced marriage were investigated by the Forced Marriage Unit in 2020.

Reply from Nigel Adams: Statistics on the number of cases dealt with by the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), including a breakdown by region and age, are published annually and are available online at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forced-marriage-unit-statistics>

Statistics for 2020 will be added to this page as soon as data assurance processes are complete.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-10/166604>

New Publication

Updated Guidance: A Statement Opposing Female Genital Mutilation

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573623/2905975_FGM_Passport_v1_0A.PDF

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service

The Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service is available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week on 0800 030 8013.

<https://nhs.uk/services/our-covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-helpline-and-booking-service>

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

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 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 Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Hilary Benn (Labour) [144599] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what studies are being undertaken on the effect of covid on BME communities; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Investment of £4.3 million has been made in new research projects into the impact of COVID-19 among people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, including health and social care workers. The projects will explore the impact of the virus specifically on migrant and refugee groups; working with key voices within BAME communities to create targeted, digital health messages; the introduction of a new framework to ensure the representation of people from BAME backgrounds in clinical trials testing new treatments and vaccines for COVID-19; and the creation of one the United Kingdom's largest COVID-19 cohorts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-27/144599>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Afzal Khan (Labour) [131475] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the polling from the Royal Society for Public Health, published 17 December 2020, which found 57 per cent of Black, Asian and minority ethnic people would likely accept the covid-19 vaccine, what additional steps his Department is taking to increase take up among the BAME community of the covid-19 vaccine; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: The COVID-19 vaccine uptake plan is helping improve uptake including across black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities by removing barriers to access, providing comprehensive data and information and engaging people locally. The Plan takes a community-led approach, with support provided from the Government, NHS England and NHS Improvement and local authorities to coordinate and enable action.

A new Vaccination Equalities Committee, led by NHS England and NHS Improvement, will bring together Government departments with national representatives from the Association of Directors of Public Health, local authorities, Fire and Police services and third sector organisations to advise and guide the vaccine deployment programme on addressing inequalities and helping improve uptake rates including in BAME communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131475>

Information about the poll referred to above can be read at

<https://www.rsph.org.uk/about-us/news/new-poll-finds-bame-groups-less-likely-to-want-covid-vaccine.html>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Coronavirus: Travellers

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL11569] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to (1) publicise, and (2) facilitate access to, COVID-19 vaccinations for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The National Health Service is working with Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise partners, inclusion health providers and others to develop an accessible model for delivery of the vaccine to people from communities such as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller. Through the Community Champions Scheme councils and voluntary organisations are delivering a wide range of measures to protect those most at risk - including communicating accurate health information. Champions have been drawn from these communities themselves to share accurate health information with their neighbours, networks and wider community. Local vaccination services are playing a vital role in reaching vulnerable groups including those who are in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. These services mobilise general practice, working together in groups of Primary Care Networks plus large and small community pharmacy sites. These services provide the largest number of locations and are well placed to support our highest risk individuals, many of whom already have a trusted relationship with their local health services. They also coordinate and deliver vaccination to people who are unable to attend a vaccination site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/hl11569>

Scottish Government Press Release

Vaccination programme reaches two million people

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-programme-reaches-two-million-people/>

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: Health Secretary's statement - 19 March 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-health-secretarys-statement-19-march-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 18 March 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-18-march-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 17 March 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-17-march-2021/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 15 March 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-15-march-2021/>

UK Government Press Release

Half of all adults in UK receive first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/half-of-all-adults-in-uk-receive-first-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

Prime Minister's statement at coronavirus press conference: 18 March 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-18-march-2021>

Other Organisations

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Research shows COVID challenges for Scottish charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/blog/2021/march/16/research-shows-covid-challenges-for-scottish-charities/>

Full data tables May 2020

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3954/2020-06-05-15339b-covid-impact-data-tables-v3.xlsx>

Full data tables November 2020

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/4121/2021-03-10-15371b-covid-impact-wave-2-data-tables-incl-coding-overall-sig-test-v2.xlsx>

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New Publications

Facts about Scotland's new organ transplant system

<https://www.organdonationscotland.org/law-change-facts>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Changing your governing document to allow for virtual meetings: FAQs

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/changing-your-governing-document-to-allow-for-virtual-meetings-faqs/>

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Other News

Scotland's new organ transplant system: The hurdles and ethical dilemmas

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19173905.journey-scotlands-new-transplant-system-begins-ends-snp/>

BBC Scotland Voices Unlocked

BBC Scotland want to hear from people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities who are interested in finding out more about what it's like to be a contributor, answer your questions about what is involved in taking part in TV and radio interviews, and give you the opportunity to meet producers and programme-makers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/send/u72531633>

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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>

**** Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13208&i=119605#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13208&i=119606#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13208&i=119613&c=2331244#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/stage-3/bill-as-passed.pdf>

More powers to protect domestic abuse victims

<https://www.gov.scot/news/more-powers-to-protect-domestic-abuse-victims/>

**** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

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

Bill as amended at Stage 3

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-3/bill-as-amended-at-stage-3.pdf>

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

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

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>

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

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/>

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS): Documenting the Lives of Ethnic and Religious Minorities in a Time of Crisis (closing date 11 May 2021)

bit.ly/evensurvey

Glasgow Museums Legacies of Slavery & Empire Questionnaire (closing date not stated)

<https://surveys.glasgowlife.org.uk/s/legacies/>

Racial inequality in health and social care workplaces (closing date not stated)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/inquiry-racial-inequality-health-and-social-care-workplaces>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinscotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19
(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland
(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

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 (still open)

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/>

Equality and Human Rights Fund

Closing date 14 May 2021

Scottish Government funding to support work which advances human rights, promotes equality and tackles discrimination around age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and race. Grants will support projects over the next three years, and there is no minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for. For information and to apply see <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/equality-and-human-rights/>

**** New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project**

Closing date 22 May 2021

Scottish Government funding for organisations and community groups across Scotland involved in supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. Projects will enable refugees in Scotland to live in safe, welcoming and cohesive communities where they are able to build diverse relationships and connections; understand their rights, responsibilities and entitlements and exercise these to pursue full and independent lives; access well-coordinated services, which recognise and meet their rights and needs; and ensure their rights, needs and aspirations inform the policy, strategic planning and legislation which impacts upon them. Full details and an online application form will be available shortly. For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-delivery-fund-guidance/pages/background/>

Adapt and Thrive

Running until June 2021

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/atf>

Vaccine Information Fund

Running until August 2021

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

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**** this week!**

Scotland's Human Rights Report Card: Getting Involved

24 March 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Scottish Human Rights Commission event to enable people to contribute to Scotland's 'Human Rights Report Card' which is sent to the United Nations every few years as part of the Universal Periodic Review, to help other countries around the world make recommendations back to our governments. For information and to register contact events@scottishhumanrights.com

**** this week!**

Online Security + Hate crime and your community

24 March 2021 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about the phases of an attack and how we can learn from past incidents to foil future attacks. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4ctbg6m>

**** this week!**

Hate Crime Training

4 weekly sessions starting 24 March 2021 (online, 10.00–11.00)

Note that this course is only open to BME women from Glasgow.

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training to develop the knowledge and understanding of participating women on hate crime and legislation. Participants will gain skills to support women in addressing and reporting hate crime, develop an understanding of the importance of reporting hate crime, and learn tools to support women to build confidence and resilience in tackling this issue as trainers. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/hate-crime-training/>

**** this week!**

Windrush: engagement event

25 March 2021 (online, 4.00-5.00)

Home Office event to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce.

For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

**** this week!**

Life in time interactive digital exhibition

26 March 2021 onwards

"Life in the Time" showcases the artworks of Muslim and BME women who have taken part in Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre "Emerging Futures: Life in the time of a Pandemic" project. For information see <https://life-in-the-time-exhibition.com/> from 26 March.

SAFE by CST: Q & A Session

31 March 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust question and answer session about the safety of your community. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6js3ax2>

Basic security for your place of worship

7 April 2020 (online, 2.00)

Community Security Trust webinar providing an introduction to security for places of worship and faith communities. For information about the March event see <https://tinyurl.com/y4gakb6y> and for the April event <https://tinyurl.com/y23d82hn>

Organising security for your place of worship

12 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about security and risk management, and how to develop a security plan for places of worship. For information about the February webinar see <https://tinyurl.com/yxdc7kwg> and for April see <https://tinyurl.com/y329uhx7>

Event security for your community

20 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of large numbers of people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ahbbgu>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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