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The UK Parliament returns from recess on 15 November 2021.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

Stephanie Callaghan (SNP) [S6M-02065] Citizens' Rights Project Assists Vulnerable EU Citizens in Scotland – That the Parliament commends the work of the Citizens' Rights Project, a community-led, Scottish-based charity supporting EU citizens to apply for EU settled status; acknowledges that the Citizens' Rights Project has, so far, supported around 5,000 EU citizens via in-person and online support sessions, answered over 1,000 queries and assisted more than 500 people with their EU Settled Status applications; understands that evidence from the Citizens' Rights Project indicates that thousands of people may still not have applied for settled status due to a lack of information, lack of language and digital skills, and other vulnerabilities, compounded by the limitations posed by COVID-19, and considers that, without specialist support such as that provided by the Citizens' Rights Project, EU citizens in Scotland may be at risk of exploitation and further exclusion.

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Rupa Huq (Labour) [66246] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of increasing the number of people allowed to resettle in the UK through the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government has committed to welcoming around 5,000 people in the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, and up to 20,000 in total. This is one of the most ambitious resettlement schemes in our country's history. Dedicated officials have worked day and night to support this unprecedented response.

The Government is also supporting thousands of Afghan people through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

It is important that we resettle people safely and provide appropriate support including with healthcare, education, jobs and housing. When considering the number of people we resettle, it is right that we take into account the capacity of local communities to provide this support, and that we do not take more people than we can accommodate.

I would like to thank all local authorities who have already pledged help and encourage others to come forward and support the efforts to resettle Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66246>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Kim Johnson (Labour) [67298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the details of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will be finalised and the scheme opened.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) is not yet open. However, the first to be resettled through this scheme will be some of those who arrived in the UK under the evacuation programme, which included individuals who were considered to be at particular risk – including women's rights activists, prosecutors and journalists. Officials are working urgently to stand up the remaining elements of the scheme, amid the complex and changing picture.

The Government will continue to work closely with other government departments, non-governmental organisations, charities, local authorities and other partners and relevant organisations in the development and implementation of the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67298>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Kate Hollern (Labour) [68292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plan her Department has for the delivery of the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

(ACRS), the UK will relocate up to 20,000 people at risk, including women and girls and minority groups, so they can rebuild their lives in safety.

The scheme is not yet open. However, we are working urgently to open the scheme, amid the complex and changing picture.

The Home Office will continue to work closely with other Government departments, non-governmental organisations, charities, local authorities and other partners and relevant organisations in the development and implementation of the ACRS.

Further information on the eligibility, prioritisation and referral of people for the ACRS is set out in the policy statement published on gov.uk on 13 September, available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68292>

Information about the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [68113] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applications his Department has yet to process.

Reply from James Heapey: The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) is one of the most generous schemes of its type in the world. Since its inception in April 2021, more than 88,000 applications have been received. This number is far higher than the total number of Afghans who ever worked for the UK. Processing those applications and determining eligibility is a very high priority and I have directed significant additional resource to this task.

As of 30 October, all of the 60,000 applications received prior to 31 August, have been reviewed and processing by the eligibility team is under way. Many of these are not appropriate for the ARAP scheme and we are redirecting those to the appropriate alternative mechanism where possible. In other cases, employment checks or verification of information requiring third party input is in progress. This group of applications continues to be our highest priority. Since 1 September, more than 28,000 additional applications have been received, and we continue to receive them at a rate of over 100 per day. These applications are our next priority for processing; around 3,000 of them are currently being processed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68113>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [68114] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what the average length of time taken is for an Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy application to be processed.

Reply from James Heapey: The time taken to process individual Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) applications varies enormously on a case by case basis. A dedicated casework team at PJHQ continues to work closely with applicants to support them throughout the application process and to help bring their case to a timely conclusion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68114>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Ben Spencer (Conservative) [67282] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department has been taking to support Operation Warm Welcome.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Department has played a key role in Operation Warm Welcome including legislating to exempt those arriving from Afghanistan from the usual residency tests which restrict access to certain benefits for new arrivals to the UK, including Universal Credit.

We recognise those arriving may require immediate help. Therefore, DWP work coaches are now working in bridging hotels to take claims for Universal Credit and other support, with over 2,900 claims already taken which covers 4,500 claimants (couples are treated as a single claim). The Department has also provided other assistance including help to set up bank accounts, access medical prescriptions, distribute essential items, arranging events to support wellbeing and providing reassurance and a contact point for individuals. Moreover, employment is an important part of integration. That is why those arriving under the relocation and resettlement schemes have the right to work from day one. We are providing tailored support to those who are ready to start looking for work. Employment fairs are being run to highlight employment and training opportunities and online courses are available in bridging hotels. DWP are using our National Employment and Partnership Team to identify employment opportunities for those who are ready to work, and are working with the Refugee Employment Network to ensure we provide tailored support to this cohort. DWP are also working with individuals to prepare them for work, looking at work experience opportunities, help with CV and practice interviews. As well as supporting the setup of English language classes either at hotels or the Department has arranged transport to locations so people can attend.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67282>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [69005] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the letter from the Minister for Afghan Resettlement on 29 October 2021, how many properties his Department has made available to accommodate Afghan personnel in the UK; and how many Afghan families have been housed in those properties.

Reply from Leo Docherty: To date, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has made 551 properties available, in three tranches, for lease to Local Authorities to assist with housing Afghan families. Currently, Local Authorities have signed 26 leases on properties with the MOD. 59 more leases are being negotiated and an interest has been expressed in a further 13.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69005>

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [68115] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people resettled under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy have been provided with permanent housing.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are working at pace with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. Over 300 local authorities have made offers of accommodation. The process of matching homes to families requires careful attention to detail but we are working to move people as quickly as possible when properties become available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68115>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Asylum: Housing

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [67184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the process is for a local authority to move an evacuated Afghan family from the hotel accommodation they have been placed in into a home that has been found by the local authority and meets the family's needs.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: We are working at pace across government and with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation for Afghan families who were evacuated to the UK. The emergency circumstances of Operation Pitting meant that we were not able to secure long term accommodation for people as we would have liked before they flew to the UK.

Once properties are identified and referred to the Home Office, a matching exercise is undertaken which allows us to offer the property to a suitable family. Where possible, we will match families from local bridging hotels allowing them to remain in the area where they may have started to form connections and settle.

The local authority provide a formal occupancy date and arrangements are made to transport the family into their new home. The process of matching homes to families requires careful attention to detail but we are working to move people as quickly as possible when properties become available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67184>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

Citizenship: Children

Gareth Thomas (Labour) [69572] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to introduce a fee waiver scheme for children born in the UK who are applying to register their British citizenship; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office acknowledged the Court of Appeal judgment in *PRCBC & O v Secretary of State for the Home Department* on 18 February and committed to reviewing the child citizenship registration fee in line with its duties under Section 55.

A Supreme Court hearing on Child Registration fees also took place on 23rd and 24th June.

We await the final judgment and the ongoing section 55 review before publishing results.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69572>

The Appeal Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2021/193.html>

Links to videos of the Supreme Court hearings referred to above are available at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2021-0063.html>

Visas: Software

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [66214] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will consider developing a mobile phone app for visa holders to use as an alternative to the Employer Checking Service to demonstrate their right to (a) work and (b) reside.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The existing online Right to Work, Right to Rent and "View and Prove your Immigration Status" services can already be quickly, simply and safely used on a mobile phone web browser. They enable visa holders to generate "share codes" that can be passed on to employers, landlords and other parties, enabling them to check the visa holder's rights and conditions of stay in the UK. Likewise, third parties given a share code can just as easily use a mobile phone

web browser to view the information shared by the visa holder in this way. Our digital services are constantly being improved based on user feedback and research. We will consider whether a cost-effective mobile phone app could be introduced and would bring benefits to visa holders and checkers over and above the current status checking service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-29/66214>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Married People

Naz Shah (Labour) [69106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to change the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement for the spouse visa in response to the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on income and employment.

Naz Shah (Labour) [69108] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to grant an extension to the changes made to the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement for a spouse visa after the 31 October 2021.

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.

We recognised the economic impacts of COVID-19 on earnings and made relevant concessionary adjustments in order to support those affected between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2021. There are, however, no plans to change the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement at this time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69106>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69108>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration Controls: Coronavirus

Naz Shah (Labour) [68305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that long-term loss of income and unemployment due to the covid-19 pandemic will be considered as exceptional circumstances if the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement is not met after the 31 October 2021.

Naz Shah (Labour) [68306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to accept the long-term loss of income and unemployment as a result of the covid-19 outbreak as an exceptional circumstance in the event that people applying for family migration are unable to meet the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement after 31 of October 2021.

Naz Shah (Labour) [68311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether long-term loss of income and unemployment as a result of the covid-19 outbreak will be considered as exceptional circumstances, in the event that the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement is not met after 31 October 2021.

Visas: Married People

Naz Shah (Labour) [68304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend the changes made to the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement for a spouse visa beyond 31 October 2021.

Naz Shah (Labour) [68307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has plans to change the minimum income and adequate maintenance requirement for spouse visas to reflect the impact the covid-19 outbreak has had on income and employment.

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.

We recognised the economic impacts of COVID-19 on earnings and made relevant adjustments in order to support those affected between 1 March 2020 and 31 October 2021.

We are carefully considering the impacts of COVID-19 on meeting the Minimum Income Requirement for spouse/partner visa applicants. We are also considering the exceptional circumstances related to the pandemic we will take into account in future for applications made under the family Immigration Rules. We will set out our future policy in updated guidance in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68305>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68306>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68311>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68304>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68307>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Mental Health Services: Migrants

Dan Poulter (Conservative) [69607] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what mental health support is available for people experiencing trauma who have emigrated to the UK from Eritrea.

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Dan Poulter (Conservative) [69606] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what targeted mental health support his Department provides for the Eritrean community in the UK.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: Whilst there is no targeted support nationally for any one nationality, such as Eritreans, or ethnic groups, the Government is committed to ensuring mental health support, including support for people experiencing trauma, can be accessed by all who need it. We are working closely with National Health Service (NHS) mental health commissioners, providers, and local authorities to improve the ways in which such patients engage with and experience support for their mental health.

The Department is committed through the NHS Long Term Plan to invest at least an additional £2.3 billion of a year into expanding and transforming mental health services by 2023-24. The Plan also outlines ways to address inequalities in access and outcomes for groups with protected characteristics including ethnicity as outlined in the Advancing mental Health strategy published by NHS England and NHS Improvement, and is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/advancing-mental-health-equalities-strategy/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69607>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69606>

Asylum: Standards

Naz Shah (Labour) [69107] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to tackle the backlog of (a) asylum and (b) other applications received by her Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Visa demand has significantly increased as travel restrictions relating to the pandemic have eased both in the UK and across the globe.

To tackle this the Home Office are pursuing a wide range of programmes to

transform systems and processes across a number of immigration routes, alongside a number of business improvement initiatives to speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or a decision.

In response to the raising number of asylum claims and delays in processing them, we are taking forward our New Plan for Immigration which aims to transform our broken asylum system. This includes almost double the number of decision makers to c.1,000, plus providing improved training and career progression opportunities to aid retention of staff. This investment in our people will speed up processing times and increase the throughput of asylum decisions.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system. We are streamlining and digitalising the case working process to enable more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69107>

Asylum: Applications

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [68400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to ensure that the processing of asylum seeker applications is timely and in accordance with the relevant guidance.

Reply from Kevin Foster; The Home Office are pursuing a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives to speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or decision. This includes almost doubling decision makers number to c.1,000, providing improved training and career progression opportunities to aid retention of staff. This investment in our people will speed up processing times and increase the throughput of asylum decisions.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system. We are streamlining and digitalising the case working process to enable more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making. Additionally, we have introduced specialist Decision Making Units, providing greater ownership and management of cohorts of asylum cases.

Asylum decision makers receive extensive mandatory training and mentoring on considering asylum claims. We have a robust quality assurance strategy in place to ensure asylum caseworkers meet the standard expected of them, and to ensure compliance with the published policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68400>

Asylum: Government Assistance

Sam Tarry (Labour) [67301] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what additional support her Department provides to asylum seekers whose universal credit payments have been stopped.

Reply from David Rutley: Those seeking asylum in the UK are not entitled to Universal Credit. However, Asylum Support is available to newly recognised refugees through the Home Office whilst their status is under consideration. This support continues for 28 days after refugee status is granted. A claim to Universal Credit can then be made immediately once refugee status is granted and Asylum Support is not deducted from their Universal Credit award during the 28 days run on period.

Work coaches receive training to help them build supportive relationships with claimants, including refugees, encouraging them to openly discuss any barriers, concerns or problems as they emerge. Provided the eligibility criteria for Universal

Credit are met, we will offer an advance payment to a refugee when making a new claim, and staff have access to information on a range of services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants, including refugees. We also have access to a range of translation services to assist, should a claimant need support to overcome any language barriers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67301>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [67181] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that children and families will not be accommodated in accommodation centres under either the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 or the provisions of the Nationality and Borders Bill.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The New Plan for Immigration published by the Home Office on 24 March 2021 included plans to set up Reception Centres to provide basic accommodation for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

As part of these plans, consideration is being given to implementing some of the measures set out in the Nationality Immigration and Asylum 2002 Act which relate to supporting asylum seekers in accommodation centres. There are no plans, whether through measures in the Nationality and Borders Bill or other policy changes, to place people with children in these centres.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/67181>

The New Plan for Immigration, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration/new-plan-for-immigration-policy-statement-accessible>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Dental Services: Asylum

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [68173] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what support his Department provides to help asylum seekers access dental care on the NHS.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [68174] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what support his Department provides to help asylum seekers access dental care in situations where they are unable to access a dentist on the NHS.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: Asylum seekers can access National Health Service dental care from any NHS dental practice.

Patients, including asylum seekers, can contact NHS England's Customer Contact Centre for assistance where they are unable to access a dentist or NHS 111 if seeking urgent care. Proof of address is not needed to access an NHS dentist.

There is also no requirement for a patient to provide photo identification or proof of immigration status to access NHS dentistry.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68173>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/68174>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration Rules: Au Pairs

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to address the impact on the (1) recruitment, and (2) employment, of au pairs from European Union member states of changes to immigration rules following the United Kingdom's departure from the EU.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, as has been the case since 2008, the UK's points-based immigration system will not offer a dedicated route for au pairs. Other immigration routes exist for people who may wish to take up these roles, such as the youth mobility scheme, or YMS. We remain open to negotiating bilateral YMS arrangements with other countries and territories, including the EU or, indeed, nations within it.

Baroness Hodgson of Abinger: My Lords, the au pair scheme was formalised by the Council of Europe in 1969. It is an excellent scheme: it gives hard-working families the benefit of flexible childcare, and au pairs leave the UK with improved English and are great ambassadors, as well as giving business to our English language schools. Brexit has meant that there is no available visa route to bring au pairs to the UK. According to the British Au Pair Agencies Association, Caroline Nokes, the Immigration Minister in 2019, gave assurances that there would be a temporary visa work route for au pairs, but this has not happened. Can my noble friend the Minister inform the House of when we can expect this to occur and will she undertake to expedite this issue?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, successive Governments since 2008 have decided that the UK's immigration system will not offer a dedicated visa route for au pairs, and I do not see that situation changing. I described in my initial Answer the YMS route, on which there are around 20,000 people from participating countries or territories coming to experience life in the UK.

Lord Lilley (Conservative): My Lords, I welcome the fact that we are moving away from the deplorable British habit of paying British workers too little and not training them enough, and instead relying on cheap labour from abroad. I understand the reasons my noble friend gives for wanting an exception in the case of au pairs, but I counsel the House that it will open us to ridicule if the only exception we are prepared to make is to help us deal with the servant problem.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with my noble friend. Debates have been had over the last few months and years, but the whole point is to offer competitive wages here for workers from either here or abroad. Au pairs certainly are labour on the cheap.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock (Labour Co-op): My Lords, does the Minister agree that, although we have had critical shortages of HGV drivers, fruit-pickers, nurses, doctors and care workers, it takes a shortage of au pairs for some people to realise that Brexit is an unmitigated, self-inflicted disaster? When will the Government acknowledge this and try to find a new, positive relationship with the European Union?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord knows very well that the problems with HGV drivers and poultry workers are to do with easing supply chain pressures and are nothing to do with Brexit.

Baroness Ludford (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, for decades after the Second World War, it was Conservatives who, following Churchill, formed the backbone of the European movement. One of the motivating causes was that of cultural and educational exchange, whether through the Council of Europe or later the EU. Why on earth can a Conservative Government not now unilaterally extend the youth mobility scheme to EU and EEA countries to include, among others, au pairs?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have just explained this. The youth mobility scheme is open to the whole world and we are open to having arrangements with any country in the world. We already have arrangements with nine countries, with two more to be added next year.

Lord Moylan (Conservative): My Lords, I have no view as to whether the Government should take action to address the shortage of au pairs. However, I ask my noble friend to agree that, if any action is taken by the Government as a result of this shortage, there will be no undue discrimination in favour of EU countries as opposed to those in the rest of the world. We have left the European Union, and that means that we stand on an equal relationship and footing with every country in the world. Any scheme that is introduced

should not contain the discriminatory element implicit in this Question.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend clearly gets it: since we left the EU, we are treating all countries the same.

Baroness Chapman of Darlington (Labour): This is not really about au pairs, is it? This is about opportunities for young people. Is it not correct that the Government did not think about opportunities for young people when they did their Brexit deal, just like they did not think about food producers, the cultural industries or even the people of Northern Ireland? Will the Minister commit to speak to her colleague the noble Lord, Lord Frost, to make sure that appropriate changes are made to the Brexit deal which deal with this, alongside the other problems the Government have created by omitting arrangements for young people?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I said in answer to a previous question, there are 20,000 young people from participating countries or territories coming here to experience life in the UK. I would not say that that is a scheme that is closing down opportunities for young people.

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, when my twin daughters were very small, we engaged an au pair from Sweden who was very helpful and became a lifelong friend. During her time with us, she developed her English language skills and gave us an insight into life in Scandinavia. Do the Government really value this kind of international interaction, particularly with our friends in Europe? If they do, will they just scrap all restrictions on the employment of au pairs?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Why does the noble Lord restrict this opportunity to Europe? We are opening up opportunity to the whole of the world.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-08/debates/2BDBF27B-136F-4164-A0C2-2F4C8889FBDD/ImmigrationRulesAuPairs>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Asylum

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL3385] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the backlog of asylum applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The asylum system has been under pressure for several years, but this has been exacerbated by the global pandemic. At the start of the COVID outbreak, whilst intake reduced, so did interview options and decision making capacity. We put in place recovery plans and continue to develop these in light of recent intake.

The Home Office is pursuing a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives which will speed up decision making, reduce the time people spend in the system and reduce the numbers who are awaiting an interview or decision. This includes almost doubling decision makers number to c.1,000 and providing improved training and career progression opportunities to aid retention of staff. This investment in our people will speed up processing times and increase the throughput of asylum decisions.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system. We are streamlining and digitalising the case working process to enable more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-25/hl3385>

Press Releases

End to historical discrimination in nationality law welcome but Nationality bill may fail to protect rights of stateless children

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/158778/end-to-historical-discrimination-in-nationality-law-welcome-but-nationality-bill-may-fail-to-protect-rights-of-stateless-children/>

UK provides a new home for vulnerable Afghan female judges

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-provides-a-new-home-for-vulnerable-afghan-female-judges>

New Publications

Afghanistan Citizen Resettlement Scheme, part 1: How has the Government responded to the crisis in Afghanistan?

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2021/11/10/afghanistan-citizen-resettlement-scheme-part-1-how-has-the-government-responded-to-the-crisis-in-afghanistan/>

Afghanistan Citizen Resettlement Scheme, part 2: How will Scottish local authorities support the resettlement of Afghan citizens?

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2021/11/10/afghanistan-citizen-resettlement-scheme-part-2-how-will-scottish-local-authorities-support-the-resettlement-of-afghan-citizens/>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Legislative Scrutiny: Nationality and Borders Bill (Part 1) – Nationality

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7774/documents/81006/default/>

Letter from Kevin Foster to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders from Hong Kong who have arrived in the UK via Leave Outside the Rules (LOTR) or who are known to have been admitted as visitors with a pending application for the BN(O) route

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0833/Letter to HASC Chair Yvette Cooper MP.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0833/Letter%20to%20HASC%20Chair%20Yvette%20Cooper%20MP.pdf)

Ministerial Authorisation under Schedule 3, Part 4, paragraph 17 (4) (a) of the Equality Act 2010

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0833/Ministerial_Authorisation.pdf

Thematic Factsheet: Migration and Asylum – Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights

<https://rm.coe.int/thematic-factsheet-migration-asylum-eng/1680a46f9b>

News

Senior Tories call on Home Office to stop ‘unfairly’ excluding young Hong Kong nationals from BNO scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hong-kong-tories-bno-visa-home-office-b1955222.html>

Migrant arrivals 'will top 100,000 unless France agrees to take them back'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/13/migrant-arrivals-will-top-100000-unless-france-agrees-take-back/>

Nearly 3,000 migrants cross Channel this month
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/10/record-1000-migrants-cross-channel-one-day/>

Migrant crossings: Almost 700 cross the English Channel
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-59245288>

Nearly 1,000 migrants cross English Channel to reach UK in new daily record
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-migrants-death-risk-b1956423.html>

Brexit has made it easier for small boat crossings to reach UK, refugees say
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/12/brexit-easier-small-boat-crossings-to-reach-uk-refugees-say>

'We could not do anything except cry' – the Afghan families who fled Kabul to find safety in Britain
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/13/could-not-do-anything-except-cry-afghan-families-fled-kabul/>

Britain gives haven but no home to thousands of Afghans
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-gives-haven-but-no-home-to-thousands-of-afghans-0znjn2k63>

Afghan baby born without doctor in London hotel room as thousands of evacuees still 'living in limbo'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/baby-born-hotel-afghanistan-refugee-b1956030.html>

Concern over letter advising asylum seekers not to join Cop26 protests
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/11/asylum-seekers-advised-not-to-join-cop26-protests-letter-mears-glasgow>

Dungavel: Women detained alongside sexual violence risk men
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-59244921>

Men with history of sexual violence mixed with women at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in Lanarkshire due to Covid restrictions
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/men-with-history-of-sexual-violence-mixed-with-women-at-dungavel-immigration-removal-centre-in-lanarkshire-due-to-covid-restrictions-3453267>

Jamaica deportation flight leaves with just four people on board
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59243086>

Most detainees taken off deportation flight list to Jamaica after activists block road
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/09/two-thirds-of-detainees-due-to-be-deported-to-jamaica-removed-from-list>

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Religion: Education

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [69704] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what discussions officials in his Department have held with representatives of teachers of religious education regarding the value offered in terms of skills for young people by that subject; and if he will make a statement.

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [69705] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of the value offered in terms of skills for young people by the subject matter of religious education; and if he will make a statement.

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [69706] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment his Department has made of the societal value for young people of religious education; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Robin Walker: The government firmly believes that religious education (RE) is important. Good quality RE is essential in developing children's knowledge of British values and traditions, and those of other countries. RE is a vital part of fostering understanding among different faiths and beliefs, which is why it is a compulsory subject for all state-funded schools up to the age of 18.

Department officials engage regularly with key RE stakeholders, including the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education as the main subject association for RE in England.

When teaching RE, schools should consider how their curriculum can develop social skills and empathy, as well as equip children and young people with the skills for living and working in a diverse society. For older pupils, RE should also focus on developing skills that are useful in a wide range of careers and adult life, and in particular the skills of critical enquiry, creative problem-solving and communication in a variety of media.

In school life, RE can develop and nuance the skills required for other parts of the school curriculum such as history, citizenship, and personal, social, health and economic education.

RE is an important subject, developing an individual's knowledge and understanding of the religions and beliefs which form part of contemporary society, as well as serving to inform their own values and behaviour. RE can also contribute to pupils' personal development and well-being by promoting mutual respect and tolerance in a diverse society. It is an important contributor to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, which schools are required to facilitate as per the Education Act 2002.

Studying RE can also serve to improve community cohesion, providing a key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69704>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69705>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-04/69706>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Kirsty Blackman (SNP) [628] Imam Dr Ruhul Amin – That this House recognises the life of Imam Dr Ruhul Amin following his sad passing; recalls his work as Muslim Chaplain at the University of Aberdeen and Imam of the Mosque; recognises the enormous contribution he played in community development, education, inter faith dialogue and charity work; notes the role he played in the New Mosque and Community Centre Project and his dedication to serving the community in Aberdeen; and conveys its sympathies to his family, friends and all who knew him at this sad time.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59114>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Employment: Disability and Ethnic Groups

Lord Shinkwin (Conservative) [HL3459] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any long-term, disproportionate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment of (1) disabled people, and (2) young Black people; and what steps they are taking to address those effects.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: Since 2013 (the earliest comparable year using the current definition of disability) up to the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic the general trend in disability employment had been positive. There had been strong growth in the number and rate of disabled people in employment and a narrowing of the gap, between the rate of disabled and non-disabled people in employment.

While quarterly statistics published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that the pandemic initially reversed these trends, there are now signs of the trends improving, with the disability employment rate returning to its pre-pandemic level in Q2 2021. The disability employment gap has also started to narrow again during Q1 and Q2 of 2021. This suggests that, in the long term, disability employment rates have not been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

We continue to monitor the data and annual statistics, published by the Department on 4 November 2021, provided a more detailed view of disabled people in the labour market. These included breakdowns by a number of individual and work-related characteristics and covered the first 12 months of the pandemic. The number of disabled people in employment continued to increase (year-on-year) throughout the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic but at a slower rate than seen in previous years. The number of disabled people in employment is now above pre-pandemic levels. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have provided specialist employment support remotely and made programmes easier to access. A range of DWP initiatives are supporting disabled people to start and stay in work. These include the Work and Health Programme, the Intensive Personalised Employment Support programme, Access to Work, Disability Confident and support in partnership with the health system, including Employment Advice in NHS Improving Access to

Psychological Therapy services.

Data from the Annual Population Survey shows the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on young Black people in relation to employment. Before the Covid-19 pandemic (July 2018 - June 2019) the employment rate for 16-24 year-old black people was 36.3%. This fell during the pandemic to 27.4% between July 2020 - June 2021. This is the latest available published data and therefore we cannot yet see how the employment rate of young black people has changed as the economy recovers from the pandemic.

Throughout these unprecedented times, the Government has provided crucial support to record numbers of claimants. . This includes the Youth Offer, which has been developed to ensure that 18-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit have the skills they need to look for, find and keep employment. We also have a national programme of mentoring circles, involving employers offering specialised support to young jobseekers from ethnic minority backgrounds, including young black people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-26/hl3459>

Missing Persons: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL3507] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to conduct a public inquiry into how the police deal with reports of missing Black people.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is focused on improving the police response to missing people from all backgrounds and on addressing racial and ethnic disparities, wherever these exist, and has no plans for a public inquiry at this time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-27/hl3507>

New Publications

Saving Lives, Improving Mothers' Care Lessons learned to inform maternity care from the UK and Ireland Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths and Morbidity 2017-19

[https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2021/MBRRACE-UK Maternal Report 2021 - FINAL - WEB VERSION.pdf](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2021/MBRRACE-UK%20Maternal%20Report%202021%20-%20FINAL%20-%20WEB%20VERSION.pdf)

Summary

[https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2021/MBRRACE-UK Maternal Report 2021 - Lay Summary v10.pdf](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/assets/downloads/mbrance-uk/reports/maternal-report-2021/MBRRACE-UK%20Maternal%20Report%202021%20-%20Lay%20Summary%20v10.pdf)

News

Black women four times more likely to die in childbirth

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59248345>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Racism in Cricket

Navendu Mishra (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on reports regarding racism in cricket.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Chris Philp): ... I will start by being very clear about something on which I know the whole House will agree: there is no place for racism in sport. Indeed, there is no place for racism anywhere in society. It must be confronted, it must be eradicated and it should never be written off as just “banter”.

The Government are extremely concerned by the reports of racism at Yorkshire county cricket club. Quite simply, the situation faced by Azeem Rafiq was unacceptable. It should never have been allowed to happen in the first place, and it should have been dealt with properly during the initial investigation. We have made it clear to the England and Wales Cricket Board that this requires a full, transparent investigation, both of the incidents involving Azeem Rafiq and of the wider cultural issues at Yorkshire county cricket club. The ECB is now investigating the matter fully. It took action against the Yorkshire club on Friday, stripping it of the right to host international matches, and has suspended a player.

There have been a number of resignations from the Yorkshire board—quite rightly—including that of its chairman. Lord Patel of Bradford has taken over as chairman, and has set out the approach that he will be taking to tackle the issue at Yorkshire. Crucially, he has started by apologising to Azeem Rafiq, but we know that that will not undo the pain that Azeem feels. More action is needed, and we have called on Lord Patel and the ECB to investigate fully, to eradicate racism where it exists, and to tackle the culture that can support it. In addition, the ECB is now undertaking a regulatory process. It must take strong action where it is necessary, and that action must be transparent and swift, for the benefit of cricket.

The ECB has also launched the independent commission for equity in cricket to look at wider issues that go beyond Yorkshire. It is chaired by Cindy Butts, a highly respected anti-racism campaigner. She is a board member of the Kick It Out campaign in football and is also, as you know, Mr Speaker, a lay member of your Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have great confidence in her independence and her phenomenal track record in this area. This terrible case—the awful case of the abuse that Azeem Rafiq should never have suffered, but did suffer—shows how much more needs to be done to stamp out racism in the game, and I urge anyone who has experienced discrimination in cricket to approach Cindy Butts’s commission and report what they have experienced. I understand that the Equality and Human Rights Commission has requested information about this incident. That is quite right, and I encourage the EHRC in its work.

Sport should be for everyone, and it should not take cases such as this to bring that to life. The Government applaud Azeem Rafiq’s courage in speaking out, and encourage anyone who has been similarly affected to do the same. This must be a watershed moment for cricket. The Government will closely scrutinise the actions taken by the ECB—the Minister for Sport met the board last week to discuss this topic—and by Yorkshire county cricket club in response to these damning allegations. The investigations to which I have referred must be thorough, transparent and public. That is necessary to restore the public’s faith in cricket in Yorkshire and beyond. Parliament is watching, the Government are watching and the country is watching. We expect real action, and the Government stand ready to

step in and act if those involved do not put their own house in order.

Navendu Mishra: ... The leaked racism report from Yorkshire county cricket club has exposed the extent to which serious allegations of discrimination have been mishandled, covered up and sadly, it seems, entirely ignored over a long period. Players and former board members of the club have since come forward expressing their regret, but it is too little, too late. The question of how to address this should not be solely concerned with what to do next; rather, we should ask how the club arrived at such a low point. Why were players not properly investigated, why were no processes in place to address these allegations, and why did it take the leaking of the report to kick the club into action?

Members on both sides of the House have spoken publicly about how appalled they are, so I hope that the Minister will tell us today what concrete action the Government intend to take to tackle racism in sport. ... The news over the past week has focused on cricket because of this report, but we know that it is not in cricket alone that racism and discrimination fester. The Government's intervention on this particular issue must be a model for the way in which other sports address racism.

I want to express my solidarity with Mr Azeem Rafiq—who has shown great bravery in the face of this injustice—and with all who have been discriminated against in cricket and other sports. Sport should be for everyone. No one should be excluded or belittled because of their race, gender, sexual orientation or disability, and I hope that today will be a landmark in the addressing of these serious issues.

In the light of the leaked racism report—which I hope will be published in full this week—I hope that the Equality and Human Rights Commission will investigate Yorkshire county cricket club and publish a full set of recommendations for how it will tackle racism in future. We must not forget that it was only when there were financial repercussions and corporate pressure that Yorkshire actually acted; that is simply unacceptable. We also know that, although nearly a third of all cricket players at grassroots level in the UK are from ethnic minority backgrounds, the figure drops to only 4% among cricketers with professional contracts. That too is shocking.

I hope that today the Government will set out how they intend to work with the England and Wales Cricket Board to ensure there is independent scrutiny of the sport, so that incidents such as this never happen again and the sport is diversified at all levels.

Reply from Chris Philp: ... I entirely agree that the conduct of Yorkshire county cricket club in trying to brush this matter under the carpet and ignore it was completely unacceptable, and it is right that the chairman and others have resigned. The club's conduct has no justification whatsoever: it is disgraceful, and we condemn it unreservedly. The point about the transparency of these inquiries is important: they need to take place in public, they need to be open, and the country and Parliament need to be able to scrutinise them fully.

I also agree with what the hon. Gentleman said about the need for wider action in cricket. Clause 10 of the ECB's own county partnership agreement requires it to increase ethnic minority representation, and we need to hold it to account to deliver that. As for the question of independent oversight of what Yorkshire and the ECB are doing, the Equality and Human Rights Commission is obviously independent, and is now rightly asking questions. The Government fully support that process, and, like Members of this House, will be following and scrutinising it extremely carefully.

Peter Bottomley (Conservative): ... The issue raised by Matthew Syed in an article in *The Times* today was "What is the minimum test of credibility?" It is clear that this club has failed that test, but I do not think we should point the finger at just one club. We should be asking where discrimination, inequality and barriers to access exist in other sports and in other parts of life.

I say here, on the Floor of the House, that when we discovered that one of our local councillors in Worthing had posted unacceptable comments on the Patriotic Alternative

white supremacist website, we suspended him. There will now be a by-election, and we have a south Asian candidate who is longing to be a Tory councillor. That shows that action can be taken, and whatever our party politics, we need to stand together on this.

The final point that I want to put to my hon. Friend the Minister is this: if we are going to ask the EHRC to take on this particular role in greater depth, it will need extra funding. I suggest that the Government talk to the EHRC to establish how much extra funding it needs and then add it on, so that this does not push aside other parts of the EHRC's important work.

Reply from Chris Philp: ... I agree that we need to stand together, across the whole House, in combating and fighting racism wherever it occurs in our society. The local example given by my hon. Friend was a good illustration of that. The EHRC is of course independent and will make its own decisions about what to investigate, but I think it is clear that the House is encouraging it in its work. It did, I believe, receive a funding uplift not long ago, but its funding arrangements remain under continual review.

Jo Stevens (Labour): ... Racism destroys lives, and that is why allegations must be properly, fairly and transparently investigated. The handling of this case is a textbook example of what should not happen. A legal investigation team was second-guessed by the club's panel, there was a failure to apply the legal tests correctly to the evidence gathered, and Yorkshire even changed the inquiry's terms of reference part-way through, preventing the investigation team from drawing conclusions about institutional racism. One has to wonder whether it was taking lessons from the Prime Minister on that. Yesterday, Lord Patel took the first steps to begin to right these wrongs. The next step must be that the rest of the board leave their posts. Their role in this shameful fiasco gives them no right to continue to hold positions of power in the club. I, too, hope that the EHRC will formally investigate what has occurred.

Racism has no place in cricket or any other sport, and Michael Holding has said of this case: "Each sport or industry can try to and put their house in order, but the message has to reach society at large or no real meaningful change can take place."

Society at large includes all of us here, and it of course includes the Prime Minister. His well-publicised comments in the past have helped to enforce a culture where racism is seen as banter, so it was good to hear the strong words from the Minister today about committing to stamping out racism, but the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State need to understand that words alone are not enough. They must lead by example. Failing to do so gives credence and encouragement to racists.

Reply from Chris Philp: I think we should avoid making party political points on an occasion such as this. We should be standing together, as we have been doing, to resolutely condemn racism and to tackle it wherever it is found. That means ensuring that the ECB investigation is independent and transparent, it means supporting the work of the independent commission chaired by Cindy Butts, and it means supporting the EHRC in any work that it does. I agree with the shadow Secretary of State's remarks about the board of the cricket club. They bear collective responsibility and I do not see how they can continue.

To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-09/debates/B0A9D85E-51D6-453F-8844-3D9B0DCB1982/RacismInCricket>

The newspaper report referred to above can be read at
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-can-twitter-mob-be-silenced-if-we-can-t-trust-cricket-s-authorities-to-police-wrongdoing-9rnsdwx9m>

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [69213] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department plans to take to tackle racism and discrimination in cricket following the report into allegations of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: Racism has no place in cricket, sport, or society at large. The government welcomes the firm action taken so far by the England Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in stripping Yorkshire County Cricket Club (YCCC) of its ability to host international matches and commissioning a full review of the governance structures in place at the YCCC. We urge the ECB to continue to look at this with the utmost scrutiny and take further action where needed to stamp out racism in the game.

The government has already made clear its commitment to tackling racism and all forms of discrimination in sport, as set out in the sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future'.

We continue to work closely with our arm's length bodies, national governing bodies of sport and sector partners to tackle racism and discrimination in sport. Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils recently published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport. Each Council is working at pace to develop their own specific action plans to further deliver on diversity and inclusion commitments and address the recommendations from the review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69213>

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

Antisemitism: Higher Education

Lisa Cameron (SNP) [69123] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what policies the Government has in place to tackle antisemitism (a) on university campuses and (b) in the broader education system; and what steps the Government is taking with academic institutions to improve the safety of British Jewish students.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: There is no place in our society, including within our education system, for antisemitism. The government has acted over a number of years to send a clear message that antisemitism will not be tolerated in our schools, colleges, and higher education (HE) institutions.

The government's action on antisemitism in HE has included working closely with Universities UK (UUK), and the Office for Students (OfS) as sector regulator. UUK recently published a briefing on tackling antisemitism in HE, which includes recommending adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. Adopting the widely recognised definition sends a strong signal that HE providers take these issues seriously and is an important tool in tackling antisemitism.

The former Secretary of State for Education wrote to the sector in October 2020, calling upon leaders to adopt the IHRA definition. He repeated this message in May 2021, reinforcing the government's expectation that providers adopt the IHRA definition, stressing the even greater importance of doing so in light of an increased number of antisemitic incidents recorded as a result of the conflict in the Middle East.

In addition, in his February 2021 strategic guidance letter, the former Secretary of State for Education asked the OfS to undertake a scoping exercise, to identify providers which are reluctant to adopt the definition. In response to this, on

10 November 2021 the OfS published a list of providers who have adopted the definition. I am pleased to report good progress in the last year: an increase from around 30 to over 200 providers having adopted the IHRA definition. This includes the vast majority of universities. The list is available here:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-wellbeing-and-protection/prevent-and-address-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct/tackling-antisemitism/>

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 HE is a genuinely fulfilling and welcoming experience for everyone.

The government is also committed to stamping out antisemitism in schools. On 28 May, the former Secretary of State for Education wrote to all schools to reiterate that pupils and staff must be kept safe, and there is absolutely no place for hate and prejudice. This intervention was a clear message that this government will not tolerate antisemitism in our schools and will act where necessary to tackle it.

The government has also continued to take action to support schools in this area, including providing over £3.5 million of funding to anti-bullying organisations like the Anne Frank Trust, between 2016 and 2021. We are currently running a procurement exercise to fund activity in 2021-22, to make sure that schools have the right support in place to prevent bullying.

Any form of antisemitism is abhorrent, and I will continue to work tirelessly to ensure it is eradicated from our world-leading education system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69123>

The Briefing referred to above can be read at

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/field/downloads/2021-08/tackling-antisemitism-practical-guide.pdf>

The Secretary of State's letters referred to above can be read at

<https://twitter.com/GavinWilliamson/status/1314506646115278848>

and

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/48277145-4cf3-497f-b9b7-b13fdf16f46b/ofs-strategic-guidance-20210208.pdf>

and

<https://twitter.com/gavinwilliamson/status/1398374786871537664>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Racism in Cricket

The answer given in the House of Commons ([see above](#)) was repeated in the House of Lords.

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour): ... I would also like to place on the record our sympathy and respect for Azeem Rafiq: sympathy, because nobody should suffer the racist abuse in the workplace that he has suffered; respect, because he blew the whistle and has set in motion a process which we hope will ensure that any form of abuse within cricket at any level can be swiftly identified, properly challenged and appropriately punished. While it is of course for individual sporting bodies to consider and respond to these kinds of incidents, can the Minister confirm whether the Government have plans to review the procedures in place across different sports and, in the light of events at Yorkshire County Cricket Club, governance arrangements, to ensure that they are fit for purpose? Finally, what support are the department considering or planning to offer the noble Lord, Lord Patel, in the difficult task that he has taken on?

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for

Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay): ... The Government will closely scrutinise the actions that the Yorkshire County Cricket Club and the ECB take in response to these very concerning allegations. We want that investigation to be thorough and transparent but also swift, to ensure that the public's faith in cricket can be restored—in Yorkshire and beyond. If not, the Government will not hesitate to step in and act.

Baroness Verma (Conservative): My Lords, I welcome the actions of the noble Lord, Lord Patel, but can my noble friend the Minister look at all sports? It is not just cricket: it is football—it is every sport. If you are a person of colour, the pain that you suffer, as those sitting here of colour will know, stays with you for life. It is important that we start looking at these clubs. They make huge amounts of money. They need to look at their codes of practice and what they are doing, and the leadership must come from the top. It would be useful for us all to know how they will report what they are doing in their clubs across the country to improve the situation and ensure that local communities are better represented within their own movements.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: My noble friend makes a very important point. Sport, like all areas of society, has a very important role to play in tackling discrimination where we see it. In June of this year, Sport England, UK Sport and the other sports councils published the results of a detailed independent review into tackling racism and racial equality in sport. The findings made it clear that, sadly, racism still exists in sport in the UK and that there are long-standing issues for us all to tackle. Each council is working swiftly to develop its own specific action plan to deliver on these commitments and address the recommendations, but, as she says, working with communities and individuals is a hugely important part of that. ...

Lord Haselhurst (Conservative): ... do the Government not have some space to consider whether any specific action on their part is required to confront the appalling incidents that have come to light? ...

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: ... My honourable friend the Sports Minister met the England and Wales Cricket Board at the department on Friday to seek the assurances we wanted to hear about the approach it is taking. We are following that very closely and will not hesitate to take action ourselves if we think it necessary.

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated): My Lords, a year and two weeks ago, Imam Qari Asim, who advises the Government on Islamophobia, and myself, who advises on anti-Semitism, wrote to the ECB offering advice and requesting a meeting. In effect, we have had no response whatsoever. Does the Minister think it a good idea for cricket to take some advice, and should not Kick It Out, which has done such good work in football, be properly resourced to do similar work in cricket?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: I am sure that the ECB has heard the reminder; it should reply to the noble Lord and take him up on the offer of his insights and expertise. He is also right to point to the work of Kick It Out. Cindy Butts, who the ECB has appointed to chair its Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, has experience working with Kick It Out in football and will be known to your Lordships as a lay member of the Conduct Committee. We are very glad to see her appointment and the work that she is taking forward. ...

Lord Cashman (Non-affiliated): ... racism goes much wider than sport. ... we must call it out wherever we see it, because through silence we acquiesce and we condone. Therefore, will the Minister work with other government departments to ensure that there is a coherent approach, not only to the forms of racism we see day in and day out, but to the other forms of discrimination that debase the very society in which we live?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Yes, absolutely. I am mindful of the Question yesterday on inclusion in sport. That is at the centre of the Government's

strategy *Sporting Future*. It is critical when confronting the disease of racism that all of us speak out and call it out. ...

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the issue goes much wider than cricket bodies. Clearly, cricket is funded by big money and sponsors also have a role, not in calling out individuals, but in dealing with institutional racism of an organisation. Would the Minister like to give any advice to sponsors such as NIC Group, which has refused, like other sponsors, to take a stance against institutional racism, by sitting on the fence and not doing what those like Anchor butter did instantly in withdrawing their funds and standing up to racism?

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: It has been very powerful to see the response of sponsors in focusing the minds of people at Yorkshire County Cricket Club on the very concerning allegations that have been made and the way they have been dealt with. I am sure the other sponsors will have heard the noble Lord's call for action, but I also hope they will be reassured by the work the club is now finally taking.

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-10/debates/078B856C-4616-4AB7-9D5F-A5F80D91DFA8/RacismInCricket>

The review referred to above can be read at

<https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-06/Tackling%20Racism%20and%20Racial%20Inequality%20in%20Sport%20Review.pdf?VersionId=341YJ7qJaRqs60aR2BPqSWFnc05keEeH>

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

New Publications

UK Holocaust Awareness Survey

<https://www.claimscon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/UK-Exec-Summary-final.pdf>

Overview of Antisemitic Incidents Recorded in the European Union 2010–2020

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2021-antisemitism-overview-2010-2020_en.pdf

News

Nursery accuses Humza Yousaf and wife of 'vendetta' as couple sue for £30,000

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19713771.nursery-accuses-humza-yousaf-wife-vendetta-couple-sue-30-000/>

Zarah Sultana highlights racist emails

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-59260084>

Woke anti-Semitism is now rife on university campuses

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/10/woke-anti-semitism-now-rife-university-campuses/>

New Study Reveals U.K. Respondents Believe Two Million or Fewer Jews Were Killed in the Holocaust

<https://www.claimscon.org/uk-study/>

Half of Britons do not know 6m Jews were murdered in Holocaust

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/10/half-of-britons-do-not-know-6m-jews-were-murdered-in-holocaust>

Barbican commits to 'radical transformation' after race allegations

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2021/nov/10/barbican-commits-to-radical-transformation-after-race-allegations>

Barbican to weed out racism after some staff presumed 'all black artists smoke cannabis'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/10/barbican-centre-introduce-compulsory-anti-racism-training/>

Barbican elite 'assume all black artists smoke weed'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/barbican-elite-assume-all-black-artists-smoke-weed-cllp80r55>

'I could have been a racist killer'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-59171107>

Government to 'step in' with 'real action' if Yorkshire and ECB fall short in racism response

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/yorkshire-racism-report-azeem-rafiq-b1954363.html>

ECB vows to investigate amid concerns that Essex racism claim was not pursued

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/essex-english-joe-root-essex-cricket-yorkshire-b1956876.html>

Essex chair John Faragher resigns over alleged racist language in 2017 board meeting

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/essex-yorkshire-england-and-wales-cricket-board-azeem-rafiq-joe-root-b1956638.html>

Essex chairman resigns over alleged use of racist language at 2017 board meeting

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/nov/12/essex-chairman-john-faragher-resigns-over-alleged-use-of-racist-language-at-board-meeting-cricket>

Essex cricket chairman John Faragher resigns over alleged use of n-word in 2017 meeting

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/12/essex-cricket-chairman-john-faragher-resigns-historic-use-racist/>

Azeem Rafiq: New Yorkshire chair apologises over handling of racism allegations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-cricket-england-wales-b1953613.html>

Yorkshire chief executive Mark Arthur resigns following racism scandal

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59220663>

Yorkshire announce anti-discrimination hotline will be active from Monday

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/headingley-joe-root-yorkshire-county-championship-england-b1956750.html>

Overreaction to the Azeem Rafiq case could taint race relations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/overreaction-to-the-azeem-rafiq-case-could-taint-race-relations-98sqjjsls>

Muslim cricket fans put off going to Headingley due to Yorkshire inaction at racism, says Azeem Rafiq report

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/12/muslim-cricket-fans-put-going-headingley-due-yorkshire-inaction/>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

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>

Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

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/>

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): Deputy First Minister - statement 9 November 2021
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/deputy-first-minister-statement-covid-19/>

UK Government Press Release

Glasgow COVID-19 Lab Passes 20 Million Tests
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/glasgow-covid-19-lab-passes-20-million-tests>

UK Government Publication

The R value and growth rate
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill
<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

** Nationality and Borders Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/7774/documents/81006/default/>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/amend/natbord_rm_rep_1115.pdf

** Online Safety Bill (Draft)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Evidence session, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Sub-committee on Online Harms and Disinformation

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/2983/html/>

Research Briefing: Reaction to the draft Online Safety Bill: A reading list

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9243/CBP-9243.pdf>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the higher education sector (closing date 15 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-immigration-system-as-it-relates-to-the-higher-education-sector>

**** closes this week!**

An inspection of the Home Office's processing of applications for indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a partner of a person or parent of a child already settled in the UK (SET (M)) (closing date 17 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-processing-of-applications-for-indefinite-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk-as-a-partner-of-a-person-or>

**** closes this week!**

Windrush Lessons Learned Review progress update (closing date 21 November 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review-information/windrush-lessons-learned-review-progress-update-call-for-evidence>

The future of recorded crime and police activity statistics (closing date 10 December 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-future-recorded-crime-police-activity-statistics/>

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week for St Andrew's Day events!**

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2021/2022 Small Grants Fund

closing date for Burns Night events: 17 January 2022

Scottish Government / BEMIS grants of up to £2,000 are available to constituted, charitable and non-profit organisations or community groups to host an event for St Andrew's Day and/or Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, and Burns Night celebrations. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so BEMIS want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals. For information and to apply, see

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Serve Your Community: Police Officer Information Session for BME Communities

16 November 2021 (Dundee, 6.00–9.00)

29 November 2021 (Inverness, 6.00–9.00)

Police Scotland events for people from all minority ethnic backgrounds, to encourage more applications from groups currently under-represented within the Police Service. Includes an opportunity to hear from serving BME Police Officers, and to try the fitness test. For information contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk and also send a request to join the closed Facebook page at "Police Scotland Positive Action".

**** this week!**

3 Mottos For Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

17 November 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity in shaping organisations; why some people overlook the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/b762err8> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Windrush Engagement Event**

22 November 2021 (online, 2.00–3.00)

Home Office event to raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

Working with Interpreters

23 and 24 November 2021 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bilingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

New Scots Storytellers media training: Representing your organisation/community

24 November 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

**** Books for the Hostile Environment: Facts, Fictions and Futures of Migration**

3 December 2021 (Edinburgh, 2.30–3.30)

Winter Tales Book Festival event asking what literature can do to resist the hostile environment. The panel features renowned authors, academics, and activists who come together to present facts and fictions about migration, point to possible futures, and ponder the role that literature can have in making societies more welcoming. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yjawa7hb>

**** Cathy MacDonald in conversation with Mona Siddiqui**

4 December 2021 (Edinburgh, 11.30–12.30)

Winter Tales Book Festival event with BBC broadcaster Cathy MacDonald who interviews Mona Siddiqui about her writing career, the inspiration behind her writing, and how her beliefs have shaped her work. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/v8dy3kh3>

**** Jewish Tales from Scotland**

5 December 2021 (Edinburgh, 12.15–1.15)

Winter Tales Book Festival stories and music event bringing aspects of Scottish Jewish history to life with a tour of the ‘Jewish quarter’ of Edinburgh and of the Gorbals in Glasgow, where we will listen to the sounds of the streets, the tenements and synagogue music of the early twentieth century. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/59pxv4wy>

New Scots Storytellers media training: Mock interviews

8 December 2021 (online, 12.00–2.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop for refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who are interested in speaking to the media – perhaps about the work of their community group or experience of living in Scotland. These workshops are an opportunity to practice skills, ask questions, meet new people, prepare for media interviews and find your story. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/pyebjp7w>

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

9 and 10 December 2021 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

3 and 4 February 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

Working With People From Diverse Religion & Belief Identities

14 December 2021 (online, 13.00–16.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. The event will explore the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/83rwadrb> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals, and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

No Recourse to Public Funds

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

Light the Darkness: UK Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

27 January 2022 (online, 7.00–8.00)

Households across the UK will be lighting candles and safely putting them in their windows to remember those who were murdered for who they were, and stand against prejudice

and hatred today. For information see <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/ukhmd/>

Supporting Refugee Integration

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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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/disclosure-types>

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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