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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

Ross Greer (Green) [S6M-02122] Small Boat Channel Crossings – That the Parliament notes the recent reports of a record number of people arriving in the UK on small boats via the Channel, with the Home Office reportedly confirming that 1,185 people made the crossing on 11 November 2021; regrets the lack of alternative, safer modes of passage for people seeking refuge and/or asylum; mourns the many who have lost their lives in an attempt to make this crossing; thanks the coastguard and lifeboat workers and volunteers who are working tirelessly to save lives in the Channel; condemns what it sees as the UK Government's attempts to criminalise people seeking refuge and/or asylum and, it considers, to deliberately block them from seeking safe passage, and urges the UK Government to withdraw the Nationality and Borders Bill, which it believes has proposals that would exacerbate the migration crisis and lead to more distress for those seeking to enter the UK.

Ross Greer (Green) [S6M-02189] **Eastwood Refugee Aid** – That the Parliament congratulates Eastwood Refugee Aid on its ongoing work to support refugees in East Renfrewshire and beyond; notes that the group was formed in 2015 and initially organised convoys to Calais, and understands that, upon it hearing that Afghan refugees were to be placed in Scotland this year, the group launched a crowdfunder that raised £1,300 to support arriving refugees; further understands that with the support of East Renfrewshire Council it has set up a collection and distribution hub for clothes, bedding, household goods and other items, and that it has launched another crowdfunder in the run-up to Christmas to buy a van to distribute donated items around the country; welcomes the group's plans to set up a community garden, non-referral foodbank and other projects to support the wider local community in East Renfrewshire, and encourages others within the East Renfrewshire community who are able to help to get in touch with the group.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02189>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers: Channel Crossings

Martyn Day (SNP): Whether [the Attorney General] has had discussions with the Home Secretary on proposals in the Nationality and Borders Bill to intercept small boats and return asylum seekers to France. (904189)

Alan Brown (SNP): What recent discussions [has the Attorney General] had with the Home Secretary on the Nationality and Borders Bill proposals to intercept small boats and return asylum seekers to France. (904198)

Reply from the Attorney General (Stella Braverman): The traffickers organising these dangerous crossings are putting lives at risk, and it is vital that we do everything we can to protect them and prevent them from operating from France. We must break the business model of criminal gangs exploiting vulnerable people. Our position is clear: people should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, and they should not risk their lives by making these dangerous journeys across the channel.

Martyn Day: There is a duty on ships to rescue persons who are in danger at sea, in both customary international law and in binding international conventions such as the 1974 international convention for the safety of life at sea and the 1982 UN convention on the law of the sea. Given the UK Government's supposed commitment to an international rules-based system, how does the Minister square that with clearly flouting those rules?

Reply from the Attorney General: The Home Office is taking lawful action in the channel to disrupt the traffickers' life-threatening and criminal business model, and that really should not be in question. This Government are taking urgent and necessary measures to fix our broken asylum system, stop people traffickers, and deter illegal entry, and I am most disappointed that the hon. Gentleman and his party did not see fit to support that.

Alan Brown: The Home Office proposals are immoral, dangerous and, as we have just heard, illegal, because they break international law. This Government want to force others to do their bidding by breaking international law on their behalf. Any QC and Attorney General worth their salt would be telling the Home Secretary to forget her plans and not to break international law. Why will the Attorney General not step up to the plate?

Reply from the Attorney General: The UK prides itself on its leadership within the international system and it discharges its international obligations in good faith. We

have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it and to migrants who have a lawful basis to be here. My personal background is one such case of reference. Let me just say this. I have acted for the Government in court on several immigration and asylum cases—many, many of them—and I can tell the House that our asylum system is broken. Our Bill fixes it and it is a shame that the hon. Gentleman voted against it.

William Cash (Conservative): Does the Attorney General agree that it would not be practical or possible in law for international law to condone illegal immigration?

Reply from the Attorney General: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. There are international rules and conventions, which bind state parties, on our duties when it comes to maritime law and our obligations. We honour those duties and take them very seriously. We also have a domestic regime of immigration and asylum, which we are able to modify and change now that we have left the European Union.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-18/debates/6D1B6104-043C-4C71-8000-CD02CB6FB5DC/AsylumSeekersChannelCrossings>

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

David Warburton (Conservative): What steps his Department is taking to maintain the operation of the Afghan relocations and assistance policy. (904134)

Reply from the Minister for the Armed Forces (James Heappey): I thank my hon. Friend and neighbour for his question. Our Afghan relocations and assistance policy remains open and a dedicated team at the permanent joint headquarters continue to work with all those eligible to ensure their safe passage to the UK. I recently visited the region to identify what more we can do to support both third-country and in-country applicants, and we are working with a wide range of allies and partners to explore every possible avenue.

David Warburton: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for his response. I appreciate that much of the information around the Government's support for those in Afghanistan is sensitive, but can he update the House on whether the Government have made an assessment of how many people still in Afghanistan qualify for the scheme and what steps the Government are taking to ensure that they are able to leave safely?

Reply from James Heappey: We estimate that about 800 principals plus their families might be eligible to come to the UK through the ARAP route. However, we should be clear that this is a very difficult process that relies entirely at the moment on the co-operation of third countries, and that regulates flow. We are doing our best to get people here in the biggest numbers that we possibly can, but other countries in the region get a vote. That is why all the ministerial team and our colleagues in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office continue to work hard to maintain those relationships and maintain those permissions.

Jessica Morden (Labour): Afghan interpreters who previously settled in Newport East are still waiting to be reunited with their families who have been stuck in bridging hotels waiting for biometric resident permits for some months now. What are Defence Ministers doing to impress upon Home Office Ministers the need to sort this out?

Reply from James Heappey: I meet Home Office Ministers regularly, and so does my hon. Friend the Minister for Defence People and Veterans, who is leading on the reception of ARAP personnel within the UK. If the hon. Lady would like to write to him with the detail of the people she is representing, we will make sure that that is passed to Home Office Ministers.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-15/debates/0A7F56E5-51BC-4AB8-A374-3212389392D9/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

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>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [70225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans her Department estimates to process through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme before March 2022.

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 and remains under development. 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. 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://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-05/70225>

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [72441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when each Afghan national who arrived in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, Operation Pitting and the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme will be awarded Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Following the policy statement, the Government published on 13 September, we will be working through the cases of those who have recently arrived from Afghanistan and will be processing them in line with the published policy.

The Home Office is contacting those here in the UK in order to assist them to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain status. No one will be required to leave the United Kingdom, or be disadvantaged in any way, while we work through their cases. More information can be found in the Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration Policy Statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement-accessible-version#afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72441>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [73839] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how can Afghan nationals who have settled in the UK under the (a) Ex-Gratia Scheme and (b) Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme apply for relocation of additional family members as a result of the level of security threat faced by those family members in Afghanistan.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office is continuing to work with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to relocate those who are eligible under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). Those eligible can bring their close family members (one spouse/partner and under 18 children) to the UK, and additional family members on an exceptional basis.

We encourage individuals already resettled in the UK who have eligible family members still in Afghanistan to visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) to check for the latest information about the ARAP ([Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: further information on eligibility criteria and offer details](#)) and the forthcoming Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme ([Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme](#)).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73839>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [75117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2021 to Question Number 59946 on Refugees: Afghanistan, what the (a) longest and (b) median length of stay is of Afghans evacuated under Operation Pitting who remain in hotel accommodation.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Operation Pitting took place from 13-28 August 2021. A significant cross Government effort is underway to ensure the thousands of Afghans who were evacuated to the UK receive the support they need to rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education, and integrate into local communities. We have had to use hotels to accommodate those evacuated as a temporary measure due to unprecedented demand. In the meantime, we are providing wrap around support to enable families to start to build successful lives in the UK

We are continuing to work with local authorities to source appropriate accommodation as quickly as possible and we carefully match families and individuals with this accommodation taking into account length of time in the UK, family size, vulnerability and accessibility requirements.

Guests are regularly moving across the bridging hotel estate and into permanent housing based on the criteria above and it is currently not possible to provide the longest and median length of stay within the hotels as a result of these move

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/75117>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/59946>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [72442] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how much funding his Department has provided to support the 300 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for Afghan nationals at UK universities under Operation Warm Welcome; and how many of those scholarships have been awarded.

Reply from Michelle Donelan: A significant cross-government effort is underway, called 'Operation Warm Welcome', to ensure Afghans arriving in the UK receive the vital support they need to rebuild their lives, find work, pursue education, and integrate into their local communities.

As part of Operation Warm Welcome, it was announced there would be further funding for up to 300 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for Afghans at UK universities. The department will update with further details of this programme in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72442>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

British Nationality: Applications

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [71364] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what her Department's target time is for reconsidering an application for citizenship.

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [71365] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time has been for reconsidering applications for citizenship in each of the last three years.

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [71366] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of live requests for reconsideration of an application for citizenship have been awaiting a decision for (a) more than six months and (b) over a year.

Reply from Kevin Foster: 71364 The service standard for reconsidering an application for citizenship is six months.

71365 & 71366 We do not hold the data as requested. This is because a reconsideration request is not counted as a new application and current IT systems do not provide the specific data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71364>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71365>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71366>

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Fees and Charges

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [75979] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of removing the non-administrative costs of British citizenship application fees.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [75980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of eligible applicants in (a) Wales and (b) the rest of the UK who cannot make an application for British citizenship as a result of being unable to pay the non-administrative costs.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on citizenship applications and grants at [Immigration statistics data tables, year ending June 2021](#). An incomplete payment is just one of a number of reasons which could lead to an application being rejected and included under the 'rejected applications' heading in Table 4.

The Home Office does not have accessible management information on applications rejected in Wales specifically, as a result of being unable to pay the non-administrative costs of citizenship fees.

Fees are regularly reviewed and set within the parameters agreed by Parliament in section 68 of the Immigration Act 2014.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-16/75979>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-16/75980>

Jobcentre Plus: Interpreters

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [73893] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that Jobcentre Plus clients who need interpreters are provided with interpreting services at appointments with their Work Coach.

Reply from Mims Davies: DWP offers interpreting and translation services under the Language Services Contract, currently provided by The Big Word. All DWP staff, including Work Coaches, have access to spoken and non-spoken face to face interpreting, telephone interpreting, British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation through the video relay services, and written translation. These services are readily available to support customers who have additional communication needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73893>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Civil Servants: Migrant Workers

Owen Thompson (SNP) [73909] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the operation of the civil service of widening civil service nationality rules to include non-UK nationals with indefinite leave to remain.

Owen Thompson (SNP) [73910] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, for what reason civil service nationality rules exclude non-UK nationals with indefinite leave to remain in the UK from working in the civil service.

Reply from Michael Ellis: The Civil Service Nationality Rules reflect a long-standing legislative framework and govern eligibility for employment in the Civil Service on the grounds of nationality. Under the rules, there are routes for Commonwealth or EEA nationals who hold indefinite leave to remain to be eligible to work in non-reserved posts in the Civil Service. Existing routes, such as exemption certificates, are available where a role needs to be filled by someone who would not ordinarily meet the standard eligibility requirements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/73909>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-15/73910>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Sarah Jones (Labour) [73940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether money allocated to people under the Windrush Compensation Scheme is exempted from consideration in means tested financial assessments.

Reply from Damian Hinds: Payments made under the Windrush Compensation Scheme are disregarded in the calculation of Universal Credit and other DWP means-tested benefits.

This means that the money paid to claimants in compensation will not be taken into account when eligibility for these benefits is assessed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73940>

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Ian Lavery (Labour) [72438] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle delays to applications for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) as quickly as possible.

We currently have 1,500 UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) European Casework staff in post. We are committed to ensuring our operational teams have the resources they need to run an efficient and effective system, and we actively monitor workflows to ensure sufficient resources are in place to meet demand.

Each individual case is considered on its own facts, which means some cases will inevitably take longer than others to conclude. Cases may take longer dependent if, for example, the applicant is facing an impending prosecution or has a criminal record.

The following link lists the expected processing times for EU Settlement Scheme applications, based upon current performance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>

The rights of those EU citizens and their family members who were lawfully resident

at the end of the transition period and who, from 1 July 2021, have a pending application under the EUSS made by the deadline, or an appeal against the refusal of an application submitted by then, will be protected until their application is finally determined.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72438>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: EU Nationals

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [72474] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether biometric cards issued before 30 June 2020 are valid to allow people with an EU Settlement Scheme spousal visa to enter the UK.

Ruth Cadbury (Labour) [72475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what advice her Department has issued to people with an EU Settlement Scheme spousal visa on whether they need to update their biometric cards to be allowed entry into the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All unexpired biometric residence cards held by any non-EEA nationals with pre settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, are valid for travel to and entry into the UK when presented with a valid passport.

Individuals issued with cards which have expired can apply to replace them free of charge.

Visa nationals who travel outside the UK will need a document, such as an unexpired biometric residence card, for travel purposes before returning to the UK. Individuals will not be required to prove they hold pre settled or settled status at the UK border. However, anyone who has been issued with a biometric residence card should present it if they are required to see a Border Force Officer in order to avoid delays.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72474>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72475>

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

Asylum: Standards

Ian Lavery (Labour) [72437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle delays to (a) interviews and (b) asylum decisions for asylum seekers processed by her Department.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is pursuing a wide range of programmes which will transform our systems and processes 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 where required or a decision.

Additionally to transformation, in response to the raising number of asylum claims and delays, we are working to increase decision makers as well as 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72437>

Asylum: Applications

Stuart Anderson (Conservative) [71463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps she is taking to efficiently provide conclusions to asylum cases in response to submissions of further evidence.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has taken several measures to increase decision outputs and reduce decision waiting times for Asylum Further Submissions.

This includes increasing the number of decision makers, with significant further recruitment planned, improvements to training and streamlining of processes, including digitalisation and development of an enhanced electronic casework system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71463>

Christianity: Asylum

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [76650] To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, whether he has had recent discussions with the Church of England on the number of asylum seekers who have converted to Christianity in the last year.

Reply from Andrew Selous: Specific discussion on that issue has not taken place. Data are not kept on the nationality or migration status of those who seek Baptism. Baptism is a sacrament ordained by God and must always be open to anyone regardless of race, nationality or status, so long as they meet the requirements set out in Canon law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-17/76650>

Asylum: LGBT People

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [72463] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants claiming asylum on the basis of LGBT+ status were (a) accepted, (b) rejected, (c) detained and (d) deported in each of the last five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Regarding part (a) and (b) of the question, the Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum claims where sexual orientation formed part of the basis for the claim are published in tables SOC00 – SOC04 of the '[LGB asylum data tables](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'. Please note, these statistics are experimental and should be interpreted with caution. Further information can be found in the [asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation topic](#).

Regarding part (c) and (d) of the question, the basis of an asylum claim is not routinely recorded in relation to detention or returns and the information sought could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72463>

Asylum: Employment

David Simmonds (Conservative) [69217] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the potential effect on the economy of granting asylum seekers the right to work.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We allow asylum seekers to work if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL).

A review of the policy is ongoing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/69217>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL3702] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide councils with £28 per person per day to support Afghan refugee families.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is a package of support for local authorities to assist the resettlement of families through either the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) in addition to the additional funding for wraparound support.

We are currently working with HM Treasury and other government departments to finalise the arrangements for providing the funding for both the ARAP and ACRS schemes and the bridging hotel funding. We recently shared the final drafts of the Funding Instructions for local authorities providing hotel wraparound support and the ARAP/ACRS post 1 September 2021 schemes, with strategic migration partners for comment.

We hope to issue these instructions as soon as possible. Once these are published, we will also write to each local authority and invite them to submit their claims for processing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/hl3702>

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>

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat) [HL3672] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect Afghan refugees from harassment in the hotels and other temporary accommodation in which they reside.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We take the safety and welfare of the people we accommodate very seriously.

The Home Office have contracted Mitie to provide security to all bridging hotels that we are using to temporarily accommodate guests evacuated from Afghanistan, ensuring guards are available on all entry and exit points 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All security guards in our bridging hotels are in unbranded uniform. Security at the sites remain under constant review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/hl3672>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3618] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential impact on integration of housing people seeking asylum in Napier Barracks.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The ongoing use of Napier Barracks is necessary to meet the demand to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. The support and integration of asylum seekers accommodated in Napier is the same as those accommodated in other types of accommodation.

Asylum seekers have access to Migrant Help, a voluntary sector organisation funded by the Home Office, are able to use the NHS free of charge and are provided with other support to cover their essential living needs, in the same way as other asylum seekers accommodated by the Home Office.

Residents are free to leave the site and are encouraged to do so for social, religious or cultural purposes. There have been a number of improvements made to the facilities over recent months, designed to aid integration such as the reintroduction of sports and recreational activities and Non-Government Organisations on site providing activities, advice and assistance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-02/hl3618>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3676] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the definition of an accommodation centre applied by the Home Office; and what are the reasons Napier Barracks is not classified as such.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is considering introducing full-board accommodation centres, as provided for in Part 2 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. These are expected to provide long term support for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and have the appropriate services and facilities in place at the site for that purpose.

The centres will therefore differ from the full-board accommodation facilities that are currently used to provide temporary support to individuals until they are moved to flats or houses ("dispersal accommodation"), or the contingency accommodation currently provided at Napier and in various hotels across the UK because of the shortage of dispersal accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-03/hl3676>

Offenders: Deportation

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL3576] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many convicted foreign offenders were deported after completing their prison sentences in each quarter since 1 January 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government is clear that foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them.

Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence in the UK is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity.

The New Plan for Immigration will stop foreign criminals abusing the system and speed up the removals of those with no right to remain in the UK.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) returned from the UK in each quarter in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly release'. The latest data, published on 26th August 2021, can be found in tables Ret_02 and Ret_02q of the Returns Summary tables. The latest data relates to year ending March 2021 and includes those who were detained in detention centres and prisons.

[Tables Ret_02 and Ret_02q](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-01/hl3576>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3008/html/>

Afghanistan: safe routes and resettlement: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3009/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Caroline Lucas (Green) [651] Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme – That this House notes the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACSR) was announced on 18 August 2021; further notes that hon. Members are still receiving desperate messages for help and that Ministerial replies to queries make repeated reference to the scheme; is concerned that three months later the ACSR is still not open to applications and that vulnerable people seeking safety from the Taliban, and for whom the UK has a responsibility, are therefore not able to access it; is further concerned that the 5,000 cap on the number of people who can be helped by the scheme in the first year is insufficient and that there's every likelihood those places will already be filled by, for example, people evacuated to the UK via Operation Pitting or who have crossed the border into refugee camps in neighbouring countries, with knock on implications for the Afghan national family members of our constituents; and calls on the Government to open the ACSR without any further delays and to significantly increase the number of people eligible, starting with bringing forward the overall 20,000 cap to the first year.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59140>

Press Release

Joint statement from the Home Secretary and the French Interior Minister

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-the-home-secretary-and-the-french-interior-minister>

New Publications

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of asylum casework (August 2020 to May 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework/the-home-office-response-to-the-independent-chief-inspector-of-borders-and-immigrations-report-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework-august-2020-to-may>

Migrants arriving in the UK by boat

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/migrants-arriving-in-the-uk-by-boat/>

Reforming the Windrush Compensation Scheme

<https://files.justice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/12142211/JUSTICE-Report-Reforming-the-Windrush-Compensation-Scheme-Press-Copy.pdf>

News

New bill quietly gives powers to remove British citizenship without notice

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/nov/17/new-bill-quietly-gives-powers-to-remove-british-citizenship-without-notice>

Windrush compensation scheme has 'concerning weaknesses', says charity

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/15/windrush-compensation-scheme-has-concerning-weaknesses-says-charity>

UK and France reach agreement to 'prevent 100% of Channel crossings'
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/15/france-uk-migrant-crisis-priti-patel>

UK government says it wants to work 'constructively' with France to tackle Channel crossings
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-france-channel-crossing-b1958261.html>

Britain and France vow to stop '100 per cent' of Channel migrant crossings
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/11/16/britain-france-vow-stop-100-per-cent-channel-migrant-crossings/>

Priti Patel and French minister vow to make migrant crossing 'unviable'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-treating-us-like-punch-ball-in-migrant-crisis-complain-french-lq3wtxq7c>

Priti Patel failing over small boat Channel crossings, Labour says
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-59365722>

Migrant crossings: Minister to lead review after record journey numbers
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59357991>

Hundreds more migrants rush to cross Channel before winter
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hundreds-more-migrants-rush-to-cross-channel-before-winter-hj82v0ks9>

New Refugee Council analysis shows most people arriving by small boats across the Channel are likely be fleeing persecution
<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/new-refugee-council-analysis-shows-most-people-arriving-by-small-boats-across-the-channel-are-likely-be-fleeing-persecution/>

Most people who risk Channel boat crossings are refugees – report
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/17/most-people-who-risk-channel-boat-crossings-are-refugees-report>

Most people who cross Channel in small boats are refugees, report finds
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugees-channel-boats-priti-patel-home-office-refugee-council-uk-b1959108.html>

Channel crossings and asylum outcomes
<https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/16095953/Channel-crossings-and-asylum-outcomes-November-2021.pdf>

Only five Channel migrants returned to Europe this year as minister admits 'difficulties'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/channel-migrants-europe-home-office-b1959455.html>

UK minister admits big fall in returns of boat arrivals since Brexit
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/17/uk-minister-admits-big-fall-in-returns-of-boat-arrivals-since-brexit>

Only five Channel migrants sent back to Europe this year
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/only-five-channel-migrants-sent-back-to-europe-this-year-p5v2pnr8q>

Iranians are 29% of Channel migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/iranians-are-29-of-channel-migrants-2xj3rfnc3>

Migrant crisis: how small boats have become big business for Calais people smugglers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-crisis-how-small-boats-have-become-big-business-for-calais-people-smugglers-dvmwxmh8q>

Home Office spent thousands on pizzas for hungry Channel migrants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-spent-thousands-on-pizzas-for-hungry-channel-migrants-x0d2tt20n>

Volunteers bring Channel migrants blankets, clothes and fish and chips

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/volunteers-bring-channel-migrants-blankets-clothes-and-fish-and-chips-tj5xzdfq>

Mental illness 'twice as common among refugees and migrants in detention'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mental-illness-twice-as-common-among-refugees-and-migrants-in-detention-b1958709.html>

Chief Inspector's report on asylum casework: Refugee Council response

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/chief-inspectors-report-on-asylum-casework-refugee-council-response/>

Incorrect asylum refusals costing taxpayers more than £4m a year in admin costs alone, research finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-decisions-cost-appeals-home-office-uk-b1958050.html>

Priti Patel says everything is on the table on plans to process asylum seekers offshore

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-confirms-albania-migrant-talks-9m93b9t0q>

Liverpool Women's Hospital explosion: Home Secretary Priti Patel says bomber exploited UK's 'dysfunctional' asylum system

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/liverpool-womens-hospital-explosion-home-secretary-priti-patel-says-bomber-exploited-uks-dysfunctional-asylum-system-3460562>

Liverpool bombing linked to 'dysfunctional' asylum system, claims Priti Patel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/liverpool-bombing-priti-patel-asylum-b1959104.html>

Concerns migrants are faking religious conversions at Liverpool Cathedral to help asylum claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/16/concerns-migrants-faking-religious-conversions-liverpool-cathedral/>

Church of England defends supporting asylum seekers after claims it helped some 'game' system

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/11/17/church-defends-supporting-asylum-seekers-claims-helped-game/>

Liverpool bomb: Church not aware of converts abusing asylum system

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59317097>

Church disputes claims large numbers of asylum seekers ‘abuse’ system by converting to Christianity

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/emad-alswealmeen-church-christianity-asylum-home-office-b1959319.html>

Sink or survive: lost hope triggered by destitution within the asylum system

<https://tfn.scot/opinion/sink-or-survive-lost-hope-triggered-by-destitution-within-the-asylum-system>

Home Office blocking Napier Barracks visit by cross-party MPs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-napier-barracks-mps-b1959229.html>

TOP

Community Relations

News

The importance of tolerance in a divided world

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/importance-tolerance-divided-world>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [71422] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve maternal outcomes for black women.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: To support NHS maternity services improve maternal outcomes for black women, NHS England and NHS Improvement published ‘Equity and Equality: Guidance for Local Maternity Systems’, which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/C0734-equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems.pdf>

This guidance asks Local Maternity Systems (LMS) to produce an equity and equality analysis (covering health outcomes, community assets and staff experience) by 30 November 2021 and to co-produce an equity and equality action plan by 28 February 2022.

LMS are being asked to include evidence-based interventions that have been demonstrated to improve maternal outcomes in their action plans: implement maternal medicine networks with key performance indicators relating to outcomes and equalities; offer referral to the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme to women with a previous gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) diagnosis who are not currently pregnant and do not currently have diabetes. Women of Black African, Black Caribbean and South Asian ethnic groups are at high risk of developing GDM, so this intervention helps improve prevention and early detection of Type 2 diabetes; implement maternal mental health services with a focus on access by ethnicity; ensure personalised care and support plans are available to all, which has a

positive impact on health inequalities; ensure the Maternity Voices Partnerships reflect the ethnic diversity of the local population, to encourage the uptake of services among those that may be reluctant to get involved and design interventions that are relevant to the local population, improving outcomes for black women.

LMS are also being asked to include plans to deliver the NHS Long-Term Plan commitment for targeted and enhanced Continuity of Carer with 75% of women from Black, Asian and Mixed ethnic groups receiving Continuity of Carer by 2024 and additional midwifery time to support women from the most deprived areas. Women who receive Continuity of Carer are 16% less likely to lose their baby and have an improved experience of care.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are providing £6.8m to support LMS to implement their Equity and Equality Action Plans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71422>

News

Race for Human Rights

Scottish Government funded CEMVO programme to support public, statutory, and third sector organisations through consultancy on developing race equality and human rights action plans engaging with ethnic minority organisations and communities across Scotland, race equality and human rights training, and good practice learning webinars, workshops, and bulletins. For information see

https://mcusercontent.com/8b816de44fbf89863be9076ad/files/3946464c-7b67-95c4-8227-2ac1e5d2bc6c/Race_for_Human_Rights_Programme.01.pdf

Covid: Sajid Javid orders review of medical device racial bias

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59363544>

'Racist' oxygen device may explain why Covid hit minorities so hard

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racist-oxygen-device-may-explain-why-covid-hit-minorities-so-hard-g8rn0cbwv>

Health of some UK ethnic minority groups equal to white people 20 years older, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/health-inequalities-ethnic-minorities-new-study-b1959294.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

Marie McNair (SNP) [S6M-02131] St Andrew's Day Rally Against Racism and Fascism

– That the Parliament recognises that the St Andrew's Day Rally Against Racism and Fascism will take place in Glasgow on 27 November 2021, leaving Glasgow Green at 11am and culminating at a rally in the Renfield Centre in Bath Street; believes that such marches are important in highlighting that Scotland stands against racism and fascism; commends the STUC and its Black Workers' Committee for organising both the annual march and their longstanding campaigns against racism and fascism; notes with appreciation that this year, the STUC looks back on 25 years of campaigning activity driven

forward by the Committee; deplores racism and fascism and celebrates the bravery and solidarity of BAME people in fighting back against both, and encourages people to attend what it believes will be an important event.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02131>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

CPS Prosecutions: Hate Crime

Bob Blackman (Conservative): What recent assessment [the Attorney General] has made of the effectiveness of the CPS in prosecuting cases of hate crime. (904195)

Reply from the Solicitor General (Alex Chalk): Hate crime can have a devastating impact on individuals and communities. In the last year, the CPS prosecuted more than 10,000 such offences; in 79% of those cases that resulted in a conviction, the court agreed to impose a sentence uplift to reflect this important aggravating factor. Let the message go out: those who seek to divide our society through hate can expect a robust response.

Bob Blackman: Hate crime is clearly a serious concern right across this country. Do local Crown Prosecution Service areas have all the resources that they need to take these measures on and prosecute people for hate crime?

Reply from the Solicitor General: Yes, and those resources are growing. CPS London North maintains hate crime co-ordinators and inclusion and community engagement managers to provide a single point of contact on all aspects of hate crime prosecution. It has achieved some of the highest sentence uplift statistics anywhere in the country, with increases handed down in 83% of cases.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-18/debates/DC7FFD74-ECB6-4DAD-BD87-308051B066B3/CPSProsecutionsHateCrime>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

Alberto Costa (Conservative) [71369] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the increase in hate crimes committed against people of the Jewish faith.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we are taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. We are clear that victims should be supported and the individuals who carry out these heinous attacks must be brought to justice. The Government is providing £14 million this year for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings and we have encouraged the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism across universities and local authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71369>

Christianity: Nurses

Jim Shannon (DUP) [72429] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the equity of Christian nurses facing discrimination on grounds of religion.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Government and NHS England and NHS Improvement have made no assessment about the equity of Christian nurses facing discrimination on grounds of religion.

Discrimination in any form is not in line with National Health Service (NHS) values.

The fair treatment of staff is directly linked to better clinical outcomes and better experience of care for patients. This is enforced by the requirement for public sector organisations including the Department, NHS England and NHS organisations to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires them to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups when carrying out their activities. The duty applies to the nine protected characteristics, including people's religion or belief (which includes a lack of belief).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72429>

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Kim Leadbeater (Labour) [71526] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government is taking to tackle racism in sport (a) in the UK and (b) abroad.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: Racism has no place in sport, or in wider society. I am committed to ensuring sport does all it can to tackle racism and all forms of discrimination both domestically and internationally.

In June 2021 Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport.

The findings make clear that racism and racial inequalities still exist within sport in the UK and that there are long standing issues, which have resulted in ethnically diverse communities being consistently disadvantaged.

Each council is now working at pace to develop their own specific action plans to further deliver on these commitments and address the recommendations from the review.

In addition, the forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England's Code for Sports Governance will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the community they serve. Sports receiving the most funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually.

The Prime Minister has also set out action to tackle online racist abuse in football following the abhorrent social media attacks on black England players after the Euro 2020 final. For the first time, the government will amend legislation to extend the use of Football Banning Orders so online abusers can be banned from stadiums for up to 10 years, in the same way violent thugs are barred from grounds. The Government, Premier League and football authorities will also work together to help tackle all aspects of online abuse footballers are experiencing, ahead of the Online Safety Bill coming into force. We also welcomed the Premier League's "No Room for Racism" Action plan, and the announcement of new enhanced anti-discrimination measures such as league-wide bans for offenders.

There is still more to do though, and we will continue to work with sports to combat racism both in person and online.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-08/71526>

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=34IYJ7qJaRqs60aR2BPqSWFnc05keEeH>

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

[https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/a code for sports governance.pdf?VersionId=qKUYxIN.mAu2Z0BeGifxGGxy54PxZ8ol](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/a%20code%20for%20sports%20governance.pdf?VersionId=qKUYxIN.mAu2Z0BeGifxGGxy54PxZ8ol)

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at <https://www.premierleague.com/news/2021251>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72622] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what recent steps his Department has taken to support victims of racist abuse within cricket.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72623] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he plans to take to tackle racism within cricket.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: There is no place for racism in sport or anywhere in society. I am extremely concerned by the recent reports of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club and welcome the steps taken by the ECB to launch an investigation into the matter. This must be transparent and swift, for the benefit of cricket. The ECB must carry out their investigation unhindered, but the Government will be monitoring the situation at Yorkshire County Cricket Club and the ECB closely.

The ECB has also launched the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, chaired by Cindy Butts, building on the work they have done across the game to increase diversity. The Azeem Rafiq case shows how much more needs to be done to stamp out racism in the game and the Government would urge anyone who has experienced discrimination to come forward with this.

The forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England's Code for Sports Governance will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the community they serve. Sports receiving the most public funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72622>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72623>

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

https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/a_code_for_sports_governance.pdf?VersionId=qKUYxIN.mAu2ZOBEGifxGGxy54PxZ8oI

The following three questions all received the same answer

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72624] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment her Department has made of trends in the level of representation of African, Caribbean and Asian coaches, umpires and match officials at all levels of cricket in England and Wales.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72625] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the report by the Cricket Board of England and Wales, Racial equality in cricket, published in 1997, whether his Department has implemented the recommendations set out in that report.

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72627] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if the Government will provide (a) funding and (b) support to African, Caribbean and Asian cricket associations to tackle exclusion and inequality in all aspects of the game, particularly under representation among umpires, coaches and match officials.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The national governing body for cricket, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) assesses trends in representation in the sport. This includes the level of representation of African, Caribbean and Asian

coaches, umpires and match officials. The Government and Sport England is committed to increasing diversity and inclusion across all sport and physical activity. The ECB developed the African-Caribbean Engagement Programme (ACE) in 2020 to address a 75% decline in cricket participation by members of the Black community in cricket. It has now been established as an independent charity and received £540,000 in funding from Sport England and a grant from the ECB that has allowed a programme to be launched in Birmingham in 2021.

The ECB launched its South Asian Action Plan in 2018, also funded by Sport England. This focuses on increasing racial diversity and opening up access to cricket, including facilities and delivery of bespoke formats of the sport for the community's needs. After the success of the first investment of £1 million, this has recently been awarded an additional £1 million for the next 2 years.

The report on 'Racial equality in cricket' identified a range of actions for the ECB. Sport England provides support, guidance and funding to help national governing bodies, including the ECB, to help them increase diversity and inclusion in their organisations.

There is still more to do, however, and we will continue to liaise with the ECB to ensure this issue is tackled effectively, and that recommendations from the newly established Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, are implemented.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72624>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72625>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72627>

The report referred to above is not available online

Cricket: Racial Discrimination

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [72626] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will (a) make anti-racism, equality and diversity targets in cricket a ministerial priority and (b) report annually on the progress being made on achieving those targets.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England's "Code for Sports Governance" will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the community they serve.

Sports receiving the most public funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-09/72626>

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

https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/a_code_for_sports_governance.pdf?VersionId=qKUYxIN.mAu2ZOBEGifxGGxy54PxZ8ol

Yorkshire County Cricket Club: Racial Discrimination

Ruth Jones (Labour) [73955] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the allegations of racism affecting Yorkshire County Cricket club on Black and minority ethnic people.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: There is no place for racism in sport or anywhere in society. I am extremely concerned by the recent reports of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club and welcome the steps taken by the ECB to launch an investigation into the matter. This must be transparent and swift, for the benefit of cricket. The ECB must carry out their investigation unhindered, but the Government

will be monitoring the situation at Yorkshire County Cricket Club and the ECB closely, and will take further action if needed.

The government is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion, which is at the heart of our strategy 'Sporting Future'. In June 2021 Sport England, UK Sport and the other home nations' sports councils published the results of a detailed, independent review into tackling racism and racial inequality in sport. The findings make clear that racism and racial inequalities still exist within sport in the UK and that there are long standing issues, which have resulted in ethnically diverse communities being consistently disadvantaged. Each council is now working at pace to develop their own specific action plans to further deliver on these commitments and address the recommendations from the review.

In addition, the forthcoming update of UK Sport and Sport England's Code for Sports Governance will place an increased focus on diversity in decision making and ensuring that sports organisations reflect the community they serve. Sports receiving the most funding will be required to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually.

There is still more to do though, and we will continue to work with all sports to combat racism both in person and online.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-12/73955>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

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

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

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Islamophobia

Lord Sheikh (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their position on adopting a formal definition of Islamophobia.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Lord Greenhalgh): The Government remain committed to acting against Islamophobia in all its forms. We utterly condemn the prejudice, discrimination and hatred directed towards British Muslims due to their faith. While we are considering definitions of Islamophobia, this in no way restrains our ability to monitor, prosecute and punish those perpetrating religiously motivated hate crime. We have provided Tell MAMA with £4 million over the last five years to monitor anti-Muslim hate crime and to support victims.

Lord Sheikh: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for his response. I first raised this matter in your Lordships' House on 11 July 2019. We were told then that the Government agree that there needs to be a definition and that two advisers would be appointed. One adviser was appointed more than two years ago and nothing tangible has been done since. The Muslim community is concerned about issues relating to Islamophobia, and would ask that a second adviser now be appointed and their terms of reference agreed, which must include consultation with the community. We need to do this without any further delay and to commence the process.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for raising the concerns of the Muslim community, for his contribution to how we tackle the issue of Islamophobia and for his advice on how best to proceed. We remain committed

to tackling Islamophobia where it exists across our communities, and we will continue to consider this issue with the utmost seriousness.

Baroness Blake of Leeds (Labour): My Lords, the Government's own hate crime statistics show that nearly half of all recorded religious hate crimes were against Muslims. What specific urgent steps have the Government taken to end this abuse and will the Minister commit to working with Muslim groups to ensure urgent progress?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, it is quite correct to say "nearly half"—around 45% of religiously motivated hate crime was against Muslims. As I mentioned in my Answer, we provided Tell MAMA £4 million over the last five years to monitor anti-Muslim hate crimes and support victims. We have also awarded £1.8 million through the faith, race and hate crime grant scheme to support established community groups and civil society organisations to boost shared values and tackle religiously and racially motivated hate crime.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister has acknowledged that the Home Office's own figures show that 45% of all recent recorded religious hate crimes in England and Wales targeted British Muslims, but he has not yet said why the Government are so reluctant and are dragging their feet over coming up with a clear definition of Islamophobia. Why have they refused to do this? Is he aware that it is mainly Muslim women who are being targeted, because of the way they dress? Young people are being targeted and bullied in schools and on the streets. Given the scale of this problem, and given the rise in far-right extremism, can the Minister tell me what actual action, besides funding an organisation to monitor it, the Government will take to reassure the 3 million British Muslims of their commitment to tackling hatred, and the violent crimes and discrimination they are experiencing?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we recognise the seriousness of this, but we also recognise the point made by Khalid Mahmood MP in the other place that there are issues with the term "Islamophobia". It has been weaponised by particular groups to tackle free speech. We recognise that it is important to establish a definition, but as he himself says, this is a difficult thing to solve and the first principle is to do no harm. We will proceed slowly and carefully in order to get this right.

Lord Robathan (Conservative): My Lords, I think the House will be united against anybody who discriminates against somebody on their beliefs, but I will follow up on the last question about what exactly we mean by "Islamophobia". I understand that it means fear of Islam. Why should one be frightened of one of the great religions of the world? It is fair enough to be frightened of the people who blew up the Manchester Arena or whatever, but surely not of Islam itself. I think the Minister is on my side in this: could we please be absolutely clear what it is that we are trying to do?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, part of the difficulty of adopting some of the definitions that are being proposed, including that proposed by the APPG, is that they effectively conflate anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia with race. They also do not deal with issues around sectarianism. I completely agree that we want to tackle prejudice that discriminates against people based on who they are.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, a phobia is a fear. An irrational fear of Muslims is best countered by leaders of the community explaining that discrimination against women and violent attitudes to other faiths have nothing to do with Islam. Will the Minister agree with a previous government statement that all faiths and beliefs should be given equal protection, and that giving special consideration to one or two groups at the expense of others is totally contrary to the Government's levelling-up agenda?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I can give that assurance. We must provide our faiths and beliefs, particularly a religion such as Islam, with the same protections as all other important religions, but we must not make the mistake of conflating religion with race, as I said in the previous answer.

Baroness Fox of Buckley (Non-affiliated): My Lords, it is crucial that we distinguish between aberrant anti-Muslim bigotry and the highly contentious concept of Islamophobia which threatens free speech for fear of it being labelled Islamophobic. Does the Minister acknowledge this chilling effect for liberal Muslims, as is well described in the Don't Divide Us film "Islamophobia! The Accusation that Silences Dissent", muting any criticism of Islam as a religion and even muting critiques of political Islamism, however dangerous? Does the Minister accept the nervousness of politicians from all parties in supporting the Batley Grammar School teacher who was forced into hiding under shouts of "Islamophobic", effectively allowing a default blasphemy law to be snuck in for fear of being called Islamophobic?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I do recognise that issue and I was trying to point that out in the responses I gave to previous supplementary questions. There is no doubt that the term "Islamophobia" is used as a heckler's veto to shut down alternative opinions. We need to come up with a way forward that does not compromise free speech, and that is absolutely what we are committed to doing.

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated): Imam Qari Asim, whom the Government appointed to assist with this in 2019, has been a magnificent ally in the fight against anti-Semitism and had a huge impact in West Yorkshire on Covid vaccinations in the Muslim community. Would it not be in the Government's interests to find more work for Qari Asim to do?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, as someone who has spent time with and engaged with Qari Asim—I met him in my previous role as Faith Minister—I recognise that he has much to contribute and I am sure we will continue to make best use of his undoubted reputation and track record.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, Islamophobia is a real problem in the UK. Prejudice against Islam must be taken very seriously. The Government are certainly proceeding very slowly—there is no question about that—as highlighted by the noble Lord, Lord Sheikh. Can the Minister confirm that it is the Government's intention to adopt a definition, or are they not planning to do so? It is very easy, either way.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: ... Of course we want to work on establishing a definition that can be adopted, but I want the House to recognise that this is not a straightforward matter and will take time.

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated): My Lords, do the Government recognise that in any attempt to elucidate a formal definition of Islamophobia, religion and not race must be the central tenet? I agree with the noble Lord's earlier response. Will the Minister give a personal assurance to the noble Lord, Lord Sheikh, me and others that he will do everything he can to resolve this as a matter of urgency?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I can give the assurance that we are tackling this as a matter of urgency. I completely agree with the point made about the need not to conflate race with religion. We need to get the definition of Islamophobia right.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-15/debates/261C3990-4515-41B0-8373-5E445FF19FC3/Islamophobia>

New Publications

OSCE / ODIHR 2020 Hate Crime Data

Key Findings

https://hatecrime.osce.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/2020%20Infographic_EN.pdf

Full Data

<https://hatecrime.osce.org/hate-crime-data?year=2020>

Uncovered: Online Hate Speech in the Covid Era

https://www.ditchthelabel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Uncovered_Online-Hate_Speech_DTLxBW_V2-1.pdf

News

Online hate speech rose 20% during pandemic: 'We've normalised it'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-59292509>

Kirk minister reflects on Islamophobia Awareness Month

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/kirk-minister-reflects-on-islamophobia-awareness-month>

Students at Cambridge college told to complete anti-racism lesson

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/cambridge-students-anti-racism-course-b1957730.html>

We cannot allow antisemitism to spread on university campuses

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-cannot-allow-antisemitism-to-spread-on-university-campuses-pt2r5qc6j>

Azeem Rafiq apologises for historical anti-Semitic Facebook messages

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59338118>

'Ashamed' Azeem Rafiq apologises after anti-Semitic messages emerge

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/ashamed-azeem-rafiq-apologises-after-anti-semitic-messages-emerge-3463305>

Azeem Rafiq apologises for antisemitic messages

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/azeem-rafiq-apologises-for-antisemitic-text-messages-87snclgr5>

Azeem Rafiq hearing: Racism is so toxic and powerful that people stop noticing it

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/azeem-rafiq-hearing-racism-is-so-toxic-and-powerful-that-people-stop-noticing-it-sxsmccqm7>

Azeem Rafiq racism case: Cricket chiefs 'apologise unreservedly' for 'blight' of racism

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59351446>

Azeem Rafiq: What England's cricket racism scandal is all about

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-59316567>

Azeem Rafiq says racist abuse was accepted by Yorkshire cricket chiefs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/azeem-rafiq-dcms-hearing-yorkshire-cricket-club-racism-fmf88gb02>

Azeem Rafiq hopes 'floodgates' will open because of his experiences of racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-cheteshwar-pujara-matthew-hoggard-mark-mcafferty-b1959838.html>

Azeem Rafiq: English cricket is 'institutionally' racist says former Yorkshire player

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59304381>

Racism in cricket: 'Subconscious institutional racism issue in Scotland' says administrator
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59322801>

Cricket Scotland needs to improve handling of racism - Qasim Sheikh
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59309658>

'Crude racism' fuelled by Tory rejection of multiculturalism, says Lord Parekh
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/19/racism-fuelled-by-tory-rejection-multiculturalism-lord-parekh-azeem-rafiq>

So many people in the UK will relate to Azeem Rafiq's experience
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/azeem-rafiq-yorkshire-institutional-racism-uk-b1958766.html>

Middlesex urge racially abused player to report experiences to club
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/middlesex-racism-azeem-rafiq-b1958573.html>

Alex Hales: Ex-England batter apologises for 'incredibly disrespectful' black make-up photo
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/59344022>

Alex Hales pictured in blackface as English cricket's racism crisis deepens
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2021/11/18/alex-hales-pictured-blackface-english-cricket-racism-crisis/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-02166] 552nd Gurburab of Siri Guru Nanak Dev Ji –
That the Parliament recognises that 19 November 2021 marks the 552nd Gurburab (birth anniversary) of Siri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who was the founder of Sikhism and the first Sikh Guru; notes that this auspicious moment commemorates one of the most significant occasions for Sikh people, and wishes everyone around the world celebrating the 552nd anniversary of his birth happy and prosperous celebrations.
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-02166>

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland: October 2021
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-october-2021/>

News

New top Scottish civil servant appointed
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-59334878>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

News

MPs back raising minimum marriage age to 18 to protect children

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-59344731>

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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>

**** Book a flu or coronavirus booster vaccination**

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking>

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/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Ben Spencer (Conservative) [59981] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many and what proportion of people over the age of 18 have taken up covid-19 vaccination by (a) ethnicity and (b) age; and what assessment he has made of the (i) barriers to vaccination and (ii) effectiveness of Government measures to increase uptake in groups where take up is low.

Reply from Maggie Throup: NHS England and NHS Improvement publish vaccine uptake by both age and ethnicity. This is published daily and ranges from 'Under 18' to '80+'. There are also weekly and monthly publications of these statistics, which provides a more detailed breakdown of vaccine uptake by age and a detailed breakdown of vaccine uptake by ethnicity. The data can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

The Department reviews research into COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. This includes information gathered by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), health studies, and insights generated by the vaccine programme itself.

COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy is monitored by ONS. Data is published to record the reasons people give for vaccine refusal. A breakdown of this data can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/datasets/coronavirusandvaccinehesitancygreatbritain>

This is supported by Healthwatch, who undertook research in Spring 2021 and looked at uptake in ethnic minority groups who are known to be vaccine hesitant. They found that people commonly cited issues such as practical barriers, misinformation, and deeper cultural mistrust.

There have been a range of national and hyper-local initiatives in place to drive uptake, including national communications, provision of mobile/pop-up delivery models and work with faith/community leaders. These efforts have been hugely successful in communicating benefits of vaccination. Vaccine hesitancy has decreased from 9% in February to 3% in August for all adults per ONS data. The statistics also showed hesitancy has decreased for those aged 16 and 17 from 14% to 11%. Furthermore, YouGov polling indicates that hesitancy amongst ethnic minority groups has reduced from 63% to 14% from October to August. This success has been facilitated by the wide range of interventions and strategies employed to ensure strong vaccine uptake.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/59981>

Scottish Government Press Release

Online portal for Autumn/Winter vaccination programme

<https://www.gov.scot/news/online-portal-for-autumnwinter-vaccination-programme/>

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/>

UK Government Press Releases

13 million top-up COVID-19 vaccines given across the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13-million-top-up-covid-19-vaccines-given-across-the-uk>

Boosters to be added to NHS COVID Pass for travel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-to-be-added-to-nhs-covid-pass-for-travel>

UK Government Publication

The R value and growth rate

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

Other Organisation

National Audit Office

The government's preparedness for the COVID-19 pandemic: lessons for government on risk management

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/The-governments-preparedness-for-the-COVID-19-pandemic-lessons-for-government-on-risk-management.pdf>

News

Scotland confirms Covid boosters for over-40s

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-59290426>

Covid: UK government wasn't ready for pandemic, report finds

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59342607>

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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>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/amend/natbord_rm_rep_1122.pdf

Online Safety Bill (Draft)

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

Scotland's Winter Festivals 2021/2022 Small Grants Fund

closing date: 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 Burns Night. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the 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!**

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 bi-lingual 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>

**** this week!**

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>

Serve Your Community: Police Officer Information Session for BME Communities

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”.

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 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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