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### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Scotland's Census](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament First Minister's Statement and Q&A

#### Refugees from Ukraine

**The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine is causing the largest displacement of people in Europe since world war two, and in a much shorter timescale. The United Nations has estimated that more than 3 million people—more than 5 per cent of Ukraine's total population—have already left the country. ...

It is estimated that 1.8 million people have arrived in Poland, 250,000 in Hungary and 80,000 in Moldova, which has a population of just 4 million. Last week, many of us were moved by scenes in Berlin of German families flocking to the railway station to offer shelter and support to those arriving from Ukraine.

However, even as we are moved and inspired by such scenes of compassion, we continue

to be deeply shocked that this is happening at all. ...

The Scottish Government is committed to playing our full part in the international effort to help those who are displaced as a result of the war. Other countries have waived the requirement for people from Ukraine to obtain visas in order to gain entry and settle. The strong preference of the Scottish Government is that the UK Government adopts the same approach. However, although we will continue to press for that, we will also work with UK ministers to make the processes that it has put in place as effective as possible. ...

At present, people from Ukraine can enter the UK through the family scheme. I hope that the changes to the scheme that were announced last week will make it easier and quicker than it has been so far. A second route—homes for Ukraine—was announced this week. It is hoped that, in time, very significant numbers of Ukrainians will come to the UK through that scheme. The fact that more than 100,000 people across the UK have already signed up to offer accommodation demonstrates the willingness of the public to help. The response so far has been magnificent. However, the terms of the scheme mean that it will take time for that outpouring of support to translate into large numbers of Ukrainians actually being able to come to the UK.

The first phase of the scheme depends on matches being made between refugees and individual sponsors. Initially, it is only those who already have, or can themselves find, details of people who are seeking refuge who will be able to provide help quickly. The Scottish Government's proposal seeks to short-circuit that process. We want and have offered to act as a single supersponsor to allow significant numbers of people who are fleeing Ukraine to come to Scotland immediately. We have offered to sponsor 3,000 people straight away, and in the longer term we have given an uncapped commitment to support at least 10 per cent of the total number who seek sanctuary in the UK.

In practice, Scottish Government sponsorship would mean that people from Ukraine do not need to be matched with individual sponsors before being allowed entry to the UK. They would be able to come here to sanctuary and safety first. We will provide temporary accommodation and then, with people already safely here and, I am sure, wrapped in a warm Scottish welcome, we will work at speed with partners including local councils, the Scottish Refugee Council, the national health service, Disclosure Scotland and others to complete safeguarding checks; put in place wider health, education, practical and befriending support; and arrange longer-term accommodation.

We warmly welcome and intend to fully harness the thousands of individual offers from people who are willing to provide refugees with a home, and I thank everyone who has volunteered. Of course, not everyone will be in a position to offer accommodation, but there will be many other ways for people to offer support.

However, welcome and necessary though the voluntary offers of accommodation are, we must be mindful that those who are fleeing the war may need to be here for a long time. They will wish—as we all wish for them—to return to Ukraine as soon as possible and for Scotland to be just a temporary home. Unfortunately, however, they may need to be here for longer than we can reasonably expect members of the public to provide accommodation. As well as fully harnessing the good will of people across Scotland, we therefore also need to plan for long-term sustainable accommodation and ensure that there is appropriate public service provision. ...

As I indicated yesterday, the UK Government has given in-principle support to the supersponsor proposal, and we are now working to agree the operational detail as quickly as possible. Our aim is that our supersponsor route will run in parallel with the first phase of the wider UK scheme. That should make it possible—this is certainly our hope—for the first 3,000 displaced Ukrainians to begin arriving in Scotland from as early as this weekend. I make it clear that that is dependent on UK Government agreement, as only the Home Office can issue the visas, but in my view there is no good reason for that agreement not to be reached. We hope and expect that it will be, and—crucially—that is the basis on which we are now planning.

Detailed preparations are being led by Neil Gray as minister with special responsibility for co-ordinating the response. They cover five priorities: ensuring that we get the data that we need from UK Government systems, making contact with those who are coming to Scotland, securing short-term accommodation for those who need it, working on longer-term support including housing and community integration, and establishing welcome hubs over the coming days. ...

We are working closely with local authorities, other public sector agencies such as Disclosure Scotland, the third sector and the UK Government on the practical issues that need to be addressed to ensure that the process operates smoothly. ...

In addition to harnessing voluntary support, we are assessing other, longer-term housing options. Those will include, where available, local authority and housing association properties, but also private sector or holiday accommodation. Finally, we are establishing with a range of partners including local authorities, the police, health services and the Scottish Refugee Council welcome hubs to offer practical help and assistance ...

For all the undoubted challenges, however, I am confident that Scotland will live up to our humanitarian obligations. We have recent experience of successfully integrating refugees into our communities, schools and workplaces. I am confident that we will provide not just refuge but a warm welcome and a helping hand to people whose lives have been ripped apart. We will open our doors and our hearts. ...

**Donald Cameron (Conservative):** ... Providing a place of refuge and sanctuary for those fleeing violence is a tradition that belongs to no one country or nation but that arises from the instinct in us all to ensure the dignity of every human being who is in need of safety and protection. In that spirit, it is very welcome that the Scottish and UK Governments are working collaboratively to ensure that, in Scotland, we can provide that place of refuge. I appreciate the additional detail that we have just been given on that.

Given that many refugees may struggle with English and, in any event, will be arriving in a new place, what plans does the Scottish Government have to ensure that they are provided with clear information about how to access vital public services? In particular, will any assistance be provided to new arrivals to allow them to register quickly with a general practitioner so that they can have full access to healthcare, particularly if language is a possible barrier?

**Reply from the First Minister:** ... I referred in my statement to the work that is being done with our partners to establish welcome hubs. Those arrangements will be in place to offer immediate practical advice, assistance and support to people who arrive. ...

The hubs will offer welcome packs and information leaflets that will be translated into Ukrainian, with multi-agency teams already working to support that. The leaflets will offer information on how to access broader support, including social security benefits, which will be important, and translators will be on hand to help. We are considering how we provide language support, which will be a longer-term and on-going requirement.

The welcome hub approach will involve signposting people to healthcare services and to information on how they register with GPs. We are paying particular attention to an issue that was raised with me in the Parliament yesterday. We are taking advice from Public Health Scotland and the chief medical officer on the support that will be offered in the context of Covid—for example, providing vaccinations for people who have not had them. ...

**Jackie Baillie (Labour):** ... The UK Government has been slow to respond to the refugee crisis and I hope that it will waive the bureaucratic visa requirements. However, 5,000 Ukrainians are settled in Scotland and at least another 6,000 are seasonal workers, so it is clear to me that the Scottish National Party will need to offer more than 3,000 places. ... We have all been overwhelmed by the generosity of people in our constituencies and, indeed, across Scotland who want to help, whether that is through making overseas aid

donations or offering rooms in their homes for refugees.

Will the First Minister indicate whether people should register with the UK Homes for Ukraine website, or is there another route to register in Scotland? What are the plans to quickly vet the properties and potential hosts for refugees?

What are the plans to provide wraparound services, including education and, of course, childcare to enable parents to work? What are the plans for health services? Given the trauma that people will have experienced, mental health support will be critical, but we know that child and adolescent mental health services are already under huge pressure, with people experiencing long waiting times. How much money will be allocated to mental health services? ...

**Reply from the First Minister:** ... we have given a commitment that the flow of people from Ukraine whom we will support through the homes for Ukraine scheme and, we hope, our supersponsor route is uncapped. We have made an initial and immediate commitment to take 3,000 people and we hope that they will start to arrive as early as this weekend. We anticipate that we will take at least 10 per cent of the overall number of those who come to the UK, but we are not putting a cap on that.

It is worth making the point that that is in addition to people who will come through the family scheme and will settle with families who are already here. Last week, and again this morning in Glasgow, I met members of the Ukrainian community, many of whom are already going through the process of getting visas for family members via the family scheme so that they can come here.

That is the scale of the commitment. It would be wrong to misrepresent that by saying that we have a fixed commitment to take 3,000 people. ...

My advice to people in Scotland is that, if they can offer accommodation, they should register their interest through the UK Government portal that was launched on Monday. We are working with the UK Government on how we access that data, so that we know who has volunteered in Scotland. We also want to get data from the visa application process so that, once people are here, we can make the matches.

As I mentioned in my statement, one of the agencies with which we are working closely is Disclosure Scotland, so that there are disclosure checks on people who volunteer, because safeguarding is really important.

Finally, we obviously need to start planning in relation to services now—we are doing a huge amount of planning—but we do not yet know exactly how many people will come to Scotland. Therefore, it would be wrong and inappropriate to cap figures for financial support, just as it would be to cap numbers of people. That will also apply to mental health support and local government support. We will need to make sure that, in addition to the tariff that the UK Government has agreed will be publicly available, the money that the Scottish Government provides is commensurate with the number of people who come here. ...

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** ... I welcome the announcement of the supersponsor scheme. We should be justifiably proud, but not wholly surprised, by the colossal response that we have seen from people in Scotland and across Great Britain who are opening their homes to Ukrainians who are fleeing the conflict. Those refugees will have been through the worst in human suffering. They will require access to trauma recovery, long-term counselling and, as I suggested yesterday, perhaps even immediate vaccination against Covid should they wish it. All those things will be vital and I would be grateful for an update or further details on them.

I also want to ask the First Minister about the Scottish Government's refugee integration strategy—the new Scots strategy. That runs until the end of this year, so it is nearing the end of its life and it is still struggling to deal with people who have come from Afghanistan, which, lest we forget, was just six months ago. "STV News" revealed that as many as 300

Afghans remain in temporary and bridging accommodation in different parts of this country as work to resettle them continues. What lessons have been learned from the failure to resettle those refugees from Afghanistan, and what changes can we make to ensure that similar backlogs do not occur with the scheme that the First Minister announced today?

**Reply from the First Minister:** We are drawing heavily on experience gained through all previous refugee integration work, not just that with those from Afghanistan. It is not fair to describe that as a failure. There is an on-going process to welcome people here and to settle them and integrate them into our communities. Anybody who looks fairly at the response of the Scottish public, local authorities and other agencies, and at the success of the work that they did in supporting the Syrian resettlement scheme, would know that we have a lot of positive experience to draw on from that. We want to see that work being embedded in the new Scots strategy, and that is one of the things that I was talking about with the Scottish Refugee Council this morning.

The figure of 3,000 that we have initially committed to welcoming through the UK Government supersponsor scheme has not been drawn from nowhere. We were able to settle 3,000 refugees through the Syrian resettlement scheme, so we know that, although this is being done much more quickly than with the Syrian scheme, we can do that relatively quickly. We will learn all the lessons—the good ones and the more challenging ones.

There are lots of challenges in this and, if we were simply to look at the situation as a challenge, we would shy away from it. This is a moral, humanitarian obligation that we, in common with other countries across the world, have right now. I am not standing here suggesting that it will be easy and straightforward, that there will not be difficulties and challenges, or that we will not face hurdles along the way, but we have a duty to do this work and, with our partners, we are focused on making sure that we get it right, and that we put all the practical arrangements in place as quickly as possible. ...

**To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13644&i=123827#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

### Ukrainian Refugees

**Kaukab Stewart (SNP):** ... What lessons has the Scottish Government taken in its current approach from the experience of the Syrian resettlement scheme, in which each local authority settled families in its area?

**Reply from the First Minister:** ... we are drawing very heavily on the lessons from the Syrian resettlement scheme. I think that most people agree that, overall, that scheme was a success, but there will be lessons to learn about things that can be improved on. The reasons why we have put the supersponsor proposal to the United Kingdom Government—we are, of course, still working on agreement on the detail of that—is to expedite the ability of Ukrainian refugees to come here and to ensure that we can operate in a holistic way. We are working very closely with local authorities and other partners to ensure that there is a real local focus, because I know that all parts of Scotland are keen to give a warm welcome to those who are fleeing the horrors in Ukraine. The approach that we are taking enables as many people as possible to do that.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13646&i=123863#ScotParlOR>

## Ukrainian Refugees

**Willie Coffey (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the action it is taking to prepare for Ukrainian refugees arriving in Scotland. (S6O-00891)

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development (Neil Gray):** Tomorrow, I will chair the first meeting of the community integration partnership, which will bring together key partners from across Scotland. I will also meet with international non-governmental organisations working in Scotland to discuss how they might contribute to the United Kingdom Government community sponsorship route, given their experience of the Syrian resettlement scheme. ...

We continue to work closely with the Home Office, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, local authorities themselves and other partners to provide people with the safety and security that they need to rebuild their lives.

The UK Government's proposals remain insufficient, given the urgency and gravity of the situation. We continue to urge the UK Government to follow the examples of Ireland and countries across the European Union and to waive visa requirements for all Ukrainians and develop a comprehensive resettlement programme to ensure that Ukrainian citizens can be provided with the safety and security that they need to rebuild their lives.

**Willie Coffey:** ... can the minister confirm that work is going on to ensure that the Ukrainian people who come here will have access to general practitioners, dental services, childcare and language support services to add to the warmth of the welcome that they will surely get when they arrive in Scotland?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** ... We are engaging with a range of partners to ensure that wraparound support is in place for all displaced people arriving in Scotland. People who come here from Ukraine have a right to work and to benefits and public funds, so we will ensure that people are aware of, and get access to, services ...

We are working rapidly to establish welcome hubs that will triage people and find out what support they need. Multiagency teams are lining up support that will cover a range of areas, from healthcare to clothing and food. Welcome packs and information leaflets translated into Ukrainian and giving information about how to access support, including social security, will also be provided and translators will be on hand to help. I reiterate Scotland's long history of welcoming and supporting displaced people and asylum seekers. We stand ready to support people from Ukraine, as we have people from other countries.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13646&i=123855#ScotParlOR>

## Ukrainian Communities (Support)

**Fiona Hyslop (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it is providing to Ukrainian communities in Scotland. (S6O-00892)

**Reply from the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development (Neil Gray):** Scotland has a proud history of welcoming refugees and people seeking sanctuary from war and violence. The Scottish Government and Scotland's local authorities have made clear to the United Kingdom Government that we stand ready to offer refuge and sanctuary, where necessary, for those who may be displaced.

I look forward to chairing the first community integration partnership meeting tomorrow, which will consider how to ensure that we are effectively supporting Ukrainian communities in Scotland. ...

We will continue to engage with our Ukrainian communities as we work to ensure that all those arriving in Scotland, as well as those already here, receive the support that they need. ...

**Fiona Hyslop:** The minister will, no doubt, agree that it will be important for Ukrainians who are seeking refuge from war to connect with the Ukrainian community here in Scotland and to be supported by local community support hubs. Can he confirm what measures have been taken, and at what pace, to set up Ukrainian support hubs across communities in Scotland—perhaps, as the Ukrainian and Polish consul generals have suggested, with cities and towns twinning with cities and towns in Ukraine—so that communities can be together? Will he join me in thanking all the Scottish families who have offered their homes for support and refuge?

**Reply from Neil Gray:** Yes—absolutely. Fiona Hyslop raises very important issues about twinning, which are being explored. We very much welcome people's generous offers to open their homes and their hearts to the people of Ukraine. I absolutely join her in thanking families for offering their homes and their time, for making donations and for the messages of solidarity and support.

As the First Minister said in Parliament yesterday, our priority is to ensure that we are ready to welcome displaced people from Ukraine to Scotland by the weekend, when the first visas, I hope, will start to be issued. The welcome hubs that we are establishing will provide a warm welcome, safety and any immediate assistance. We will also be funding the Scottish Refugee Council to provide support for the Ukrainian family scheme and humanitarian sponsorship pathway in Scotland, which includes planning for increased protection and integration support.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13646&i=123856#ScotParlOR>

### **Refugees (Home Fee Status)**

**Sarah Boyack (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to offer home fee status to refugees and other people displaced from Ukraine who wish to study in Scotland. (S6O-00881)

**Reply from the Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training (Jamie Hepburn):** The First Minister has called on the United Kingdom Government to follow the European Union's example by waiving all visa requirements for those resident in Ukraine who have been impacted by the Russian invasion and are looking to seek refuge in the UK.

Individuals who are granted refugee status by the Home Office and come to Scotland to live and study will be eligible for home tuition fee status and student support.

We are currently considering the impact on other people who have been displaced as a result of the crisis in Ukraine and wish to study in Scotland. We are taking forward discussions with the sector on the issue and are keen to find a solution where possible.

**Sarah Boyack:** I welcome that commitment to address the situation. Refugees and family members who are studying in Ukraine will be coming within days, so everything that we do will be important.

What discussions has the Scottish Government had with universities and colleges to make sure that those students have the chance to keep studying and that they can be matched with appropriate degree and college classes, so that they do not miss out? ...

**Reply from Jamie Hepburn:** ... we must do everything we can to support the Ukrainian nationals who are already studying in Scotland—there are a number of them—and we must reach out and ensure that we support those who will come to Scotland in due course. Ms Boyack is right to point out that some will be here imminently.

I met all university and college principals on 2 March to discuss the current situation and how we can collectively respond to it. I was heartened to see the sector

embracing that need and responding in the appropriate fashion. ...

**Kaukab Stewart (SNP):** Will the Scottish Government take action to offer support to Ukrainian and Russian students who have been financially impacted by the war?

**Reply from Jamie Hepburn:** Kaukab Stewart mentioned Russian students. It is important that we bear in mind that not everyone in Russia and not every Russian student who is here supports the Russian regime. We must ensure that we reach out to them just as we reach out to the Ukrainian community in Scotland. ...

I go back to the previous answer that I gave. I have had that discussion with universities and colleges. There is financial support in hardship funds, which international students can access through the specific coronavirus funding that we have put in place in the first instance. However, we continue to have dialogue and discussion to ensure that, where we need to go further, we will do so.

**Martin Whitfield (Labour):** ... It is hoped that 3,000 refugees are on their way and it appears that most of them will be single parents with children. What discussions have been had with regard to the education that those children will need on their arrival in Scotland?

**Reply from Jamie Hepburn:** There has been concerted discussion with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities in relation to that. ...

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13646&i=123877#ScotParlOR>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answers

### Ukrainian refugee crisis

**Elena Whitham (SNP) [S6W-07369]** To ask the Scottish Government what further steps it is taking to respond to the Ukrainian refugee crisis.

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** This is an unprecedented time and we are witnessing a humanitarian crisis in Europe not seen since World War II. The Government is actively working with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, councils and the Scottish Refugee Council to ensure that Scotland is ready and able to welcome refugees from Ukraine and give them the support and sanctuary that those fleeing from Russian aggression so desperately need. The Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government to waive all visa requirements and introduce a comprehensive resettlement scheme.

This Government wants to do all it can to support the people of Ukraine who have been displaced by war and this will need to ensure we have a co-ordinated approach across Government and with our partners as we seek to provide sanctuary and support to people in need.

Given the grave and urgent nature of the situation, it is right that this Government has a Minister with specific responsibilities for refugees from Ukraine who will be arriving in Scotland and need support to rebuild their lives. Therefore to provide further support for the Scottish Government's action, I have decided that, with immediate effect, Neil Gray, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, will also have special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine. For the time being, he will report directly to me for these new responsibilities and will attend Cabinet as required.

Mr Gray's new ministerial title, with immediate effect, will be Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07369>

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Katy Clark (Labour)** [S6W-06975] To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the UK Government, as it applies to Scotland, regarding the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Shona Robison:** We engage regularly with the UK Government about the Afghanistan Relocation and Resettlement Schemes and continue to press the UK Government to address lengthy delays in the matching process and ensure local authorities receive adequate funding.

Refugee resettlement is reserved to the UK Parliament and handled by the Home Office but Scotland remains committed to playing our part in welcoming and supporting people fleeing Afghanistan. All 32 local authorities have confirmed their participation in the Schemes.

The UK Minister for Afghan Resettlement committed to regular Four Nations discussions when she met with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government in January and we look forward to further arrangements being made.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-06975>

*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

**Katy Clark (Labour)** [S6W-06977] To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with local authorities regarding settling Afghan refugees in permanent accommodation.

**Reply from Shona Robison:** We engage regularly with the UK Government, COSLA, local authorities and other partners to ensure that people are provided with the safety and security they need to rebuild their lives.

All 32 local authorities have confirmed their participation in Afghanistan Relocation and Resettlement Schemes and as of 4 March, 101 families (415 individuals) have been relocated to 20 Scottish Local Authorities.

Local authorities continue to experience lengthy delays in the matching process, resulting in significant costs due to properties set aside to support Afghans lying empty. We urge the UK Government to address these delays as quickly as possible.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-06977>

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

## UK Parliament Debates

### Ukrainian Refugees

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/7F61EFBF-4EDF-43C3-A739-AA1FFA3F63CE/UkrainianRefugees>

### Refugees from Ukraine

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-16/debates/5F0A4038-397C-4BAE-B5DE-0CA21CE60450/RefugeesFromUkraine>

## Irish Diaspora in Britain

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-17/debates/B13B98CE-884F-4F04-A321-58140C2EA97C/IrishDiasporaInBritain>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Changes in Immigration Rules

#### **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster)**

[HCWS680] ... We have made changes to the immigration rules which will implement the plan for growth measures, including the launch of the new Global Business Mobility route, High Potential Individual (HPI) route and Scale-up route.

The sponsored Global Business Mobility route will simplify the UK immigration offer for business by bringing together, reforming and expanding various business mobility routes. It will provide routes for the following:

Senior executives and specialists undertaking temporary assignments at a UK branch or subsidiary of the business they work for—replacing the intra-company transfer route;

Graduate trainees undertaking a placement in the UK as part of a structured training programme—replacing the intra-company graduate trainee route;

Teams of workers sent to establish a new branch or subsidiary of an overseas business—replacing the sole representative provisions in the representative of an overseas businesses route;

Service suppliers undertaking work covered by one of the UK's commitments on trade in services—replacing the service supplier provisions in the temporary work international agreement route; and

A brand-new provision for secondments to UK businesses in connection with high value contracts for goods or investment. ...

... we are launching two new immigration routes, the Scale-up and High Potential Individual routes. These routes will provide UK businesses access to a more flexible pool of highly skilled workers. ...

The Scale-up route recognises the benefits these high-growth businesses offer to the UK and the need to ensure they are fully supported in maintaining this growth at a key time.

Unlike other sponsored routes, the Scale-up route will only require individuals to be sponsored for the initial six months on the route. This will therefore enable UK businesses to compete for the internationally sought after, highly skilled workers they need to take these important high-growth businesses from strength to strength. ...

The new High Potential Individual route will make it as simple as possible for internationally mobile individuals who demonstrate high potential to come to the UK. ...

To ensure the Global Talent visa continues to allow those at the very top of their professions a smooth application process, in consultation with our Global Talent endorsing bodies, we have further expanded the list of prestigious prizes which allow applicants to qualify without needing to apply for a separate endorsement decision.

We are also introducing a reformed route for settlement family life. This route applies to partners and parents who must complete a 10-year qualifying period in the UK before qualifying for settlement. People who have a 10-year qualifying period for settlement as a partner or parent begin to qualify for settlement in July 2022—the 10-year route started in July 2012 when Appendix FM was introduced—and the changes ensure they benefit from simplified rules.

We are also introducing a reformed private life route. This route introduces a number of changes for children and young people, including bringing the concession on early settlement, introduced on 20 October 2021, into the rules. It means children and young adults who have spent half their life in the UK can be granted settlement after a five-year qualifying period, rather than 10 years. This allows for a child who was born in the UK and

who spent their first seven years here to qualify for immediate settlement. The reformed private life route also clarifies that where an adult has permission on this route, their children born in the UK during the parent's time on the route can qualify for permission as the parent's dependants. These rules allow for increased flexibility for applicants to count time on other routes to settlement towards their qualifying period, meaning when a person's circumstances change their qualifying period for settlement does not have to start again. The changes also ensure an applicant with a criminal conviction resulting in a sentence of 12 months or more cannot qualify for settlement, and they make clear, where a person has breached other suitability rules but nevertheless been granted permission to stay in the UK, they must complete a 10-year qualifying period, and at least five years showing compliance since the breach, before they can qualify for settlement.

The changes to the private life route also aim to ensure applicants on the private life route benefit from simplified rules.

Changes are also being made in respect of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), which enables EEA and Swiss citizens resident in the UK by the end of the transition period, and their family members and the family members of certain British citizens returning with them from the EEA or Switzerland, to obtain the UK immigration status they need to continue living in the UK. Some changes are also being made in respect of the EUSS family permit, which enables relevant family members to travel to the UK.

In particular, these changes reflect the concession arrangements in place outside the rules for an EUSS family permit to be issued in place of an EEA family permit in certain circumstances. These arrangements reflect the closure of the EEA family permit route after 30 June 2021 and enable those covered by them to apply to the EUSS following their arrival in the UK.

The changes also enable a dual British and EEA citizen who exercised free movement rights in the UK before acquiring British citizenship and who has retained their EEA nationality of origin—known as a “Lounes” dual national, in line with EU case law—to sponsor relevant family members under the EUSS and the EUSS family permit in some additional circumstances. These are where the dual national acquired British citizenship without having met free movement requirements to have held comprehensive sickness insurance in the UK as a student or self-sufficient person.

There are also changes on validity of applications and about variation of applications.

Finally, the seasonal worker route is being expanded ...

***To read the statement in full see***

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-15/debates/22031581000014/ChangesInImmigrationRules>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

**The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations (Michael Gove):** ... the Home Secretary has already expanded the family route. She has also confirmed that from tomorrow Ukrainians with passports will be able to apply for UK visas entirely online without having to visit visa application centres. As a result, the number of Ukrainians now arriving in this country is rapidly increasing and numbers will grow even faster from tomorrow.

We also know, however, that the unfailingly compassionate British public want to help further. That is why today we are answering that call with the announcement of a new sponsorship scheme, Homes for Ukraine. ...

The scheme ... draws on the enormous good will and generosity of the British public, and our proud history of supporting the vulnerable in their hour of greatest need. The scheme will allow Ukrainians with no family ties to the UK to be sponsored by individuals or

organisations who can offer them a home. There will be no limit to the number of Ukrainians who can benefit from it.

The scheme will be open to all Ukrainian nationals resident in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022, and they will be able to live and work in the United Kingdom for up to three years. They will have full and unrestricted access to benefits, healthcare, employment and other support. Sponsors in the UK can be of any nationality, with any immigration status, provided they have at least six months' leave to remain within the UK.

Sponsors will have to provide accommodation for a minimum of six months. In recognition of their generosity, the Government will provide a monthly payment of £350 to sponsors for each family whom they look after. These payments will be tax-free. They will not affect benefit entitlement or council tax status. Ukrainians arriving in the United Kingdom will have access to the full range of public services—doctors, schools, and full local authority support. Of course we want to minimise bureaucracy and make the process as straightforward as possible while doing everything we can to ensure the safety of all involved. Sponsors will therefore be required to undergo necessary vetting checks, and we are also streamlining processes to security-assess the status of Ukrainians who will be arriving in the United Kingdom.

From today, anyone who wishes to record their interest in sponsorship can do so ... We will then send any individual who registers further information setting out the next steps in this process. We will outline what is required of a sponsor and set out how sponsors can identify a named Ukrainian individual or family who can then take up each sponsorship offer. Because we want the scheme to be up and running as soon as possible, Homes for Ukraine will initially facilitate sponsorship between people with known connections, but we will rapidly expand the scheme in a phased way, with charities, churches and community groups, to ensure that many more prospective sponsors can be matched with Ukrainians who need help. We are of course also working closely with the devolved Administrations to make sure that their kind offers of help are mobilised. ...

**Lisa Nandy (Labour):** ... we are really deeply concerned about the lack of urgency. Yesterday, [the Minister] went on TV to claim that Ukrainians could be here by Sunday, but he has just told us that they will still need a visa under the current application process. These are 50-page forms that have to be completed online, asking people who have fled with nothing to find an internet café to upload documents they do not have—water bills and mortgage documents—to prove who they are. The Home Office has been incredibly slow in issuing these visas. As of this morning, only 4,000 have been issued. We are lagging way behind the generosity of other countries. We could simplify this process today. We could keep essential checks but drop the excessive bureaucracy. ...

For weeks the British people have been coming forward in large numbers to offer help. It has been moving and heartwarming to see the decency and spirit on display in every corner of this country. But what exactly will the Government be doing, especially in relation to matching families to sponsors? ... [The Minister] suggested several times that people who are willing to sponsor a Ukrainian family need to come to the Government with the name of that family, and they will then rubber-stamp it. He cannot seriously be asking Ukrainian families who are fleeing Vladimir Putin, and who have left their homes with nothing, to get on to Instagram and advertise themselves in the hope that a British family might notice them. ...

Two million people are on the march—children alone, mums with very young kids and older people. The brutal reality of what is happening in Ukraine is that working-age people have stayed behind to fight. Those leaving will have healthcare needs, and they will need school places, maternity care and social care. One council leader told me today that his city, which traditionally plays a major role in welcoming refugees, has only nine secondary school places available. ...

It was only a few months ago that the Home Office placed a child into a hotel in Sheffield

that it had been told was unsafe without even bothering to tell the council, and he fell out of a window and died. Will the Secretary of State ensure that every council is contacted by close of play today? Will he work with them to do the vetting checks that are needed? They are experts in safeguarding children. Will he not only trust them, but support them? Will the Secretary of State put a safety net in place, in case a placement breaks down? His Department confirmed over the weekend that families left homeless in that situation will not be able to claim their housing costs under universal credit. Surely that cannot be true. Surely we are not going to ask people who have fled bombs and bullets to lie homeless on the streets of Britain. ...

**Reply from Michael Gove:** ... Ukrainians who have a valid passport can have their application turned around within 24 hours ...

We are moving as quickly as possible to ensure, working with NGOs and local government, that individuals in need can be found the families and sponsors they need in order to get people into this country as quickly as possible. ...

She makes a number of valid points about the need for school places. That is why additional funding is available to every local authority that will take refugees in order to ensure that school places are provided.

The hon. Lady asked about wraparound care. We are providing additional funding to local government to ensure that the expertise required to provide those who have been traumatised with the support they need will also be there.

The hon. Lady asked not only about the rapidity of vetting checks, but about how the comprehensive nature of those vetting checks can be guaranteed. We have been working with the Home Office to streamline that process so that it is as quick as possible, but also to ensure, as she rightly pointed out, that we do not place vulnerable children in accommodation where they might be at risk. ...

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** ... the best response available to the Government is to stop asking Ukrainians to apply for visas altogether. On that point, why will people accepted on to the scheme have to apply for a visa as well? Of course, some of them may be able to apply online, but an online process is not necessarily fast.

On sponsorship, we welcome the fact that people with limited leave to remain are now able to be sponsors, but when does the Secretary of State anticipate that charities, churches and community groups will be able to play their part? He explained a bit about the vetting process, but how will sponsors be supported to undertake their role? It is not just a question of cash. What happens if a sponsorship does not work out? What move-on support will be available?

On financial support, will the £350 a month be available to sponsors such as community groups as well as to individuals? Does access to public funds mean full access, including to the housing element of universal credit? Will there be £10,000 of local authority support per person as reported in the press?

What about the most vulnerable people, such as orphans, the elderly and others who will never know about the scheme's existence, never mind how to apply to it? Can the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for example, refer someone to the scheme or for resettlement? What support would be provided in those circumstances? What discussions has the Secretary of State had with the Scottish and Welsh Governments about their request to operate as super-sponsors? Will he endeavour to make that work?

**Reply from Michael Gove:** ... From tomorrow, anyone with a Ukrainian passport will be able to apply online. Thanks to a surge in the number of caseworkers in the Home Office, they should be able to have permission turned around and granted very quickly. A PDF will be sent straight to them and they can then fly into this country to a warm welcome. As a result, the surge of staff in our visa application centres will be able to deal with individuals who, for whatever reason, do not have a passport or the capacity to secure one quickly, which means that we will be able to more quickly process the number of Ukrainians who wish to come here. As was

pointed out earlier, 4,000 visas have been granted and the numbers are due to surge this week.

The hon. Gentleman made the point that charities, churches and community groups have all stepped up. We want to ensure that we are working with all of them this week to facilitate their role, not just in matching individual sponsors and Ukrainians who might benefit but in extending the reach of the support we give so that it is not just a roof over someone's head but the valuable interpersonal support of which so many are capable.

When I was chatting to faith groups earlier today, I had the opportunity to talk to representatives of not just the Ukrainian Churches, but the Church of England, the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church, including the Roman Catholic bishops in Scotland, all of whom are anxious to ensure that we do everything that we can to help. For individuals who, for whatever reason, find that a sponsorship solution does not work for them, we will ensure that the local government partners and charity partners with whom we are working receive the resource that they require. The £350 is there for individuals, but charities and community groups will have a vital role to play in helping to marshal individual offers.

The hon. Gentleman made a point about unaccompanied minors, orphans and others who need our support. We are working with those on the ground to ensure that we can have the right solution for them.

Finally, the hon. Gentleman asked about working with the devolved Administrations. I was grateful to the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales for their generous offer to act as super-sponsors, and we are doing everything we can to facilitate that. My officials are working with those in the Scottish and Welsh Governments to ensure that we can do that in a way that enables everyone to live up to their responsibilities....

**To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/8B28287A-F683-4F80-8A1F-AA1016D92B27/UkraineSponsorshipScheme>

*To register interest in becoming a sponsor, as referred to above, see*

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Ukraine: Impact on Students

**Deidre Brock (SNP):** What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with Cabinet colleagues on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on (a) Ukrainian students in the UK and (b) UK students in Ukraine. (906040)

**Steven Bonnar (SNP):** What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with Cabinet colleagues on the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on (a) Ukrainian students in the UK and (b) UK students in Ukraine. (906052)

**The Secretary of State for Education (Nadhim Zahawi):** We are working across Government to support Ukrainian students in the United Kingdom by introducing a new humanitarian route ... It will provide them with an opportunity to extend their leave to remain or switch to graduate visas.

**Deidre Brock:** The announcement of the UK sponsorship scheme and the news that the Secretary of State just mentioned are very welcome for Ukrainian refugees. However, as they are temporary visa holders, will the families of those students be included in the Home Office's Ukraine families scheme? ...

**Nadhim Zahawi:** Those Ukrainians who are here on temporary visas will also be able to bring family members.

**Steven Bonnar:** Of the 2.6 million people who have fled Ukraine in the wake of the

Russian invasion, UNICEF reports that at least 1 million are children. A large proportion of the 200,000-plus Ukrainian refugees who will enter the UK through the Ukrainian families scheme or the homes for Ukraine programme will be kids. What plans has the Secretary of State put in place to facilitate the integration of vulnerable Ukrainian child refugees into the UK education system?

**Nadhim Zahawi:** We have been working hard in the Department to ensure that we have, certainly in the initial phase, a capacity of up to 100,000 children going into early years, primary and secondary education, and into further and higher education as well. ...

**Roger Gale (Conservative):** As a result of Putin's war in Ukraine, the United Kingdom can expect an influx of a large number of young students. In the long term, they will need proper education, of course, but in the short term, could my right hon. Friend see whether he can build in some flexibility and normality so that these young people can get into schools and make friends as soon as possible?

**Nadhim Zahawi:** ... We are making plans to make sure, as we did with the Afghan resettlement, that every child gets into the appropriate early years, primary, secondary or further or higher education, but I will certainly look at this. I think what he is getting at is that if there is a gap they may be wanting to feel welcome at their schools. I am already getting anecdotal stories about many schools where there is excitement about some of the Ukrainian children who are coming in. ...

**Carol Monaghan (SNP):** In Ireland, Ukrainian teachers are being fast-tracked through the teaching registration process to enable them to support youngsters who will be attending school in Ireland. Obviously, language will be a big challenge for these youngsters initially. Has the Secretary of State considered replicating that Irish scheme to ensure that young people coming to school in the UK will be properly supported?

**Nadhim Zahawi:** The hon. Lady raises a really important point. That is one of the things I asked my team this morning with regard to the Ukrainians. Clearly, it will be predominantly women and children who are coming over because the men are fighting the Russian invaders. It is a question of whether we can get more recognition of qualifications so that Ukrainians who are able to can get work as soon as possible.

**To read this question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/CC502F6A-38BD-4FE9-B8C8-6AAD983A7C5C/UkraineImpactOnStudents>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Charles Walker (Conservative) [137993]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan citizens have successfully reached the UK since the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme was launched on 6 January 2022; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation who are eligible for the ACRS through pathway 1. Eligible people who were called forward during the evacuation, but were not able to board flights, will also be eligible for the ACRS through this pathway.

Due to the success of our emergency evacuation and the larger than anticipated number of people brought over to the UK, we plan to exceed our initial aim of 5,000 people in the first year of the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/137993>

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

### **Immigration: Afghanistan**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour) [136552]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2022 to Question 115898, on Visas: Afghanistan, what proportion of people who arrived from Afghanistan in 2021 have been given indefinite leave to remain; and whether she plans to extend limited leave to enter in the event that the process of confirmation of Indefinite Leave to Remain status concludes before all those who are eligible have been granted that status.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office is in the process of supporting people evacuated from Afghanistan to apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR).

The data on those granted ILR is not currently available, but once published we will direct individuals to the publication. Once applications have been lodged, as they have in the vast majority of cases, individuals are issued with a letter confirming they have extant leave to remain in the UK pending their grant of Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Those already relocated to the UK under the Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) will be able to apply free of charge to convert their temporary leave into indefinite leave to remain.

Those resettled through the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will receive fee-free indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK. They will be able to apply for British citizenship after five years in the UK under existing rules and subject to the appropriate fee.

In light of the success of our evacuation efforts, we plan to exceed our initial aim to resettle 5,000 through ACRS in the first year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-08/136552>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/115898>

*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: Housing**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [135574]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that refugees from Afghanistan are also provided housing opportunities while resettling Ukrainian refugees.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, helping over 15,000 people to safety from Afghanistan. Over 4000 Afghans have already moved, or are in the process of being moved, into their permanent homes.

We are working at pace across government and with over three hundred Local Authority partners to move Afghan evacuees into permanent homes as soon as possible so they can settle and rebuild their lives.

We have set up a bespoke local engagement team within The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), with named points of contact for each region across the country, to support local authorities to come forward with offers of accommodation. DLUHC have also set up an online housing portal to allow people to submit offers of housing support for people who have arrived from

Afghanistan. Alongside our engagement with local authorities, we are reaching out to landlords, developers and the wider private rented sector to encourage further offers of properties, either directly to Local Authorities or through our Housing portal.

We will continue to review the impact of any additional support offered to Ukrainian nationals and are committed to the ongoing relocation of the evacuees from Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135574>

*The following five questions all received the same answer*

#### **Refugees: Hotels**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [137361]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from bridging hotels were resettled in each week in each of the last two months.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [137366]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set a time limit for the period of time a refugee spends in a bridging hotel.

#### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [137362]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made an assessment of the impact on Afghan refugees of residing in bridging hotels for more than six months under Operation Warm Welcome.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [137363]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's criteria are for prioritising Afghan refugees for resettlement.

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [137364]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of being accommodated in bridging hotels based away from communities on the ability of Afghan refugees to settle.

**Reply from Tom Purslove:** We do not want to keep people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary. We have moved – or are in the process of moving - over 6,000 people into homes since June 2021. There is a huge effort underway to support the families into permanent homes as soon as we can so they can settle and rebuild their lives, and to ensure those still temporarily accommodated in hotels are given the best start to their life in the UK. The length of time that a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on a number of factors including the number of offers of appropriate housing from local authorities. We strive to allocate the right families into the right accommodation to ensure that their integration into their new communities in the UK is as smooth as possible.

Where local authorities or employers are able to offer accommodation in greater volume and more quickly, this overall timescale will reduce. We would like to encourage local authorities who have not yet pledged support to consider offering to do so.

An assessment has not been undertaken of the impact on refugees of residing in bridging in hotels for more than six months. However, we have put in place numerous mechanisms to support families; this includes a contact centre, a DWP and Home Office Liaison Officer (HOLO) presence to support Universal Credit enrolment, lead job surgeries and reassurance for families, plus a funding package for provision of local authority wrap-around support services. Wherever possible bridging hotels in or near major conurbations have been sourced so that appropriate support and services can be more readily provided. We are providing full food and board to all guests, alongside 24/7 security presence on site.

We will continue to work across government, with local authorities and the voluntary

sector, to provide the best possible service to families whilst in bridging hotels. Local authorities continue to assist with helping families to integrate into communities upon their arrival to their permanent accommodation.

The Home Office regularly monitors the number of individuals in temporary accommodation, but at present there are no plans to publish figures while we continue to evacuate from the region. However, we publish data on resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data cover up to the end of December 2021. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the '[summary tables](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement. The next publication will be in May 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137361>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137366>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137362>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137363>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137364>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

### Visas: Ukraine

**Ruth Jones (Labour)** [135646] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many visas her Department has issued under the Ukraine Family Visa scheme as of 7 March 2022.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Information on the number of applications issued under the Ukraine Family Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: [Ukraine Family Scheme: application data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135646>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

### Asylum: Ukraine

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [136548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainians who wish to seek asylum in the UK are required to claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The safest route for people to leave Ukraine is via its neighbouring countries to the West. From the safety of these countries, those escaping the war can benefit from the additional support we have already announced.

Ukrainians can apply to reunite with UK-based family via the Ukrainian Family Scheme. For Ukrainians who do not have family ties with the UK, we have announced the Ukrainian Sponsorship Humanitarian Visa Offer. This programme will match Ukrainians with individuals, businesses, community organisations and Local Authorities who are willing and able to act as a sponsor.

These two routes ensure those fleeing war in the Ukraine have a safe and legal route to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-08/136548>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Ukrainian Sponsorship Humanitarian Visa Offer, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

and

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

### Visas: Ukraine

**Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat)** [138165] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to oral contribution of 10 March 2022, if all outstanding visa applications from Ukrainian applicants seeking to join family in the United Kingdom will fall under the new scheme.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** As set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 1 March, a fee free, bespoke Ukraine Family Scheme has been introduced. The route allows both immediate family (spouse, civil partner, durable partner, minor children) and extended family (parent, grandparent, adult children, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws and their immediate family) to join qualifying family members in the UK. This route was launched on 4 March.

If an applicant has applied on another application form or under a different visa route and the decision maker feels the applicant would qualify under the Ukraine Family Scheme, the decision maker will write to the applicant and offer them the opportunity to be considered under the Scheme. The decision maker will consider the application on the evidence already provided unless there is insufficient information to make a decision. This will ensure an application can be assessed under the Ukraine Family Scheme without the need for a further application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/138165>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-10/debates/1D34DE0D-A17A-403E-AE7E-7CDA259A3E92/RefugeesFromUkraine>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-01/debates/2BD3EE0E-5EF0-42E0-B9BE-3AA0D03BEF86/Ukraine>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

### Visas: Ukraine

**Kate Green (Labour)** [138025] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral response of 10 March 2022 to the Urgent Question on refugees from Ukraine, whether Ukrainian nationals applying to the family visa scheme will be required to have more than six months' validity remaining on their passports.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Ukrainian nationals applying under the Ukraine Family Scheme are not required to have more than six months left on their passport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/138025>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-10/debates/1D34DE0D-A17A-403E-AE7E-7CDA259A3E92/RefugeesFromUkraine>

### Visas: Ukraine

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [138146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

whether an applicant to the Ukraine family scheme who does not have a visa will be permitted travel to the United Kingdom without incurring carrier liability fees.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Those eligible for the Ukraine family scheme should ensure they obtain the correct permission to come to the UK. Those eligible for the scheme who hold a valid Ukrainian Passport no longer need to go to a Visa Application Centre and can apply online, they will be able to give their biometrics once they have arrived in the UK.

Carriers' liability legislation will apply as normal and guidance for carriers on discharging their obligations will be updated as necessary.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/138146>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

### **Council Tax: Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

**Stephen Morgan (Labour)** [139493] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether participation in the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme will prevent eligible people from claiming the single person occupancy council tax discount.

**Reply from Eddie Hughes:** The Government is clear that the entitlement to the council tax single person discount should not be impacted by an individual's participation in the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139493>

*Information about the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine), referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme>

### **Health Services: Refugees**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [135568] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will ensure that all Ukrainian refugees entering the UK receive free healthcare through the NHS.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** Anyone entering the United Kingdom from Ukraine under the Home Office's Ukraine Scheme will be entitled to free National Health Service treatment without paying the Immigration Health Surcharge. In addition, those applying as an asylum seeker or applying for humanitarian protection and their dependents will be entitled to free NHS care. Officials are currently reviewing the situation for those entering the UK by these routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135568>

### **Mental Health Services: Refugees**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [135569] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure sufficient and proficient trauma support for refugees entering the UK from Ukraine.

**Reply from Gillian Keegan:** MNHS England and NHS Improvement are currently reviewing how we can address the implications of the Ukraine crisis and meet the needs of refugees and the Ukrainian diaspora in England.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135569>

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

### Refugees: Resettlement

**Amy Callaghan (SNP)**[135666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce a longer-term global resettlement programme for refugees who wish to come to the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK has a long history of supporting refugees in need of protection. The UK continues to welcome vulnerable people through the existing global UK Resettlement Scheme, Mandate Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship Scheme and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme. Since 2015, we have resettled more than 27,000 refugees through safe and legal routes direct from regions of conflict and instability; around half of whom were children.

In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Home Office made several changes to the immigration system, including launching the Ukraine Family Scheme.

In addition, we are establishing a humanitarian sponsorship pathway, led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whereby Ukrainians who may not have family ties in the UK can be sponsored to come to the UK by willing and able individuals, businesses, or community organisations. There will be no numerical limit on this scheme, and we will welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come and have matched sponsors.

Resettlement is only one strand of our international efforts helping refugees. It is complemented by the UK's significant humanitarian aid programme and diplomatic efforts. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees.

More information on existing resettlement schemes can be found in the published guidance [Resettlement: policy guidance](#) and [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme](#) <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135666>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

**[The statement made by the Minister in the House of Commons](#) was read in the House of Lords.**

**Baroness Hayman of Ullock (Labour):** ... any scheme that will help Ukrainians reach safety is welcome. However, we feel we need more information as to how this will work in practice to give desperate Ukrainian families the help and support they need at this truly terrible time. Since the Statement was made, we have had a letter from the Secretary of State, the right honourable Michael Gove MP, in which I was pleased to see that he says: "Our aim, through this route, is to offer a safe, warm welcome to as many arrivals as possible, based on the number of sponsors."

The announcement introduces a new website, which allows UK households to say that they would host refugees, but there is no way to connect these households to refugees in search of homes. It seems that only households that have details of a specific refugee are able to host them, leaving families unable to flee to Britain unless they have somehow found hosts.

In addition to this, there is still no material change to the process, which means that refugees will still need to apply for visas by completing a 50-page—I understand—online form and uploading a number of documents. Yet the letter from the Secretary of State, in

follow up, says that “we want to minimise bureaucracy and make the process as straightforward as possible while ensuring the safety of all involved.”

I also draw attention to concerns raised about how refugees will actually get here if it is agreed—who will cover the costs and how will that be managed? We have concerns that individuals will not be able to properly sponsor a Ukrainian national’s visa until Friday.

I am pleased to see that there is promised financial support for local authorities. This will be an awful lot of work for them, so I thank the Government for that. However, we would appreciate further details on broader resettlement matters such as how healthcare, education, social care and so on will be managed and provided for those who will need them. ...

Can the Minister confirm who exactly is eligible to sponsor a Ukrainian as part of the scheme? Do people have to be British nationals, or is someone with indefinite leave to remain also able to do so? Can the Minister confirm whether the £350 a month will be treated as income that could potentially affect recipients’ benefits?

I do not understand why the Government are not playing more of a proactive role in matching sponsors and refugees. Could they not match some of the cases with those who wish to help but perhaps do not know how to navigate social media? Can the Minister confirm who will be responsible for undertaking any safeguarding checks on sponsors? Will this be done by the Government or will it be part of the local authorities’ responsibilities? Will data about arrivals via the route be shared with local councils ahead of time? As much access as possible to data ahead of time will help local councils to provide proper healthcare and education, particularly for the children who are coming.

We also have a worry that there are still 12,000 Afghan refugees living in hotel accommodation, and clearly we do not want to find Ukrainian refugees in the same situation and the situation being exacerbated. So, again, a little more information about that would be helpful.

I have mentioned children. We know that a large number of the people requiring settlement will be, sadly, women and children who have escaped, often leaving their menfolk behind. We will have specific issues around nursery provision, childcare and education. Can the Minister confirm who will be responsible for ensuring that these needs are met? Will it be the Department for Education or local authorities?

I think we are looking for more clarity from the Government about their expectations of local authorities. It is great that there is financial support, but what are the expectations for delivery by local councils? Will there be support for, say, voluntary or faith groups, which will also have an important role to play? My final question is: what provision will be made for unaccompanied children? Will there be a specific scheme for them?

The main thing is that refugees arriving into the UK are treated with dignity, and provided with the accommodation and further support they are going to need to cope with this terrible crisis, until Ukraine is safe once again and they are able to return home and work to rebuild their country. I look forward the Minister’s response, which will be his maiden speech, and I wish him well.

**Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat):** Of course, we welcome in principle an unlimited scheme where UK residents can sponsor Ukrainian refugees, but Homes for Ukraine is limited by other schemes. First, the Government still insist that all Ukrainian refugees must have a visa, while all member states of the European Union are allowing visa-free entry. These refugees are in desperate need now, and a fast response is required. Countries bordering Ukraine are being overwhelmed and they need us to take some of the pressure off them. Why is the Government restricting the flow of refugees into the UK?

The Government cite security concerns for slowing things down, but the Irish Prime Minister was interviewed on the BBC’s “Sunday Morning” programme, where he said that the need for a humanitarian response to Europe’s biggest refugee crisis since World War II “trumps anything as far as we’re concerned.”

Mr Martin said the view within the EU is that all borders should be open to Ukrainians for

as long as Russian bombs and missiles are being targeted at civilian populations inside Ukraine. He went on to say: “We can all see the humanitarian crisis, we do know that that can be exploited by certain bad actors, but our security personnel will keep an eye on that in a more general way.”

If Ireland can keep an eye on security issues once refugees arrive in Ireland, why can the UK not adopt the same approach? Bearing in mind that there are no passport checks between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, how does the UK and Ireland having a different approach make any sense? The Minister in the other place talked about putting humanity first; the UK is clearly putting visas first.

Another bottleneck in the process is caused by sponsoring families in the UK having to identify Ukrainian nationals or families by name in order to sponsor them. How are older people without IT skills who are fleeing Ukraine supposed to identify themselves to British sponsors, let alone complete a 50-page online form to get a visa? I know that the Minister is trying to cut that form down, but is it not a fact that the most in need are the least likely to get to the UK quickly?

Another barrier to accessing the heartwarming generosity of British families is that the programme is initially open only to refugees who have known connections to the UK sponsor. The Minister in the other place said that “we will ... expand the scheme in a phased way”.—[[Official Report, Commons, 14/3/21; col. 620.](#)]

Can the Minister explain what the various phases are and when they will be in operation? Another potential bottleneck are DBS checks for sponsors. There are already backlogs. What additional resources are the Government providing to ensure that necessary safeguarding checks are done in good time?

Some of those volunteering to sponsor will already have been DBS checked. What are the Government doing to match unaccompanied child refugees, in particular, with those who have already been safeguarding checked, rather than expecting these sponsors to identify the most vulnerable?

What consultation has taken place with local authorities on whether the £10,500 per refugee is enough to provide additional school places and child mental health support, which is often assessed by child psychologists working in schools, and the other range of services that refugees are likely need? The Minister in the other place said that the payment to sponsors of £350 a month would not affect benefit entitlement or council tax status, but would a single-person sponsor lose their single-person council tax discount? In short, where is the detailed plan for how this nice idea is going to work in practice? I know that the Minister wants to do his best, but we believe that the constraints within which he is being asked to operate are too restrictive.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Home Office (Lord Harrington of Watford):** ... The questions raised by both the speakers are perfectly proper. No one is playing politics with this and I know that no one is trying to take advantage. We are learning quickly. I will explain the visa, because both the contributions come down to whether we need visas, why we need visas, why it is taking such a long time and what a bureaucratic performance this is when people are dying, suffering and living in appalling conditions. ...

When I was offered the job by the Prime Minister, the only criterion that I was given, as alluded to by the noble Lord, was a security one. It is my job to make sure that this is done as quickly and as humanely as possible. I know that no one in this Chamber or in the other place would question the fact that national security comes first, but that does not mean that we are obsessed by it.

The current situation is that people fill out a form. It is unacceptable that it is 50 pages and I have been through every page of it with the Home Secretary.

By the way, I do not think that anyone is trying to mislead, but it is slightly misleading

to say that it is 50 pages because, on most of them, if you click yes, the page after does not come through. Quite why anyone historically, never mind a refugee, has to do the whole lot I do not know, but there will be a lot less of it by Friday and, shall we say, far more obstacles removed after that.

Nevertheless, a form has to be filled in on a mobile phone, tablet or laptop. This is for Ukrainian passport holders, who will download their passport. This is not in a visa centre, by the way; it can be done everywhere. Then it will be sent electronically to the Home Office, where we have a team that we are gearing up all the time. It is in excess of 100 people now and will be gearing up to be double that by the weekend. Very soon afterwards, the refugees will receive a response. I have to be a bit of a politician and waffle by saying “very soon afterwards”; I have set a target of 24 hours and it may be more if the team is so overwhelmed, but I expect it to come down and down. The only reason for that delay—it really boils down to this—is so that criminal record checks can be done from all the databases that the team has. It is no more complex than that.

The passport holders then get a PDF back, which gives them the right to get on a plane and come here. It is not as cumbersome as it was and they do not have to go to a visa centre. The visa centres are being kept open with enhanced hours for people who do not have documentation—vulnerable children and groups that we can spend a lot more time dealing with. I hope that I have briefly covered the visa point brought up by both speakers tonight. The noble Lord, Lord Paddick, summed it up as “fast response required” and I hope that I have gone some way towards that.

This is not being used as a tool to restrict the number of refugees who we are taking in. This is not like the Syrian programme, where the Prime Minister at the time, David Cameron, said, “This is the number of people we are taking in through a humanitarian vulnerability scheme”. By the way, there is nothing wrong with vulnerability schemes—please do not think that I am saying that—but this scheme is open to everyone who is Ukrainian to come in. It is not restricted in number.

I return to the points brought up by the noble Baroness, some of which were duplicated. There is some concern about the matching process: “But what if I don’t know anybody?” I understand that and it is perfectly right, but I will give a bit of background to the matching process. ...

The reason why the scheme worked slowly is that it was a proper, boilerplate exercise. Every single detail was known about the refugee before they took off to come to this country. Everything was preplaced, not just the accommodation but employment and everything else. This is a mass-type operation. No one has come up with a better word than matching, but it does not mean that someone who has been forced to flee Ukraine will think, “I have to look on a list, but is anybody suitable?” We have been speaking extensively to NGOs in the last two or three days which will do that for them. They will have tablets, laptops and all that sort of thing to do it. It is not just one individual having to find another individual.

On the points made about safeguarding and related issues, perhaps I could combine my reply to the two questions. However, if noble Lords feel that the answers are not adequate, I would be happy to follow up by taking questions either here or elsewhere. If any noble Lord or noble Baroness would like to meet with me, I would be happy to talk them through this because we are learning as we go. A lot of the comments I have had from MPs and Members of this House have been useful in our thinking on this—particularly MPs because their constituents speak directly to them about it.

I will make a general point about local authorities, if I may, which leads into safeguarding. They are being paid £10,500 per refugee. I was asked by the noble Lord, Lord Paddick, how that was calculated. ... It was done on the basis that we

used for the Syrian programme. It is for all the wraparound services except education, which is done on a per capita basis. I do not have the figures to hand—well, I am sure I do in the file I have been given—but, basically, it is an amount per child depending on their age, a bit like with academies generally.

The local authority will be responsible for all the wraparound services, meaning the things that they would normally deal with. They include safeguarding issues. I will come on to DBS checks separately because they were brought up separately but, on other safeguarding issues, the eyes and ears have always been education for children, for example, as the first way of doing it. However, the question of social services, mental health services and primary care was brought up. Through its networks, the Department of Health has been in touch with GPs and other people to make sure that primary care places are available.

Turning to DBS, basically, the question is: do we have to do full DBS checks on people who will be offering sponsorship and people with accommodation? We took the decision that it has to be a two-phase thing. If we must wait for full DBS checks, it may be that we can speed them up. When I left the House of Commons, I decided to become a school governor. It took two months. I hope that it was not because I am on any naughty list, but that is the way the system works. Before allowing people into homes, we will do criminal record checks and get all the things that are easily obtainable online as part of the process before people are approved as sponsors. After that, it will be the local authority's responsibility to do the full DBS checks. Related to that will be its duty to inspect properties as well. Obviously, this is all very new to us, so we do not really know much. I am sure that the vast majority of people mean well in offering accommodation, but we have to have the back-up system of property inspection and everything else that we would normally have.

It takes care of some of the other questions if I say that the local authorities have been extremely co-operative. I started off over the weekend talking to organisations such as the LGA and other council groups but, today, we had a call with 200 council leaders and chief executives; at least, that is what I was told, but you can only get so many people on Teams. There were a lot of them; it was a call to arms for them. My second cliché is that they have stepped up to the plate—at least, they have told us that they have stepped up to plate. In my department, particularly regarding the Syrian refugee scheme, we were used to dealing with local authorities. They were our main conduit for the resettlement of people. The only difference in this case is that the full burden of providing accommodation will not be on them.

By the way, let me add this because it answers one of the noble Baroness's points: we have spent a lot of time with faith groups, voluntary groups and others—for example, World Jewish Relief and Church organisations—because they will, we hope, be able to facilitate a big supply of accommodation through their members and their associated people.

On the subject of unaccompanied children, I have a problem. I have been discussing it today with a group of Ukrainian MPs, and I am seeing the Ukrainian ambassador tomorrow on this subject. It is the Ukrainian Government's position—far be it for me to criticise them; the meeting with the Ukrainian MPs was very emotional—that we need their permission before bringing children here. They do not want children removed far away because of what may happen in the future when they are settled. They want them back with their families. I am working through these things.

I am trying to make sure I have answered everything in the brief time available. Will the single parent discount disappear? I can confirm to the noble Lord, Lord Paddick, that it will not. This is not being treated as income for benefits, or regarding school and university fees, by HMRC or anyone else. ...

***To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see***

## Ukrainian Refugees

**Lord Berkeley (Labour):** To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to facilitate trains to the United Kingdom for refugees fleeing from Ukraine.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, the Government have focused on ensuring that Ukrainians can access the right legal routes to come to the UK and have no plans to facilitate travel or transport. The Government have put in place a generous humanitarian offer to Ukrainians fleeing the devastating invasion of their country. That includes introducing two new schemes: the Ukrainian family scheme and, for those without family links to UK, the Homes for Ukraine scheme explained by my right honourable friend Michael Gove yesterday. Noble Lords will have received a letter explaining that scheme in some detail.

**Lord Berkeley:** ... The Minister will be aware that something like 3 million people have now fled Ukraine, mostly to the west, I think. The Prime Minister offered 200,000 people to come here and 4,000, I believe, have already been given visas; that was before Mr Gove's welcome announcement. Does the Minister have any idea how the people are going to get here? On the continent, European Union Governments and the railways are offering free travel anywhere. Some operators are putting on special trains. Will the Government do the same here or are they going to kick everybody out at Calais and make them pay for the joy of coming here through the tunnel or going on a ferry? I hope the Minister has thought this through, because with the numbers coming up it is going to be a major problem that needs planning now.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... Lord Harrington of Watford ... is going to ensure that the measures that are taken are co-ordinated across government ...

**Lord Dubs (Labour):** ... Whatever the mode of travel that refugees fleeing Ukraine use, would it not be better if we facilitated their journey by dropping the visa requirement, as other European countries have done?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** My Lords, on the subject of visa waivers, the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have stated on numerous occasions that we will not be issuing blanket visa waivers in response to the crisis. Security and biometric checks are a fundamental part of our visa process in order to keep people in this country safe. This is consistent with our approach to the evacuation of Afghanistan. It is vital to keep British citizens safe and the humanitarian visa process that was announced yesterday will open the doors, but we also need to ensure that we are helping those in genuine need. We are already seeing people presenting false documents and claiming to be Ukrainians. This is a fluid and fast-moving situation.

**Baroness Randerson (Liberal Democrat):** My Lords, I want to ask for help for Ukrainian refugees once they arrive here. Will the Minister undertake to discuss with the Department for Transport the provision of free travel from the point of arrival to the place where they are going to settle initially? Will he look beyond that to a scheme of free travel for the first month or so, so that those folk can start to sort out their lives once they arrive here?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I will certainly commit to have those discussions, but I suggest that my new noble friend Lord Harrington of Watford will be perfectly placed to do that. As noble Lords will know from the letter that was sent by my right honourable friend Michael Gove yesterday, the financial support that will be put in place is very generous. ...

**The Lord Bishop of Durham:** My Lords, a family is named in Moldova, Romania or Poland and has been sponsored by me or someone else but does not have the money for transportation. If it is all agreed on all sides, will the Government help with transportation?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** ... I cannot agree that at this point. ...

**Lord Harries of Pentregarth (Crossbench):** The Statement indicated two stages of the humanitarian visa scheme. The second one concerned the participation of community groups in this country. Is the Minister able to give us any indication of when the details of that scheme will be released?

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** I believe the details will be released this Friday ... This scheme was designed in consultation with a large number of NGOs and the like. ...

**To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-15/debates/EE98943E-97A0-4828-BD61-B4B894B3EB1C/UkrainianRefugees>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6511]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made regarding the implementation of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme commenced on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

The scheme will prioritise those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values such as democracy, women's rights, freedom of speech and rule of law; and vulnerable people such as women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups (including ethnic / religious minorities and LGBT+).

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have already been brought to safety, during and after the evacuation, and who are eligible for the ACRS. They include women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, as well as Afghan families of British Nationals. The first Afghan families have already been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain under the scheme

From Spring 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer refugees to the scheme, based on assessments of protection need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-28/hl6511>

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

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6464]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to co-ordinate the response of the four nations of the UK to ensure the most effective approach to supporting Ukrainian refugees.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Thousands more Ukrainians will be welcomed to the UK as the Government continues its support for Ukraine in their fight against the Russian invasion.

The Home Secretary immediately introduced concessions to support Ukrainian nationals currently in the UK who are now unable to return when their existing visa expires. These concessions will assist Ukrainian nationals in extending their stay in the UK without having to leave and re-apply from overseas.

The Government has established a Ukraine Family Scheme, which is fee free and allows British nationals, and people settled here, to bring extended family members to the UK. The Scheme covers immediate family members and a wider range of extended family including parents, grandparents, children over 18 cousins and siblings. Individuals will be granted leave for three years, giving them certainty and securing their future in the country.

The Government is also launching a humanitarian sponsorship pathway, whereby Ukrainians who may not have family ties in the UK can be sponsored to come to the UK by willing and able individuals, businesses, or community organisations. There will be no numerical limit on this scheme, and we will welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come and have matched sponsors.

We will continue to work with our counterparts in the Devolved Administrations to ensure we deliver the best possible scheme across the whole of the UK for Ukrainians coming here. With regular engagement at Ministerial Level between the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-25/hl6464>

*Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

*Information about the Ukrainian Sponsorship Humanitarian Visa Offer, referred to above, can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>  
and

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

**Evidence session: Policy on Ukrainian refugees**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/9908/html/>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motions

**Claudia Webbe (Independent) [1088] Status Now campaign** – That this House congratulates the Status Now campaign on the two year anniversary of their important campaign; notes that there are currently an unknown number of persons in the UK who are not citizens and who do not at present have leave to remain in this country, who lack any entitlement to support from the state and are therefore entirely without funds to feed, clothe and house themselves and their families; recognises that, in nearly all cases, undocumented people are not criminals but simply those who have fallen through the cracks of the Government's callous hostile environment policies; considers it essential that the Government takes immediate action to ensure that leave to remain in the UK is granted to all such persons who are within the UK but are not citizens, irrespective of their nationality or immigration status, so that they can access healthcare, food, housing and other essential human rights; welcomes the recent progress made in Ireland through the Regularisation Scheme for Undocumented people, launched in January 2022, which will offer an amnesty for 17,000 undocumented migrants; and calls on the Government to follow suit and ensure that all undocumented, destitute and migrant people in the legal process be granted status now, or indefinite leave to remain, to guarantee that every human being, irrespective of their nationality or citizenship can access the essentials to live safely and happily.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59591>

**Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [1076] Visa and housing schemes for Afghans and Ukrainians** – That this House welcomes the modernised open-hearted visa and housing schemes for Ukrainians; and calls on Government to introduce as many elements of those schemes as possible and appropriate to Afghans.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59578>

## Press Releases

### **Scottish Government scheme opens for displaced Ukrainians**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scheme-opens-for-displaced-ukrainians/>

### **A Warm Scots Welcome**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/a-warm-scots-welcome/>

### **'Homes for Ukraine' scheme launches**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-launches>

### **Ukrainians fleeing war granted free access to NHS healthcare**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukrainians-fleeing-war-granted-free-access-to-nhs-healthcare>

### **Emergency support put in place for Ukrainian nationals entering the UK with their pets**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-support-put-in-place-for-ukrainian-nationals-entering-the-uk-with-their-pets>

### **Support for Ukrainians**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-ukrainians/>

### **Wales offers free rail travel for Ukrainian refugees**

<https://gov.wales/wales-offers-free-rail-travel-for-ukrainian-refugees>

## New Publications

### **Getting to Scotland: information for displaced people from Ukraine**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-to-scotland/>

### **Homes for Ukraine: Register interest in becoming a sponsor**

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

### **Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme>

### **Updated immigration information for Ukrainians in the UK, British nationals and their family members**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

### **Offer work to people who have come to the UK from Ukraine**

<https://www.gov.uk/offer-work-ukraine>

### **Welcoming Ukrainians to the United Kingdom**

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/03/17/welcoming-ukrainians-to-the-united-kingdom/>

## **Ukraine Family Scheme: application data 19 March 2022**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data-19-march-2022>

## **News: Ukraine**

### **How to sponsor Ukrainian refugees and offer them a UK home**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/60735121>

### **Homes for Ukraine: what do I need to do to host refugees in the UK?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/15/homes-for-ukraine-what-do-i-need-to-do-to-host-refugees-in-the-uk>

### **Homes for Ukraine refugee scheme launches in UK**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60741942>

### **Ukraine war: Scots able to apply to host refugees**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60739984>

### **Ukraine war: UK households offered £350 a month for hosting refugees**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-60724111>

### **Ukraine war: 'No cap' on refugees under new UK visa scheme**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60731485>

### **Background checks to be carried out on people offering refuge to Ukrainians in Britain**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/13/government-will-carry-checks-make-sure-people-offering-take/>

### **Ukraine-Russia: Scotland 'stands ready' to take 3,000 refugees as 'super sponsor', declares Nicola Sturgeon**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sturgeon-scotland-stands-ready-to-take-3000-refugees-as-super-sponsor-3609035>

### **Ukraine Crisis: Three thousand refugees to arrive in Scotland 'as early as this weekend' as £15 million funding set up, says Nicola Sturgeon**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/ukraine-crisis-three-thousand-refugees-to-arrive-in-scotland-as-early-as-this-weekend-as-ps15-million-funding-set-up-says-nicola-sturgeon-3614376>

### **Sturgeon pledges £15m to help Ukrainian refugees arriving in Scotland**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-first-minister-scottish-government-vladimir-putin-holyrood-b2037384.html>

### **Scotland ready to welcome 3,000 Ukrainian refugees immediately – Sturgeon**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-scotland-scottish-government-first-minister-michael-gove-b2034749.html>

### **Scotland becomes super sponsor as Ukrainian refugee scheme opens**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60800831>

**Homes For Ukraine – Scotland update**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/homes-for-ukraine-scotland-update/>

**Ukraine crisis: Calls for clarity on refugee matching process**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60791696>

**122,000 offer homes for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ed-davey-ukraine-government-uk-government-liberal-democrat-b2036727.html>

**More than 100,000 Britons offer to take in Ukrainian refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/15/homes-for-ukraine-website-crashes-refugees>

**100,000 sign up to help accomodate Ukrainian refugees**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/19994982.100-000-sign-help-accomodate-ukrainian-refugees/>

**Ukraine-Russia conflict: The Scottish families opening their homes to Ukrainian refugees**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/the-scottish-families-opening-their-homes-to-ukrainian-refugees-3610690>

**Tiny town opening its arms to Ukrainian refugees**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-60785619>

**The public wants a generous approach to welcoming Ukrainian refugees – the government must think again**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/ukraine-russia-refugees-welcome-b2039197.html>

**Open your homes to Ukrainian refugees, but don't pretend it's as easy as tidying the spare room**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/columnists/2022/03/15/open-homes-ukrainian-refugees-dont-pretend-easy-tidying-spare/>

**UK refugee scheme could lead to exploitation of Ukrainians, say experts**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/15/uk-refugee-scheme-could-lead-to-exploitation-of-ukrainians-say-experts>

**Ukrainian refugees 'at risk of exploitation' under UK's new sponsorship scheme**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-modern-slavery-exploitation-sponsorship-uk-b2035384.html>

**Refugee groups criticise gaps in UK's Ukraine response**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/13/refugee-groups-criticise-gaps-in-uks-ukraine-response>

**Ukraine-Russia: Homes for Ukraine is a 'gimmick', says refugee charity founder**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/homes-for-ukraine-is-a-gimmick-says-refugee-charity-founder-3609048>

**Our families fled the war in Ukraine. Now they are tied up by Home Office red tape**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/13/our-families-fled-the-war-in-ukraine-now-they-are-tied-up-by-home-office-red-tape>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

### UN Rights Chief urges revisions to UK borders bill

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/un-rights-chief-urges-revisions-uk-borders-bill>

### More than 900 people intercepted crossing Channel in busiest day of 2022

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/16/more-than-900-people-intercepted-crossing-channel-in-busiest-day-this-year>

### More than 900 people intercepted attempting to cross Channel in single day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-french-rnli-home-office-b2037072.html>

### Baby is among latest group of people to cross Channel in small boats

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-rnli-kent-b2036122.html>

### Nearly 700 migrants cross the Channel in two days

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nearly-700-migrants-cross-the-channel-in-two-days-w3rjzzdn>

### Don't forget us, plead Afghan refugees still stuck in hotels

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dont-forget-us-plead-afghan-refugees-still-stuck-in-hotels-lcmfplrw>

### Ministers 'failing to protect' people trafficked to UK as modern slaves

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/17/ministers-failing-to-protect-people-trafficked-to-uk-as-modern-slaves>

### Rabbi Jonathan Romain: my scheme to host Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rabbi-jonathan-romain-my-scheme-to-host-ukrainian-refugees-jhztv0fcs>

### I've spoken to refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Uganda. These are the differences in how they're treated

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugees-ukraine-afghanistan-uganda-b2038450.html>

### 'What I learnt when I took in refugees'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/16/learnt-took-refugees/>

TOP

## Community Relations

### News

#### Am I Scott(ish)?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p0bqqldg/disclosure-am-i-scottish>

TOP

### UK Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

#### **Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities**

**The Minister for Levelling Up Communities (Kemi Badenoch):** ... The Sewell commission was established by the Prime Minister in response to the protests we saw throughout the summer of 2020. It was tasked with carrying out a deeper examination of why disparities exist and considering how we can reduce them. The commission published its findings on 31 March 2021, making 24 recommendations in all, focused on health, education, crime and policing, and employment. ...

The Government fully endorse the findings of the Sewell commission and our action plan is based largely on its recommendations. Its report conclusively showed something which I, and indeed hon Members on all sides of this House, know to be true: disparities do persist in the UK and racism and discrimination continue to shape people's experiences. But it also showed that most of these racial disparities are not driven by individual acts of prejudice committed by people behaving, either consciously or subconsciously, in a racist way. What the report's analysis shows is that, for the most part, negative disparities arise for reasons not associated with personal prejudice. That is why so many disparities stubbornly persist even in this progressive age when there has never been such an acute awareness of racism and so much action and policy against it. ...

The response we have published today, entitled "Inclusive Britain", presents a clear strategy to tackle entrenched disparities, promote unity and build a more meritocratic, cohesive society—a society in which everyone, irrespective of their ethnicity or cultural background, can go as far in life as their ambition will take them. The response sets out over 70 actions to level up the country and to close the yawning gaps between different groups in education, employment, health and criminal justice. ...

The UK is a multi-faith, multi-ethnic, multicultural success story and we believe that many of our greatest strengths derive from the diversity of our population. ... However, it would be naïve to say that tolerance and inclusion are the universal experiences of everyone who lives here, so our action plan seeks to right these wrongs with three clear aims: building a stronger sense of trust and fairness in our institutions and confidence in British meritocracy; promoting equality of opportunity, encouraging aspiration and empowering individuals; and encouraging and instilling a sense of belonging to a multi-ethnic UK that celebrates its differences while embracing the values that unite us all.

One of the most basic, but also one of the best, ways to build trust is to ensure that every individual in our society knows that they will be treated fairly and will not be discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity. ...

The second strand in our action plan is to promote equality of opportunity, encourage aspiration and foster personal agency. ...

While some ethnic minority children outperform their white British peers, that is not the case for every ethnic group, so we will look to level up pupil attainment ...

While promoting and celebrating diversity is hugely important, it is ultimately meaningless if people do not feel a sense of belonging or inclusion. That is why the third strand of our action plan is to instil a sense of belonging in those who feel that they are treated differently, left out or left behind because of their colour, class or creed. No child should grow up feeling alienated from the society in which they live. ...

When those children grow up and enter the workplace, we want to ensure that they do not experience some of the biases and unfairness that they do today. To that end, we are appointing a new "inclusion at work" panel to help employers drive fairness across their organisations. ...

"Inclusive Britain" sets out a clear and comprehensive action plan to tackle ethnic disparities, level up communities and build a stronger, fairer and more united country. ...

**Taiwo Owatemi (Labour):** ... We all know that significant race and ethnic disparities exist in Britain today—indeed, even the flawed Sewell report acknowledges that life chances and outcomes for black and ethnic minority people vary hugely ...

Most frustratingly, the strategy unquestioningly accepts the Sewell report's controversial premise that there is no such thing as structural racism in our society. When the report was published last year, it was met with outrage for its failure to acknowledge that structural racism exists and, despite the spin on today's announcement, the Government continue with the same flawed analysis; one that Baroness Lawrence rightly stated is "giving racists the green light."

If both the Sewell report and the strategy fail to identify the root causes of racial and ethnic disparities, how can either possibly hope to tackle them? ...

The strategy fails to deliver for black, Asian and minority ethnic NHS workers—frontline workers who faced a disproportionate risk to their health throughout the deadly covid-19 pandemic. It fails to deliver for black children living in Britain, more than half of whom are growing up in poverty. ...

The strategy suggests that we can tackle race and ethnic disparities by just levelling up, but levelling up is a slogan still searching for a meaning. It is the empty soundbite for a Minister struggling to answer the question. It is not the solution to entrenched racial disparities. ...

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** ... It is not true that the commission's report denied the existence of structural racism. ... In fact, the commission said that it did not find institutional racism in the areas that it examined.

A rhetorical trick is happening around this question. There is a difference between racism and institutional racism, which has a specific definition as defined by Macpherson. The commission said that there is racism and that it does persist. It has made recommendations on actions to tackle that in its report, and we have taken them up. It is quite wrong to conflate the two. We see crime in our country every day, yet we do not say that this is an institutionally criminal country. We look in the same way at accusations of racism, and it is important to distinguish where there is a pervasive institutional failing across the board that is unable to provide services to people of colour. ... I am very committed to ensuring that ethnic minorities in public life get a fair say and have their voice. What is wrong is when people with different opinions are attacked and told they are not allowed to think in a certain way because there are rules about what black people or Asian people are allowed to say. We reject that. ...

**John Hayes (Conservative):** ... will the Minister ensure that every Government Department effects what she has said today and what the report proposes? ... Will she issue guidance to each Government Department to stop the nonsense about critical race theory and white privilege?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** ... Discrimination, disparity and disadvantage all mean different things. They can correlate and they can be related. Now that we have an action plan and something written, I can assure him that we will be propagating it across Government and not just across but beyond Whitehall. ...

**Chris Stephens (SNP):** ... Only by acknowledging and understanding institutional inequalities will we be able to effectively tackle them in all aspects of life. That is certainly true in the world of work, where BAME people were already in a precarious position in the labour market before the pandemic, and is linked to the disproportionate economic impact on those groups of the cost of living crisis.

I have two quick questions. The TUC recently warned that insecure work is tightening the grip of structural racism in the labour market, with BAME workers overrepresented on zero-hour contracts. Will the Minister urge the Government to introduce the long-awaited employment Bill to tackle zero-hour contracts?

Unlike with gender pay gaps, there is currently no legal requirement for UK businesses to

disclose their ethnicity pay data. Will the UK Government follow the recent recommendations of the Women and Equalities Committee and introduce mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting by April 2023, including urging employers to publish a supporting action plan?

**Reply from Kemi Badenoch:** We have made an action on ethnicity pay gap reporting in the report, and we will be issuing guidance to help businesses and organisations to deliver it. What we are not going to do is mandate ethnicity pay gap reporting. It is very different from gender pay gap reporting, which is binary—male and female. Men and women are represented equally across the country. Ethnicity pay gap reporting covers multiple categories that are not necessarily applicable in each area, so mandating it in a particular way could actually end up distorting and skewing the figures. What we are going to do is support organisations that want to understand what is going on in their businesses and help to progress pay and opportunity for ethnic minorities. ...

**To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see** <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-17/debates/A7C2D672-2A1F-41C5-908B-A42ED7585608/CommissionOnRaceAndEthnicDisparities>

The commission findings referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

The Government response referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

**Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour)** [117014] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if she will publish a breakdown by percentage of the ethnicity of all mental health professionals employed by the NHS.

**Reply from Gillian Keegan:** NHS Digital collects Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care or in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers. Data on the National Health Service workforce is collected from the Electronic Staff Record, the human resources and payroll system for the NHS.

The following table shows the ethnicity of all HCHS mental health staff working in the NHS, headcount, by percentage as of September 2021.

Ethnicity	Percentage
White	73.50%
Black or black British	11.50%
Asian or Asian British	7.00%
Not stated	2.50%
Mixed	2.50%
Any other ethnic group	1.50%
Unknown	1.00%
Chinese	0.40%
Discontinued codes	0.00%

Source: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/nhs-workforce-statistics/september-2021>

Note:

1. An individual's ethnic category is self-determined.
2. Further information on the Mental Health workforce definition is available at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/areas-of-interest/workforce/national-workforce-data-set-nwd-guidance-documents#agreed-definitions>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-02/117014>

### **Treatment of, and Outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [137436] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many of the recommendations of the Lammy Review, published on 8 September 2017, have been implemented by the Government to date.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Government published its response to the Lammy Review in 2017. Of the 35 recommendations in the Lammy Review, 33 recommendations were accepted; the two that were not taken forward by Government were related to the independent judiciary (Recommendations 14, 16). Actions have been taken against each of the accepted 33 recommendations. Few actions remain incomplete, with those left centred on long-term recruitment targets and developing a more representative workforce within HMPPPS (recommendations 28 and 29). They will need to remain open for some time as they involve long term targets. A detailed update on progress against all the recommendations of the Lammy Review was published in 2020: [Tackling Racial Disparity in the Criminal Justice System: 2020 Update](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137436>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf)

## **Press Release**

**£10 million for traveller sites across England will improve life chances and reduce unauthorised encampments**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-for-traveller-sites-across-england-will-improve-life-chances-and-reduce-unauthorised-encampments>

## **New Publications**

**Inclusive Britain: government response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

**Improving the Ethnic Diversity of UK Boards**

[https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en\\_uk/topics/diversity/ey-what-the-parker-review-tells-us-about-boardroom-diversity.pdf](https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_uk/topics/diversity/ey-what-the-parker-review-tells-us-about-boardroom-diversity.pdf)

## News

### Government strategy sidesteps Sewell race report's most criticised conclusions

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/16/ministers-government-strategy-sewell-race-report>

### UK government to scrap 'BAME' in response to race inquiry

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/16/uk-government-scrap-bame-response-sewell-race-inquiry>

### Inclusive Britain: Forged in denial, the government's action plan on race has failed before it's begun

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/inclusive-britain-action-plan-on-race-has-failed-before-it-s-begun-b2038303.html>

### Britain's only black chief constable calls for 'positive discrimination' in police forces

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/14/britains-black-chief-constable-calls-positive-discrimination/>

### Survey shows teachers unaware equality laws apply to pupils' hair

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/mar/16/survey-shows-teachers-unaware-equality-laws-apply-to-pupils-hair>

### It's 'nonsense' to suggest hospital staff speak only English at work, NHS director says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/17/nonsense-suggest-hospital-staff-speak-english-work-nhs-director/>

### The Muslim women learning to ride a bike in their 40s

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-60710565>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

#### Tackling Racism

**Pam Gosal (Conservative):** Tim Rideout, who is a senior Scottish National Party adviser, made appalling racist comments about the Home Secretary. Such comments have no place in society, let alone in political debate. I welcome the fact that the SNP has taken quick action in suspending Mr Rideout and launching an investigation into his conduct, but racism incidents are never isolated, and all parties must condemn racism. Will the First Minister assure black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in Scotland and the broader public that her party will continue to root out and condemn toxic racist political discourse?

**Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon):** Yes, I will. The individual concerned—as Pam Gosal fairly pointed out—was immediately suspended from the SNP; it would be wrong for me to comment any further.

I represent the most diverse constituency in the whole of Scotland in this Parliament—I represent the biggest BAME communities in the country. I understand these issues, I understand how serious it is that all parties take these issues very seriously, and I am absolutely committed to doing so.

I think that this is an issue for all parties. We all have to be prepared to act when

necessary in a way that aligns with what we say around these things. For my part— I am probably speaking more as leader of the SNP than as First Minister here—I am determined that my party does so, and I call on other parties to ensure that they always follow suit. That is something on which we can, I hope, unite.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13646&i=123864#ScotParIOR>

## Press Release

**UN High Commissioner addresses General Assembly meeting on racism**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/03/high-commissioner-addresses-general-assembly-meeting-racism>

## New Publication

**Missing Elements: Racial and ethnic inequalities in the chemical sciences**

<https://www.rsc.org/globalassets/22-new-perspectives/talent/racial-and-ethnic-inequalities-in-the-chemical-sciences/missing-elements-report.pdf>

## News

**SNP adviser Tim Rideout's 'racist' Priti Patel tweet being 'assessed' by police**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20005869.snp-adviser-tim-rideouts-racist-priti-patel-tweet-assessed-police/>

**Nicola Sturgeon 'will root out racism' in SNP after adviser Tim Rideout suspended**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nicola-sturgeon-will-root-out-racism-in-snp-after-adviser-tim-rideout-suspended-kpvql69mz>

**SNP's Wullie Graham in 'disgusting' anti-Semitic comment row**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20006669.snps-wullie-graham-disgusting-anti-semitic-comment-row/>

**Dr Tony Sewell: Race report chair slams honorary degree withdrawal**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-60758038>

**Royal Society of Chemistry report says racism 'pervasive'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-60708712>

**'Pervasive' inequality derailing black UK chemists' careers, report finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/mar/16/pervasive-inequality-derailing-black-uk-chemists-careers-report-finds>

**Almost 90% of teachers are not trained to prevent racism in schools, report finds**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teacher-training-racism-schools-b2036681.html>

**Teaching of race ideology in schools is 'absolutely terrifying', warns minister**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/03/17/ethnic-minority-success-stories-must-acknowledged-says-minister/>

**Far right ‘mimicking video games to lure middle class children to terrorism’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/17/far-right-mimicking-video-games-to-lure-middle-class-children-to-terrorism>

**Look at ministers’ plans to secretly make Britons stateless and what do you see: Islamophobia**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/14/islamophobia-widespread-britain-trojan-horse-prevent-racist-joke>

**Racism cited as factor in police strip search of girl, 15, at London school**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/15/black-girl-racism-police-strip-search-london-school-hackney>

**Outrage over strip-searching of black girl shows UK ‘cares about ethnic minorities’, says minister**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/child-q-metropolitan-police-racism-badenoch-b2038137.html>

**Strip search of 15-year-old black schoolgirl by Met Police was ‘influenced by racism’**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/15/strip-search-15-year-old-black-schoolgirl-met-police-influenced/>

**Child Q’s abuse reminds us that Black people are dehumanised every day**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/child-q-metropolitan-police-racism-b2037048.html>

**Strip-searched girl sues after report blames Met racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/strip-searched-girl-sues-report-blames-met-racism-2cjpgmk2jr>

**Scotland targets anti-English racism amid claims it is more common than Islamophobia**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/03/16/scottish-council-consider-crackdown-anti-english-racism/>

**Scottish council considers treating anti-Englishness like Islamophobia**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scottish-council-considers-treating-anti-englishness-like-islamophobia-3lct3pz3d>

**Crackdown on Anglophobia ‘would trivialise racism’**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/crackdown-on-anglophobia-would-trivialise-racism-zxxpwkghl>

**Is British history racist – or to be proud of? It could define our future**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/ukraine-refugees-welcome-attitudes-hypocrisy-b2038063.html>

**Michael Vaughan unlikely to face disciplinary charges by ECB for ‘racially offensive comment’**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/michael-vaughan-unlikely-to-face-disciplinary-charges-by-ecb-for-racially-offensive-comment-kbhqb28n2>

**Teenager admits ‘racially abusing Marcus Rashford after Euro 2020 final’**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/teenager-crown-prosecution-service-marcus-rashford-italy-england-b2038424.html>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**HM The Queen appoints Presiding Officer Alison Johnstone to Privy Council**

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/hm-the-queen-appoints-presiding-officer-alison-johnstone-to-privy-council>

TOP

## Other UK Parliament and Government

### New Publication

**Female Genital Mutilation - October 2021 to December 2021**

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/oct-2021-dec-2021>

TOP

## 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 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/>

## **Scottish Parliament Debate**

### **Covid-19: Scotland's Strategic Framework**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13640&i=123796#ScotParIOR>

## **Scottish Parliament Motions**

**John Swinney (SNP) [S6M-03617] COVID-19 – Scotland's Strategic Framework Update** – That the Parliament welcomes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22 February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; supports the new strategic intent to manage COVID-19 effectively, primarily through adaptations and health measures that strengthen resilience and recovery, as the country rebuilds for a better future; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away and that the approach is to manage COVID-19 going forwards on the basis of four broad response categories that reflect the assessed threat; notes that the Scottish Government will aim to convert remaining COVID-19 regulations into guidance to promote good public health behaviours, while retaining the ability to regulate in future should the public health situation require it; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals, and notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage and that the Strategic Framework outlines a wide range of concrete actions that are designed to improve outcomes across society, consistent with the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03617>

*The Strategic Framework Update referred to above can be read at*

<https://tinyurl.com/4jf2p296>

**Jackie Baillie (Labour) [S6M-03617.1] COVID-19 – Scotland's Strategic Framework Update** – As an amendment to motion S6M-03617 in the name of John Swinney (COVID-19 – Scotland's Strategic Framework Update), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "notes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22 February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; supports the new strategic

intent to manage COVID-19 effectively, primarily through adaptations and health measures that strengthen resilience and recovery, as the country rebuilds for a better future; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away and considers that there is a need to maintain Test and Protect infrastructure, including free access to testing, to help monitor and contain future outbreaks; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals; believes that future closures of businesses and services should only ever be a last resort, and that businesses should have clarity in advance about the financial support that they will receive in such a situation; further believes that all future restrictions should be subject to a vote in the Parliament; notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage, and agrees that addressing these areas must be the priority of delivering a successful recovery."

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03617-1>

*The Strategic Framework Update referred to above can be read at*  
<https://tinyurl.com/4jf2p296>

**Murdo Fraser (Conservative) [S6M-03617.2] COVID-19 – Scotland’s Strategic Framework Update** – As an amendment to motion S6M-03617 in the name of John Swinney (COVID-19 – Scotland’s Strategic Framework Update), leave out from “welcomes” to end and insert “notes the publication of the Strategic Framework Update on 22 February 2022; offers its condolences to everyone in Scotland who has suffered loss and its gratitude to all those who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much during the pandemic; notes that Scotland is now able to look forward to the rest of 2022 with increased optimism, made possible by the remarkable progress on vaccination and in new treatments; acknowledges that the threat from COVID-19 has not gone away but believes that the public in Scotland can be trusted to act responsibly and follow guidance promoting good public health behaviours and that, accordingly, ongoing regulations are not required; notes the overwhelming public opposition to the Scottish Government’s proposals to permanently hold emergency powers to make health regulations; agrees that there is a need for collaborative management of COVID-19 to be shared by central and local government, wider public services, businesses, the third sector, communities and individuals; notes that the pandemic has also exacerbated inequalities, poverty and disadvantage, and calls on the Scottish Government to bring forward credible proposals to tackle the NHS backlog, and invest in a national tutoring programme and school catch-up premium to support children and young people who have suffered from two years of disrupted learning.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-03617-2>

*The Strategic Framework Update referred to above can be read at*  
<https://tinyurl.com/4jf2p296>

## **Scottish Government Press Releases**

### **Update on COVID regulations**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/update-on-covid-regulations/>

### **International travel restrictions end**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/international-travel-restrictions-end/>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 15 March 2022**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/fm-statement-parliament-march-15-2022/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) supporting Gypsy/Travellers: framework for local authorities**

<https://tinyurl.com/r2wbp9u2>

## UK Government Press Release

**All COVID-19 travel restrictions removed in the UK**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-covid-19-travel-restrictions-removed-in-the-uk>

## UK Government Publication

**The R value and growth rate**

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

## News

**Covid in Scotland: How will the rules change?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53166816>

TOP

## Scotland's Census

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* All census forms must be submitted by 1 May 2022 \*\***

**Scotland's Census 2022**

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/taking-part-in-the-2022-census/scotland-s-census-2022/>

**Complete Scotland's Census now**

<https://www.census.gov.scot/>

**MEMO+ Scotland's Census 2022**

[https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii\\_scotlands\\_census\\_2022.pdf](https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii_scotlands_census_2022.pdf)

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Getting the right things out, starts with filling it in**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC2plmy827c>

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What am I filling in and why does it matter?**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE\\_2z2Kg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE_2z2Kg)

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What exactly is Census Day?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypmk4F3rLhs>

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What do I need to know about filling it in?**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e\\_Kza2XpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e_Kza2XpM)

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Am I legally required to fill it in?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZm1By8Al2g>

**Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Can I get help filling it in?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsF1UZBeXqY>

**Video: How to complete your census online**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TQA9yKSpfA>

## News

**One million census returns completed**  
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/one-million-census-returns-completed>

TOP

## Bills in Progress \*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

**\*\* Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2022/3/16/5586b567-c3b4-4b04-bc94-2b8a290d99b4/DPLRS062022R18.pdf>

### 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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-14/debates/8863D580-A20B-4E4C-B81A-58369A93BF6F/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0282/amend/natborders\\_ccla\\_rm0321.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0282/amend/natborders_ccla_rm0321.pdf)

Legislative Scrutiny: Nationality and Borders Bill: Government Responses to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9347/documents/160664/default/>

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0285/210285.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0285/210285en.pdf>

Regulatory Policy Committee Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1061266/2022-02-18-RPC-DCMS-4347\\_4\\_-\\_Online\\_Safety\\_Bill.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061266/2022-02-18-RPC-DCMS-4347_4_-_Online_Safety_Bill.pdf)

Impact Assessment

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1061265/Online\\_Safety\\_Bill\\_impact\\_assessment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1061265/Online_Safety_Bill_impact_assessment.pdf)

European Convention on Human Rights Memorandum

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-bill-supporting-documents/online-safety-bill-european-convention-on-human-rights-memorandum>

Government response to the Joint Committee report on the draft Online Safety Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-committee-report-on-the-draft-online-safety-bill-government-response/government-response-to-the-joint-committee-report-on-the-draft-online-safety-bill>

Factsheet

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-bill-supporting-documents/online-safety-bill-factsheet>

House of Commons Library briefing: Regulating online harms

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8743/CBP-8743.pdf>

Press release: World-first online safety laws introduced in Parliament

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-online-safety-laws-introduced-in-parliament>

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

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

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07458>

TOP

## **Consultations**

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

**\*\* closes this week!**

**How to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales** (closing date 25 March 2022)

<https://gov.wales/consultation-how-measure-inclusion-migrants-wales-html>

**\*\* closes this week!**

**COVID 19: The Impact on Children & Young People** (closing date 25 March 2022)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/12474>

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

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

TOP

## **Job Opportunities**

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

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

### **Workplace Equality Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 11 April 2022*

Scottish Government funding to support employers in identifying, addressing, and diminishing longstanding barriers facing particular priority groups in entering and progressing within the labour market. The central goal of the fund is to incentivise and support collaborative projects that aspire to reduce employment inequalities and cultivate positive, fair, and inclusive workplace practices, with the intention of improving employment opportunities and progression policies within Scottish workplaces; particularly for the identified priority groups, improving knowledge, skills, and practices with respect to addressing employment inequalities; thereby engendering significant improvement for priority groups, and create and maintain an inclusive working environment through employees and employers working in partnership. For information and to apply see

<https://equalityadvice.scot/>

TOP

## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Ukraine Family Scheme: Your Rights**

Tuesday 22 March 2020 (online, 2.00–3.30)

Tuesday 29 March 2020 (online, 10.00–11.30)

April – date and time to be confirmed

Scottish Refugee Council session to provide essential information on rights, how to access essential services and meet people's immediate needs, including information about immigration status and documentation, housing, benefits, accessing urgent health care, schools, and English language classes. For information see

<https://forms.office.com/r/tAvaazU0k7>

### **Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement**

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>

### **Three mottos to guide our approach to equality, diversity & inclusion**

7 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, considering three models which provide insight on our experience of difference. We consider: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of 'human neutral', why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3u7pba3b> or contact Jamie Spurway

[jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **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>

### **Supporting Refugee Integration**

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>

### **Debiasing our systems, debiasing ourselves – an introduction to tackling unconscious bias**

3 May 2022 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the evidence of unconscious bias and methods for reducing its impact on our decisions, behaviour and processes. The session will also describe the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact on our interactions with colleagues, service users and others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y67cy5x8> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Working with People from Diverse Religious Backgrounds**

9 June 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving our confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. We learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ye2ntnpv> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Advantage is invisible – understanding unintentional discrimination**

6 July 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring why discrimination is common even when our intentions are to work fairly with all staff and service users. The role of the dominant identity in shaping our working culture and practices will be discussed, and we will consider the persistent pattern that advantage tends to be hidden from those that have it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2d5zwje9> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

### **Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication**

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

## **Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction**

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on our interactions and relationships. We will consider ways we can become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy. We will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

## **Working with Interpreters**

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

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

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

## **Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity**

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course where delegates will improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. We explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity. Then we take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

## **Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence**

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. We also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway [jamie@interfaithscotland.org](mailto:jamie@interfaithscotland.org)

[TOP](#)

## **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>

**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>

TOP

**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

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

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



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

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