



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

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

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

**The UK Parliament is in recess until 11 October 2022.
The next issue of MEMO will be published on 16 October 2022**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Scotland's Population

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13905&i=126015#ScotParIOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Sharon Dowey (Conservative) [S6W-10805] To ask the Scottish Government how it

plans to match displaced people from Ukraine with households in Scotland, in light of reports that more than half of those who planned to host Ukrainian people in Scotland have dropped out of the scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: Scotland is providing a place of safety to more displaced people per head of population than any other part of the UK. The Scottish Government's priority is to ensure that displaced people from Ukraine are able to stay in appropriate temporary accommodation and get the right support ahead of moving into safe, sustainable longer-term accommodation. We are working in partnership with local government to identifying suitable long term accommodation and boost supply so we can support people whilst they are in Scotland. As part of this we have established the Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund, backed by up to £50 million of funding for councils and Registered Social Landlords to help bring accommodation into use and boost the housing supply for those fleeing conflict in Ukraine.

On 22 September, the Scottish Government published its first summary of the latest Scotland-level data and information on people displaced by the war in Ukraine coming to Scotland through the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visa schemes which provides detail on host numbers: [Key points - Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10805)

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10805>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-10998] To ask the Scottish Government what the process is for re-matching Ukrainian refugees from one household to another through the Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government recognises that there may be instances where a host relationship breaks down. Where a relationship breaks down, the displaced person can make contact with their local authority who will re-enter them to the matching process and find a suitable alternative accommodation. It is important to recognise that matching people with hosts is a complex process. Time must be taken to ensure that the needs of both the host family and Ukrainians are met, and that both are suitably supported to make a decision that is right for them. Their housing and support needs and preferences will be assessed and the matching service will seek to match them with accommodation suitable for their needs. Where additional needs are identified, they will be directed to specialist local authority support teams.

We have made £11.2m of additional funding available to local authorities, which they can use to bolster their resettlement teams, enhance the pace of host checks, and support refurbishment of properties. In addition we have funded additional staff in local authorities to speed up the process and we are also introducing a new digital matching tool to support the matching process. We are currently reviewing the operation of the super sponsor scheme, including measures to improve matching.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10998>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [45564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Afghan refugees who applied to the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme are in the UK as on 2 September 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Afghans resettling in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be supported in accessing accommodation and the vital health, education, and support into employment they need, to fully integrate into society.

The Department for Education have confirmed that individuals resettling under these schemes who wish to access higher education, are eligible for home fee status and student support from the 2022/23 academic year - putting them on the same footing as refugees. At this time, the Home Office is working to improve the data it holds on those who have accessed higher education among those being temporarily accommodated in hotels.

All children who were evacuated during Op Pitting have been enrolled in school - and school places are offered on a rolling basis, as more children arrive in the UK. As stated in the recently published, 'Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data' factsheet, at 12 Aug 2022, the UK:

- Has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring country - since June 2021. Whilst we believe that around half of this number are children, we are unable, at this time, to provide an accurate breakdown of arrivals by age, in order to determine how many children are in full-time education.
- Is providing temporary accommodation for 9,667 people in hotels.

Officials are working at pace to assure information relating to the individuals resettling in the UK under our bespoke schemes for Afghans on case working systems. Once this work concludes, the Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its quarterly Immigration Statistics publications.

Until then the factsheet will be updated every quarter - with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45564>

The factsheet referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [53566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 September 2022 to Question 46210, what steps her Department must complete between UNHCR referral under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the arrival of such refugees in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We launched ACRS Pathway 2 in January and anticipate referrals of up to 2,000 refugees from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during its first year.

The steps between the Home Office receiving a referral for resettlement under Pathway 2 of the ACRS from the UNHCR, and a refugee's arrival in the UK, follow the same well established process as those for referrals to the UK Resettlement Scheme:

- Referrals from the UNHCR are reviewed by the Home Office, who determine whether the case should be accepted for resettlement to the UK. Officials will assess eligibility through a case working process and by commissioning

screening and security checks. Officials will also consider individual circumstances, such as medical and safeguarding needs.

- If a referral is accepted for resettlement by the Home Office, it will notify the UNHCR who, in turn, will inform the individual.

From there, it is vital that those resettling in the UK have somewhere suitable to stay upon arrival. An offer of resettlement under Pathway 2 of the ACRS is, therefore, provisional on suitable accommodation becoming available, and refugees will not travel to the UK until this is in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53566>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46210>

Information about Pathway 2, referred to above can be read at

<https://help.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

David Warburton (Independent) [53473] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to provide (a) homes, (b) jobs and (c) school placements for refugees from Ukraine.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We continue to review and develop plans to support guests to access the best possible support to during their stay in the UK. We are also providing guidance on navigating the UK housing market and encouraging landlords to support this cohort into accommodation

The government is committed to supporting this cohort into work. DWP is working with Ukrainians and employers to signpost and match job opportunities

Ukrainian parents will be able apply for a school place through the in-year admissions process. The Ukrainian Welcome Pack sets out this process in more detail. Local councils will work with families to enable all children to attend school or early years provision in the local area as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53473>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

Refugees: Ukraine

David Warburton (Independent) [53474] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to support the sponsors of refugees from Ukraine who are experiencing delays in finding their own homes.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We are working closely with local councils to understand where pressures may be and are actively exploring options to find suitable long-term accommodation for the Ukrainians who are likely to stay in this country beyond their initial sponsorship period.

The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#four-to-6-months-after-guests-have-moved-to-your-area>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53474>

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

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53541] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what support his Department will provide to young people from Hong Kong who will become eligible for the British National (Overseas) visa from November this year.

Reply from Paul Scully: In April 2021 the department launched a new UK-wide Welcome Programme to support BN(O) status holders, and in July 2022 announced the continuation of the Programme. This cohort of young people will be able to access the full Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Programme, including support from Welcome Hubs across the UK, support from community organisations providing a range of services including help with social integration, mental health and employability, they will also be eligible to access English language and destitution support via local Councils (England only). They can already access a comprehensive online Welcome Pack, in English and Cantonese on GOV.UK that provides advice on life in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53541>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk>

Information about the BN(O) route, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

British National (Overseas): Cost of Living

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53543] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether British National (Overseas) visa holders will be eligible for Government cost of living support in winter 2022.

Reply from Chris Philp: Eligibility for the one-off Cost of Living Payments to support the most vulnerable households is based solely on entitlement to a qualifying benefit (e.g. means-tested or disability benefit) in respect of the qualifying period.

Support for energy costs through the Energy Price Guarantee and the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme will be applied automatically to UK household energy bills. The Council Tax Rebate is delivered as a payment to households in England in properties in Council Tax bands A-D.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53543>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53544] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she will publish (a) a timetable for the introduction of the British National (Overseas) visa extension to young people from Hong Kong and (b) eligibility criteria for that visa extension.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53545] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow the financial requirements of 18–25 year-old British National (Overseas) visa applicants to be sponsored by a third-party.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53546] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the British National (Overseas) visa extension will apply to young people whose British National (Overseas) parents are now both deceased.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether young people from Hong Kong who have overstayed their current visa leave out of fear of returning to Hong Kong due to their political activity will be able to switch into the British National (Overseas) visa from within the UK.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53548] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether young people from Hong Kong who are currently in the UK on visitor leave will be able to transition into the British National (Overseas) visa if they are eligible when it extends to them in November 2022.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the process is for eligible young people from Hong Kong currently in the UK asylum system to transfer to the British Nationals (Overseas) visa from November 2022 onward.

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government's visa support for young people from Hong Kong will extend to allowing those people to include years spent in the UK on a student visa toward the five year route to settlement for British National (Overseas) visa holders.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: On 24 February 2022, the Government announced in a Written Ministerial Statement a change to the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route which will allow adult children of BN(O) status holders born on or after the 1 July 1997, who are currently unable to apply for the BN(O) route independently to do so. The statement is available at: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements](#)

The change to allow adult children of BN(O) status holders born on or after 1 July 1997 to apply to the route independently of their parents is currently scheduled to come into effect this Autumn at which point further information, including full eligibility criteria, will be published on GOV.UK.

Under the new provisions, children born on or after 1 July 1997, whose deceased parent held BN(O) status, will be able to qualify for the route, providing they meet all other requirements for the route. Applicants will need to show evidence of the BN(O) status of at least one parent.

As is the case on the BN(O) route now, those who enter the UK with a Student or Visitor visa will be able to apply to switch into the BN(O) route. They will need to apply before the expiry of their current visa or grant of permission. Under the Immigration Rules, individuals applying for the BN(O) route must not be in breach of immigration laws. This includes overstaying, except where certain limited circumstances apply as set out paragraph 39E of the Immigration Rules.

Only time spent in the UK on either the BN(O) route or another route which leads to settlement can count towards the five-year qualifying period for settlement as a BN(O), with the most recent grant of permission required to be on the BN(O) route. Time spent in the UK on a Student visa does not count towards settlement.

All applicants to the BN(O) route need to demonstrate they can maintain and accommodate themselves and their family members for at least six months without access to public funds. Applicants can rely on credible offers of financial support and/or accommodation from a third party (for example, a relative or friend) to meet this requirement.

Individuals with an outstanding asylum claim must write to the Home Office to withdraw their claim before they can apply to the BN(O) route. Further information is available here: [Withdrawing asylum applications](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53544>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53545>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53546>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53547>
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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53548>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53549>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53550>

Information about the BN(O) route, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [53551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of reports that adult dependent relatives of British Nationals (Overseas) have experienced visa processing delays of over a year; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: A number of adult dependent relative cases were placed on hold pending consideration of the policy position to ensure the approach to assessing adult dependent relative applications on the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route was correct.

The necessary steps have now been taken to resolve adult dependent relative applications made under the BN(O) route and UK Visas and Immigration have begun decision-making against this cohort as a matter of priority. This process will be completed by the end of the year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53551>

Information about the BN(O) route, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Migrants: Cost of Living

Caroline Lucas (Green) [51597] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of amending her policy on No Recourse to Public Funds in the context of (a) rising food prices and (b) the ability of foodbanks to meet demand.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Temporary migrants are generally required to support themselves and any accompanying family members, in the UK without recourse to public funds. This is a well-established principle that protects taxpayer-funded public services from becoming overburdened.

The Government is committed to protecting vulnerable people and has ensured support has been available to those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) when it has been appropriate to do so. To assist more families those with NRPF, subject to the relevant income thresholds, can now access free school meals and free early years' education for two-year-olds.

In recognition of the growing cost of living pressures, the £11.7 billion Energy Bills Support Scheme forms part of the £37 billion cost of living assistance package for consumers over the winter of 2022 to 2023 to support families with rising global energy prices. Those with NRPF will be eligible for some support within this scheme.

We continue to monitor the impact of the NRPF policy and there are strong and important safeguards in place to ensure migrants with NRPF can receive support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51597>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [53561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been referred to the Home Office Safeguarding and Welfare Hub by Migrant Help in the last 12 months; and what support the Hub provides to asylum seekers who have raised concerns about their mental health.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [53562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the role and responsibilities are of the Home Office Safeguarding and Welfare Hub; and what engagement it that body has with asylum seekers in hotel accommodation.

Asylum: Hotels

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [53563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what pathways are available for asylum seekers housed in hotels to access mental health support; and what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the services available for those hotel residents.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The number of referrals to the Home Office by Migrant Help during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 was 11,808. This will include individuals who have been referred more than once. This figure is based on local management information and is subject to change.

The Asylum Safeguarding Hub forms a link between the Home Office and those statutory agencies who hold the legal responsibility to support a vulnerable customer.

Safeguarding Hub staff advocate for an individual's needs with the statutory agencies to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions. The statutory agencies retain responsibility for all decisions on intervention activity.

The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where someone is at risk they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies of the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions.

The Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, local authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure that people can access the health care and support they need. Asylum seekers have access to health and social care services from the point of arrival in the UK.

All asylum seekers, regardless of the type of accommodation, have the same access to free NHS services in the same way as British citizens and other permanent residents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53561>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53562>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53563>

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Legal Profession

Caroline Lucas (Green) [53359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 July 2022 to Question 32512 on Derwent Immigration Removal Centre: Legal Profession and the Answer of 5 September 2022 to Question 40757 on Derwent Immigration Removal Centre: Legal Profession, how many in-person visits have been made by lawyers to women in Derwentside immigration removal centre (a) under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme and (b) in total since 8 July 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS). Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may

attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

Individuals detained in IRCs can also access privately commissioned legal advice, including legally aided advice provided through means other than the DDAS.

Access to legal advice across the immigration removal estate is facilitated through remote means (by telephone and video conferencing) as well as in-person visits on request. All people in IRCs are provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones on request, fax machines, email and video calling facilities, which can be used to contact legal representatives, family, or friends.

Between 8 July 2022 and 21 September 2022, there have been a total of 38 in-person legal visits at Derwentside IRC. All 38 appointments have been facilitated by the DDAS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53359>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/32512>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-20/40757>

Press Releases

Rural visa pilot proposed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/rural-visa-pilot-proposed/>

Over 500 criminals and immigration offenders removed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-500-criminals-and-immigration-offenders-removed>

European Court of Human Rights: Deportation would not violate the Convention despite family ties and previous granting of Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK

<https://t.co/C9BBzVbAD1>

New Publications

Empowering Scotland's Newly Enfranchised Refugee communities: Project Evaluation

[scroll to end of press release to read the evaluation report]

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/voting-rights-campaign-a-success/>

How has immigration changed under the UK's new 'points based' system?

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/how-has-immigration-changed-under-the-uks-new-points-based-system/>

Briefing: The UK's new points-based immigration system

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8911/CBP-8911.pdf>

Briefing: Migration statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

Support for students from Ukraine in UK higher education

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-students-from-ukraine-in-uk-higher-education/>

Identity Crisis; how the age dispute process puts refugee children at risk
<https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/08125100/Identity-Crisis-September-2022.pdf>

"I'm terrified": the dangers of Home Office age assessments for children in the North West
<https://gmiau.org/download/8335/>

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats - weekly data
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data>

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: August 2022
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1106803/WCS_Data_-_August_2022_-_MASTER.ods

Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

Report on an unannounced inspection of Brook House Immigration Removal Centre
<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprisoners/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/09/Brook-House-web-2022.pdf>

News: Channel Migrants

Number of migrants crossing the Channel this year edges closer to 33,000
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/channel-home-office-ministry-of-defence-riti-patel-children-b2184771.html>

Home Office spends £90k on 3 months of social media adverts to 'deter' Channel migrants - but numbers rocket
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-deterrence-home-office-b2174080.html>

People smuggler: I get clients to sign a waiver
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-62832633>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Ukrainians facing UK eviction fears
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainians-facing-uk-eviction-fears-tjccw5ccq>

Voting rights campaign a success
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/voting-rights-campaign-a-success/>

Ministers unveil Scottish visa scheme pilot for EU citizens post Brexit

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/22732311.ministers-unveil-scottish-visa-scheme-pilot-eu-citizens-post-brexite/>

Home Office to help firms recruit more migrant staff

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-to-help-firms-recruit-more-migrant-staff-qqn2sp7zz>

'Perfectly possible' migrants could be brought in to fill labour shortages, says minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/09/26/perfectly-possible-migrants-could-brought-fill-labour-shortages/>

Hundreds of refugee children are being mistakenly judged as adults and at risk of abuse and neglect due to 'hasty and woeful' Home Office decision making

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/latest/news/hundreds-of-refugee-children-are-being-mistakenly-judged-as-adults-and-at-risk-of-abuse-and-neglect-due-to-hasty-and-woeful-home-office-decision-making-refugee-council-repo/>

Hundreds of child refugees 'mistaken for adults' due to 'hasty' Home Office decisions, charity warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-home-office-migrants-b2177130.html>

Home Office age disputes putting child asylum seekers at risk, reports find

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/30/home-office-age-disputes-child-asylum-seekers-abuse-risk>

"I'm terrified": the dangers of Home Office Age Assessments

<https://gmiau.org/age-assessments-2209/>

Albanian asylum seekers will not be fast-tracked for deportation in Home Office U-turn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/albanian-asylum-seekers-deportation-home-office-uturn-b2177124.html>

Albanian asylum seekers will not be fast tracked for deportation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/26/albanian-asylum-seekers-will-not-fast-tracked-deportation/>

Home Office U-turn over deportation of Albanian asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/26/home-office-u-turn-over-deportation-of-albanian-asylum-seekers>

Asylum seekers won't be sent back to Albania

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-wont-be-sent-back-to-albania-vkznzndb6>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

John Mason (SNP) [S6M-06010] Scottish Interfaith Week – That the Parliament

welcomes Scottish Interfaith Week, taking place from 13 to 20 November 2022, organised by Interfaith Scotland; understands that this year's theme is storytelling; considers that this is Scotland's foremost interfaith festival, and as such has the unique opportunity to explore how faith and belief impact communities and offer resilience, connection and joy; further considers that storytelling enables barriers to be broken down, stereotypes to be challenged and important conversations to be started, and notes the hope that members of faith and belief communities all over Scotland can participate in this year's Scottish Interfaith Week and that everyone, including residents of Glasgow Shettleston, considers attending their nearest event.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06010>

New Publication

Race, Faith & Community in Contemporary Britain: Essays on Black, African, and African Caribbean Muslims in the UK

<https://mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Race-Faith-Community-in-Contemporary-Britain-PMB2022-FINAL.pdf>

News

Bringing Black British Muslim Voices to the Fore: New Landmark Report

<https://mcb.org.uk/community/bringing-black-british-muslim-voices-to-the-fore-new-landmark-report/>

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Equality

Press Release

New Policing Together strategy to drive equality and inclusion

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2022/september/new-policing-together-strategy-to-drive-equality-and-inclusion/>

New Publications

Police Scotland Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-26

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/lzwb5v2s/police-scotland-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2022-26.pdf>

Briefing: Ethnic diversity in politics and public life

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01156/SN01156.pdf>

Briefing: Unemployment by ethnic background

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06385/SN06385.pdf>

News

Ministers ‘dragging feet’ on adding Black history to curriculum, teaching leader warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/black-history-month-curriculum-schools-b2177688.html>

MoD admits ‘mistakes were made’ in RAF diversity recruitment drive

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/26/mod-mistakes-made-raf-diversity-recruitment-drive>

Stormzy: Diversity isn't just a buzzword

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-63065847>

Why Black History Month matters to me

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/black-history-month-danny-welbeck-football-b2184236.html>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Department for Education: Discrimination

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [51613] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many allegations of discriminatory behaviour in the workplace were made in respect of each of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act in (a) the Department for Education, (b) Ofqual and (c) Ofsted in each of the last five years.

Reply from Jonathan Gullis: The number of allegations made in respect of each of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010 in the Department are listed in the following table:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	Total
Disability	>5	>5	>5	>5	>5	6	16
Race	0	>5	>5	8	>5	0	16
Age	0	0	0	6	>5	0	9
Sex	0	0	0	0	>5	>5	3
Gender	0	0	0	0	>5	0	>5
Religion	0	0	0	0	>5	0	>5
Total	>5	>5	5	15	14	7	46

* until July 2022

Details where the total number of allegations, complainants, and outcomes are five or fewer are withheld under section 40(2) of the Equality Act that relates to Personal Information. This is because releasing the numbers may potentially lead to the identification of individual(s).

No records are held centrally for Ofqual and Ofsted.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51613>

Press Release

Football-related arrests and banning orders, England and Wales: 2021 to 2022 season: New experimental statistics on online hate crime incidents connected to football
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/football-related-arrests-and-banning-orders-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022-season/football-related-arrests-and-banning-orders-england-and-wales-2021-to-2022-season#new-experimental-statistics-on-online-hate-crime-incident-connected-to-football>

News

That isn't me, Kwarteng tells Mirror over wrong image
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63100715>

Rupa Huq MP apologises for 'superficially' black remark
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63050482>

Racism row: Labour suspend Rupa Huq
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/22717929.racism-row-labour-suspend-rupa-huq/>

Labour MP Rupa Huq suspended after calling Kwasi Kwarteng 'superficially black'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/09/27/labour-mp-rupa-huq-calls-kwasi-kwarteng-superficially-black/>

Of course Rupa Huq was wrong, but why is it the left that always gets it in the neck for racism?
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/29/rupa-huq-wrong-left-singled-out-racist-kwasi-kwarteng>

MP's crude take on the chancellor tells of racism in the left
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mps-crude-take-on-the-chancellor-tells-of-racism-in-the-left-38m92cqkb>

Don't be distracted by faux outrage over Rupa Huq's comments on Kwasi Kwarteng
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/rupa-huq-kwasi-kwarteng-comments-apology-b2176635.html>

Scottish government to pay 'substantial settlement' to Black civil servant in landmark discrimination case
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/scotland-government-rose-quarcoo-compensation-b2172853.html>

Nicola Sturgeon condemns 'vile racists' after school suffers online abuse
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-glasgow-first-minister-scotland-patrick-harvie-b2190728.html>

Nurse sues NHS for 'forcing racist ideology' on students
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/01/nurse-sues-nhs-forcing-racist-ideology-students/>

New Met commissioner declines to say whether force is institutionally racist
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/27/new-met-commissioner-declines-to-say-whether-force-is-institutionally-racist>

How the far right fanned the flames in Leicester

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-the-far-right-fanned-the-flames-in-leicester-sljw8zjht>

Anti-Semitism is alive and well in Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/10/02/anti-semitism-alive-britain/>

Public support needed to tackle racial and other biases in AI for healthcare

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2022/public-support-needed-to-tackle-racial-and-other-biases-in-ai-for-healthcare>

Black History Month: how EHRC acts against race discrimination

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/black-history-month-how-ehrc-acts-against-race-discrimination>

Racist Scots yob spat in woman's face after hurling vile abuse and threats at car wash

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/racist-scots-yob-spat-womans-28037034>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Accessing help for cost of living

<https://www.gov.scot/news/accessing-help-for-cost-of-living/>

New Publication

Website: Help during the cost of living crisis

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publications

Briefing: The Accession of King Charles III

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9621/CBP-9621.pdf>

Briefing: Scottish independence referendum: legal issues

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9104/CBP-9104.pdf>

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Other New Publications

Save A Life For Scotland: CPR Resources for Disabled Learners

<https://savealife.scot/play-your-part/>

Testing our Resilience The impact of the cost of living crisis on volunteering and volunteers

https://www.volunteerscotland.net/media/1794252/cost_of_living_report_-_volunteer_scotland.pdf

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Other News

Are you interested in joining Healthcare Improvement Scotland's Citizens' Panel?

The citizens' panel is a large, demographically-representative group of citizens that helps to assess public preferences and opinions. Panel members are selected at random from the electoral register or recruited to be broadly representative of the Scottish population by gender, age, employment status, housing tenure, ethnic origin, and geographic location, and share their opinions using self-complete electronic or postal surveys or through telephone interviews. For more information about the Citizens Panel see

<https://www.hisengage.scot/informing-policy/citizens-panel/>

And to apply to become a Panel member see

<https://researchresource.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/5ynug9>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No.2) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

Online Safety Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week**

Equity in medical devices (closing date 6 October 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/equity-in-medical-devices-independent-review-call-for-evidence>

Race & Inclusion in Art Education (closing date 31 October 2022)

https://assets.website-files.com/61488e50132da098d2dd729b/62c6bf3339659acfcfb61c2_Visualise-Race%20and%20Inclusion%20in%20Art%20Education.pdf

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Black History Month

All month to 31 October 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month raises awareness of Black history and present-day racism. This includes highlighting the histories and legacies of empire, colonialism and slavery that continue to shape Scottish society. For information and a full programme of events see

<https://tinyurl.com/2h7pwceu>

**** this week!**

Lifecycle of a charity - day to day running

5 October 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what you need to know to run a charity successfully and sustainably, including key events such as moving into premises, taking on staff and entering into contracts. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mtcjh6a2>

**** this week!**

Journey of the Mind

6 to 23 October 2022 in Glasgow

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum exhibition to explore the texts of the Sikh teachers and how, through these, the journey to understand the mind begins. For information see

<https://www.withoutshapewithoutform.com/journey-of-the-mind-glasgow-1>

**** next week!**

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

**** next week!**

Tackling Hate Through Education

13 October 2022 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.15)

Annual Interfaith Scotland lecture presented by Michael Haines, Director of Global Acts of Unity. For information contact admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778

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. The course will explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and 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

Lifecycle of a charity – the trustee journey

9 November 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what excellence looks like for a trustee, and what key skills you need to have, including how to develop and build those skills and what you need to know legally and practically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/222y9myy>

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13–20 November 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Interfaith Scotland community-led festival to celebrate religious and cultural diversity. The theme this year is Storytelling, to tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories. For information, and to see the full calendar of events, see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Working with Interpreters

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

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

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. The course will 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

Lifecycle of a charity - when is the right time to wind up?

7 December 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at how to recognise when it's the right time to wind up and dissolve a charity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kvfvda7>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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