



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.

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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 2 September 2024.
During recess MEMO will be published fortnightly.**

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Child Refugees: Housing

Foysoil Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-28491] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the housing emergency, what action it is taking to ensure that child refugees arriving in Scotland through family reunification (a) have access to suitable housing and (b) are not required to present as homeless and stay in temporary accommodation for extended periods.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: We understand that reunion and contact with family members are vitally important to refugees living in Scotland. Although asylum and

immigration are reserved matters, we want the process of family reunion to be simpler and safer for refugees in Scotland.

The legal duty for housing and homelessness, including responsibility for managing and allocating temporary accommodation, sits with local authorities and neither Ministers nor Scottish Government officials are able to intervene in those decisions. Support with finding suitable housing for refugees and their children are the responsibility of the local authority who should be contacted if housing circumstances change.

In some cases, where there is a change of circumstances, the local authority will require the individual/family to register as homeless. Refugees and their dependents, are entitled to access homelessness support from their local authority. Most funding for homelessness is provided through the local government settlement. In addition to this, the Scottish Government has provided local authorities with £60.5m since 2018 to support the implementation of rapid rehousing transition plans and provide £30.5m annually for their work to prevent homelessness.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28491>

Ukraine: Refugees

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6W-28628] To ask the Scottish Government how many displaced people from Ukraine are currently residing in temporary welcome accommodation.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: Latest data published by the Scottish Government on 25 April 2024, show that as at 25 March 2024, an estimated 2,150 guests were in welcome accommodation in Scotland. This represents a reduction of 70% from the peak of just over 7,200 people in November 2022

The next statistical release on the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland will be published by the Scottish Government on 29 August 2024.

Additionally, the Scottish Government publish a calendar of forthcoming statistical releases. The calendar can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/official-statistics-forthcoming-publications/> ”

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28628>

Asylum Seekers: Free Bus Travel

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-28544] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the publication of the New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan, what the timeline is for the (a) development of and (b) delivery process for the national pilot scheme for free bus travel for people seeking asylum.

Reply from Jim Fairlie: Development of a national pilot scheme to provide travel support for people seeking asylum and not currently eligible for the existing National Concessionary Travel Schemes is ongoing. Further information will be published on the Scottish Government website and provided to third sector organisations as preparations for the pilot to open are made.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28544>

The New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

Asylum Seekers: Free Bus Travel

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-28545] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the

publication of the New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan, how the national pilot scheme for free bus travel for people seeking asylum will be evaluated, and whether this will be carried out while the pilot (a) is in place or (b) has concluded.

Reply from Jim Fairlie: The scheme will build on learning from the small local and regional pilots that have been delivered by third sector organisations over recent years.

Expected learning from the scheme includes impact of providing free bus travel, demand for this concession, the cost of providing this concession, and the practicalities of delivery of such a scheme at the national level. Evidence to inform the evaluation will be collated both during and post the operation of the pilot.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28545>

The New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

Asylum Seekers: Free Bus Travel

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-28546] To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the findings from previous regional pilot schemes for free bus travel for people seeking asylum, including those in Glasgow and Aberdeen, and how it used these findings to inform the national pilot scheme set out in the New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan.

Reply from Jim Fairlie: The development of the national pilot scheme is building on useful learning from the small scale local and regional pilots that have been delivered by third sector organisations over recent years. These projects include the Grampian Regional Equality Council Report on the free bus travel project in Aberdeen, the Travel Choices Project Report by the Refugee Survival Trust and the Friends of Scottish Settlers project in Falkirk.

Representatives of these and other Third Sector organisations are members of the Working Group and are providing valuable advice and knowledge in the development of the national pilot.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28546>

The New Scots Strategy Delivery Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

Legal Migration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Yvette Cooper) [HCWS51] Migration has always been an important part of the history of our nation. For generations, people have travelled here from all over the world to contribute to our economy, study in our universities, work in our public services and be part of our communities. And British citizens continue to travel across the world to make their homes abroad. This Government recognise and value the contribution legal migration makes to our country and we believe the immigration system needs to be properly controlled and managed.

Under the previous Government, net migration trebled in five years, heavily driven by a big increase in overseas recruitment. This Government are clear that net migration must come down. While we will always benefit from international skills and talent, including to keep us globally competitive, immigration must not be used as an alternative to tackling skills

shortages and labour market failures here in the UK. For that reason, we are setting out a new approach.

The Office for National Statistics estimates that net migration in the year to December 2023 was 685,000, compared to 184,000 in the year to December 2019, before the pandemic. Non-EU long-term immigration for work-related reasons increased from 277,000 in the year to December 2022 to 423,000 in the year to December 2023, and work-related reasons replaced study as the main reason for long-term migration.

The number of work visas issued (including to dependants) in the 12 months to 31 March 2024 (605,264) was over three times the number for 2019, prior to the pandemic, and 24% higher than in the 12 months to 31 March 2023 (486,614). That reflects a failure over many years to tackle skills shortages and other problems in the UK labour market, meaning too many sectors have remained reliant on international recruitment, instead of being able to source the skills that they need here at home.

This is why we are setting out a different approach—one that links migration policy and visa controls to skills and labour market policies, so that immigration is not used as an alternative to training or tackling workforce problems here at home. This approach will be important to enabling delivery of the Government's broader agenda.

The Migration Advisory Committee will work with Skills England, the Industrial Strategy Council and the Labour Market Advisory Board as part of a new framework to support a coherent approach to skills, migration and labour market policy. For us to deliver on the Government's missions, we will need to tackle labour market challenges in all parts of the United Kingdom, so these bodies will engage and work closely with the devolved Governments.

The Education Secretary has announced the launch of Skills England, which will bring together the fractured skills landscape, create a shared national ambition to boost the nation's skills, and lead the work on identifying sector skills gaps and plans.

The Chancellor has convened the first growth mission board, and the Work and Pensions Secretary has set out a plan to bring people back into the labour market, supported by a new labour market advisory board to help drive change and get Britain working again. The King's Speech highlighted the intention of setting up the industrial strategy council, which will engage business and focus on key sectors to take advantage of new opportunities that can promote growth right across the UK.

Alongside the development of these plans and the establishment of the new framework, the Home Office will strengthen the Migration Advisory Committee, so that it can highlight key sectors where labour market failures mean that there is over-reliance on international recruitment.

As a first step, I am commissioning the MAC to review the reliance of key sectors on international recruitment. In particular, I am asking the MAC to look at IT and engineering—occupations that have consistently, over a decade or more, been included on shortage occupation lists and relied on significant levels of international recruitment. These occupational groups are in the top 10 occupational groups in the UK that have the highest percentage of their workforce made up of new foreign workers who have been issued visas.

We will also consider ways to strengthen the Migration Advisory Committee, including through the deployment of additional Home Office staff to its secretariat, ensuring it is able to work more strategically to forecast future trends, while continuing to review and provide independent, evidence-based recommendations on key areas of the immigration system.

A number of changes to the system were made earlier this year, including:

Restricting most overseas students from bringing family members to the UK.

Restricting the ability of care workers and senior care workers to bring dependants with them and requiring all care providers sponsoring migrants to register with the Care Quality Commission.

Increasing the general salary threshold for those arriving on skilled worker visas by 48%

from £26,200 to £38,700.

Abolishing the 20% going rate discount, so that employers can no longer pay migrants less than UK workers in shortage occupations.

This Government support these changes and will continue to implement them.

The family immigration rules, including the minimum income requirement, need to balance a respect for family life with ensuring that the economic wellbeing of the UK is maintained. To help ensure that we reach the right balance and have a solid evidence base for any change, I will commission the MAC to review the financial requirements in the family immigration rules. The minimum income requirement is currently set at £29,000, and there will be no further changes until the MAC review is complete.

On 23 May, the previous Government announced a series of measures, building on the recommendations of the Migration Advisory Committee, to reduce the potential for abuse on the student and graduate visa routes. This Government strongly value the economic and academic contribution that international students make to this country, including those here on the graduate visa, and that is why it is important to ensure that the system is effective and not open to abuse. Therefore, we will continue with the previously announced measures to ensure that international students, the institutions they are coming to study at and the immigration system as a whole are protected from those who wish to exploit it—working closely with DFE to ensure that the measures are effective.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-30/debates/24073046000015/LegalMigration>

Afghan Resettlement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Seema Malhotra) [HCWS45] In August 2021, following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the UK undertook a military evacuation from Kabul. This evacuation is known as Operation Pitting.

During Operation Pitting, the UK Government “called forward” a number of people for evacuation. These people were identified as being particularly at risk. They included female politicians, members of the LGBT+ community, women’s rights activists and judges.

Due to the speed and the circumstances surrounding the evacuation, a number of families became separated, and some individuals were evacuated to the UK without all of their immediate family. The Government pledged at the time that there would be a route for separated families to reunite under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme.

This Government are implementing that commitment and providing a means for families who were separated by the military evacuation from Kabul in August 2021 to be reunited in the UK.

Afghan citizens resettlement scheme pathway 1 stage 2: separated families will open today, Tuesday 30 July. The window to submit an expression of interest will remain open for 3 months until 30 October 2024.

Those who have been resettled in the UK under Afghan citizens resettlement scheme pathway 1 and were evacuated during Operation Pitting without their immediate family members can submit an expression of interest under this pathway. Operation Pitting refers to the military evacuation to the UK from Afghanistan between 13 August and 28 August 2021.

Eligible individuals can submit an expression of interest for:

A spouse or unmarried partner

Their dependent children aged under 18 at the time of the evacuation.

In addition, any children who were evacuated without their parents will be able to submit an expression of interest for their parents and siblings aged under 18 at the time of the

evacuation. Additional family members may be considered in exceptional circumstances. Further information on who is eligible and how to submit an expression of interest will be made available on gov.uk shortly.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-30/debates/24073046000014/AfghanResettlement>

Information about the Separated Families Pathway, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-separated-families-route>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

English Channel: Illegal Small Boat Crossings

Lee Anderson (Reform) [900100] What steps [the Minister] is taking to tackle illegal crossings of the channel in small boats.

Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Yvette Cooper):

... Small boat crossings undermine our security and put lives at risk. Criminal gangs are profiting from this trade in human lives. That is why we are establishing a new border security command with additional cross-border police, and new counter-terror powers.

Lee Anderson: Six boats came over the channel on Saturday, and there have been reports of another four today. That is more than 500 illegal migrants being escorted into our waters by the French authorities. Does the Home Secretary agree that it is time to stop paying the French any more money until they stop being complicit in this evil trade?

Reply from Yvette Cooper: The hon. Member will know that these boat crossings are extremely dangerous. Another woman died in the channel yesterday, and criminal gangs are deliberately cramming boats to maximise their profits. They have been getting away with it for far too long. That is why we need the new border security command. It is also why we need to work not simply with the French police, but with police forces and organisations right across Europe and beyond, to pursue the gangs and prevent the boats from leaving the French coast in the first place.

Chris Murray (Labour): The thing about borders is that they have two sides. The best way to secure a border is to have a constructive relationship with the country that it is shared with. What steps will the Home Secretary take to reach out to France and Belgium, in order to secure the border?

Reply from Yvette Cooper: My hon. Friend is right that we need to strengthen work to prevent the gangs who are pursuing this vile trade in people. That is why we have immediately strengthened the UK presence in Europol and in the operational taskforces that go after the gangs. We are already in touch with leaders in France and Italy and right across Europe, so that we can strengthen co-operation, because the gangs are getting away with it and lives are being put at risk as a result. ...

Tom Tugendhat (Conservative): ... Earlier this month, the right hon. Lady refused to rule out the UK accepting migrants from European countries in exchange for a returns deal with Europe. Does she accept that under any deal she does, some of those sent to the United Kingdom from the European Union could harbour extremist ideologies or pose a security threat? Will she commit to ensuring strong safeguards, including a right of refusal on a case-by-case basis, to stop anyone who could put Britain's security at risk from entering this country?

Reply from Yvette Cooper: There will always need to be proper safeguards on security, and proper security checks on those who come to this country, but the problem with the boat crossings is that they undermine that border security. There are no checks on dangerous boat crossings, which put lives at risk, and on who criminal gangs choose to put into boats. We are clear that we need stronger border

security. That is why we are setting up a new border security command, and counter-terror powers in new legislation. We recognise that returns—for example, of failed asylum seekers—have dropped substantially since the last Labour Government were in place. We have to turn that around; we want to increase returns.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-29/debates/01945BE6-DE8A-4F10-8025-37DB9724D5FB/EnglishChannelIllegalSmallBoatCrossings>

Asylum Claims Backlog

Laura Kyrke-Smith (Labour) [900109] What steps [the Minister's] Department is taking to clear the asylum backlog.

Vikki Slade (Liberal Democrat) [900110] What steps [the Minister] is taking to tackle the asylum backlog.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Department (Angela Eagle): After 14 years of Conservative chaos, we inherited an asylum system that not only does not work but costs billions of pounds. We are determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly and fairly. Additional caseworkers will be used to clear the backlog of claims and appeals while properly enforcing the rules and ensuring that those with no right to be here are swiftly removed.

Laura Kyrke-Smith: I appreciate the efforts that my hon. Friend has outlined. As the backlog is cleared, what steps will the Home Secretary take to ensure that newly recognised refugees do not face homelessness and destitution in the weeks after being granted status? Specifically, will she consider extending the move-on period to 56 days, in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017?

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Government are aware of the need for a smooth transition between asylum accommodation and other accommodation for those asylum seekers who are granted leave to remain. We understand this issue, and we are considering it.

Vikki Slade: According to a 2022 YouGov poll, 81% of people support a right of asylum seekers to work. Currently, successful asylum seekers have little choice but to present to their local authority as homeless, as they have no way of saving for a deposit or proving an income to a potential landlord. Some councils, such as Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole council, of which I was formerly leader, have joined the “lift the ban” coalition in supporting people’s right to work after six months.

I accept that the Minister has talked about speeding things up, but two thirds of asylum seeker claims are currently taking more than six months, so it will take some time to do that. A right to work would reduce the homelessness burden on councils and improve the mental health of asylum seekers, helping them to integrate with the host authority and filling vacancies in our economy. Will the Minister work with Refugee Action to consider that?

Reply from Angela Eagle: No, the answer is to speed up the asylum system so that we can get proper results much faster, and swiftly remove those who do not have a right to be here, while ensuring that those who do can be integrated and begin to work.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-29/debates/51E8BF7D-883A-4D13-B55D-A3CA6AD25689/AsylumClaimsBacklog>

Asylum Seekers: Government Support

Carla Denyer (Green) [900105] What steps [the Minister] is taking to help prevent asylum

seekers from becoming destitute.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Department (Angela Eagle): The last Government lost control of the asylum system, which has meant sky-high asylum accommodation costs but also too many cases in which people have fallen through the net and ended up destitute. That has added to the already heavy burden that local authorities have to deal with. This Government will get a grip. We have already set out plans to process asylum claims that have been stuck in record high backlogs, and have given assurances to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that we will take action to reset the relationship between the Home Office and local authorities.

Carla Denyer: No recourse to public funds is a policy that prevents most migrants in the UK from accessing most forms of welfare support. I would like to see the policy scrapped altogether to reduce child poverty and homelessness, but, at the very least, will the Minister stop applying it to the visas of any parents of children under 18 to ensure that children can be adequately protected against poverty and destitution?

Reply from Angela Eagle: No, the best way to deal with the issue of destitution, in my view, is to decide asylum claims quickly and accurately so that those who are entitled to work can do so and can have such recourse, and those who are not can be swiftly removed.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-07-29/debates/470F4637-03D3-4932-873B-DD68BB7FFEF2/AsylumSeekersGovernmentSupport>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [1720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme have died while waiting for a decision on their application.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: As at the end of June 2024, in line with the latest published Transparency data, out of the 8,607 claims received by the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we are aware of 56 claimants* who have unfortunately passed away after having submitted a claim.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure claims are prioritised for claimants with critical or life-limiting illnesses and would encourage any claimants in this situation who have not been in recent contact with our casework teams to do so. We recognise the significant impact difficult circumstances such as these can have on individuals, and their families, and we remain committed to continually improving our support and services.

In the difficult circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, before the claim is fully resolved, the team is committed to working closely with the representative of the estate, usually a member of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to the representative.

Our priority is to ensure people receive the maximum compensation as quickly as possible. We have reduced the time to allocate a claim for a substantive casework consideration, from 18 months to under 4 months, with the aim to allocate quicker where possible. This period includes all essential eligibility checks, together with a Preliminary Assessment to make an initial payment of £10k wherever possible.

*Please note that this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on a claimant's death, notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-25/1720>

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

Immigration: Hong Kong

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [1583] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to grant full British citizenship to Hong Kong (a) British National (Overseas) and (b) British Dependent Territories Citizen passport holders who move to the UK.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) passport holders may apply for a BN(O) visa which entitles them, and their dependent family members, to reside in the UK. After 5 years' qualifying residence, and being free from immigration time restrictions for a further year, they may apply for British citizenship.

People from Hong Kong who were British Dependent Territories Citizens (BDTCs), and did not register as a BN(O), lost their BDTC status when Hong Kong returned to the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997. If a person from Hong Kong did not register as a BN(O) and would have become stateless, they became a British Overseas Citizen (BOC).

British nationals, including BN(O)s and BOCs, can apply for registration as a British citizen if they meet the requirements in section 4(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981, based on a period of residence in the UK. Those who do not hold a form of British nationality can apply for naturalisation if they live in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-24/1583>

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

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

Section 4(2) of the British Nationality Act 1981, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61/section/4>

Visas: Families

Rebecca Long Bailey (Independent) [803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of creating an emergency family reunion visa scheme for people affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Reply from Seema Malhotra: Currently, those affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine who wish to join family members in the UK can do so via the existing range of routes available.

Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Immediate family members of British citizens and those settled in the UK who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes.

There are also routes available for dependants of those who are in the UK on a work or student route.

Individuals with protection status or settlement on a protection route may sponsor their partner or child (under 18), to join or stay with them in the UK, providing they formed part of the pre-flight family unit before the sponsor fled their country to seek protection.

When the visa application has been received consideration will be given to compelling, compassionate and exceptional circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-19/803>

Asylum: Applications

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [1554] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many applications for asylum were (a) granted and (b) refused by (i) year of age, (ii) sex and (iii) country of origin in the last 12 months.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications by age, sex, and nationality are published in table Asy_D01 of the '[Asylum Applications, Decisions and Resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data is up to March 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-24/1554>

Asylum: Bibby Stockholm

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [1470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, where asylum seekers resident on the Bibby Stockholm barge will be relocated to.

Reply from Angela Eagle: The contract to use the Bibby Stockholm ends in January 2025 and it will remain operational until that time.

Decisions on alternative accommodation for asylum seekers will be made on a case-by-case basis, working closely with local authorities and in compliance with published policy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-24/1470>

Housing: Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [980] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to support local authorities to find additional accommodation for refugees that have been granted leave to remain.

Reply from Jim McMahon: The department is committed to working in partnership with local authorities to understand the impact of recently granted refugees and their housing needs.

We also continue to work with the Home Office to see how we can improve working co-operation with local authorities to make sure that they receive enough notice and the right information to support people following an asylum decision.

All individuals who have received a positive decision on their asylum claim can remain in the accommodation provided by the Home Office for at least 28 days from when their decision is served to allow them to make onward arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/980>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative) [HL57] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they intend to seek a returns agreement with the European Union to tackle small boat crossings.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: We are committed to resetting the relationship with our European partners, including the EU, which will support us in tackling organised immigration crime and small boat crossings. We have already enhanced our work with EU agencies, having delivered an immediate 50% uplift in NCA officers to be based in Europol. Wherever the UK and European partners can better jointly tackle shared challenges, including through enhanced information sharing, the Government will consider options to facilitate that cooperation further.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl57>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green) [HL50] To ask His Majesty's Government whether Pathways 1 and 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are fully operational.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green) [HL51] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Afghans have been successfully resettled in the UK under Pathways 1 and 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green) [HL52] To ask His Majesty's Government whether Pathways 1 and 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy are the only safe and legal routes to the United Kingdom for Afghans, including children still stranded in Afghanistan.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need through existing resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme, and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). Referrals for the UKRS, Community Sponsorship, Mandate Resettlement and Pathway 2 of the ACRS are assessed and submitted by UNHCR. These assessments are based on people's needs and vulnerabilities and the UK does not seek to influence which cases are referred by UNHCR.

A route for ACRS Pathway 1 Stage 2: Separated Families was opened on 30 July 2024. The window to submit an expression of interest will remain open until 30 October 2024. Those who have been resettled in the UK under Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 1 and were evacuated during Operation Pitting without their immediate family members can submit an expression of interest under this pathway.

Further information is viewable at: [Afghan citizens resettlement scheme: Separated Families Pathway](#).

The ARAP was launched on 1 April 2021 and remains open. The UK formally opened ACRS on 6 January 2022 and it remains operational.

The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 30,100 people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for our Afghan schemes. We continue to honour our commitments to bring eligible Afghans to the UK.

The data published within the immigration system statistics release [Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2024](#) provides a breakdown of arrivals by quarter. The number of individuals resettled under the schemes is as follows: 15,592 individuals under ARAP, 9,703 individuals under ACRS Pathway 1, 663 individuals under ACRS Pathway 2 and 1, 207 individuals under ACRS Pathway 3. Afghan operational data is viewable on Gov.UK.

Afghan operational data is released quarterly with the next publication due around the 24 August 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl50>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl51>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl52>

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>

Information about the UK Resettlement, Community Sponsorship, and Mandate Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611cd056d3bf7f63b45df0ed/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf

The Afghan operational data referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

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

Asylum

Baroness Lawlor (Conservative) [HL63] To ask His Majesty's Government what proportion of migrants arriving in the UK in the past five years have tried to seek asylum.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Office publishes data on asylum on gov.uk as part of the 'Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of people claiming asylum is published in table Asy_D01 of the Asylum detailed datasets. In the five years up to the end of March 2024, 333,282 people claimed asylum (including main applicants and dependants). Individuals must be in the country to apply for asylum; some will apply immediately upon arrival, but others may be in the country for a period of time before applying.

It is not possible to estimate precisely what proportion of migrants claim asylum in the UK. However, ONS estimate that in the last 5 years, 4.82 million people immigrated to the UK for 12 months or more. This includes EU, non-EU and British nationals. It will not include people who arrive irregularly and do not claim asylum, nor short-term migrants (i.e. those coming to the UK for less than 12 months).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl63>

The Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Press Release

Separated Afghan families to be reunited

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/separated-afghan-families-to-be-reunited>

New Publications

FoI Release: Ukrainian people arriving into Scotland statistics

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202400423455/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: UK immigration schemes for Afghan nationals

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9307/CBP-9307.pdf>

Guidance: Afghan citizens resettlement scheme: Separated Families Pathway

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

House of Commons Library Briefing: Deportation of foreign national offenders
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8062/CBP-8062.pdf>

Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

Updated: 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>

News: Afghanistan

Scheme to reunite separated Afghan families opens
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce987p13rq1o>

Evacuated Afghan refugees can reunite in UK with families, government announces
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghan-refugees-asylum-home-office-visa-taliban-b2588178.html>

Afghan refugees who fled Taliban can apply for families to join them in UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/30/afghan-refugees-fled-taliban-can-apply-families-join-uk/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Keir Starmer drops plan to raise income barrier for migrants' spouses
<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/keir-starmer-drops-plan-raise-income-barrier-migrants-spouses-7cbdm7wpx>

Starmer could put brakes on plan to increase income threshold for migrant spouses
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/31/keir-starmer-may-reverse-crackdown-on-migrant-spouses/>

Home Office threatened to deport man likely to be key witness in Bibby Stockholm inquest
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/02/bibby-stockholm-leonard-farruku-inquest-key-witness-home-office>

Violent clashes and businesses attacked amid anti-immigration protest in Belfast
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/police-violence-city-hall-belfast-city-hall-hilary-benn-b2590713.html>

Anti-immigration protesters gather outside hotel housing asylum seekers in Hull
<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/protest-hull-southport-stabbing-b2590727.html>

We have allowed the demonisation and dehumanisation of male refugees. They are victims too
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/31/labour-britain-asylum-policy-demonisation-male-migrants-women-children>

Woman dies in Channel crossing attempt

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd169nnpqv3o>

Vicar who blew whistle on asylum seeker scams vows to battle wokery as Oxford chancellor

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/02/anti-woke-anti-establishment-fake-baptisms-whistleblower/>

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Community Relations

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Gypsies, Roma and Travellers: Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10063/CBP-10063.pdf>

News

Kemi Badenoch: Don't pretend UK integration works

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/kemi-badenoch-uk-integration-xxznv27vq>

Rioting shows UK needs to 'start again' on integration, says Badenoch

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/kemi-badenoch-robert-jenrick-southport-conservative-priti-patel-b2590482.html>

St Giles' to host immersive installation celebrating community as part of 900th anniversary

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/st-giles-to-host-immersive-installation-celebrating-community-as-part-of-900th-anniversary>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Black, Asian and Minority-Ethnic Women: Maternal Mortality Rates

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench): To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to reduce the maternal mortality rates of Black, Asian and minority ethnic women, and to reduce the mortality rates of their babies. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health and Social Care (Baroness Merron): ... Interventions such as enforced continuity of care for the most deprived and initiatives to tackle racism are key. However, further, urgent action is required. This Government are committed to closing the black and Asian mortality gaps and to ensuring safe and compassionate care for mothers and babies alike.

Baroness Gohir: ... A number of maternity reports tell us exactly what is contributing to the poor outcomes for minority-ethnic women and their babies. Will the Government bring the recommendations in those reports together to ensure that hospital trusts and medical professional bodies follow them? Will the Minister consider appointing a maternity

commissioner, because it would save lives?

Reply from Baroness Merron: I certainly agree with the noble Baroness that the maternity landscape is extremely crowded; there have been a number of reports and inquiries, along with investigations. I shall look very closely with officials at the recommendations from those reports as well as those that are forthcoming. With regard to an independent commissioner, I feel that there is general agreement about what the issues are, and the most important priority is to take action. Of course, in reviewing what is going on, as I am now in this post, I will consider all suggestions, and that includes the one from the noble Baroness.

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated): ... When [the Minister] seeks to consolidate these matters and take the best course of action, will she ensure that she looks at the reports that have been on the shelves at the Royal London Hospital trust for the best part of 40 years?

Reply from Baroness Merron: ... Certainly, all reports will be considered because we will look for what works.

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, sickle cell disorder affects mainly people whose heritage is from Africa, the Caribbean and Asia, and the Sickle Cell Society's report, *No One's Listening*, shows that people with sickle cell experience discrimination when they engage with the NHS. We know that black and Asian women are four times more likely to die in childbirth. Can the Minister assure the House that NHS maternity units have the right level of training, staffing and systems to support safe care for expectant mothers living with sickle cell? I declare an interest as a patron of the Sickle Cell Society.

Reply from Baroness Merron: The noble Baroness is quite right to draw the House's attention to the important matter of sickle cell. We look to specialist midwives to assist us in this. I have been asked for a particular assurance and it is correct that the noble Baroness seeks that. I shall be pleased to look into it to be able to come back to her in much greater detail.

Baroness Sugg (Conservative): My Lords, the previous Government introduced the first ever UK women's health ambassador, who can help to co-ordinate the complex changes that are needed to reduce the mortality rate for black, Asian and minority-ethnic women and their babies. Can the Minister commit to continuing to support the ambassador's work?

Reply from Baroness Merron: ... One of the first calls that I made was to the women's health ambassador and I will certainly look to her to drive forward the change and improvements in patient safety and patient experience that we desperately need.

Baroness Prashar (Crossbench): My Lords, while I welcome the Minister's commitment to look at all the recommendations that have been around for a pretty long time, and it is frustrating that action has not been taken, can she give a commitment that once she has considered those recommendations, and if there is a plan of action, she will report to the House on what that plan is likely to be?

Reply from Baroness Merron: I will indeed be very pleased to report back to your Lordships' House on this matter. It is something that greatly concerns me, because it cannot be acceptable that women go into childbirth, which should be a happy and safe occasion, and perhaps come away with trauma, and in some cases families experience death as well. We cannot have a situation like that. I have been very moved by the stories I have heard and will commit to working to put improvements in place, and to sharing that with noble Lords.

Lord Kamall (Conservative): ... Has [the Minister] read the report by Sands, the baby loss charity? It gave examples of Asian parents being dismissed as either being too anxious or exaggerating their claims, while black parents were stereotyped as feisty or dramatic by some NHS staff. When I was a Minister, a young female civil servant told me about her friend, a young Afro-Caribbean lady whose baby died during birth. When she tried to get the records for what happened that evening, she was told that they had

somehow magically disappeared. She was being gaslighted. We know that the majority of NHS staff are highly dedicated but, when we hear stories such as this, what does the Minister believe should be done to tackle the culture of cover-up and gaslighting by that small minority of NHS staff?

Reply from Baroness Merron: ... The duty of candour is extremely important in all this. Racism in this area is not just towards mothers and families; as the noble Lord said, it is also towards staff. Clearly, we need to tackle this for both patients and staff. The patient's voice is key. Even at this early stage, it is quite clear to me that women, and people of black, Asian and minority-ethnic heritage, are not being listened to. We will bring forward plans to put this right. As part of the report to which I referred earlier, I will be glad to update the House in this regard.

Baroness Blackstone (Labour): ... Given the complexity of the causes of these unacceptable mortality rates, what is the Minister's department doing to ensure that there is a cross-government approach to ending the maternal mortality gap?

Reply from Baroness Merron: My noble friend is quite right: this is a cross-government matter. There are complex reasons why black, Asian or minority-ethnic people are suffering far worse than those who are white. They include socio-economic factors such as deprivation and health inequalities being felt across the whole range. It is not going to be possible to solve this without cross-government co-operation. I look forward to working with my ministerial colleagues to put it right.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): ... there have been numerous reports over the years from different trusts highlighting the crisis in maternity services. Training will help, but we hear constantly that a shortage of maternity nurses in many trusts is leading to such situations. The noble Baroness also mentioned that women are simply not being listened to. This has come out in many reports. Will she ensure that women's voices are heard when they are in labour and giving birth, as they are the experts about their own bodies?

Reply from Baroness Merron: I can say yes to the noble Baroness on the second point, because if we do not listen to patients, we will not get it right. The Government are committed to training more midwives and health visitors and to incentivising continuity of care, as well as to making sure that the National Health Service is focused on tackling inequalities that can be described only as shocking. I absolutely agree about training, but we also need leadership and a determination from the top to put this right, as well as practical plans.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-07-29/debates/84DFBE07-69A8-40D3-895A-6A62A290D819/BlackAsianAndMinority-EthnicWomenMaternalMortalityRates>

No One's Listening, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/No-Ones-Listening-Final.pdf>

The Sands report referred to above can be read at

https://www.sands.org.uk/sites/default/files/Sands_Listening_Project_Report_Publication_of_Findings_2023.pdf

New Publication

House of Lords Library Briefing: How ethnically and religiously diverse is the House of Lords?

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/how-ethnically-and-religiously-diverse-is-the-house-of-lords/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Islamophobia: Education

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [1195] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of mandating education on islamophobia in schools.

Reply from Catherine McKinnell: The department is committed to tackling all forms of prejudice, including religious prejudice, and education is a key component of building a fairer and more equal society.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, there are many opportunities in the existing curriculum for schools to teach about islamophobia, including through:

- Citizenship education, which is compulsory at key stages 3 and 4, and teaches about religious diversity, mutual respect and understanding.
- Relationships education, which is compulsory in all schools, and teaches about the impact of prejudice and the importance of respect.
- Religious education, which is compulsory in all state-funded schools, and educates about religious tolerance.

The department's 'Educate Against Hate' campaign also provides teachers, school leaders and parents with guidance, advice and trusted resources to help them safeguard students from radicalisation and build students' resilience to all forms of extremism. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

The government will keep the effectiveness of this approach under review and will consider the issue further in the Curriculum and Assessment Review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-23/1195>

Antisemitism: Education

Fabian Hamilton (Labour) [1194] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of implementing mandatory education on antisemitism in schools.

Reply from Catherine McKinnell: The department is committed to tackling antisemitism and all forms of prejudice. Education is a key component of building a fairer and more equal society.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, there are many opportunities in the existing curriculum for schools to teach about antisemitism, including through:

- Citizenship education, which is compulsory at key stages 3 and 4, and teaches about religious diversity, mutual respect and understanding.
- Relationships education, which is compulsory in all schools, and teaches about the impact of prejudice and the importance of respect.
- Religious education, which is compulsory in all state-funded schools, and educates about religious tolerance.

Young people should be taught the history of the Holocaust. Effective Holocaust education, and learning about other genocides, supports pupils to learn about the possible consequences of antisemitism and other forms of extremism and to help reduce the spread of antisemitism, religious intolerance and other forms of intolerance and extremism.

The department has been supporting greater understanding of the Holocaust by providing funding to the Holocaust Educational Trust to provide the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, and to UCL Centre for Holocaust Education which provides a programme of continuing professional development for teachers.

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Faith Matters

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL41] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), how much of the funding provided to Faith Matters for its Tell Mama project in each year from 2016 to 2024 (1) has been spent on legal expenses and litigation, and (2) how much of that has been spent on cases involving potential libel and defamation.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL42] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), how much of the funding provided to Faith Matters for its Tell Mama project in each year from 2016 to 2024 was spent on consultancy fees, who were those fees paid to; and what for.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL43] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), how much of the funding provided to Faith Matters for its Tell Mama project in each year from 2016 to 2024 was spent on (1) monitoring Islamophobia, (2) supporting victims of Islamophobia and (3) countering extremism.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL44] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), what type of extremism or hatred Faith Matters is being funded to address via its Tell Mama project, whether it includes (1) right-wing extremism against Muslims, (2) Islamic extremism, (3) anti-Semitism, (4) homophobia, or (5) a combination of these, and what was the expenditure on each of these for each year from 2016 to 2024.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL45] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), (1) how much of the funding provided to Faith Matters for its Tell Mama project in each year from 2016 to 2024 was spent in total on counselling, (2) what was the total number of counselling sessions provided and (3) which counselling providers were used.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL46] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Scott of Bybrook on 4 April (HL3324), (1) how much of the funding provided to Faith Matters for its Tell Mama project in each year from 2016 to 2024 was spent on salaries, (2) how many staff were paid, and (3) what were the full-time equivalent staff numbers.

Reply from Lord Khan of Burnley: The Government has funded Tell MAMA since 2012 to monitor and support victims of anti-Muslim hatred. It is important that any organisation the department works with is aligned with our commitment to tackling all forms of hate crime and extremism.

As is the case for all partners funded by the Department, Tell MAMA are subject to regular internal grant funding processes and due diligence checks.

Each year, the Department and Tell MAMA sign a grant funding agreement which details objectives, deliverables and legitimate spend to deliver Anti-Muslim Hatred reporting services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl41>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl42>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl43>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl44>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl45>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl46>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-03-18/hl3324>

Press Releases

Commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust: 'Without memory, there is no future'

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/9565/commemoration-of-the-roma-and-sinti-holocaust-without-memory-there-is-no-future->

Remembering Holocaust Victims, United Nations Secretary-General Urges 'Stand Together' to Protect Human Rights of Roma, in Observance Message at Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22323.doc.htm>

News: Far-Right Demonstrations and Riots

Keir Starmer says Southport rioters will feel 'full force of the law'

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/jul/30/far-right-attack-police-outside-southport-mosque-after-knife-killings?CMP=share_btn_url

Violent disorder will be punished, warns Cooper

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0jqjql3dyyo>

'No place on Britain's streets for criminal disorder and thuggery'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cv2ggl2de99o>

More than 90 arrests after far-right demonstrations turn violent

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0jqjql3dyyo>

'We're watching you,' far-right protesters warned

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1343eedzm6o>

Courts will sit for 24 hours in bid to stamp out far-right violence

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/far-right-riots-protest-courts-b2590813.html>

Tommy Robinson not welcome in Glasgow - council leader

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c06k0m52p24o>

Tommy Robinson 'not welcome in Glasgow', says SNP council leader, amid calls to reject far-right rally

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tommy-robinson-not-welcome-in-glasgow-says-snp-council-leader-amid-calls-to-reject-far-right-rally-4726102>

Tommy Robinson is not welcome in Glasgow, city council leader says

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/tommy-robinson-not-welcome-glasgow-protest-edl-southport-f9c2ks66b>

Glasgow urged to reject 'far right' at Tommy Robinson backed rally

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24491835.glasgow-urged-reject-far-right-tommy-robinson-backed-rally/>

Tommy Robinson 'arrested under anti-terror laws'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/07/28/tommy-robinson-arrested-under-anti-terror-laws/>

Yousaf calls for English Defence League to be proscribed

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24488110.yousaf-calls-english-defence-league-proscribed/>

Humza Yousaf demands 'evil' English Defence League terrorist proscription following Southport riot over 'far-right problem'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-demands-evil-english-defence-league-terrorist-proscription-following-southport-riot-over-far-right-problem-4723976>

English Defence League must be declared terrorist group if Southport riot link proven

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/english-defence-league-southport-riot-stabbing-4724809>

How misinformation and disinformation about the Southport stabbings went viral

<https://tellmamauk.org/how-misinformation-and-disinformation-about-the-southport-stabbings-went-viral/>

Violent Southport protests reveal organising tactics of the far-right

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cl4y0453nv5o>

BBC reports from Sunderland as protesters cause chaos

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cn090z98d9zo>

How UK's deep rooted Islamophobia problem stoked far-right riots

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-islamophobia-farright-riots-b2590693.html>

The far-right is on the rise in Britain, in a crisis you cannot stop with compromise

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/the-far-right-is-on-the-rise-in-britain-in-a-crisis-you-cannot-stop-with-compromise-4727685>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Peer accused of Islamophobia after claiming 'radicals will take us over through power of the womb'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lord-pearson-rannoch-speech-islamophobia-b2587610.html>

Calls for Police Scotland to review Non Hate Crime Incidents

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24484108.calls-police-scotland-review-non-hate-crime-incidents/>

Hate preacher Anjem Choudary jailed for life for directing terror group

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/anjem-choudary-jail-sentence-terror-al-muhajiroun-b2588207.html>

TV industry letter accuses BBC of antisemitism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crg4yvl4nnxo>

BBC chairman accused of dismissing staff complaints of anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/01/bbc-chairman-dismisses-staff-complaints-anti-semitism/>

More than 200 people in film and TV urge BBC to investigate antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/media/article/more-than-200-people-in-film-and-tv-urge-bbc-to-investigate-antisemitism-0pt02nzdc>

'Jews don't count' when it comes to racism and discrimination at the BBC, claims TV industry letter

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/antisemitism-bbc-jewish-discrimination-b2590088.html>

BBC accused of 'gaslighting' Jewish staff over antisemitism complaints

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/article/2024/aug/02/bbc-accused-gaslighting-jewish-staff-antisemitism-complaints>

Tim Davie discusses allegations of antisemitism at BBC with Jewish group leader

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/bbc-tim-davie-gary-lineker-board-of-deputies-jewish-b2590483.html>

Amazon investigates claims of anti-Semitism after workers blow whistle

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/03/amazon-anti-semitism-whistleblowers-hamas-israel-idf-oct-7/>

Army apologises as former soldier wins substantial payout for alleged racist and sexist abuse

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/army-apologises-former-soldier-wins-substantial-payout-alleged-racist-and-sexist-abuse>

Army racism apology to black 'poster girl' soldier

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c84jzcx9vk8o>

Women shouldn't join army, says corporal who suffered racist abuse

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/society/article/women-shouldnt-join-army-says-corporal-who-suffered-racist-abuse-996m350k7>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Private Education: Religion

Damian Hinds (Conservative) [892] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what her most recent estimate is of the number of pupils on roll in independent schools of a religious character of the (a) Anglican, (b) Roman Catholic, (c) other Christian, (d) Jewish, (e) Muslim, (f) Hindu, (g) Sikh and (h) other faiths in each local authority; and how many of each of those types of school there are.

Reply from Stephen Morgan: The department publishes statistics on pupils and schools in England, which is available here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-pupils-and-their-characteristics>

The number of independent schools and pupils registered at them as at January 2024, by religious character and local authority, is available here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/3d6557c3-5279-4652-b88d-08dcab23db45>

'No data' indicates that the local authority has no independent schools associated with that faith.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/892>

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Other New Publication

Learning from OSCR's Inquiries: Dominant behaviour in charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/4867/2024-08-01-dominant-behaviour-in-charities-report.pdf>

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Other News

Learning from OSCR's Inquiries: Dominant behaviour in charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/learning-from-oscr-s-inquiries-dominant-behaviour-in-charities/>

Why non-faith schools are appointing chaplains

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/religion/article/why-non-faith-schools-are-appointing-chaplains-53rfsvlq6>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

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

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-scotland-bill>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes next week!**

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/

**** closes next week!**

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum

(closing date 16 August 2024)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/

**** closes next week!**

Pre-budget 2025-26 scrutiny - Third sector funding principles (closing date 16 August 2024)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/third-sector-funding-principles/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2025-2028 (closing date 3 October 2024)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/our-work/our-strategic-plan-consultation-2025-2028>

Intimate Image Abuse Research (closing date not stated)

<https://t.co/X1cGnXygg3>

ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

Cyber Security Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/680a646c-5811-47f4-8958-588f1c794eca>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Closing date: 21 August 2024

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

Scottish Connections Fund

Closing date 4 September 2024

Scottish Government funding of between £2,000 and £5,000 to help strengthen Scotland's international diaspora. The Scottish Connections Fund is open to bids from any individual or organisation with a Scottish connection, whether that link is through heritage, education, business, culture, or a broader affinity. For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-fund-how-to-apply/>

Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland

Closing date 4 September 2024

The Independent Human Rights Fund for Scotland is for organisations taking action to realise and defend rights, and tackling immediate rights issues affecting people's daily lives. It will provide grants of up to £150,000 to third sector organisations whose work is explicitly focussed on human rights. For information and to apply see

<https://www.corra.scot/grants/independent-human-rights-fund-for-scotland/>

Faithful Welcome

Application deadline not stated

Faith in Community Scotland, and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees funding of up to £500 to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5kr6n>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Festival of Politics

19 to 23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh)

The Festival of Politics promises informed debate and inspiring topics on a range of social, political, and environmental issues facing the world today with leading experts from the worlds of politics, the arts, business, the media, academia and the third sector. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/>

Place and Displacement: reconnecting to the world through the arts

20 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 5.30–7.00)

Festival of Politics event to discuss how the arts have been used to help reconnect forcibly displaced peoples cope with their new circumstances, process their sense of loss, and begin the journey to imagining a more hopeful future. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/46pn52vz>

The Scottish Parliament at 25

23 August 2024 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 4.009–5.30)

Festival of Politics event about the Scottish Parliament – established with optimism, ambition, and an aim to do things differently, and based on principles of accountability and transparency, the Scottish Parliament has passed world-leading legislation and imbued a self-confidence in its electorate since 1999. So, what are its strengths and achievements and where can it do better? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2tr8c3aj>

New Scots Leadership Programme 2024-25

Deadline for applications: 28 August 2024

September 2024 to March 2025

Scottish Refugee Council programme for 16 refugees/asylum seekers to take part in the fourth cohort of the New Scots leadership programme. Learners will be given the opportunity to develop strategic leadership skills, and access tools to create impact and build a strong community with other refugees living in Scotland. For information see <https://your.socialenterprise.academy/course/view.php?id=2159>

Introduction to supporting refugee integration

10 September 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand the key principles of a rights-based refugee-led approach to integration, the underpinning principles of the Scottish integration framework and effective integration planning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9p9jdx>

Progressing Human Rights

11 September 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland Conference to explore how can human rights be made more of a reality for more people in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fpzahjy>

Scottish Interfaith Week

11 to 18 November 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Celebrating 20 years of Scottish Interfaith Week, and encouraging people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

National Interfaith Conference 2024

12 November 2024 (Dundee, 11.00–4.00)

To mark the 20th anniversary of Scottish Interfaith Week, Interfaith Scotland is hosting a National Interfaith Conference on the theme of “Discovery”. The conference will encourage people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/249ac37b>

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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>

New Scots <https://newscots.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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