



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.

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Bills in Progress
Community Relations	Consultations
Equality	Job Opportunities
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Funding Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links
Other News	Back issues

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 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

Refugees: National Integration Strategy

Ariane Burgess (Green) [S6M-28742] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on people in Scotland who are refugees, whether it has made representations to the UK Government to publish a national integration strategy that promotes more equal support for all displaced people and builds on learning across each of the four UK nations.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: Scotland's national refugee integration strategy has been in place for over a decade. In March 2024 the third New Scots refugee

integration strategy was published. It is a UK-leading integration approach built on a partnership led by the Scottish Government, COSLA and Scottish Refugee Council. It was informed by an engagement process involving over 2,000 refugees and people seeking asylum. The strategy is accompanied by a delivery plan setting out the actions that New Scots partners will undertake to deliver the strategy. We hope that other governments can learn from our work.

Scottish Ministers have held introductory calls with their new UK Government counterparts and we look forward to working closely with the UK Government to support delivery of a more effective and humane asylum system and resettlement schemes. We are not aware of any plans, however, to publish a UK integration strategy.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28742>

The national refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2024/>

The delivery plan referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-delivery-plan-2024-2026/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Ariane Burgess (Green) [S6W-28740] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on people in Scotland who are refugees, whether it has made representations to the UK Government to strengthen the Homes for Ukraine scheme in order to protect the safety and sustainability of sponsorship, as recommended by British Red Cross.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: The Scottish Government is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of displaced people from Ukraine and to providing opportunities to integrate and thrive in our communities for as long as Scotland is their home. We will continue to engage with the UK Government on issues which impact people living in Scotland, including refugees, people seeking asylum and displaced people.

Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme began, Scottish Government officials have been regularly meeting with their UK Government counterparts to share best practice and look at how we can strengthen the scheme in order to protect the safety and sustainability of sponsorship.

We will continue to engage with the new UK government to ensure a system that is effective and more humane.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28740>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Ukraine Longer-Term Resettlement Fund

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6W-28629] To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to provide any additional funding through the Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund.

from Paul McLennan: Given the significant numbers of arrivals and visas issued we need to continue to find creative ways to boost the supply of longer term housing. On 22 September 2022, the Scottish Government launched the Ukraine Longer-Term Resettlement Fund (ULTRF) to bring Local Authority (LA) and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) empty properties back into use that would otherwise not have been available for let.

Through this high value for money initiative, the Fund has approved twenty one capital projects across Scotland, bringing nearly 1300 homes back into use. As of 18 July 2024, 11 projects have fully completed, providing nearly 1200 homes, of which over 1000 are tenanted, providing settled accommodation for nearly 2200 Ukrainian people. The programme has offered commitments to fund improvement works of over £27.146 million in total across 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The ULTRF budget has now been confirmed as £5 million for 2024-45 and we continue to work closely with potential applicants to maximise delivery from the funding available.

The continuation of the Ukraine Longer-Term Resettlement Fund and its legacy is an opportunity to prevent unnecessary homelessness with some homes to be retained in the longer-term to address wider pressures by increasing social rented housing supply.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-28629>

Information about the Ukraine Longer-Term Resettlement Fund, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-longer-term-resettlement-fund/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL411] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist women in Afghanistan who are at risk because of their activities promoting or supporting women's rights, democracy or human rights to come to the UK as refugees.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) currently provide routes for eligible people in Afghanistan to come to the United Kingdom.

The ACRS was designed to support those who have assisted UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for UK values, as well as vulnerable people. We have welcomed individuals under all three referral pathways on the ACRS, providing a route for resettlement to the UK for at-risk women and girls in Afghanistan and the region.

Flights are continuing to bring those eligible to the UK at pace.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-29/hl411>

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>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL26] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to amend the eligibility criteria for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme to allow visas for the UK to be issued to those who were employed indirectly as well as directly to work for UK government departments or armed forces.

Reply from Lord Coaker: The Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme already provides resettlement routes within the existing criteria for those formerly employed, directly or indirectly, by the UK Government. There are no current plans to widen the eligibility criteria.

The scheme's full eligibility criteria can be found via the following link:

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

The new team of Ministers have made ARAP an early priority for the Department, to tackle problems which have been faced with processing ARAP applications and ensure the scheme delivers on our commitments to those brave Afghans who worked in support of UK objectives in Afghanistan.

[Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-17/hl26>

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Visas: Seasonal Workers

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL195] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will meet with the Seasonal Worker Interest Group to discuss structural reforms to the visa scheme to protect workers from exploitation such as the charging of recruitment fees for those on a Seasonal Worker visa (Temporary Work).

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL196] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect all workers on the Seasonal Worker visa (Temporary Work) from exploitation.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL197] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that intergovernmental agreements on safe and ethical work migration are in place before operators are allowed to recruit from new territories under the Seasonal Worker visa (Temporary Work) scheme.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL198] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to reform visa fees, and tax and pension contributions for those on Seasonal Worker visas (Temporary Work) to reduce the financial burden on such workers.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: A key objective of the route is to ensure that overseas workers are protected against modern slavery and other labour abuses.

The sponsor licence regime places a broad range of responsibilities on Scheme Operators to ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected.

The Government is carefully considering the Migration Advisory Committee's review of the Seasonal Worker route and will announce a detailed response in due course. We will consider all these points in the round. Any question regarding tax and pension contributions will, however, need to be directed to the relevant Government departments. Should the Seasonal Worker Interest Group wish to request a meeting with the Home Office Ministers, I would ask that they write to the department and any such request will be given appropriate consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/hl195>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/hl196>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/hl197>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/hl198>

Information about the Seasonal Worker visa (Temporary Work), referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/seasonal-worker-visa>

The Migration Advisory Committee Review referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66aa2cdea3c2a28abb50dadd/MAC+Review+of+SWV+-+FINAL+V1_1.pdf

Visas: Palestinians

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL267] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of proposals for a temporary Palestinians visa scheme.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The government is keeping all existing pathways under review in response to events in Gaza.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-23/hl267>

Asylum: Applications

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL425] To ask His Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the police, the Local Government Association and other stakeholders on the impact of their plans for fast-tracking, and granting, multiple asylum applications, in respect of (1) public safety, (2) national security, (3) community cohesion, (4) the probation service, and (5) local government finance.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: On 23 July 2024, the Home Secretary laid a Statutory Instrument in Parliament which removed the retrospective application of the Illegal Migration Act 2023. This has enabled decision-makers to resume their work in processing asylum claims from those who arrived in the UK from 7 March 2023 onwards. This is an important step to restore order to the asylum system and ease the burden on the taxpayer.

Each asylum claim will be considered on its individual merits and all claimants are subject to mandatory security checks. Those who qualify are normally granted five years' limited leave and have access to the labour market. Those found not to need protection are refused.

The Home Office does and will continue to engage with other Government Departments and a number of external stakeholders regarding the impact that the asylum system has on other areas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-29/hl425>

Mistreatment of Detainees at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre Inquiry

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL416] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they intend to review and respond to the recommendations of the Brook House Inquiry report, published on 19 September 2023.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The abuse that took place at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in 2017 was unacceptable and this government is committed to ensuring that it will never happen again.

The previous government published its response to the Brook House Inquiry on 19 March 2024 and can be found here: [Government response to the Brook House Inquiry report](#).

A cross governmental working group continues to meet monthly to monitor progress against accepted recommendations and drive forward implementation.

[Government Response](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-29/hl416>

The Brook House Inquiry report referred to above can be read at

<https://brookhouseinquiry.org.uk/main-page/launch/>

Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL418] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to respond to the report on an unannounced inspection of Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 9 July.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Office takes the health, welfare and safety of people in our care very seriously and it is vital that detention and removals are carried out with dignity and respect.

We are concerned by some of the findings in His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons' (HMIP's) report and recognise that standards need to improve across immigration detention facilities. We are committed to taking robust steps informed by these inspection findings.

A detailed service improvement plan setting out the Government's response to the report has been published on HMIP's website and implementation of those actions, and overall conditions at Harmondsworth, will be monitored closely to ensure that standards improve.

Further details can be found here: [Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre – HM Inspectorate of Prisons. Harmondsworth Report](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-29/hl418>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL496] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the cost of housing asylum seekers in the United Kingdom.

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL497] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are considering alternatives to the current forms of asylum seeker accommodation and, if so, what they are.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates asylum accommodation costs by type. The total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at [HO annual reports and accounts](#).

The government is determined to restore order to the asylum system so that it operates swiftly, firmly and fairly. This includes our accommodation sites, as we continue to identify a range of options to reduce the use of hotels. Additionally, the Government will be reviewing current Home Office arrangements to ensure efficiency and delivering value for money.

The number of asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support is published quarterly. At the end of quarter four 2003 published statistics indicate that there were 47,148 people housed in Dispersal Accommodation and a further 30,362 in receipt of subsistence only support. The geographical location of these supported asylum seekers was not published at that time. Since 2019 data on the number of supported asylum seekers in accommodation has been published at [Asylum and resettlement datasets Dataset](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-30/hl496>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-30/hl497>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Lord Empey (UUP) [HL499] To ask His Majesty's Government whose responsibility it is to determine where asylum seekers are temporarily housed while their cases are being considered, and what criteria are applied in order to reach such decisions.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Fleet: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to support asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. The criteria for accommodation allocation can be found in the following link: [Allocation of asylum accommodation policy](#).

[Allocation of Asylum Accommodation](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-30/hl499>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: The immigration health surcharge

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7274/CBP-7274.pdf>

Updated: Monthly monitoring of entry clearance visa applications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications/monthly-monitoring-of-entry-clearance-visa-applications>

Flooding and partial sinking of an inflatable migrant boat resulting in the loss of at least 8 lives in the Dover Strait on 14 December 2022

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66b9f847ce1fd0da7b593614/2024-9-Migrant2.pdf>

Your Voice Matters: A peer led research project to explore the experiences of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in Scotland

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Your-Voice-Matters-YPV-Report.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 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>

News: Channel Migrants

More than 700 migrants cross Channel in busiest day since election

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/more-than-700-migrants-cross-channel-in-busiest-day-since-election-lljsf5qbp>

UK ‘stop the boats’ policy raising risk of deadly crushes on dinghies, NGOs say

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/05/uk-stop-the-boats-policy-raising-risk-of-deadly-crushes-on-dinghies-ngos-say>

Two migrants die trying to cross English Channel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce81nelyrnlo>

Two migrants dead after trying to cross Channel ‘in flimsy dinghy’

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/two-migrants-dead-while-crossing-channel-in-flimsy-dinghy-z5qtr73nw>

News: Ukraine

‘I don’t live, I just exist’: Ukrainian families torn apart by visa changes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8nel8eledo>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Big fall in migrant visa applications after changes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c77l41z8yn7o>

Tory visa restrictions on international students will not be scrapped under Labour, says education secretary

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/international-student-visa-dependants-restrictions-labour-education-b2596675.html>

Immigrants fill more jobs than Britons since Covid

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/immigrants-fill-more-jobs-nigeria-india-5k62mxztb>

Huge rise in refugees facing homelessness

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/huge-rise-in-refugees-facing-homelessness-rwd978b55>

How many asylum seekers are living in UK hotels?

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/asylum-seekers-refugees-hotels-uk-dr8w7886m>

Inside the asylum hotels targeted by far right: 'I don't feel safe'

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/society/article/what-like-asylum-seeker-uk-today-058t6xrsn>

'Some threatened to kill us': asylum seekers left fearful by far-right mobs

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/06/some-threatened-to-kill-us-asylum-seekers-left-fearful-by-far-right-mobs>

Man jailed just two days after posting online during public disorder

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-jailed-just-two-days-after-posting-online-during-public-disorder>

Man jailed for posting online during public disorder

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-jailed-posting-online-during-public-disorder>

Refugees in Scotland 'living in fear' following riots

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy0rly0re72o>

Government concerned by immigration lawyer 'hitlist'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c624r77gnm2o>

Immigration advice centres and solicitors 'fearful' of going to work

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/police-nottinghamshire-police-london-south-yorkshire-holiday-inn-b2592170.html>

Immigration services batten down hatches amid fears they are next targets of far-right violence

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/far-right-riots-immigration-services-police-b2592066.html>

Asylum seeker who filmed Rotherham hotel riot feared for life

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gv2v1g006o>

Jordanian asylum seekers on rise through UK visa loophole

<https://www.thetimes.com/world/ireland-world/article/jordanian-asylum-seekers-on-rise-through-uk-visa-loophole-l7l3k6k7n>

We keep hearing about ‘legitimate concerns’ over immigration. The truth is, there are none

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/13/immigration-immigrants-society-rich-labour-public>

Enough of ‘stop the boats’ – this is how to address the immigration issue

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/uk-riots-news-today-immigration-b2595056.html>

TOP

Community Relations

Press Releases

Scottish Government First Minister @JohnSwinney met with faith and refugee representatives and political leaders to show solidarity with communities across the country. "I want to reassure people in Scotland that we have the plans and the preparations in place to make sure everybody is kept safe." [plus video]

<https://x.com/scotgov/status/1821232395665756568>

Supporting community cohesion

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-community-cohesion/>

News

Nadhim Zahawi: How the British dream of integration can survive

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/nadhim-zahawi-emergency-action-integrate-our-society-sm6wvzn7b>

Thousands of counter-protesters rally after riots

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czxlqwl28gyo>

We're here to ensure no-one ever pushes us around'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c623g0xnrero>

A peaceful Glasgow shows how to celebrate its various identities

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24510687.peaceful-glasgow-shows-celebrate-various-identities/>

We trust Scottish police protection is strong - Muslim council

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce3888352j8o>

Mosque leaders find moments of hope after violent disorder

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c84jjv7kp1wo>

Far-right's bigotry won't break the spirit of solidarity shown after their riots

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/far-right-bigotry-riots-southport-keir-starmer-police-4731116>

Faith leaders unite against hatred

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/faith-leaders-unite-against-hatred>

New era of ethnic conflict exposes liberal Britain's double standards

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/crime/article/new-era-of-ethnic-conflict-exposes-liberal-britains-double-standards-kbg6mc3p3>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Children in Care: Minority Groups

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL199] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relative number of children being taken into care from families from different minoritised communities; and what plans they have to provide support to families and social services to enable children to remain with their families, particularly among communities where levels are high.

Reply from Baroness Smith of Malvern: The department's intention is to deliver better life chances for all, including by improving services for the most vulnerable children and families. The 2023 data on children looked after showed that children from black and mixed ethnic groups are more likely to become looked after compared to the general 0-17 population (making up 7% and 10% of the looked after population respectively, compared to 6% and 7% of the general child population).

	Children Look After (2023)	0-17 year old population (2021 census)
Other Ethnic Group	5%	3%
Black or Black British	7%	6%
Asian or Asian British	5%	12%
Mixed	10%	7%
White	71%	73%
Unknown	1%	

The department knows that there is a strong evidence base for early intervention to support families before they reach crisis point. The department is currently testing the impact of multi-disciplinary targeted support provided at the earliest opportunity to help families overcome challenges sooner, so that they can stay together and thrive.

The department is also committed to supporting more children from all backgrounds to remain with family through kinship care and are considering how best to support both kinship carers and the children in their care.

The Family Network Pilot is currently testing the impact of providing flexible funding for extended family networks through Family Network Support Packages (FNSP). The pilot will look at how FNSPs can unlock barriers and enable family networks to play a more active role in providing loving, stable homes for children through

financial and other practical means. The pilot aims to help keep families together and children out of care, where this is in the best interests of the child. The pilot launched in four local authority areas, Brighton and Hove, Gateshead, Sunderland and Telford and Wrekin, and recently launched in a further three areas, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hartlepool and Staffordshire. The pilot will end in March 2025.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-22/hl199>

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat) [HL245] To ask His Majesty's Government by what mechanism their proposed planning and infrastructure bill will ensure the provision of new local-authority-owned Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Reply from Baroness Taylor of Stevenage: Requirements relating to planning for traveller sites are set out in the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, revised in 2023. This asks local planning authorities to produce their own assessment of needs for traveller sites in their area and use this evidence to set pitch targets in the Local Plan for Gypsies and Travellers and plot targets for travelling show people. In producing the Local Plan for their area, local planning authorities should identify and update annually a supply of deliverable sites to provide 5 years' worth of sites against local targets.

Work is underway on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. More information on what the bill will do is provided here in published background briefing: [King's Speech 2024](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-23/hl245>

The Planning Policy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

New Publications

Minority ethnic employment in the Scottish social housing sector: evidence scoping review

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/minority-ethnic-employment-scottish-social-housing-sector-evidence-scoping-review/>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Unemployment by ethnic background

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

Minoritised Ethnic Women's Experiences of Domestic Abuse and Barriers to Help-Seeking: A Summary of the Evidence

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/minoritised-ethnic-womens-experiences-domestic-abuse-barriers-help-seeking-summary-evidence/>

News

Human rights watchdog calls on governments to address major disparities faced by some ethnic minorities in England and Wales

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/human-rights-watchdog-calls-governments-address-major-disparities-faced-some-ethnic-minorities>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hinduism: Safety

Oliver Dowden (Conservative) [1931] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure the safety of Hindu communities.

Reply from Diana Johnson: We are committed to protecting the right of individuals to freely practise their religion and we will not tolerate anti-Hindu hatred in any form. Government and police regularly review potential threats to ensure that measures are taken to protect communities from terrorism and hate crime.

Additionally, Hindu communities can apply to the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme. The scheme provides physical protective security measures (such as CCTV, intruder alarms and secure perimeter fencing) to places of worship and associated faith community centres that are particularly vulnerable to religiously or racially motivated hate crime in England and Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/1931>

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Jews: Safety

Oliver Dowden (Conservative) [1930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure the safety of Jewish communities.

Reply from Diana Johnson: The Jewish Community Protective Security (JCPS) Grant provides protective security measures (such as security personnel services, CCTV and alarm systems) at synagogues, Jewish educational establishments and community sites. The JCPS Grant is managed on behalf of the Home Office by the Community Security Trust.

The Community Security Trust will receive funding of £18 million per year through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant from 2024/25 to 2027/28.

We continue to work closely with CST on how best to respond to live incidents that affect the Jewish communities in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/1930>

Information about the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, referred to above, can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/security/government-grant>

Antisemitism

Oliver Dowden (Conservative) [1927] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps her Department is taking to tackle anti-Semitism.

Reply from Jim McMahon: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, and tackling antisemitism in all its forms is a top priority for this Government. This

Government recently reappointed Lord John Mann as its Independent Adviser on Antisemitism to provide independent advice to the Secretary of State and ensure that the Jewish community's concerns about antisemitism are heard and acted upon. This Government also continues to fund the Community Security Trust, supporting their vital work in protecting Jewish communities. This includes providing additional security at Jewish schools, synagogues, and other sites. Antisemitism is a deplorable form of hate crime, and this Government is committed to ensuring that everyone is able to worship freely, wear religious clothing and go about their lives in safety and security – irrespective of their background, faith or other characteristic. Tackling hate crime will be a key part of this Government's work to overcome divisions and create connections between all communities, and we are exploring a more integrated and cohesive approach to achieve this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/1927>

Universities: Antisemitism

Oliver Dowden (Conservative) [1928] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle anti-Semitism on university campuses.

Reply from Janet Daby: As autonomous institutions, universities are responsible for tackling antisemitism on campus and should have processes in place to deal with unlawful abuse and harassment.

Universities, as well as Jewish groups and other stakeholders, have told us that the previous government's Freedom of Speech Act prevented them from taking effective action. The department is stopping further commencement of the Act, in order to consider the options, including its repeal.

The department will continue to work closely with Jewish groups, including the Union for Jewish Students and the University Jewish Chaplaincy, to understand their concerns and what further action is needed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/1928>

Press Releases

Scottish Government "I want to make it absolutely clear that Scotland is a welcoming country." First Minister @JohnSwinney visited the Edinburgh Central Mosque to show solidarity after violent scenes that have taken place across the UK. [plus video]

<https://x.com/scotgov/status/1820523941330379214>

John Swinney First Minister @JohnSwinney expressed his solidarity following violent scenes in parts of the UK. With Justice Secretary @AConstance23, he visited the Edinburgh Central Mosque to meet Imam Habib Rauf, members of @scotrefcouncil and @muslimscot, and the wider Muslim community. [plus photos]

<https://x.com/scotgov/status/1820487566476644385>

UK Government immediate action after Southport attacks

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/our-immediate-action-after-southport-attacks>

Prime Minister's statement: 4 August 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-4-august-2024>

Statement from the Northern Ireland First Minister and deputy First Minister on public disorder

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/statement-first-minister-and-deputy-first-minister-public-disorder>

Young people face potentially life-long consequences of being involved in disorder, Director of Public Prosecutions warns

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/young-people-face-potentially-life-long-consequences-being-involved-disorder-dpp-warns>

More than 150 people already in court following violent disorder

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-150-people-already-in-court-following-violent-disorder>

Woman convicted for hate incident at Nottingham rally

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/east-midlands/news/woman-convicted-hate-incident-nottingham-rally>

Man convicted of distributing a recording intending to stir up racial hatred

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/updated-man-convicted-distributing-recording-intending-stir-racial-hatred>

Mosques to be offered new emergency security

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mosques-to-be-offered-new-emergency-security>

Charity Commission statement in response to riots and public disorder

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-commission-statement-in-response-to-riots-and-public-disorder>

Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Note Swift Response by the United Kingdom to Investigate Recent Racist Riots, Ask about Compensation for “Windrush” Scandal Victims and Immigration Law Reform

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2024/08/experts-committee-elimination-racial-discrimination-note-swift-response-united-kingdom>

New Publications

Misinformation, racism and hateful material online: First Minister’s letter to social media companies

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/misinformation-racism-and-hateful-material-online-letter-to-social-media-companies/>

UK Muslim Survey

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Tell-MAMA-Survation-2024.pptx>

Antisemitic Incidents January-June 2024

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/d/Antisemitic%20Incidents%20Report%20Jan-June%202024.pdf>

News: Far-Right Demonstrations and Riots

King in call for unity after 'aggression' of riots

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj35mv0m5zno>

Murray writes to Scotland's religious leaders over riot concerns

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24500670.murray-writes-scotlands-religious-leaders-concerns-riots/>

Religious leaders given 'absolute assurance' of support, says Murray

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ian-murray-police-scotland-england-northern-ireland-southport-b2591979.html>

Starmer condemns 'far-right thuggery' on UK streets and says those involved 'will regret it'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c0jqjxe8d1yt>

PM vows rioters will 'regret' taking part in 'far-right thuggery'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24496781.pm-vows-rioters-will-regret-taking-part-far-right-thuggery/>

Islamophobia behind some of the violence on UK streets, says Yvette Cooper

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/05/yvette-cooper-admits-islamophobia-motive-for-some-rioters/>

'Nowhere to hide' for influencers behind disorder - top prosecutor

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c75nn9dr0rvo>

Ex-police chief likens riots to terrorism

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9eex9qj4xo>

Police vow to trace Holiday Inn petrol bomb rioters

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6p222mplymo>

'Scottish Defence Force' protest to be met with counter demo

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24502230.scottish-defence-force-protest-met-counter-demo/>

Protests reveal deep-rooted anger, but UK is not at boiling point

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czx66dkx3wlo>

Time to get tough on those who incite far-right violence

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/far-right-riots-violence-social-media-laurence-fox-tommy-robinson-4730380>

The real story of the news website accused of fuelling riots

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5y38gjp4ygo>

Far-right rioting: Why England and not Scotland?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/viewpoint/24503938.far-right-rioting-england-not-scotland/>

Solidarity with those affected by riots

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/riots-uk-refugee-asylum-racism-scotland/>

Charity chief: refugees in Scotland suffering "anxiety and uncertainty" over fascist violence

<https://tfn.scot/news/charity-chief-refugees-in-scotland-suffering-anxiety-and-uncertainty-over-fascist-violence>

'You're reminded you don't belong, even if you were born in Britain': after the riots, reflections on racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/aug/10/britain-riots-reflections-racism-people-of-colour>

'We're all scared': NHS doctor reveals impact of far-right riots on staff

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/aug/07/were-all-scared-nhs-doctor-reveals-impact-of-far-right-riots-on-staff>

STUC Statement: United We Stand

<https://www.stuc.org.uk/news/news/stuc-statement-united-we-stand/>

UK racist riots: open letter to Keir Starmer from 80 anti-racist and migrants' rights organisations

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/uk-racist-riots-open-letter-to-keir-starmer-from-80-anti-racist-and-migrants-rights-organisations>

Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders unite to condemn UK riots

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/religion/article/christian-jewish-and-muslim-leaders-unite-to-condemn-uk-riots-90wfm7vdn>

Community Security Trust Statement on the violent disorders seen after the devastating tragedy in Southport

https://x.com/CST_UK/status/1819843837528809753

Riots show white working-class boys feel distanced from society, says Stride

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/13/riots-white-working-class-boys-distanced-society-mel-stride/>

Easing the grievances of poor whites would help thwart bigotry

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/easing-the-grievances-of-poor-whites-would-help-thwart-bigotry-vjlpq2wkI>

Far-right violence caused by UK failure to address institutional racism, campaigners warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/far-right-riots-institutional-racism-b2594719.html>

Anti-racism protesters gather across Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn02d090v9ro>

Why Scotland may have avoided far-right unrest

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy9ej889w20o>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Humza Yousaf questions future in UK after riots

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp9rrepr3n8o>

Humza Yousaf admits family could leave UK due to rise of Islamophobia

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24501684.humza-yousaf-admits-family-leave-uk-due-rise-islamophobia/>

Humza Yousaf In an interview with @TheNewsAgents I was honest. I don't know if my children will be safe in the UK with the rise of the far-right. Every Muslim I know is asking the same question: do we have a future here in the UK? We need to confront the far-right, we cannot let them win. [plus video]

<https://x.com/HumzaYousaf/status/1820846585384747260>

Humza Yousaf admits family could leave UK over rise in Islamophobia

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-admits-family-could-leave-uk-over-rise-in-islamophobia-4731856>

Humza Yousaf: Riots could force my family and I to leave UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/07/humza-yousaf-islamophobia-could-force-family-out-of-uk/>

Labour MP says many people share Yousaf's safety fears

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24504567.labour-mp-warns-anti-racism-protests-scotland/>

Elon Musk calls former Scotland first minister a 'super racist'

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/scotland/article/elon-musk-calls-former-scotland-first-minister-a-super-racist-7wjbhgqj>

Swinney condemns Musk over racism row with Yousaf

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cred8770008o>

Sadiq Khan says he does not feel safe as a Muslim following far-right riots

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sadiq-khan-riots-far-right-muslim-london-mayor-b2593740.html>

Outrage as Jenrick says people shouting 'Allahu Akbar' on London streets should be arrested immediately

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-riots-london-robert-jenrick-police-allahu-akbar-b2592544.html>

People spreading hate online should have 'nowhere to hide', says minister

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/elon-musk-people-yvette-cooper-social-media-tommy-robinson-b2591667.html>

Historic total of antisemitic incidents in first half of 2024: recorded anti-Jewish hate doubles in UK compared to January to June 2023

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2024/08/08/antisemitic-incidents-report-january-june-2024>

Big rise in antisemitic incidents in UK - charity

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx285v8djejo>

Nearly 2,000 antisemitic incidents recorded in first half of 2024, charity says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/antisemitism-gaza-israel-england-crime-b2593289.html>

UK anti-Semitism incidents hit record high for first six months of a year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/08/anti-semitic-incidents-in-uk-record-high-six-months/>

Surge in UK antisemitic incidents in first half of 2024, says charity

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/article/2024/aug/08/surge-in-uk-antisemitic-incidents-in-first-half-of-2024-says-charity>

Universities must work with police to stamp out anti-Semitism on campuses, urges Bridget Phillipson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/08/17/universities-police-must-stamp-out-anti-semitism-campuses/>

I have heard the fears of fellow Jews as UK antisemitism soars. But we will not bow to racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/08/jews-uk-antisemitism-racism-hate-incidents-minorities>

How to be an antisemite (don't worry, it's easy)

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/how-to-be-an-antisemite-dont-worry-its-easy-0dqwj85xl>

Survey of British Muslims After October 7th Shows A Rise in Anti-Muslim Abuse

<https://tellmamauk.org/survey-of-british-muslims-after-october-7th-shows-a-rise-in-anti-muslim-abuse/>

Anti-racism Muslim group urge government to ramp up safety commitments for women after riots

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/riots-anti-racism-muslim-group-womens-safety-labour-b2591844.html>

Labour's definition of Islamophobia could 'give oxygen to far Right', says Muslim campaigner

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/11/labour-islamophobia-free-speech-keir-starmer-fiyaz-mughal/>

Labour warned over attempt to define Islamophobia

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/08/08/labour-controversial-islamophobia-definition-free-speech/>

Man jailed after threats to burn down mosques and murder worshippers

<https://tellmamauk.org/man-jailed-after-threats-to-burn-down-mosques-and-murder-worshippers/>

Pharmacies urged to turn away abusive, racist or Islamophobic patients

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/islamophobic-pharmacies-wes-streeting-people-nhs-b2594001.html>

How to tackle the extremist messages enticing our young

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/how-to-tackle-the-extremist-messages-enticing-our-young-ij9bqbn8h>

From Cable Street to Southport, some things don't change

<https://www.thetimes.com/comment/columnists/article/from-cable-street-to-southport-some-things-dont-change-bzs783dx2>

'We're coming to kill you': Jewish chaplains reveal campus threats

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/education/article/jewish-chaplains-leeds-university-idf-nava-deutsch-96w6ch5qh>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

First Minister meets faith representatives and political leaders

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-meets-faith-representatives-and-political-leaders/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL529] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 23 May (HL4639), when the findings of the feasibility study on the possibility of developing prevalence estimates for female genital mutilation and forced marriage will be published.

Reply from Lord Hanson of Flint: The Government has committed to halving violence against women and girls over the next decade. Combatting so-called 'honour'-based abuse (HBA) is very much a part of this work. The Home Office commissioned the University of Birmingham in 2023 to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of developing prevalence estimates for female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

We are currently considering the findings of the feasibility study and we will confirm our next steps shortly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-30/hl529>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4639>

Legal Systems: Islam

Lord Swire (Conservative) [HL394] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure and enforce oversight and governance of (1) sharia courts, and (2) Muslim arbitration tribunals.

Reply from Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede: The Government has no plans to regulate religious dispute resolution processes (such as sharia courts) where all parties consent to those processes. This is consistent with Britain's long history of freedom of worship and religious tolerance, and the legal rights and remedies of the parties involved remain in place.

Decisions of such bodies are only enforceable if there is a valid arbitration agreement by which all parties have consented to the process, as provided under the terms of the Arbitration Act 1996 for any arbitration panel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-07-26/hl394>

TOP

Other News

Charity regulator launches probe into women's rights centre

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c935ll1405vo>

TOP

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>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes 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>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** 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/>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** applications close next week!**

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>

**** Faith and the Future of Scotland**

27 September 2024 (St Andrews, 8.30–5.00)

Scotland's Future, and St Andrews University School of Divinity discussion on how faith can positively shape the future of Scotland by dialoguing across religious and political divides. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5c4hudzk>

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>

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/>

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.