

Programme 2023-2026

MIGRATION POLICY SCOTLAND

Migration Policy Scotland is a home for informed responses to migration and the opportunities and challenges it brings.

We draw on different perspectives to ensure that our work is grounded in learning, lived experience and the realities of migration in Scotland.

Migration is a global phenomenon with wide-ranging impacts. Migration policy includes those policies that seek to govern migration flows such as rules stipulating conditions of entry and stay. More broadly, it encompasses policies that affect the experience of migration for both migrants and the communities they join. These range from policies that include migrants in the name of integration, to policies that exclude migrants often in the name of deterrence or immigration enforcement. Migration can become a touchstone issue that acts as a proxy for wider discontents. It can also impact, or be impacted by, other areas of policy in ways that are unanticipated and unintended. **Migration Policy Scotland brings together a wide-range of individuals and organisations to navigate this complex and cross-cutting terrain in ways that prioritise clarity over controversy. We bring people together to find better ways forward.**

Debate on migration in the UK is deeply polarised and migration policy remains piecemeal and symbolically driven. At Migration Policy Scotland we believe there is an urgent need for more evidence-driven policymaking on migration developed through thoughtful and inclusive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. We work towards this by developing policy capacity in Scotland that improves the evidence base on migration and develops insight and learning across our activities. We focus on migration for work, study, family or other reasons, but not on asylum or refugees. Our work draws on diverse disciplines and sectors. We bring perspectives from lived experience to our work through our Migrant Lived Experience Panel. **Migration Policy Scotland meets a clear need for an independent, non-partisan voice on migration that prioritises migration issues that are particularly pertinent in Scotland.**

Migration Policy Scotland, and the increased policy capacity we bring, benefits policymakers and other stakeholders, including third sector organisations, employers, service providers, practitioners and academic researchers. Our work generates new insight and provides new opportunities for engagement. We seek to work collaboratively to strengthen our impact and offer our expertise as a resource for others. We engage with decision-makers, communities, and migrants themselves on the questions migration raises for them. Migration Policy Scotland plays a key role in supporting constructive evidence-based dialogue. We bring together different actors and disciplines to respond to real-world opportunities and challenges. Our activities place the focus on migration and its impacts in Scotland front and centre. We disseminate perspectives from Scotland to inform UK level debates and policy through our networks and media engagement. **Migration Policy Scotland fosters insight and dialogue on migration to improve all our futures though better migration outcomes. We believe well-managed migration enables migrants to flourish and enriches communities experiencing migration.**

At Migration Policy Scotland:

We focus on migration issues that are particularly important in Scotland.

We prioritise clarity over controversy, bringing people together to find better ways forward.

We foster insight and dialogue on migration to improve all our futures though better migration outcomes.

We believe well-managed migration enables migrants to flourish and enriches communities experiencing migration.

Our Approach

MIGRATION POLICY SCOTLAND

Migration Policy Scotland is building increased migration policy capacity in Scotland in constructive and evidence-based ways. Our work is independent and non-partisan. We harness insights from lived and learned experience to ensure our work is grounded in the realities of migration in Scotland.

We promote better informed and more inclusive action on migration in two ways:

Developing Insight

We promote fresh thinking and expand the evidence base to drive a learning approach to migration in Scotland.

We do this by:

- Undertaking research to inform policy on migration drawing on diverse methods and perspectives, including lived experiences of migration.
- Engaging with learning from other countries and other policy areas to broaden the scope of policy thinking and dialogue.
- Developing insight infrastructure to inform and underpin wider research, policy debate and development of delivery options (e.g.: MPS Attitudes Survey).

Promoting Dialogue

We facilitate productive and inclusive engagement. We prompt exchange and dialogue across a wide range of stakeholders.

We do this by:

- Maintaining broad networks and key relationships of influence.
- Integrating lived experience as a key aspect of our work.
- Convening curated events.

We act as a broker and facilitator those working on migration and migration-related issues. Our activities range from media work to inform the general public to focused relationship building that engage key decision-makers directly.

Areas of Focus

Migration Policy Scotland's approach draws on a range of disciplines and brings in learning from other countries and policy areas to develop policy options and recommendations. These offer new and creative solutions, take account of real-world constraints and challenges and are grounded in evidence from both learned and lived expertise. We work closely with our Migrant Lived Experience Panel to co-produce research, review and evaluate our work and broker wider linkages to lived experience. We seek to work together with NGOs, business and academic research as well as government at all levels. Collaborating brings together different strengths, priorities and perspectives in ways that promote learning, build capacity and expand impact.

Our programme approaches migration through the following perspectives:

Migration Systems

Our work monitors the UK immigration system's impacts in Scotland and observes migration stocks and flows to Scotland. We situate this knowledge within an understanding of the broader context of these flows, the dynamics that make up migration systems and the factors that influence these.

Migration Experiences

We investigate how migration is lived in Scotland, finding out more about the experiences of migrants and communities living with migration. We focus on the experiences of specific migrant groups (especially those that are new, changing or marginalised), or on specific issues that impact migration experiences.

Our Priorities

We prioritise issues of particular pertinence in Scotland that remain underexplored within UK migration policy. Our focus on emerging issues offers insight into how migration to Scotland is changing and the questions this raises for policymakers and other stakeholders.

Our key areas of focus are:

1. Migration's role in addressing population challenges with particular focus on rural areas and strategic mitigation.
2. Migration's role in the Scottish economy with particular focus on Scotland's changing workforce, just transition and the well-being economy
3. Implications of the changing composition of migration to Scotland, with particular focus on the increasing diversity of groups, routes and receiving locations.
4. Responses to migration in Scotland, with particular focus on public attitudes, and on understanding the needs and perspectives of both migrants and receiving communities.

What others say about our work:

What MPS has created with the LEx panel is new and exciting; it is not simply a forum. By co-creating with migrants who have both lived and learned experience, MPS provides a unique perspective where research is grounded in the nuanced realities of migration.

In 2023, our peer research had a direct impact on the tender and service design of the new Scottish Migration Service. I think what we did was incredible, demonstrating a genuine influence on policy and practice. I'm very proud that our research can be linked to the experience future migrants will have.

The panel members are extremely knowledgeable in their fields, and I have been honoured to represent them this year.

Shaina Gabi,
MPS Migrant Lived Experience Panel.

Migration Policy Scotland's research has really helped us as we design and develop the Talent Attraction and Migration Service [now called the Scottish Migration Service]. It's essential that we listen to users' voices as we develop the service. MPS approach to integrating lived experience brought invaluable insights to our work.

Colin Carroll,
Scottish Government

Migration Policy Scotland was founded by its Director Dr Sarah Kyambi in 2021. The organisation works to meet the need for greater policy capacity on non-protection migration in Scotland. This was identified through a scoping project in 2019 which consulted a wide range of stakeholders - the [report](#) is available on our website. Recent sector stocktakes by Migration exchange in [2020](#) and [2023](#) confirm a sector-wide gap on policy work and highlight the preponderance of organisations working on asylum and refugee issues.

Migration Policy Scotland brings together significant expertise on migration through its staff and trustees. Our Sounding Board provides insider perspectives on Scottish politics, policy and third sector. Our Migrant Lived Experience panel draws in perspectives from a diverse group of migrants living in Scotland who work with migrants in different capacities.

Migration Policy Scotland is a respected partner and a key source of insight on migration issues in Scotland. Our convening power provides important new connections and spaces for dialogue. Our commitment to lived experiences brings the voices of migrants into significant areas of policy development and delivery.

Get in touch

You can find out more about our past and ongoing projects and team on our website:
www.migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk

Get in touch if you are interested in exploring ways of working together:
info@migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk

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