

A Statement from the Bishops Conference of Scotland regarding the EU Settlement Scheme

“The Catholic Church in Scotland is committed to supporting all EU citizens who have made their home here.

The Church has experienced first-hand the extensive contribution that people from across Europe have made to our society. They are an integral and valued part of our parishes, schools and communities. As the majority of EU citizens are Catholic, raising awareness of the EU Settlement Scheme is a special pastoral responsibility to the Catholic Church. The EU Settlement Scheme and how to apply
The UK Government has launched the EU Settlement Scheme offering EU citizens living here a legal route to remain.

EU (European Union), EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss citizens living in the UK must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society.

[Irish citizens or those with valid indefinite leave do not need to apply.]

It is free to apply, and the scheme will remain open until 30 June 2021. We ask all Catholic parishes, schools and organisations to bring the settlement scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and also to be aware of vulnerable people who may not realise they need to apply.

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In particular we encourage Parish Priests, Head Teachers and Catholic Organisations to signpost people towards the official website page on the settlement scheme here:

<https://eucitizensrights.campaign.gov.uk/> , and the official helpline for the settlement scheme 0300 123 7379.

Finally, we urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here.”

