



Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities](#) in partnership with [BEMIS](#).

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.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org.uk and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament was in recess last week

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

No Recourse No Safety

That the Parliament notes the publication of *No Recourse No Safety: The Government's Failure to Protect Women from Violence*, a report by Amnesty International and the Southall Black Sisters; is disturbed by the evidence that not having recourse to public funds prevents women with insecure immigration status from accessing the benefits they need to claim refuge, effectively trapping women in violence or destitution; welcomes the Scottish Government's ongoing commitment to tackling violence against women, continuing the good work commenced by the previous Scottish administration; acknowledges the pivotal contribution of local services such as the West Lothian Council Domestic Abuse Service which provides a service to women from a minority population; notes that not having recourse to public funds affects women who have valid visas as spouses, students, visitors and workers and those who are classed as "overstayers" in addition to victims of trafficking; acknowledges that organisations such as West Lothian Women's Aid are accommodating and assisting women with no recourse to public funds,

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Debate (continued)

and commends the recommendations of *No Recourse No Safety*, in particular the need for the Scottish Government to put in place emergency funding while a permanent solution from the UK Government is sought, namely exempting women fleeing violence from the no recourse to public funds requirement.

To read the debate see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0529-02.htm#Col9242>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bill Butler(S3M-2008): Refugee Week Scotland 2008—That the Parliament notes that 16 to 22 June is Refugee Week Scotland 2008; recognises the indomitable spirit and courage of the world's 14 million refugees who endure enormous suffering without losing hope, finding the strength to overcome despair and start a new life against seemingly overwhelming odds; views Refugee Week as an important platform to promote and celebrate Scotland's proud traditions of providing sanctuary and support which help rebuild shattered lives; further notes that over 70 arts, cultural, sports and educational events will take place across Scotland, including a reception to be held in the Parliament on Wednesday 18 June 2008, which will encourage positive encounters between around 10,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland and their new communities, and values the cultural, social and economic contributions that refugees make to Scottish society.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-29f.htm>

New publication

Refugee Week Programme

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/RefWeekProg08>

News

Call for migrants and locals to integrate

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/05/27/newsstory11417514t0.asp>

PM 'used migrant worker influx to duck welfare reform'

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/658957>

More language help for immigrants

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/653136>

Thistle star to kick off refugee week

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/focus/display.var.2300439.0.Thistle_star_to_kick_off_refugee_week.php

Stowaways sought a basic life but died 'desperately' in airless hold

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Stowaways-sought-a-basic-life.4124835.jp>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Fresh Talent urged to improve links with employers

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2303834.0.Fresh Talent urged to improve links with employers.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2303834.0.Fresh_Talent_urged_to_improve_links_with_employers.php)

A demographic deficit

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2303713.0.A_demographic_deficit.php

Sacrifice fears as woman deported

[http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2309857.0.Sacrifice fears as woman deported.php](http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/other/display.var.2309857.0.Sacrifice_fears_as_woman_deported.php)

'Sacrifice' threat woman must return to Nigeria

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/39Sacrifice39-threat-woman-must-return.4138859.jp>

We must do more to protect migrant workers

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/We-must-do-more-to.4138710.jp>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Cathie Craigie (S3M-1973): **Diversity in Europe Speaking Competition 2008** — That the Parliament congratulates St Maurice's High School, Cumbernauld, on reaching the national final of the Scottish European Educational Trust's Diversity in Europe speaking competition; welcomes the competition's focus on minorities within European states; notes that competing teams will be encouraged to speak the first two sentences of their introduction in the official language of one of the 2004 entrant European Union member states; believes that the competition will help promote the importance of communication between diverse communities; calls on the Scottish Government to do more to ensure that language is never a barrier in Scottish education, and wishes all 11 teams from across Scotland the best of luck at the final on Friday 30 May 2008 in Glasgow City Chambers.

and

Sandra White (S3M-1967) : **Congratulations to Holyrood Secondary School, Glasgow** — That the Parliament congratulates Holyrood Secondary School on reaching the finals of the Scottish European Educational Trust's Diversity in Europe speaking competition, aimed at raising awareness of life as a member of the European Union, in Glasgow City Chambers on Friday 30 May 2008 and wishes all 10 regional finalists the best of luck on the day.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-05-27f.htm>

Race Relations (continued)

News

Fort William primary pupils build cultural bridges

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/657825>

Christian preachers face arrest in Birmingham

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2058935/Police-advise-Christian-preachers-to-leave-Muslin-area-of-Birmingham.html>

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Equality

News

SNP to inject £6.1m into equality groups

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/SNP-to-inject--61m.4139870.jp>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

John Park (S3W-13103): To ask the Scottish Executive with which organisations it is working to tackle violent and abusive behaviour by football fans.

John Park (S3W-13104) : To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it is taking to tackle racist behaviour and attitudes by football fans.

John Park (S3W-13105): To ask the Scottish Executive what measures it is taking to tackle sectarian behaviour and attitudes by football fans.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: The Scottish Government is committed to tackling all forms of football related violence, abuse and disorder. Over the last year we have provided £250,000 to support campaigns and organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card and Football for All as part of our work specifically targeted at tackling football related racist and sectarian behaviour.

We are totally committed to working with football authorities, clubs and the police to ensure that bigotry, discrimination and antisocial behaviour does not ruin our national sport. Scottish ministers will meet the SFA, SPL, SFL, sportscotland and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland on 5 June to review the impact of football related initiatives and agree how we can work together to ensure that all initiatives to tackle prejudice through football are properly targeted and will have the maximum impact.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0528.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

John Park (S3W-13106): To ask the Scottish Executive how it is monitoring the number of racist or sectarian incidents involving football fans.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: Responsibility for recording racist and sectarian incidents across Scotland lies with individual police forces.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0528.htm>

John Park (S3W-13107): To ask the Scottish Executive what the incidence has been of racist incidents involving Scottish football fans at club and national level, in Scotland and abroad, since 1 September 2006.

John Park (S3W-13108): To ask the Scottish Executive what the incidence has been of sectarian incidents involving Scottish football fans at club and national level, in Scotland and abroad, since 1 September 2006.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: This information is not held centrally by the Scottish Government. The recording of racist incidents is carried out by individual Scottish police forces.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0528.htm>

New publication

FRA Annual Work Programme 2008

http://fra.europa.eu/fra/material/pub/WP/wp08_en.pdf

News

Four racism crimes every day

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/topstories/Four-racism-crimes-every-day.4139278.jp>

Sectarian hatred finds its way on to Facebook

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2310558.0.sectarian_hatred_finds_its_way_on_to_facebook.php

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Other Holyrood

Press Release

Water Charges

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/30114338>

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Other News

World 'failing on human rights'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/7422528.stm>

West 'failing to act on human rights crises'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/West-39failing-to--act.4124838.jp>

Travellers' site gains approval

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/05/29/newsstory11427396t0.asp>

Ethnic elderly mistreated

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Ethnic-elderly-mistreated.4135535.jp>

Minority OAPs 'accept abuse'

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Minority-OAPs-39accept-abuse39.4136218.jp>

Inside the world of UK Muslim women

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/jun/01/britishidentity.islam>

Amazing glimpse into ordinary yet extraordinary lives

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/jun/01/britishidentity.islam1>

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, and the European Union start a training programme for national human rights structures

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1270083&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Creative Scotland Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/07-CreativeScotland/index.htm>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

**** Public Health Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/index.htm>

Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-1502.htm#Col878>

Bills in Progress (continued) **Westminster**

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

Draft Bill

The Governance of Britain - Constitutional Renewal

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/draft-constitutional-renewal-bill.pdf>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/070/amend/psc0702905a.17-23.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

Decoupling the Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government Elections

(12 June 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/216422/0058059.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Call for help with Human Rights Inquiry

(21 June 2008)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/newsandcomment/Pages/InquiryCallforevidence.aspx>

Safeguarding Children in Scotland who may have been Trafficked (3 July 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/219212/0058832.pdf>

UK Parliament draft legislative programme (6 August 2008)

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7372/7372.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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**** this week!**

New Migrants & EU Nationals - Rights, recognition, responsibilities & action

4 June 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

Positive Action in Housing briefing about the laws and procedures for organisations dealing with EU Nationals (the 'accession' countries, new migrants). For information contact Zandra Yeaman zandra@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow

10 June 2008 in [Glasgow](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

11 June 2008 in [Benbecula](#) (9.15 – 2.00)

12 June 2008 in [Tarbert, Harris](#) (10.45 – 3.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in Scotland meetings aimed at charity trustees and administrators of charities with a gross annual income of less than £100,000, to discuss compliance issues such as charity accounting, consents and notifications, and charity trustee duties. For information see above weblinks, or contact derek.galbraith@oscr.org.uk

**** Refugee Week**

16-22 June 2008

From football tournaments to films, comedy nights to carnivals, exhibitions, plays, parties and much, much more, Refugee Week Scotland is a fantastic festival of events across the country to celebrate diversity and raise awareness of refugee issues. For information see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/RefWeekProg08> or contact the Scottish Refugee Council info@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799

Civicus World Assembly

18-21 June 2008 in Glasgow

The Civicus World Assembly is a forum for international civil society representatives to get together, exchange ideas, experiences and build strategies for a just world. For information see www.civicusassembly.org or contact Even Rehse eva.rehse@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6194.

The Gathering

19-20 June 2008 in Glasgow

Voluntary Sector fair that brings together voluntary sector staff, volunteers, community activists and is the largest event of its kind in the entire UK. For information see www.gatherscotland.org.uk or contact Andrew Stewart andrew.stewart@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 6172.

** BEMIS is supporting under-represented groups by providing them with a **free** stall to promote their project at The Gathering. For information contact Sue Barnes sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

Innovate to Integrate

26 June 2008 in Glasgow

Glasgow Caledonian University event to showcase creative ways that organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors have used to promote and embed equality and diversity. For information see <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/odonline/InnovatetoIntegrate.html> or contact i2i@gcal.ac.uk / 0141 273 1352.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Diversity in the UK / Diversity in Scotland

1 – 7 July 2008 in Aberdovey (Wales)

13 – 20 October 2008 at Loch Eil (Scotland)

Encompass programmes for young people aged 17-23 from religiously, ethnically, economically, socially and geographically diverse backgrounds. These include challenging outdoor team-building activities, and controversial, hard-hitting discussions focusing on issues such as identity, and stereotypes. For information see http://www.scojec.org/MEMO/Files/08iv_Encompass.doc or contact Erika 020 7493 9739 / erika@encompasstrust.org

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

Useful Links (continued)

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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. <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>