

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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament will return from recess on 6 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15791): To ask the Scottish Executive what funds it makes available to assist women asylum seekers fleeing domestic violence who do not otherwise have recourse to public funds.

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15792): To ask the Scottish Executive what emergency funding it makes available to assist women asylum seekers fleeing domestic violence who do not otherwise have recourse to public funds.

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15793): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the needs of women asylum seekers fleeing domestic abuse will be addressed in the strategic framework on violence against women that it is currently considering.

Reply from Stewart Maxwell: The Scottish Government does not provide any funding, emergency or otherwise, to women asylum seekers, fleeing domestic abuse, who have no recourse to public funds, as immigration and benefit issues are reserved to Westminster. This is a matter which I have raised with Home Office ministers, most recently with Vernon Coaker MP, in June this year.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Home Office has now announced plans to introduce a new scheme which will bring about four significant changes to the system for women on spousal visas who have experienced domestic abuse and have no recourse to public funds. These changes are:

that victims may be eligible to receive a contribution to housing costs;
applications for indefinite leave will be processed by the UK Border Agency in 20 working days;

guidance will be produced to support organisations, and
the £750 application fee will be waived under the destitution rule.

The Home Office met with government officials from across the UK on 13 August 2008 to discuss no recourse to public funds for women experiencing domestic abuse and who are on a spousal visa. At the meeting, an agreed way forward was suggested for implementation in these four areas and it is hoped that these changes will be in place by autumn this year.

Scottish Government officials are currently considering how best to take this forward in Scotland and how to address this issue in the violence against women framework that is being developed. A short life working group has been established by the Violence Against Women team in the Equality Unit to examine possible options, with Scottish Women's Aid, COSLA, Shakti Women's Aid and Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid among the members. The Scottish Government will also be liaising with the COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership (CSMP) on how to progress work on this issue. The CSMP are currently preparing guidance for Scottish local authorities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0918.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16320): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for police forces in relation to the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16321): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for police forces in relation to the independent scrutiny of the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16322): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for procurators fiscal in relation to the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-16323): To ask the Scottish Executive what guidelines there are for procurators fiscal in relation to the independent scrutiny of the translation into English of evidence in other languages.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16429): To ask the Scottish Executive what information it holds on the economic impact of skilled immigration to Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16430): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has information on the impact of the Fresh Talent initiative on (a) the performance of the Scottish economy, (b) the number of foreign students at Scottish universities and (c) levels of immigration to Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16431): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact of the change to the Fresh Talent initiative, making it part of the UK-wide post study immigration category as of 30 June 2008, on (a) levels of immigration to Scotland, (b) numbers of foreign students at Scottish universities and (c) Scotland's economic performance.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16432): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact on levels of skilled immigration to Scotland of the change to a points-based immigration system in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16433): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has any estimates of the likely impact on the performance of the Scottish economy of the change to a points-based immigration system in the United Kingdom.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16434): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has received any representations from Scottish businesses expressing concern about the impact of the introduction of a points-based immigration system on their ability to attract and retain skilled workers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16435): To ask the Scottish Executive what Scottish representation there is on the Migration Advisory Committee and what input the Scottish Government has had on the form that representation should take.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Joe FitzPatrick (S3W-16436): To ask the Scottish Executive what input it had to the Migration Advisory Committee's work on the production of shortage occupation lists for the United Kingdom and Scotland in relation to tier 2 skilled employment and whether it considers that its input was taken into account in the committee's report.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16439): To ask the Scottish Executive what funding was allocated to colleges and other providers of further education in Glasgow to provide courses in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in (a) 2005-06, (b) 2006-07 and (c) 2007-08, broken down by institution.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16440): To ask the Scottish Executive what funding has been allocated to colleges and other providers of further education in Glasgow to provide courses in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11, broken down by institution.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19e.htm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Mike Pringle S3M-2555: Clarification of Acceptability of Scottish Qualifications for UK Citizenship Applications — That the Parliament is concerned that the UK Government Immigration and Nationality Directorate's unfamiliarity with the relevant Scottish qualifications in the form of SQA certificates that meet the application requirements for UK citizenship, as laid down by the Home Secretary, may have resulted in the rejection of Scotland-based applications for citizenship, and calls on the Scottish Government to clarify the acceptability of these Scottish qualifications with the Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17f.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jo Swinson [224107]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the target processing time has been in relation to appeals to asylum and immigration tribunals in each of the last five years.

Reply from Michael Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) (prior to April 2005 the Immigration Appellate Authority) has joint target processing times with the Home Office and information covering each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	<i>Target</i>	<i>Performance</i>
2007-08	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: To grant or remove 90 per cent. of asylum claimants within six months by the end of 2011	46 per cent. of new applications received in June 2007 were concluded within six months by the end of December 2007
	Milestone: 40 per cent. of new asylum claimants by December 2007	
2007-08 ⁽¹⁾	Receipt in AIT to promulgation by Immigration Judge:	
	Asylum—75 per cent. in six weeks	Asylum—61 per cent. in six weeks
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)—75 per cent. in eight weeks	Managed Migration—66 per cent. in eight weeks
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)—75 per cent. within 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle	Entry Clearance—49 per cent. in 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle
	Family Visit Visa—75 per cent. within 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle	Family Visit Visas—66 per cent. in 10 weeks of receipt of respondent's bundle

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2006-07	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: To grant or remove 90 per cent. of asylum claimants within six months by the end of 2011	38 per cent. of new applications received in September 2006 were concluded within six months
	Milestone: 35 per cent. of new asylum claimants by April 2007	
2005-06	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 75 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including the final appeal decided within six months	74 per cent. of applications received in 2005-06 had a final decision up to and including appeal, within six months
2004-05	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 65 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including the final appeal decided within six months	67 per cent. of substantive applications in 2004-05 had a final decision up to and including appeal at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months
2004-05	75 per cent. of asylum cases, covered by the PSA, to be decided by adjudicators within 12 weeks from receipt	77 per cent. decided within 12 weeks of receipt
2003-04	Joint PSA target with the Home Office: 60 per cent. of substantive asylum applications including final appeal decided within six months	64 per cent. of substantive applications in 2003-04 had a final decision up to and including appeals at the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, within six months
<p>⁽¹⁾ Key Performance Indicators were introduced in April 2007 to measure the waiting times for all main AIT case types.</p>		

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080917/text/80917w0015.htm>

Jo Swinson [224108]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time has been for appeals to asylum and immigration tribunals in each of the last five years.

Reply from Michael Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The average processing times for appeals to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (prior to April 2005 the Immigration Appellate Authority) in each of the last five years is available and the information is shown as follows.

	Case type ⁽¹⁾	Average waiting time from receipt in the IAA/AIT to promulgation by an Adjudicator/Immigration Judge ⁽²⁾ (weeks)
2007-08	Asylum	8

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	26
	Family Visit Visas	20
2006-07	Asylum	9
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	30
	Family Visit Visas	30
2005-06 ⁽³⁾	Asylum	15
	Managed Migration (In Country Immigration)	10
	Entry Clearance (Out of Country Immigration)	17
	Family Visit Visas	22
2004-05	Asylum	17
	Immigration	12
	Family Visit Visas	10
2003-04	Asylum	17
	Immigration	13
	Family Visit Visas	8

⁽¹⁾ Separate information on In Country and Out of Country Immigration appeals is not available prior to April 2005.

⁽²⁾ Average waiting time information is taken from reports produced for internal use by the IAA and AIT from their databases. It is not subject to the same quality checks as performance targets and other published data.

⁽³⁾ Data for 2005-06 taken from the AIT database ARIA, and covers from commencement of AIT on 4 April 2005.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080917/text/80917w0015.htm>

Damian Green [218909]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of employees per sponsor likely to be applied for under tier 2 of the points-based system.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We do not yet have projected figures for the average number of migrant employees per sponsor.

Our analysis of historic work permit data shows that an average annual figure for migrant employees per employer is not indicative of employer/migrant activity overall. It is skewed towards a very low average, and therefore we believe it is of limited use for planning or reporting purposes.

However, historical data relating to work permits show 81.6 per cent. of organisations over a four year period used less than five work permits each.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080917/text/80917w0014.htm#0809176000129>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Release**

Employers, get ready for new immigration controls

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/employers-get-ready>

New publication

The French Presidency's European Pact on Immigration and Asylum: Intergovernmentalism vs. Europeanisation? Security vs. Rights?

http://shop.ceps.be/downloadfree.php?item_id=1706

News

England 'most crowded in Europe'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7618994.stm>

Outbound journey

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/sep/17/immigrationandpublicservices.children?gusrc=rss&feed=education>

Asylum rules 'risk human rights'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7624395.stm>

Detention of asylum seekers' children set to end

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2449795.0.Detention_of_asylum_seekers_children_set_to_end.php

Four-year-old girl caged as refugee for 86 days despite being Scottish

<http://www.sundaymail.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/09/21/four-year-old-girl-caged-as-refugee-for-86-days-despite-being-scottish-78057-20745777/>

Indian IT firms bring 11,000 migrants to UK a year

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3022423/Indian-IT-firms-bring-11000-migrants-to-UK-a-year.html>

East European workers quit UK to head home

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/21/poland.nhs>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

Bashir Ahmad S3M-2571: Sikhs in Scotland—That the Parliament recognises the enormous contribution made by the Sikh community in Scotland in a variety of sectors, particularly the arts, music, drama, media and sports; congratulates all the winners of the Sikhs in Scotland Achievement Awards 2008, held in the Parliament and organised by the Mel-Milaap Community Centre; notes the excellent work done by the Mel-Milaap centre in promoting the true message of Sikhism and carrying out valuable work across Scotland, and urges everyone to pay a visit to <http://www.sikhsinScotland.org/>.
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19f.htm>

New publication

Summit promotes joint commitment to improve inclusion for millions of Roma
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=393&furtherNews=yes>

News

Keeping up the struggle
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/19/religion.judaism>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

David Ruffley [219157]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of (a) police community support officers and (b) regular police officers fall into each ethnic category in each police force area.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The available data are given in the following tables.

Percentage						
Police force	White	Mixed	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Chinese or Other ethnic group	Not stated
Avon and Somerset	96	1	1	1	1	1
Bedfordshire	89	4	1	6	0	0
Cambridgeshire	93	2	1	3	0	1
Cheshire	100	0	0	0	0	0

Equality Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

Cleveland	98	0	0	2	0	0
Cumbria	99	1	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	96	1	1	2	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	67	0	0	0	1	31
Dorset	98	1	0	2	0	0
Durham	99	1	0	1	0	0
Essex	95	1	1	1	0	2
Gloucestershire	87	2	0	2	1	8
Greater Manchester	96	0	1	3	0	0
Hampshire	98	0	0	0	0	1
Hertfordshire	95	0	1	2	0	2
Humberside	99	1	1	0	0	0
Kent	96	1	0	1	1	0
Lancashire	98	1	0	1	0	1
Leicestershire	90	0	0	9	0	0
Lincolnshire	99	0	1	0	0	0
London, City of	83	8	3	6	0	0
Merseyside	95	4	0	2	0	0
Metropolitan Police	67	4	11	12	4	1
Norfolk	97	0	1	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	93	4	2	1	0	0
Northumbria	98	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	99	0	1	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	96	1	0	3	0	0
South Yorkshire	95	0	3	1	0	0
Staffordshire	96	1	0	2	0	0
Suffolk	99	1	0	0	0	0
Surrey	93	0	1	3	0	2
Sussex	95	1	0	0	1	3
Thames Valley	93	2	0	4	0	0
Warwickshire	94	0	1	4	0	1
West Mercia	93	1	0	1	0	5
West Midlands	85	2	2	9	0	1
West Yorkshire	95	0	1	4	0	0
Wiltshire	98	1	1	0	0	0

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question (continued)

Dyfed-Powys	99	0	1	0	0	0
Gwent	97	0	1	2	0	0
North Wales	96	1	0	1	0	2
South Wales	98	0	0	1	0	1

⁽¹⁾Percentage figures based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080917/text/80917w0015.htm#0809176000132>

Press Release

Reach role model applications have rolled in

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/970137>

New publication

Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/docs/social_inclusion/2008/healthquest_en.pdf

News

Muslim MP calls for religious equality law

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/muslim-mp-calls-for-religious-equality-law-931982.html>

Black Met group cuts manager links

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Black-Met-group-cuts-manager.4509942.jp>

Ethnic officers cut links with Met police chiefs

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Ethnic-officers-cut-links-with.4511552.jp>

Black Police Association severs manager links

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-police-association-severs-manager-links-935776.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-16340): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times Scottish ministers have met the Scottish Football League to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16341): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times Scottish ministers have met the Scottish Premier League to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16342): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times it has met with the STUC to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16343): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has received representations since 17 May 2007 from the Irish Government in respect of concerns about offensive songs being sung in public places in Scotland and, if so, whether it will publish its response.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16344): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the First Minister plans to make a ministerial statement to the Parliament about sectarianism in Scotland and, if so, when.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16345): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it plans to produce detailed annual reports on crime aggravated by religious prejudice and develop a programme of rehabilitation for offenders convicted under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-17e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16366): To ask the Scottish Executive how many times Scottish ministers have met the Scottish Football Association to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-18e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16383) : To ask the Scottish Executive how many times Scottish ministers have met representatives of Scotland's faith communities to discuss sectarianism since 17 May 2007.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-18e.htm>

Press Release

New special rapporteur on racism and racial discrimination makes first address to the human rights council

<http://www.unhchr.ch/hurricane/hurricane.nsf/view01/F8D060F8AFE124B0C12574C90050077E?opendocument>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

New publication

Unfavorable Views of Jews and Muslims on the Increase in Europe

<http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/262.pdf>

News

Concerns raised over famine song

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7617518.stm

Diplomatic row over Rangers fans 'famine' singalong

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2447020.0.Diplomatic_row_over_Rangers_fans_famine_singalong.php

Irish alarm over new sectarian song

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Irish-alarm-over-new-sectarian.4493936.jp>

A new tune, but the song remains the same

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/A-new-tune-but-the.4503233.jp>

Councillor fights back against Kohli 'racism' claims

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2448226.0.Councillor_fights_back_against_Kohli_racism_claims.php

UEFA urged to punish clubs, fans on racist behaviour

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/sports/uefa-urged-punish-clubs-fans-racist-behaviour/article-175290>

History repeating

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/16/roma.race>

Kohli brothers in race row over family property business

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/09/18/exclusive-kohli-brothers-in-race-row-over-family-property-business-86908-20741296/>

Council slams cop's race vendetta claim

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2448468.0.council_slams_cops_race_vendetta_claim.php

Parade facing ban over sectarian violence fears

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latestnews/Parade-facing-ban-over-sectarian.4512946.jp>

Race relations hit a new low at Scotland Yard

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/race-relations-hit-a-new-low-at-scotland-yard-936167.html>

Zero tolerance of religious discrimination

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/18/islam.religion>

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Other Holyrood

Petition

Public Petitions Committee

Official Report 9 September 2008: PE1118 Animal slaughter without pre-stunning

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-08/pu08-1302.htm#Col1039>

Press Releases

Spending plans published

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/16153537>

Proposals to review jury system

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/18102403>

New publications

Draft Budget 2009-10

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238287/0065416.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing: Draft Budget 2009-10

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-08/SB08-49.pdf>

News

Labour frontline team announced

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7618474.stm>

Gray snubs Alexander's people as he names his shadow team

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2447714.0.Gray_snubs_Alexander_s_people_as_he_names_his_shadow_team.php

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New Publication

What future for care?

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialcare/pdf/2290.pdf>

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Other News

Muslims have 'victim mentality'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7619642.stm>

UK to sign UN children convention

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7624450.stm

Buddha relic tour graces Scotland

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east/7619100.stm

Muslim police anger over leaflet

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7624523.stm>

Sharia law challenges British justice

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/09/21/do2103.xml>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

**** Judiciary and Courts Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-19g.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

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

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

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

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Consultations (closing date)

**** New or updated this week**

**** closes this week!**

Inquiry into the Scottish Parliament public petitions process (26 September 2008)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/inquiries/petitionsProcess/InquiryintothePublicPetitionsProcess.htm>

**** closes this week!**

Election Day: Weekend Voting (26 September 2008)
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp1308.pdf>

**** closes this week!**

Governance and Leadership in Third Sector Organisations in Scotland
(28 September 2008)
<http://www.som.cranfield.ac.uk/som/questionnaire/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=72K3397>

The Duty to Promote Community Cohesion in Schools Survey 2008 (short online questionnaire – no closing date specified)
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DuLrl_2bXuA9e2GCtgeKbcwA_3d_3d

Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupil Groups (concerns schools in England and Wales) (6 October 2008)
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conSection.cfm?consultationId=1574&dId=913&sId=5504&numbering=1&itemNumber=1>

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance (15 October 2008)
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/forcedmarriage-consultation>

Immigration appeals: Fair decisions, faster justice (16 October 2008)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/immigrationappeals/immigrationappealsconsultation?view=Binary>

Strengthening the Common Travel Area (16 October 2008)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/strengtheningthecommontravelarea/travelareaconsultation?view=Binary>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill (21 October 2008)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/inquiries/Offences/offencescall.htm>

No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility (22 October 2008)
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoff-complete.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (November 2008)
http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_to_m4-482454.pdf
Online questionnaire
<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

Consultations (continued)

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

**** The Modern Scottish Jury in Criminal Trials** (11 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238536/0065469.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow

[23 September 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

[1 October 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 2.00)

[2 October 2008 in Kelso](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training events aimed at charity trustees and administrators of smaller charities with an income less than £100,000. For information contact the OSCR communications@oscr.org.uk or follow above weblinks.

Civil Society and freedom of information – a missed opportunity?

30 September 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar by the Scottish Information Commissioner and the Campaign for Freedom of Information to mark the launch of a new research project which aims to explore the ways in which Scottish civil society engages with freedom of information. The research follows evidence suggesting that the FOI 'right to information' is not being used to its full potential by Scotland's voluntary groups and campaign organisations, with only 4% of the appeals received by the Scottish Information Commissioner coming from the sector. For information contact Paul Mutch 01334 464610 / pmutch@itspublicknowledge.info

Sharing Experience – Sharing Concern

2 October 2008 in Perth (10.00 – 3.00)

National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care conference for faith communities on the theme of raising awareness on domestic abuse. For information contact 0141 847 6137 / nacosoca.admin@btconnect.com or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vii_national_commission.doc

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Volunteer Recruitment Fair

2 October 2008 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 7.00)

Recruitment and networking event organised by volunteer Centre Edinburgh to promote volunteering. For information, or to book a stall contact Ellis Ciruello ellis.ciruello@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk or see

<http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/news/pressreleases/BookingForm2008comp.doc>

Migrant Rights and Information Day

3 October in Edinburgh (10.00 – 6.00)

Positive Action in Housing information day to provide an opportunity for new migrants in Edinburgh to meet representatives from a range of different organisations and get information and advice on their employment rights, housing rights and options, welfare benefits entitlements, healthcare rights, education rights and on a wide range of other topics. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 or see

<http://www.paih.org/NMAPFILES/Edinburghmigrantinfoeventagencyinvitation.pdf>

Scottish Churches and Contemporary Migration

8 October 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.15)

Conference organised by ACTS and the Scottish Churches to explore issues around migration, and to identify key themes and challenges to which the Churches in Scotland can make a positive contribution. For information contact Nelu Balaj 01259 216980 / ecumenical@acts-scotland.org or see

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/events/2008events/migrationconferece.shtml>

**** Return and Rebuild**

8 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00 – 1.00)

International Organisation for Migration conference to provide information about the support available for those returning to Afghanistan and Iraq to rebuild or repair their family homes. For information contact John Hampsey 0141 5488114 / jhampsey@iom.int

**** Simplification, Sanctuary and Scotland**

10 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00 – 5.00)

Scottish Refugee Council conference to consider developments in UK asylum policy and their impact on asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland. For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 223 7930 / graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Scotland's Role - Turning Principles into Practice National Human Rights Institutions at the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

31 October 2008 in Glasgow (9.00-6.15)

Conference organised by the Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law, the University of Strathclyde, and the Scottish Human Rights Commission to consider how the newly instituted Scottish Human Rights Commission will in practice aim to root the principles of international human rights within the cultural and constitutional context of Scotland. For information see <http://www.law.strath.ac.uk/udhr60/> or contact cshrl@law.strath.ac.uk

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Conference

3 November 2008 in Carnoustie (9.15 – 2.30)

OSCR will report on its work over the past 12 months and its strategic and operational priorities for 2009. For information see

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f0d64243-9ef7-4354-a89a-4e756d2680c2>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

PAiH AGM

7 November 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 -)

For more information contact home@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

Leadership Development Day

12 November 2008 in Glasgow

Radar Disability Network training day designed to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions realise their leadership potential and thus increase the number of disabled people in positions of leadership and influence around the UK. For information contact Judith Simpson Judith.Simpson@radar.org.uk

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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/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

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>



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.scotlandagainstracism.com/>