

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 Scottish Parliament is in recess until 27 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Ministerial Statement

Phil Woolas (Minister of State, Home Department): This year sees the biggest changes to Britain's immigration and border security system for 45 years. Our policy will deliver strong borders, a selective migration system and an expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay. Our ambition is that migration policy maximises benefits for Britain and manages local impacts.

This strategy underpins our Australian style points system, reforms to spouse visas and requires us to modernise visit visas. Earlier this year, my predecessor published our strategy for comprehensively overhauling our visit visa system. Today we are publishing a further statement on the first of these changes with the creation of a separate category for business, sport, entertainer and special visitors. Copies are being placed in the Library of the House.

Immigration and Asylum Ministerial Statement (continued)

In modernising this system, our ambition is twofold: to let legitimate visitors connect with the UK quickly, and to strengthen still further our border security.

The statement sets out the key features of the arrangements for business, sport, entertainer and special visitors respectively.

In respect of business visitors we are bringing currently separate immigration rules and concessions together in one coherent visa; and making clear what business visitors can do here and what they cannot. We believe, after consulting stakeholders, that having a list of permissible activities is a good way of defining them.

We are introducing a new visa to provide for visiting sports-people based on the current concessionary arrangement. Our purpose here is to ensure that the contribution of overseas visiting sports people to the UK's sporting tradition continues as now, while making clear the circumstances in which sports people can come to the UK outside of the points-based system for participation in sport.

Similarly, we are introducing a new visa to provide for visiting entertainers and the circumstances in which they may come to the UK in that capacity, outside of the points-based system. In effect, we are retaining the current concessionary arrangement while removing two criteria relating to festivals that add little value to the current arrangements. Lastly, there are a number of groups of visitors for whom specific immigration rules have been introduced as a need was identified or for which concessions existed outside the rules. The new special visitor visa brings these together although the specific criteria that currently apply to each of these categories would be retained.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081016/wmstext/81016m0001.htm#08101661000013>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Peter Bone [224550]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers' applications had been outstanding for (a) six months to one year, (b) one to two years, (c) two to three years, (d) three to four years, (e) four to five years, (f) five to six years, (g) six to seven years, (h) seven to eight years, (i) eight to nine years, (j) nine to 10 years and (k) more than 10 years on 31 December in each of the last 11 years;

(2) [224555] how many outstanding asylum seekers' applications there were on 31 December in each of the last 11 years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of cases awaiting initial decision at the end of the year for 1997 to 2007.

Cases awaiting initial decision at end of year^{(1), (2)}

This information is available from Table 1.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 for 1998 to 2007

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf>

and from table 1.1 in the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2006 for 1997 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf>

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the house and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>.

Information about the length of time that asylum applications have been outstanding can only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of each of the individual case records.

⁽¹⁾ Data for 1997 and 1998 are not directly comparable with figures for later years.

⁽²⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

| | <i>Number of cases awaiting initial decision outcome at end of year</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1997 | 51,800 |
| 1998 | 64,800 |
| 1999 | 125,100 |
| 2000 | 94,500 |
| 2001 | 42,200 |
| 2002 | 41,300 |
| 2003 | 23,900 |
| 2004 | 9,700 |
| 2005 | 5,500 |
| 2006 | 6,400 |
| 2007 ⁽¹⁾ | 6,800 |
| ⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures. | |

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0010.htm#08101492000003>

Peter Bone [224554]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it took on average to process an asylum seeker's application in each of the last 11 years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information is available only for average time to initial decision. The following table shows the average time to initial decisions for cases decided between 1997 and 2007. The number of decisions in each year is also shown.

| <i>Average time to initial decision and number of decisions, 1997 to 2007^(1, 2, 3, 4)</i> | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Year of decision</i> | <i>Average time in months</i> | <i>Number of decisions⁽⁵⁾</i> |
| 1997 | 22 | 32,500 |
| 1998 | 17 | 31,570 |
| 1999 | 35 | 33,720 |
| 2000 | 18 | 109,205 |
| 2001 | 13 | 120,950 |
| 2002 | 7 | 83,540 |
| 2003 | 10 | 64,940 |
| 2004 | 13 | 46,020 |
| 2005 | 12 | 27,395 |
| 2006 ⁽⁶⁾ | 8 | 20,930 |
| 2007 ⁽⁶⁾ | 7 | 21,775 |
| ⁽¹⁾ Excluding dependants. ⁽²⁾ Figures are estimates based on cases for which information is recorded. ⁽³⁾ Prior to 2000 based on data from Refugee Index, and the A-CID database for 2000-07. ⁽⁴⁾ The average length of time (in months) is calculated from date application is lodged to the date of initial decision, and relates to the year in which the decisions were made. ⁽⁵⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5. ⁽⁶⁾ Provisional figures. | | |

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0010.htm#08101492000003>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers entered the UK in each of the last 11 years; and how many such people were aged (a) under 18 years and (b) 18 years and over. [224556]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of principal asylum applications received in the UK between 1997 and 2007 at a port of entry or at some stage after having entered the country. Figures for 1997 to 2000 have been estimated by applying published percentages for the age categories to the number of total asylum seekers.

Further information on asylum is published annually and quarterly and is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Number of principal asylum applications received in the UK by age group, 1997 to 2007⁽¹⁾

| | <i>Number of asylum seekers aged under 18 years</i> | <i>Number of asylum seekers aged 18 years and over</i> |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 1997 | 1,600 | 30,900 |
| 1998 | 4,600 | 41,400 |
| 1999 | 3,600 | 67,600 |
| 2000 | 6,400 | 73,900 |
| 2001 | 8,705 | 62,660 |
| 2002 | 12,435 | 71,700 |
| 2003 | 7,865 | 41,545 |
| 2004 | 6,205 | 27,755 |
| 2005 | 5,165 | 20,550 |
| 2006 | 4,580 | 19,030 |
| 2007 ⁽²⁾ | 3,975 | 19,420 |

⁽¹⁾ Figures for 1997 to 2000 have been estimated by applying published percentages of the age categories to the total asylum seekers population. As a result, these data have been rounded to the nearest 100. Data for 2001 to 2007 are rounded to the nearest five. ⁽²⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0011.htm>

Paul Holmes [225298]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) Afghani, (b) Belarusian, (c) Burmese, (d) Chinese, (e) Colombian, (f) Cuban, (g) Democratic Republic of Congo, (h) Democratic People's Republic of Korea, (i) Iranian, (j) Iraqi, (k) Israeli, (l) Nepalese, (m) Pakistani, (n) Russian, (o) Saudi Arabian, (p) Syrian, (q) Turkmenistani, (r) Uzbekistani and (s) Vietnamese nationals were refused asylum in the UK in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years; and how many in each category are awaiting a decision on an asylum application.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The accompanying two tables give the most recently published figures available and show the total number of refusals for (a) Afghani, (b) Belarussian, (c) Burmese, (d) Chinese, (e) Colombian, (f) Cuban, (g) Democratic Republic of Congo, (h) Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(i) Iranian, (j) Iraqi, (k) Israeli, (l) Nepalese, (m) Pakistani, (n) Russian, (o) Saudi Arabian, (p) Syrian, (q) Turkmenistani, (r) Uzbekistani and (s) Vietnamese nationals people, following initial decisions, (i) between July 2007 and June 2008 and (ii) for each of the last five calendar years.

The published figure for asylum applications split by nationality for people awaiting an initial decision is not available as the figures are based on an overall manual count which is not broken down into separate categories.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Information on many of the nationalities requested are available in these publications. Annual Statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

| <i>Asylum refusals⁽¹⁾ on initial decisions in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants 2003-07</i> | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| <i>Total refusals</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Nationality</i> | <i>Afghanistan</i> | <i>Belarus</i> | <i>Myanmar (Burma)</i> | <i>China</i> | <i>Colombia</i> | <i>Cuba</i> | <i>Dem. Rep. of Congo</i> | <i>Korea (North)</i> | <i>Iran</i> |
| 2003 | 3,375 | 160 | 105 | 3,690 | 315 | 20 | 1,685 | * | 2,930 |
| 2004 | 2,225 | 180 | 80 | 2,525 | 150 | 20 | 1,540 | 45 | 3,590 |
| 2005 | 1,050 | 50 | 35 | 1,685 | 65 | 15 | 985 | 10 | 2,850 |
| 2006 | 1,310 | 40 | 30 | 1,600 | 45 | 15 | 470 | 10 | 1,850 |
| 2007 ⁽²⁾ | 1,490 | 40 | 40 | 1,860 | 30 | 10 | 315 | 25 | 1,665 |

| <i>Total refusals</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Nationality</i> | <i>Iraq</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Nepal</i> | <i>Pakistan</i> | <i>Russia</i> | <i>Saudi Arabia</i> | <i>Syria</i> | <i>Turkmenistan</i> | <i>Uzbekistan</i> | <i>Vietnam</i> |
| 2003 | 4,580 | 50 | 290 | 2,050 | 340 | 0 | 120 | 10 | 20 | 970 |
| 2004 | 4,615 | 45 | 195 | 1,795 | 215 | * | 255 | 5 | 25 | 675 |
| 2005 | 1,676 | 30 | 70 | 1,040 | 115 | 0 | 315 | 5 | 15 | 295 |
| 2006 | 650 | 15 | 45 | 690 | 85 | 0 | 145 | 5 | 15 | 60 |
| 2007 ⁽²⁾ | 1,090 | 15 | 25 | 775 | 85 | 0 | 110 | 5 | 20 | 110 |

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to nearest 5, (*=1 or 2).

⁽²⁾ Provisional figures

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum refusals on initial decisions^(1,2) in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants July 2007-June 2008 by month

| <i>Total refusals</i> | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| <i>Nationality</i> | <i>Afghanistan</i> | <i>Belarus</i> | <i>Myanmar (Burma)</i> | <i>China</i> | <i>Colombia</i> | <i>Cuba</i> | <i>Dem. Rep. of Congo</i> | <i>Korea (North)</i> | <i>Iran</i> |
| <i>2007</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 125 | 5 | 10 | 155 | 5 | 0 | 50 | * | 120 |
| August | 115 | 0 | 5 | 185 | 5 | 5 | 25 | * | 100 |
| September | 90 | * | 5 | 185 | * | 0 | 20 | 5 | 70 |
| October | 120 | 5 | * | 170 | 5 | * | 10 | * | 115 |
| November | 115 | * | 5 | 115 | * | 0 | 15 | 5 | 100 |
| December | 70 | * | * | 95 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 65 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>2008</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 105 | * | * | 135 | * | * | 15 | 5 | 110 |
| February | 105 | 5 | 5 | 70 | * | 0 | 15 | 10 | 100 |
| March | 100 | 0 | 5 | 45 | * | 0 | 15 | 5 | 75 |
| April | 115 | 0 | 5 | 75 | 0 | * | 15 | 10 | 105 |
| May | 85 | 0 | 5 | 70 | * | 0 | 15 | 10 | 100 |
| June | 100 | * | 5 | 85 | * | 0 | 15 | 10 | 125 |

| <i>Total refusals</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| <i>Nationality</i> | <i>Iraq</i> | <i>Israel</i> | <i>Nepal</i> | <i>Pakistan</i> | <i>Russia</i> | <i>Saudi Arabia</i> | <i>Syria</i> | <i>Turkmenistan</i> | <i>Uzbekistan</i> | <i>Vietnam</i> |
| <i>2007</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| July | 85 | * | * | 55 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 15 |
| August | 85 | 5 | 0 | 50 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| September | 70 | 0 | * | 50 | 5 | 0 | 5 | * | 0 | 15 |
| October | 100 | * | * | 65 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| November | 80 | * | 5 | 75 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| December | 60 | * | 0 | 45 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | * | 10 |

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 2008 | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 80 | * | 0 | 50 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| February | 100 | * | * | 60 | * | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| March | 100 | * | * | 60 | * | 0 | 5 | * | 0 | 10 |
| April | 95 | 0 | * | 75 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| May | 65 | * | * | 65 | * | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| June | 80 | * | * | 45 | 5 | 0 | 5 | * | 0 | 5 |
| ⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to nearest 5, (* = 1 or 2) ⁽²⁾ Provisional figures | | | | | | | | | | |

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0011.htm>

Peter Bone [224551]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each of the last 11 years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of asylum seekers removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. The latest published information is provided in the following table and can be found in Table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf>

| <i>Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns of asylum applicants⁽¹⁾ from the United Kingdom, 1997 to 2007⁽²⁾</i> | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | <i>Asylum cases</i> | | |
| | <i>P rincipal</i> | <i>D ependants⁽³⁾</i> | <i>T otal</i> |
| 1997 | 7,165 | n/a | n/a |
| 1998 | 6,990 | n/a | n/a |
| 1999 ⁽⁴⁾ | 7,665 | n/a | n/a |
| 2000 ⁽⁴⁾ | 8,980 | n/a | n/a |
| 2001 ⁽⁴⁾ | 9,285 | 1,495 | 10,780 |
| 2002 | 10,740 | 3,170 | 13,910 |
| 2003 | 13,005 | 4,890 | 17,895 |
| 2004 | 12,595 | 2,315 | 14,915 |
| 2005 | 13,730 | 1,955 | 15,685 |
| 2006 | 16,330 | 1,950 | 18,280 |
| 2007 ⁽⁵⁾ | 12,705 | 1,000 | 13,705 |
| n/a = not available. ⁽¹⁾ Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing | | | |

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, since January 1999 persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. ⁽²⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding. ⁽³⁾ Data on dependants removed are not available before April 2001. ⁽⁴⁾ Figures may include a small number of dependants leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes. ⁽⁵⁾ Provisional figures.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0012.htm#08101492000005>

Shailesh Vara [226841]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of projected levels on net migration into the UK over the next (a) five, (b) 10 and (c) 25 years; from which countries arrivals are expected; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what recent estimate has been made of projected levels of net migration into the UK over the next (a) five, (b) 10 and (c) 25 years; from which countries arrivals are expected. (226841)

National population projections are normally produced every two years. The latest (2006-based) national population projections were published by the Office for National Statistics in October 2007 and the next (2008-based) set are planned for publication in October 2009.

The levels of net inward migration to the UK for future years assumed in the 2006-based projections are summarised in the following table. The assumptions underlying national population projections are demographic trend based. They are not forecasts. They do not attempt to predict the impact that future government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors (whether in the UK or overseas) might have on demographic behaviour.

| <i>Mid-year to mid-year</i> | <i>Assumed net migration</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2008-09 | +230,000 |
| 2009-10 | +221,400 |
| 2010-11 | +211,400 |
| 2011-12 | +201,400 |
| 2012-13 and 2013-14 | +191,400 |
| 2014-15 onwards | +190,000 |

These assumptions are not available broken down by country of origin or destination.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081016/text/81016w0017.htm#08101698000027>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Simon Hughes [227234]: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what consultation by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) undertook with Government departments before the ONS's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published on 24 April 2007.

Reply from Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what consultation the Office for National Statistics had with Government departments before the Office's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published. (227234)

Over a significant period of time prior to implementation, ONS officials had regular discussions with the key Departmental users of population and migration statistics, specifically:

The Department for Communities and Local Government, given their role with local grant funding;

The Department of Health, including representation on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Advisory Committee for Resource Allocation (ACRA); and

The devolved administrations.

Also, at each stage in the development and implementation of the improved methodology, we kept government departments, local authorities and other users informed. Papers were submitted for discussion at the regular meetings held with the population sub-group of Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP). Membership of CLIP includes representatives from Government departments, as well as from local government. The proposed new methodology was first discussed by CLIP in April 2006 prior to the announcement, in August 2006, of plans to implement the revised methods and the publication of indicative figures and explanatory papers in April 2007. Presentations of the methods were made at conferences and seminars, in particular British Society of Population Studies.

ONS is now leading a cross-departmental programme of work to improve migration and population statistics that has been in place since April 2008. We liaise closely with other government departments who are members of a steering group overseeing this work. The Local Government Association is also represented on the steering group.

Through this, a series of working groups that meet regularly, seminars and workshops that are arranged to engage local stakeholders, ONS continues to liaise closely with central and local Government on the improving migration statistics programme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081016/text/81016w0027.htm#0810171000052>

John Mann (226550): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were living in each constituency in the UK at the most recent date for which figures are available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81013w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Shailesh Vara (226843): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Immigration Service detainees were held in police cells in each police force area in each year since 2001.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81013w01.htm>

Sarah Teather (227896): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many minors have been held in detention centres for the purposes of immigration control in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (a) age and (b) sex.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81016w01.htm>

Press Releases

Immigration Pact: has the EU forgotten its commitment to fundamental rights?

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-10-15%20immigration%20Pact%20adoption.pdf>

MEPs to vote on EU Blue Card for skilled migrants

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/story_page/018-39206-287-10-42-902-20081013STO39205-2008-13-10-2008/default_en.htm

Business visitors face strict new rules

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/businessvisitors>

New publications

Business and special visitors: statement of intent

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/businessandspecialvisitors/statementofintent.pdf>

The EU Immigration Pact – from Hague to Stockholm, via Paris

http://www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/304970248_EU%20Immigration%20Pact.pdf

News

Labour 'floundering' on migration

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7677962.stm

Eye-catching population promise

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7677953.stm>

Immigration limit plan slammed

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Immigration-limit-plan-slammed.4606954.jp>

Migrant quotas questioned

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2461509.0.migrant_quotas_questioned.php

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Minister asks employers to opt for British workers

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4969325.ece>

Phil Woolas 'backtracks' on immigration

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4974508.ece><http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4974508.ece>

Minister 'pandering to the right' on migrants

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/oct/19/immigrationpolicy-labour-phil-wollas>

Immigration to be curbed amid credit crunch

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-to-be-curbed-amid-credit-crunch-965772.html>

Summit to back immigration policy overhaul

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/mobility/summit-back-immigration-policy-overhaul/article-176357>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

New one-stop shop for cohesion launched

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/994988>

News

Teach children what Muslims did for us, says minister Jim Knight

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/politics/education/3209469/Teach-children-what-Muslims-did-for-us-says-minister-Jim-Knight.html>

Muslim leader says youth need more time to integrate

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2461505.0.muslim_leader_says_youth_need_more_time_to_integrate.php

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Laws [227014]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect that the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant has had on improving educational performance; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £187 million in 2008-09 and will rise to £206 million by 2010-11. This ring-fenced grant provides specific funding to contribute to the work of local authorities and schools in narrowing achievement gaps for black and minority ethnic pupils, and covers some of the additional costs in meeting the needs of bilingual learners and underachieving pupils. In the five years 2002 to 2007 the proportion of children from most ethnic minority groups achieving national expectations at key stages 2 and 4 has increased faster than that of the whole cohort. The targeted use of EMAG has contributed towards this desirable outcome.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0024.htm#081014100000068>

Michael Gove [224805]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of (a) boys and (b) girls from each ethnic minority group did not achieve any A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Jim Knight: Figures for 2006-07 are given in the following table. Information for earlier years can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 study in maintained schools.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/text/81014w0030.htm#081014100000097>

Press Release

EU Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion: Ethnic minorities must be more visible

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2008-10-14%20Round%20table%20poverty.pdf>

New publication

The fight against discrimination and the promotion of equality: How to measure progress done

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/measprog08_en.pdf

News

Bid to 'poach' ethnic minority police

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2461125.0.Bid_to_poach_ethnic_minority_police.php

Equality

News (continued)

The thin multi-coloured line

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/focus/display.var.2461150.0.The_thin_multicoloured_line.php

Sisters opt for life in twin blue line

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2461231.0.sisters_opt_for_life_in_twin_blue_line.php

Sisters become first Asian twins to join Strathclyde Police

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/10/17/exclusive-sisters-become-first-asian-twins-to-join-strathclyde-police-86908-20812361/>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Alistair Carmichael (227420): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the prosecution rate was for racist hate crime detected by the Metropolitan Police in each of the last five years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/81015w01.htm>

News

War veteran gets life for racist murder of Orkney waiter

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2461280.0.war_veteran_gets_life_for_racist_murder_of_orkney_waiter.php

Still no peace for islanders as killer is given 25 years

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Still-no-peace-for.4605711.jp>

Protest over Muslim 'harassment'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7669187.stm

Biggest-ever European Action Week against Racism in Football kicks off!

<http://farenet.org/default.asp?intPageID=7&intArticleID=1710>

Football Unites, Racism Divides wins SCORE4Africa award

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

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Other Westminster

Debate

Promoting Democracy and Human Rights

Caroline Flint (Minister for Europe) That this House has considered the matter of promoting democracy and human rights.

Foreign policy has traditionally been associated with the peace, security and prosperity of this country. It is about all those things, but the title of today's debate reminds us that it is also about people. Much of the work done by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, our partners in foreign policy, is about improving the lot of people, wherever they are in the world. Our work to promote democracy and to further human rights goes to the heart of that. It is quite a challenge. We need to change the minds and behaviour of other Governments, and we need to challenge the most intimate political relationship—that between a state and its people.

We do this because a democratic rules-based world will benefit Britain and British people as they go about their daily lives, whether in business, on holiday or simply as taxpayers financing our contributions to military and development missions abroad. We can do that work bilaterally, and we do. In many cases, our human rights work is fundamental to achieving our departmental priority, whether it is climate security or stopping arms proliferation, but—and this is unique in today's era—we also have the ability to work with international partners, so a crucial part of our strategy is to make international institutions work better.

To continue reading the debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081013/debtext/81013-0007.htm>

the debate is adjourned for consideration of the Counter-Terrorism Bill, and resumes at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081013/debtext/81013-0018.htm#08101342000001>

Parliamentary Questions

Hugo Swire: What recent assessment her Department has made of the implications of sharia law practices for community cohesion. [226339]

Reply from Sadiq Khan: Community cohesion is about building better relationships between people from different backgrounds, including those from new and settled communities. The use of religious courts, such as sharia councils, to resolve private family and contractual disputes is well established, and in itself does not have an impact on community cohesion. It is, however, important that all practices are compliant with our framework of equality legislation, as equality is essential in the underpinning of cohesion.

Hugo Swire: I congratulate the Minister on his debut on the Front Bench in his new role. He said over the weekend that he would be

“very concerned about sharia courts applying in the UK.”

Presumably no one had told him that last year the Government licensed a whole lot of what they call Muslim arbitration tribunals. I appreciate that their powers are limited, but they are presided over by sharia judges and are therefore, in effect, state-licensed sharia courts. Is the Minister satisfied that individual women in particular who come before such courts will do so voluntarily in every case?

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question, but I wish that he had read the entire quotation. For the avoidance of any doubt, I tell the House that sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales, and there is no intention to change that. His point about women is one that I referred to in the answer that I gave a minute and a half ago. We are conscious of the fact that all sharia councils should abide by equality legislation. That is at the core of cohesion.

Ann Cryer: Is my hon. Friend aware that only two of the eight mosques in my constituency are registered for marriage? Therefore, there can be problems, as couples are married in sharia law, but not in the law of this country. Sometimes there are problems—if the marriage breaks down and a settlement needs to be arrived at about the division of assets, for instance, where the woman can be let down by a sharia judge. Can my hon. Friend's Department do anything to encourage mosques to register for marriage, so that those marriages take place within the law of the land?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank my hon. Friend for her question. She has huge experience of what is a serious issue. For the avoidance of doubt, the Marriage Act 1949 provides for mosques to be registered for the solemnisation of marriages according to the rites of the Muslim religion. There are certain conditions that need to be satisfied, and they are recognised in law without the need for a civil ceremony. Where a mosque is not registered, such as six of the eight mosques in my hon. Friend's constituency, a separate civil ceremony is necessary. Otherwise, the spouses of the religious marriage are treated the same as common-law wives and therefore can be disadvantaged. It is really important that they seek advice where they can and that we encourage civil contracts where, for whatever reasons, civil ceremonies are not registered. However, it is just as important that we advise mosques to become registered. That will give women the protection that they need.

Paul Rowen: I understand that as part of the Government's community cohesion policy the Minister has started working with mosques to teach citizenship. Could he enlighten us on what his Department is doing to bring mosques more into the mainstream and get them involved, such as through the registration that the hon. Member for Keighley (Mrs. Cryer) talked about?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his question. I know that he takes a keen interest in these matters in Rochdale. He will be aware of the setting up of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board—MINAB—with which we are working, along with communities and religious organisations, to improve how mosques operate. A good mosque is like a good church, a good synagogue, a good temple or a good gurdwara: it can be the hub of a local community and make it more cohesive. We are working with faith leaders to ensure that their mosques can use best practice from around the country, so that citizens in Rochdale—Muslims and non-Muslims—can be best served by good mosques.

Phyllis Starkey: Last weekend, I was at the big Eid celebration in Bletchley in my constituency. There was a stall there giving information on Islamic mortgages, which are consistent with sharia law. In the current economic climate, such mortgages—which are, of course, available to non-Muslims as well as to Muslims—seem to be quite a good model. Is not this an example of a practice designed for only one community which could benefit the whole community and which could be accommodated in UK law?

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank my hon. Friend for her question. She will be aware that, in consecutive Finance Bills, the Government have allowed Islamic finance to take place in this country. She makes the important point that sharia law is not, as is perceived by the media, just about cutting off hands. It covers Islamic finance, worshipping, and how one dresses and eats. She is absolutely right to say that ethically friendly mortgages—Islamic finance mortgages—are products that are now being taken up not only by more Muslims but by non-Muslims as well.

Paul Goodman: We welcome the Minister to his new post. We also send our best wishes to his predecessor.

Over the weekend, the Minister was quoted as saying, in relation to sharia courts:

“At some stage in the future I do not rule out the possibility that the Muslim diaspora in this country may be advanced enough”.

That must mean either that he did not know about the Muslim arbitration tribunals or that he thinks that, eventually, their powers could be extended. To clear all this up, will he write to me listing exactly when these tribunals were approved, who approved them, who was consulted, who the judges are, what cases have been heard, and exactly what measures are in place to protect women? And will he place a copy of the letter in the Library?

Reply from Sadiq Khan: I thank the hon. Gentleman for his warm words. I am disappointed that somebody of his experience does not know the areas covered by the Ministry of Justice, and those covered by the Department for Communities and Local Government. He will of course be aware of the matter from the copy of the letter given to him by the shadow Home Secretary, the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve), to whom the Home Secretary wrote on this issue. As my contacts with our Front Bench are clearly better than the hon. Gentleman’s contacts with his own Front Bench, I will ensure that the right Minister writes to him to give him the information that he has requested.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081014/debtext/81014-0002.htm#08101459000017>

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL5341]: Whether the awards of religious tribunals are capable of being enforced by civil courts in the United Kingdom; and, if so, upon what terms.

Reply from Lord Bach: The awards of religious tribunals may be enforceable through the courts by virtue of the Arbitration Act 1996. This provides that where both parties agree to arbitration, the decision of the tribunal that they appoint will be enforceable by the civil courts if the requirements of the Arbitration Act are satisfied. If any decisions by these tribunals were illegal or contrary to public policy, they would not be enforceable.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81013w0003.htm#08101317000026>

Press Release

Responding to a changing terrorist threat

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/more-powers-needed>

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New Publications

**The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland:
Annual Report 07/08**

http://www.publicappointments.org/text_only/publications/documents/OCPAS_Annual_Report_2007-08.pdf

Young people and territoriality in British cities

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2278-young-people-territoriality.pdf>

**Get in there - How to get involved in Europe: a guide for individuals,
communities and those working with communities**

http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Participatory_democracy/GetIn_There.pdf

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Other News

Muslim group bids to build East Lothian's first mosque

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslim-group-bids-to-build.4606290.jp>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

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

Judiciary and Courts Bill

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/b6bs3-aspassed.pdf>

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 (continued) **Westminster**

**** Counter-Terrorism Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/ml065-iii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/su065-iiia.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/065/amend/su065-iiib.htm>

House of Commons: Ministerial statement and debate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081013/debtext/81013-0016.htm#08101334000001>

House of Lords consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81013-0002.htm#08101350000003>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81013-0014.htm#08101337000002>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81014-0002.htm#08101447000008>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/81015-0002.htm#08101545000002>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/psc1201013a.3119-3120.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/psc1201410a.3123.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/psc1201510a.3131-3132.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/120/amend/psc1201610a.3177.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Bill (21 October 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/inquiries/Offences/offencescall.htm>

** *closes this week!*

No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility (22 October 2008)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoff-complete.pdf>

Acquisition and Retention of DNA and Fingerprint Data in Scotland

(21 November 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/239066/0065846.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

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

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>

Health in our Multi-ethnic Scotland: Future Research Priorities

(8 December 2008)

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/8248-Report%20-%20Health%20in%20our%20Multi-ethnic%20Scotland.pdf>

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

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

Adoptions with a Foreign Element Regulations 2009 (19 December 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/240124/0066276.pdf>

Monitoring of Cross-border charities (23 December 2008)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=6990ead9-bbfc-427d-9f8c-3f3495363092>

Appendix 1 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=0be569cc-6efc-45f9-9829-43a784b3c6b7>

Appendix 2 <http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=11a26977-b23e-4c67-b083-6e3bd00c2d90>

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.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

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>

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

**** Statutory Review and Reconsideration Orders: Access to Justice for Asylum Seekers**

24 November 2008 in Glasgow (9.30-4.00)

Training event organised jointly by the Glasgow Immigration Practitioners' Group, Scottish Refugee Council, and the Murray Stable. For more information see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/GILPA_Training_Event or contact train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

St Andrew's Day anti-racism march and rally

29 November 2008 in Glasgow

March organised by the STUC to celebrate unity and challenge racism and fascism everywhere. For information see <http://www.stuc.org.uk/events/496/st-andrew-s-day-march-and-rally>

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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/>

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/>