

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. 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.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Communities

Richard Baker (S3W-30559): To ask the Scottish Executive what benefits it considers that the introduction of a national register of public service interpreters similar to that in operation in England and Wales would bring.

Reply from Alex Neil: The Translating, Interpreting and Communication Support Group, set up by the Scottish Government to improve the standard of translation and interpreting services, identified monitoring quality and standards of the interpretation service as a key priority. One way of facilitating this could be through the use of the existing UK wide national register or a register specific to Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-30559>

Richard Baker (S3W-30560): To ask the Scottish Executive whether it would support the introduction of a national register of public service interpreters similar to that in operation in England and Wales.

Reply from Alex Neil: The national register of public service interpreters operational in England and Wales also operates in Scotland. However, it is our understanding that it is not widely used. The Scottish Government would be supportive of steps to improve monitoring of quality and data, through the use of a register if service providers felt that was the most effective way of doing so.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-30560>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration: Asylum Support Office

Lord Dykes: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to establish the new European Asylum Support Office approved by the European Council last autumn. [HL1196]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The setting up of the European Asylum Support Office will fall initially to the European Commission, but the Government will co-operate closely with the Commission to ensure that the office is able to start work in its host country of Malta as soon as possible.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100127w0007.htm#10012786001029>

Immigration: Tinsley House

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were detained at Tinsley House immigration removal centre for more than 72 hours during 2009. [HL1125]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: During 2009, 111 children were detained at Tinsley for more than 72 hours. This figure is taken from local data normally used for management information only.

Following a recent internal review, however, we have taken the decision to limit the length of stay for children to just 24 hours, after which they will be transferred to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre.

This is an interim measure pending a programme of changes we will be making at the centre to improve facilities for children.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100126w0003.htm#10012667000350>

Baroness Stern: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have modified the education provision for children at Tinsley House immigration removal centre since HM Chief Inspector of Prisons noted it was "inadequate". [HL1127]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: As we are not currently holding children at Tinsley House for more than 24 hours, planned education provided by a trained teacher is neither appropriate nor practicable.

Where children are to be held for longer than 24 hours, they are transferred to Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre, where comprehensive education provision is available for children of all ages, delivered by qualified nursery nurses and teachers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100127w0007.htm#10012786001031>

Exclusion Orders: Overseas Students

John Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what subjects at what level had been taught to foreign national students who have been deported from the UK on grounds of national security since 2001. [311504]

Reply from Phil Woolas: None of the persons deported on national security grounds since 2001 have been foreign national students.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100125/text/100125w0030.htm#1001263000024>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: "Bogus" Colleges

Lord Naseby: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they have taken in the last six months to prevent illegal immigration through the use of "bogus" colleges and to close down student loan scams used to obtain visas.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: There are currently around 2,000 sponsors on the tier 4 register. In the past six months we have carried out around 600 inspections, suspending 140 and revoking 15 tier 4 licences. United Kingdom Border Agency staff are trained to spot forged loan documents. Applicants who use them are refused and may be banned from entering the United Kingdom for up to 10 years. On 12 November 2009, the Prime Minister announced a review of tier 4 that will report back shortly.

Lord Naseby: The Minister will know that I asked the question last July. Why is it still so easy for these bogus colleges to operate and to bring in illegal immigrant students? Why is it that at this time we have a large number of sham applications from Pakistani students? It would appear that the assessment of their entry requirements is done outside Pakistan by one of our embassies. Is that not a situation where that embassy has no idea of the tricks of the trade in that part of the world? Would it not be far better if the whole assessment was done by our own people in Pakistan?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the noble Lord asks a large number of questions. First, I do not accept that we have not got a handle on these various colleges. There were initially some 15,000 colleges in the DIUS list, of which about 4,000 regularly had foreign students. After going through them and guaranteeing that they are bone fide colleges, we have now reduced that number to about 2,000. We have made careful checks of those colleges-I mentioned the number that we have closed down-so we have a very strong handle on that.

On the students coming into the country, it is important to keep in balance the fact that foreign students in this country, just in terms of fees, bring in £2.5 billion a year; with all the other added value, it is about £8.5 billion a year. We have to balance that against ensuring that we do not get a lot of people coming here who are not entitled to be in this country. I think we keep that balance fairly well correct and we are very good at doing those checks. I could go into more detail, but I will open it up for more questions.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, is there any truth in the suggestion that, of the 66,000 people who came to this country from Pakistan in the nine months to last September, only 29 were interviewed by British immigration officials and the rest by contracted interviewers in Pakistan or elsewhere?

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: My Lords, the system is that we look at documentation before any of the people provide their biometrics. After looking at that documentation, we assess whether we need to have a face-to-face interview. We are content that we are achieving good results. Indeed, I was speaking earlier today to the independent watchkeeper, who was appointed last year; we will see in his report, which comes out later this week, that he is fairly satisfied with the levels that have been achieved.

To read the rest of the lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100125-0001.htm#1001252000279>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Controls

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions immigration judges have overturned a decision on an application made under each tier of the points-based immigration system since the implementation of that system. [312880]

Reply from Phil Woolas: There is no right of appeal to an immigration judge for applications refused out of country. The information for in country appeals is as follows:

<i>Number of appeals allowed under each tier of PBS: 29 February 2008 - 31 December 2009⁽¹⁾</i>							
	2008				2009		
<i>Tier</i>	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
1	⁽²⁾ -	5	45	305	1125	1985	1480
2	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	⁽²⁾ -	45	100
3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	⁽²⁾ -	130
5	n/a	n/a	n/a	-	-	⁽²⁾ -	⁽²⁾ -

n/a = Not applicable as tier had not been introduced.
⁽¹⁾For in-country applications only. Outside the UK a refusal of entry clearance under PBS does not attract a full right of appeal.
⁽²⁾1 or 2.
Notes:
 1. All figures rounded to nearest 5.
 2. All figures quoted are provisional and derived from internal management information. The information has not been quality assured through National Statistics protocols

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100127/text/100127w0014.htm#10012763000114>

Human Trafficking

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases in respect of potential victims of trafficking who have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 no decision on (a) reasonable and (b) conclusive grounds has been made. [309668]

Reply from Alan Campbell: From the cases referred into the National Referral Mechanism between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, as of the latter date 70 were awaiting the Reasonable Grounds Decision and 245 were awaiting the Conclusive Grounds Decision.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100128/text/100128w0013.htm#10012870000137>

Human Trafficking: Children

Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the human trafficking national referral mechanism by (a) police and (b) the UK Border Agency since 1 April 2009. [313009]

Reply from Alan Campbell: The police have referred 49 children and the UK Border Agency referred 39 children in the period, 1 April to 31 December 2009.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100128/text/100128w0013.htm#10012870000138>

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

Enhancements to the sponsorship management system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/32-enhancements-sms>

New responsibilities for education providers who sponsor migrants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/33-new-resp-t4-sponsors>

Changes to student applications from next month

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/34-changes-t4-applications>

News

Cost of human trafficking to be outlined to MSPs

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/cost-of-human-trafficking-to-be-outlined-to-msps-1.1001500>

Trafficking victims 'may avoid going to police due to legal fears'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Trafficking-victims--39may-.6016162.jp>

New police crackdown on Scots sex slave trade

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/new-police-crackdown-on-scots-sex-slave-trade-1.1002269>

UK suspends Indian student visa applications

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8489349.stm>

Students who break visa rules can stay in UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/7109967/Students-who-break-visa-rules-can-stay-in-UK.html>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

Primary schools should teach about Zoroastrianism and Jainism in RE

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/7104899/Primary-schools-should-teach-about-Zoroastrianism-and-Jainism-in-RE.html>

Muslims in the UK: beyond the hype

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jan/28/muslims-media-hate-crimes>

[TOP](#)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Equality Bill (Religious Groups)

Andrew Rosindell: What recent discussions she has had with religious groups on the provisions of the Equality Bill. [313702]

Reply from Harriet Harman: Ministers in this House—in particular my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office—and Ministers in the Lords have had a number of discussions with religious and belief groups and have received a number of representations relating to religion or belief since the introduction of the Equality Bill. Such discussions and representations are ongoing.

Andrew Rosindell: Will the Minister finally admit that were it not for the successful amendment from Baroness O’Cathain in the House of Lords earlier this week, the Equality Bill as unamended would have further restricted employment for people working in religious organisations?

Reply from Harriet Harman: No, it would not. We thought that it would be helpful for everyone involved to clarify the law, and that is what the amendment that we brought forward aimed to do. That amendment was rejected. However, it would be helpful for the House to understand that there are religious jobs and non-religious jobs within organisations. For example, I would say that a pensions assistant ensuring that the records database is kept up to date was not doing a religious job. I would also say that issuing and processing invoices, even if it is done in the employment of the Church of England, is not a religious job.

To make it clear, the law applies to religious organisations when they employ people in non-religious jobs in the same way that it does to everyone else. We have always been clear that we are not going to insist on non-discrimination in relation to religious jobs such as being a vicar, a bishop, an imam or a rabbi. The law has stepped back from that and said that religious organisations can decide themselves how to do that. However, when it comes to non-religious jobs, those organisations must comply with the law, and that is how the law remains.

Mark Harper: The Minister will know that before the Government’s defeat, her Bill as unamended did not even make it clear that ministers of religion would have to live in accordance with the faith of their religion. Following the Government’s defeat in the other place not once but three times, by a coalition led by Conservative peers, bishops and Cross Benchers, the Bill has been improved. Can the Minister confirm that the Government will accept the decision in the other place to enable Churches to insist that key posts be held by those who live in accordance with the tenets of their faith, or will she seek to reverse that defeat in this House?

Reply from Harriet Harman: I think that the hon. Gentleman is trying to perpetrate a further misunderstanding. We are absolutely clear that we have never intended to extend the non-discrimination provisions to ministers of religion, nor have we ever tried to do so. Therefore they are exempted. We have always made it absolutely clear that they are and will continue to be exempted from the non-discrimination laws, and we have not sought to change that. There has been an issue about what is or is not a religious job, and we sought to clarify that. Our helpful clarification was not regarded as helpful in the House of Lords, and therefore the amendment was defeated. We will consider how to respond to that, but an official announcement will be made in due course, once these things have gone through the machinery, as it were. However, I would reassure hon. Members that the policy will remain as it is, and I would not want to lead them to anticipate that it will be brought forward again in this House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmhansrd/cm100128/debtext/100128-0003.htm#10012853000030>

Equality (continued) Press Releases

Launch of detailed research into inequalities

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/launch-of-detailed-research-into-inequalities/>

Current approach to tackling inequality and discrimination needs radical re-thinking

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/pressreleases/?id=3856>

New publications

Dimensions of Diversity

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/11760-Pop%20Div%202010%20FINAL%20web.pdf>

Why Do Assets Matter? Assets, Equality and Ethnicity – Building towards Financial Inclusion

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/WhyDoAssetsMatterv8.pdf>

You Can't Put Me In A Box. Super-diversity and the end of identity politics in Britain

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/you_cant_put_me_in_a_box.pdf&a=skip

News

Experiencing prejudice 'has an impact' on mental health

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Experiencing--prejudice-39has-an.6012536.jp>

Ethnic minority staff paid 10% less than white workers at Trevor Phillips' equality watchdog

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1247344/Ethnic-minority-staff-paid-10-white-workers-Trevor-Phillips-equality-watchdog.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-5629 Ken Macintosh: Holocaust Memorial Day 2010—That the Parliament notes 27 January 2010 as Holocaust Memorial Day and urges all Scots to unite in remembering the victims and survivors of the Holocaust; recognises that the lessons learned from the tragedy of the Holocaust are of fundamental importance for successive generations; believes that continued vigilance and opposition to discrimination, persecution and racism is vital if such terrible events are to be prevented from ever happening again; also wishes, however, to celebrate the legacy of hope provided by those who survived and those who helped others survive; particularly wishes to remember the Rev Ernest Levy from Giffnock, a survivor of Auschwitz Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen who died last year; notes that, despite enduring appalling suffering during the Holocaust, the Rev Levy never

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

lost his warmth or humanity and devoted himself to educating others, and believes that the best way to remember and pay tribute to Holocaust survivors like Ernest Levy is to ensure that their inspiring stories continues to be told to future generations.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=18213>

Press Releases

Court ruling in legal challenge to the BNP's constitution

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/court-ruling-in-legal-challenge-to-the-bnp-s-constitution/>

PM's message on Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22308>

Secretary of State marks Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/13284.html>

David Miliband marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day

<http://www.fc.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21636759>

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Europe must not break the 'never again' promise

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2010-01-27%20holocaust%20day.pdf>

Stories of Holocaust survival must be shared and preserved

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33591&Cr=genocide&Cr1=>

Remembering the Holocaust is key to fighting modern-day racism

http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_1_42488.html

New publications

Racist violence and support to victims

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/FS42%20-%20racist%20violence%20and%20support%20to%20victims%20EN.pdf>

Discover the past for the future: a study of historical sites and museums in Holocaust education and Human Rights education in the EU

Full Report

<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Main-Results-Discover-the-Past-for-the-Future.pdf>

Summary

<http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Focus-Report-Discover-the-Past-for-the-Future.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **News**

Muslims attack silence over anti-Islamic hostility

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8482030.stm>

BNP given last chance to end 'whites only' rule on membership

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/BNP-given-last-chance-to.6025323.jp>

Internet racism pair lose appeal

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/north_yorkshire/8486884.stm

Media and politicians 'fuel rise in hate crimes against Muslims'

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jan/28/hate-crimes-muslims-media-politicians>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

General Register Office for Scotland: Census Cognitive Testing reports

National Identity question

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/preparations/2011-census-national-identity-question.pdf>

Language question

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/preparations/2011-census-language-question.pdf>

Health and disability question

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/preparations/2011-census-health-disability-questions.pdf>

Whole questionnaire

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/the-census/preparations/2011-census-question-testing-whole-questionnaire.pdf>

Human rights education in the school systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: A compendium of good practice

http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2009/10/40041_1384_en.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other News

New British Social Attitudes Survey published today

<http://www.natcen.ac.uk/pzMedia/uploads/EntityFieldFile/bfb5ba46-e545-4ea4-9c60-2fb18fabecf4.doc>

Single British Asian mums losing their 'honour babies'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8475386.stm>

Forced marriage victims' calls going unanswered

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/forced-marriage-victims-calls-going-unanswered-1881344.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

**** Public Services Reform Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/26-PubSerRef/index.htm>

Scottish Commission for Public Audit: Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/scpa/or-10/sc10-0102.htm#Col250>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-01-27g.htm>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-10/bb-01-29g.htm>

**** Scottish Parliamentary Commissions and Commissioners etc. Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/index.htm>

Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/b39s3-introd.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/39-SPCC/b39s3-introd-en.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100125-0002.htm#1001252000287>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100125-0013.htm#10012546000189>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100127-0002.htm#10012761000415>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/amend/ml020-vr.htm>

Equality Bill: Making it work Policy proposals for specific duties: *Policy Statement*

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/psdresp_GEO_MakingItWork_acc.pdf

The Equality Bill: Duty to reduce socio-economic Inequalities: *A guide*

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Socio%20Economic%20pre-guidance%20guidancev2%2008012010.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment

(2 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

**** closes this week!**

Simplifying Immigration Law - A New Framework for Immigration Rules

(3 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framewrk/>

**** closes this week!**

Reforming asylum support (4 February 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifying-imm-law-new-framew1/>

Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005: Consultation on Options for the Implementation of the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

(26 February 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/292195/0090094.pdf>

**** Options for future charity appeals route in Scotland** (5 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0093191.pdf>

**** Death Certification, Burial, and Cremation (Scotland)** (21 April 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/300112/0093686.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training ** New or updated this week

**** Domestic Abuse and BME Children & Young People**

4 February 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30)

25 February 2010 in West Lothian (9.30 – 12.30)

11 March 2010 in Midlothian (9.30 – 12.30)

25 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30)

Shakti training providing an opportunity for staff working with children and young people to gain greater understanding of how domestic and culture-based abuse affects black minority ethnic (BME) children and young people. For information contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Mapping the Muslim Community

7 February 2010 in Glasgow (12.00 – 4.00)

Muslim Council of Scotland seminar to consider the needs of Scotland's Muslim communities and explore how we can identify and map out a clear and holistic picture of the diversity of these communities, their aspirations and the issues and challenges they face. For information contact info@mcscotland.org.

E-conference on Pupil Exclusion and Race

8-9 February 2010

Discussion streams will allow e-conference 'attendees' to respond to comment pieces by leading figures in education and politics, including Diane Abbott MP. To participate register from early February at www.runnymedetrust.org or contact debbie@runnymedetrust.org

**** Conference on UK Immigration Control**

9 February 2010 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 4.30)

Conference organised by the Council of British Pakistanis (Scotland). For information contact Huma Awan cbp_s@rediffmail.com

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

11 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=83>

**** Domestic Abuse and BME Women and their Children**

11 February 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

4 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

10 March 2010 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

Shakti seminars to explore the link between domestic abuse and culture, community and faith, and barriers that minority ethnic women face in accessing services. For information contact Thilini or Mirdul info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

The Housing Rights of Refugees: Supporting those with Leave To Remain into appropriate housing

18 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with refugees who need a comprehensive knowledge of their rights to housing in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to professionals assisting refugees to access services or to organisations providing these services directly. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=66>

E-conference on Ethnic Profiling

23-24 February 2010

Runnymede e-conference to mark the publication of a paper on ethnic profiling. To participate register from early February at www.runnymedetrust.org or contact kjartan@runnymedetrust.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

2 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. It is particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=82>

**** Faith, Culture & Honour**

4 March 2010 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar by Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre in collaboration with Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid to explore domestic abuse, rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour killing, and the role of faith, culture and honour in understanding them. For information contact Tabassum Sarfraz tabassum@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 585 8026

Judge a Book by its Cover? Not me!

11 March 2010 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.00)

SCVO seminar to discover more about the process of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements may lead to prejudice and discrimination. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019

Working with Interpreters

18 March 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=80>

An Introduction to the Needs and Experiences of Refugee Women

9 April 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting women seeking sanctuary in Scotland. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=77>

[TOP](#)

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

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

[TOP](#)



*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** 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. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>*



***BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <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/>*