

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.*

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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.

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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 5 September 2010. During the summer recess MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 19 July, 2, 16, and 30 August, and 13 September, when weekly bulletins will resume.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee: Migration and Trafficking Inquiry

Evidence from Glasgow University Media Group, Heriot Watt University, Stirling University, National Union of Journalists, Press Complaints Commission, and the Scotsman.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-10/eo10-1302.htm#Col1888>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-6688 Ian McKee: UK Immigration Control—That the Parliament expresses deep concern at the UK Government's plan to introduce a permanent cap on the number of non-EU migrants; considers that the Scottish economy, including public services, relies on immigrants from non-EU nations and that a cap would deprive sectors such as the oil and gas industry, catering and traditional industries of essential expertise; believes that

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

a cap would threaten the number of skilled migrants employed in the NHS and schools, including doctors and teaching staff; considers that the Scottish economy has distinct needs and that a one-size-fits-all approach on immigration would harm the economy at a time when it is trying to grow out of recession; further believes that Scotland faces serious demographic challenges that can be partly addressed by increasing the number of skilled migrants; supports the comments made by the Federation of Small Businesses that a cap would prevent companies from filling vacancies in times of high demand; is of the view that Scotland should be exempt from any cap system, and calls on the UK Government to ensure that any immigration control reform is centred on economic and geographic need, not ideology.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=19428>

Westminster Debate

House of Lords Short Debate

Immigration: Refugee and Migrant Justice

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100628-0001.htm#1006282000487>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Limits on Non-EU Economic Migration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Immigration has enriched our culture and enhanced our society. Britain can benefit from immigration, but not uncontrolled immigration. The levels of net migration seen under the previous Government—an annual figure of almost a quarter of a million at its peak in 2004—were unprecedented in recent times. It is this Government's aim to reduce the level of net migration back down to the levels of the 1990s—tens of thousands each year, not hundreds of thousands. Of course, it is necessary to attract the world's very best talent to come to the UK to drive strong economic growth, but unlimited migration has placed unacceptable pressure on public services and, worse, severely damaged public confidence in our immigration system. Our over-reliance on migrant labour has done nothing to help the millions of unemployed and low-skilled British citizens who deserve the Government's help to get back to work and improve their skills. The coalition's programme for government confirmed the Government's intention to introduce an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work. We have always said that we will consult on the implementation of that limit. It is important that the Government take full account of the views of business and other interested sectors. We want to ensure that we can properly weigh the economic considerations against the wider social and public service implications.

I am therefore launching a consultation today on the mechanisms for implementing that annual limit, including questions about the coverage of limits, as well as the mechanics of how they will work in practice. The consultation also recognises the need to attract more high net-worth individuals to the UK through the routes for investors and entrepreneurs, which will not be covered by limits, and we ask for views on how that can be achieved. At the same time, I have commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Government on the levels at which limits should be set for the first full year of their operation, which I intend should be from April 2011. ...

To continue reading the lengthy statement and subsequent debate see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/debtext/100628-0007.htm#1006288000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Julian Huppert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of non-EU (a) migrants and (b) economic migrants who (i) have arrived to live in the UK and (ii) have emigrated from the UK in each year since 2003. [4609]

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

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated June 2010:

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of migrants entering and leaving the UK. The attached table provides estimates of long-term migration by non-EU citizens, for all reasons and where the main reason is work related, for each year since 2003. These estimates are based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS). These migration estimates cover those entering or leaving the UK with the intention of living in the destination country for periods of twelve months or more. They will therefore exclude those entering or leaving the UK for less than twelve months. They cover all reasons and will include all those who state they are travelling for work related reasons although not everyone will find work. Similarly, those who travel for other purposes may subsequently work. These estimates are of numbers of moves each year rather than numbers of people. For instance, an individual could enter in one year, leave just over a year later and then enter again a year after that. They would appear three times in this table.

Long-term international migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: annual data, 2003-08

Non-EU citizenship by main reason for migration (all reasons and work related reasons only)

United Kingdom (thousand)

	<i>All reasons</i>		<i>All work related</i>	
	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>Relative standard error (%)</i>
<i>Inflow</i>				
2003 ⁽¹⁾	266	4	85	7
2004 ⁽²⁾	329	5	113	9
2005 ⁽²⁾	287	4	93	8
2006 ⁽²⁾	315	4	100	7
2007 ⁽³⁾	283	4	73	7
2008 ⁽³⁾	278	4	66	8
<i>Outflow</i>				
2003 ⁽¹⁾	102	7	63	9
2004 ⁽²⁾	92	7	65	8
2005 ⁽²⁾	107	8	74	10
2006 ⁽²⁾	115	7	79	8
2007 ⁽³⁾	93	5	63	5
2008 ⁽³⁾	110	5	74	6

Migration between the UK and the Republic of Ireland is included in IPS estimates for 2008 but excluded for previous years.

⁽¹⁾ For 2003, non-European Union estimates exclude EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden).

⁽²⁾ For 2004 to 2006, non-European Union estimates exclude EU25 (EU15 and A8 groupings-the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia-plus Malta and Cyprus).

⁽³⁾ From 2007, non-European Union estimates exclude EU27 (EU25 plus Bulgaria and Romania).

standard error

relative standard error (%) = ----- x 100

estimate

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0020.htm#10062824000047>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigrants: English Language

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether migrants are to have the right to appeal against the result of an English language test. [4182]

Reply from Damian Green: From autumn 2010, those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK will need to provide evidence that they have passed an acceptable English test with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. Appeals against individual English language test results will be a matter for the appeals procedure of the test provider.

The UK Border Agency has an established procedure for appeals against a decision to refuse leave to enter the UK under the immigration rules.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0017.htm#10062824000018>

Immigrants: English Language

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will be responsible for the administration of the proposed English language tests for new migrants. [4181]

Reply from Damian Green: On 9 June, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced a new language requirement for those seeking entry to the UK as the spouse or civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or someone who is present and settled in the UK.

From autumn 2010, applicants will need to provide evidence that they have passed an acceptable English test at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference with one of the UK Border Agency's approved test providers. The UK Border Agency will publish details of acceptable tests and approved test providers at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100630/text/100630w0001.htm#10063037000023>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

David Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for student visas were refused in the academic year (a) 2009-10, (b) 2008-09 and (c) 2007-08. [4594]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of applications for student visas that were refused in the financial years 2009-10, 2008-09 and 2007-08 are given in the following table. I have given data for the financial years as most student visa applicants apply in the summer months, before the start of the academic year.

<i>Student visa applications⁽¹⁾</i>	
<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Refused</i>
2007/08	92,859
2008/09	96,850
2009/10	94,774

⁽¹⁾ Excludes dependents and student visitors.
Note: The data in this table are based on management information and as such have not been quality assured. They are provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100630/text/100630w0001.htm#10063037000021>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the 20 countries from which the most foreign students were granted visas last year; what were the numbers of visas granted in each case; what proportion were for study at public sector colleges; and what proportion for private sector colleges.[HL784]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The number of student visas issued in 2009 to the top 20 nationalities is shown in the attached table.

We are unable to identify from central records what proportion of the applicants intended to study at colleges in (a) the private sector or (b) the public sector.

Student Visas issued in 2009*		
Rank	Nationality	Issued
1	India	58,233
2	China	37,251
3	Bangladesh	17,456
4	United States	14,790
5	Pakistan	12,684
6	Nigeria	11,210
7	Saudi Arabia	10,651
8	Nepal	10,107
9	Philippines	7,723
10	Malaysia	6,205
11	Turkey	5,841
12	South Korea	5,739
13	Sri Lanka	5,553
14	Thailand	4,737
15	Japan	4,380
16	Colombia	4,140
17	Taiwan	3,799
18	Hong Kong	3,532
19	Canada	3,206
20	Russia	3,140

* excludes dependents and student visitors

The data in this table is based on management information and as such has not been quality assured. It is provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100701w0003.htm#10070127000281>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Cases (Backlog)

Richard Fuller: What recent progress the UK Border Agency has made on processing the backlog of outstanding asylum cases. [4228]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Under the previous Government, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee periodically to update it on this issue. However, in the interests of transparency, I am happy to update right hon. and hon. Members in the House today. Until the end of May 2010 the UK Border Agency had concluded 277,000 cases.

Richard Fuller: I thank the Minister for that answer. As he is aware, Yarl's Wood family detention centre is located outside Bedford. Does he agree that the Government's determination to end the detention of children for asylum purposes will be most welcome to people as a measure of fairness? It will be regarded as something that is long overdue and that shamefully eluded the previous Government.

Reply from Damian Green: I am very grateful to my hon. Friend for making that point, which I regard as important. In a spirit of non-partisanship, I think it is regarded as important on both sides of the House. When we held a Westminster Hall debate on the subject last week, I was struck by the fact that there was universal approval of the new Government's desire to end the detention of children-although the point was made that it might have been the last time as Minister for Immigration that I ever got universal approval for anything. However, we should welcome such steps forward while we have them.

Phil Woolas: In the light of the Minister's answer about the backlog, I was pleased to see recognition of the UK Border Agency's success but will he confirm the reasons behind the answer to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart), at column 143W, on 22 June, about the dropping of the language requirement for dependants of people who successfully apply for asylum? What was his rationale?

Reply from Damian Green: The rationale, as with all our proposals on language, is that those who wish to come to this country need to be able to play a full role in its life. If as many people as possible who live and settle in this country are able to speak English, they will lead more fulfilled lives and be able to integrate better in our communities. That would be extremely helpful.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/debtext/100628-0002.htm#1006288000020>

Immigration Tribunals and Appeals

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the Exchequer of (a) immigration tribunals and appeals and (b) reports compiled by country experts and medical experts was in the latest period for which figures are available. [3274]

Reply from Jonathan Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice incurs expenditure in the cost of running the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), which moved into the two-tier Tribunals Service structure on 15 February 2010 to become the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), and for the provision of legal aid. The running cost of the AIT was £117 million in 2009-10. The total cost of legal aid for immigration and asylum for 2009-10 was £90 million. This includes all legal advice and representation for immigration and asylum matters. It is not possible to disaggregate from this figure the amounts spent on work before the immigration tribunal from other work such as initial advice. While legal aid providers may commission experts and medical experts to provide reports it is not possible to identify how much was paid as the cost of these reports form part of providers' overall disbursement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0017.htm#10062824000020>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Reintegration

Lord Dubs: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to broaden the scope of the UK Border Agency's reintegration centre scheme to countries other than Afghanistan.[HL352]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Reintegration assistance is provided in many countries through the UK Border Agency's assisted voluntary return scheme. Assistance has for some time been provided for adult enforced returnees in Afghanistan. We are looking to expand the assistance provided there to make it suitable for a limited number of males aged 16 or 17.

We keep under constant review the range of assistance available for returnees to a variety of countries. We do not rule out extending similar reintegration arrangements elsewhere. In respect of young people under 18, our preference is always to return them direct to their parents where this is possible. Only when that is not possible do we need to look to provide interim assistance on return while onward passage to parents or family is arranged.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100629w0006.htm#10062958001759>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the interval between the ending of section 4 support and the start of normal benefits for asylum applicants granted leave to remain; and what steps they will take to reduce that interval.[HL641]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): Section 4 support is only eligible to failed asylum seekers whose asylum application has been rejected and who have exhausted all appeal rights. It is not routine for failed asylum seekers to receive access to benefits. However, where a person or family on support is given permission to stay in the UK, the UK Border Agency works closely with local government to ensure that the impact on both the family and on the wider community is minimised.

The standard grace period between a grant of leave and cessation of Section 4 support is 28 calendar days. During this grace period, it is the individual's responsibility to take up work and support themselves and any dependants. They will also be entitled to apply to the Department for Work and Pensions for mainstream benefits.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100629w0001.htm#10062958001738>

Asylum Applications

Philip Hollobone: How many asylum applications were made by individuals who had passed through another safe country to get to the UK in the most recent year for which figures are available. [4229]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): In 2009, 2,665 cases were positively identified as having travelled through another EU member state that is considered safe under schedule 3 to the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004.

Philip Hollobone: What do we do with those people? Surely we should not be giving asylum to people who come to this country via another safe country. Yes, let us give asylum to people who are genuinely fleeing persecution, but not to tourists.

Reply from Damian Green: I rather agree with my hon. Friend, who will know that, under the previous Government, one of the many shambles in the immigration and asylum system was the problem of being able to remove people to safe countries. We will try to do better. The Dublin regulation, which is the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

system under which we do this, is working-in 2009, the UK removed 625 more cases than we accepted-but it is not working well enough. [Interruption .] If former Ministers on the Opposition Front Bench can contain themselves, I shall give the reason: we must do better at returning cases to specific EU countries. We are doing better with Italy. The next case that we really need to get to grips with is Greece, but the Government are determined to do this.

Bridget Phillipson: Is the Minister aware of the great difficulties many of my constituents face when lodging an asylum claim? They have to travel to the UK Border Agency in Croydon to lodge claims for initial screening, and the full cost of that must be met by the individual concerned. Will the Minister look again at that system and consider any review that can make it fairer, so that constituents in the north-east do not need to travel to London?

Reply from Damian Green: It is perhaps a shame that the hon. Lady has launched an attack on a change made by her own Government in their last 12 months in office. I can see some logic in why Ministers in the previous Government made the change that she objects to: by and large, people who claim asylum should claim it as soon as they get to this country. That is one area where there is not much difference between those who sit on the Front Benches. So I am afraid that I will have to ignore her plea to change the system to make it easy for people who may have been here for many months or, in some cases, many years to claim asylum. Asylum is meant for people who come to this country as genuine refugees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/debtext/100628-0002.htm#1006288000021>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they do not accept new applications for asylum by post when personal circumstances change or the situation in the country of origin deteriorates.[HL640]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): In February 2003 the previous Government announced that anyone wishing to make an asylum claim would need to do so in person, and postal applications for asylum would no longer be accepted. This change was made as part of the reform of the asylum system and sought to minimise potential abuse. Although we expect individuals to make their claim at a port of entry, it ensures that those who submit a claim for asylum as their circumstances have changed whilst in the UK, are properly introduced to the asylum system.

The applicant is fingerprinted and photographed and the identity of the applicant is verified. This also ensures that cases are routed quickly to the responsible case owner to progress the case.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100701w0001.htm#10070127000254>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Scotland

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements have been made for the transit of asylum seekers in Scotland to Yarl's Wood to await deportation; and what assessment she has made of arrangements for the safety and well-being of the children being transported. [4166]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency takes health and emotional wellbeing of those in its care very seriously; this is particularly true of children who are regrettably detained-with their parents-pending their removal after they refuse to leave the UK voluntarily. A new duty was introduced in November 2009, contained in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which requires the Agency to protect and promote the welfare of children. The Office of the Children's Champion, which includes professional advisers, is responsible for challenging the Agency to ensure it meets its obligations, and they provide advice and support to those responsible for detention and escorting matters.

Prior to any transfer to Yarl's Wood, a number of assessments are made to take specific account of the safeguarding and welfare of adults and family members making the journey. These include:

- The size of vehicle required to accommodate the whole family together;
- The length of the journey to ensure adequate comfort breaks, suitable child activity packs, dietary requirements and refreshments;
- Appropriate clothing for the weather;
- Feeding and changing facilities for babies and any requirement for child safety chairs and booster seats.

Yarl's Wood is provided with all health records, welfare assessments and care plans, documenting any special needs or support in place for the family to ensure continuity of care.

On arrival at the receiving centre all adults and children are individually re-assessed by a nurse within two hours and an appointment made for them to see a GP the following day. In line with the Centre's safeguarding arrangements the children continue to have their welfare monitored and assessed on a regular basis by the multi-disciplinary team of health care, educational, operational and other staff, together with the resident senior social worker.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100628/text/100628w0016.htm#10062824000011>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

William Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many (a) adults and (b) children have been transferred from Dungavel detention centre to Yarl's Wood since the ending of child detention at Dungavel was announced; [4179]

(2) how many (a) adults and (b) children have been held at Dungavel detention centre since it was announced that child detention at Dungavel would cease; and what the average length of stay for each has been. [4180]

Reply from Damian Green: This Government are committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes while ensuring those who do not have a right to remain in the UK, continue to leave. As part of that commitment, I announced on 19 May 2010 that all families with children would no longer be held overnight at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre in Scotland. I am also leading a review to find alternatives to detention for families with children which I expect to be completed within weeks.

On 19 May a mother and child were transferred to Yarl's Wood from Dungavel House. No families with children have been detained at Dungavel from that time to the present.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Eight single adults have transferred to Yarl's Wood from Dungavel between 19 and 31 May, the latest date for which data are available.

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre provides accommodation for 211 single adults. At 31 May, there were 208 adults detained at the centre. The length of immigration detention is as follows:

<i>Number of detainees</i>	<i>Length of detention</i>
35	Up to 7 days
44	Between 8 and 30 days
41	Between 31 and 60 days
45	Between 61 and 120 days
19	Between 121 and 180 days
24	For more than 181 days

These data are taken from local management information. They are provisional, subject to change and have not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100630/text/100630w0001.htm#10063037000020>

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will examine practices used in other European states for identifying, protecting and supporting trafficked persons and prosecuting traffickers.[HL589]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The United Kingdom has developed close working relationships with other European Union member states and shares best practice with them. In setting up the National Referral Mechanism-the system used to identify victims of trafficking and refer them to support-the UK examined best practice available from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and other European states.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that trafficked persons are not prosecuted for offences committed while they were subject to coercion.[HL590]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: Victims of trafficking who have been compelled to commit crimes as a direct result of their trafficking situation will not normally be prosecuted. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) have issued guidance to prosecutors, police officers and immigration officers to this effect.

The guidance invites prosecutors to consider whether or not a charge would meet the test for crown prosecutors at the evidential stage. However, it is not legally justifiable to introduce a blanket ban on prosecutions as the Code for Crown Prosecutors must be applied in all cases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100628w0006.htm#1006283002049>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people charged with human trafficking offences were subsequently prosecuted in the last 12 months. [4764]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: During 2008, latest currently available, a total of 61 persons were proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum & Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

Data for 2009 are planned for publication in October 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100701/text/100701w0005.htm#10070143000019>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Catherine McKinnell (378) Refugee and Migrant Justice - That this House notes with concern that the entering into administration of refugee and migrant justice has left many of the charity's vulnerable clients without adequate legal representation; and calls on the Secretary of State for the Home Department not to reject any asylum applications or conduct any deportations of such individuals until alternative representation has been secured.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41318&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Coalition commits to impose immigration limit

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/coalition-immigration-limit11>

Immigration limit for Tier 1 (General) of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/27-intro-limit-for-t1-pbs>

Immigration limit for Tier 2 (General) of the points-based system

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/28-intro-limit-for-t2-pbs>

New publication

Bangla Stories (online resource)

<http://www.banglastories.org/>

News

UK to cut number of skilled workers from outside EU

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/10430640.stm>

Immigration cap attacked as 'economics of sixth-form'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/uk/Immigration-cap-attacked-as-39economics.6388486.jp>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Companies may have to insure migrant workers

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/companies-may-have-to-insure-migrant-workers-1.1037862>

The plight of African refugees in Scotland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/life-style/real-lives/the-plight-of-african-refugees-in-scotland-1.1037727>

Warning over immigration plans

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1803715>

Newlywed hits out at family visa nightmare

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2010/07/03/newsstory15319323t0.asp>

Immigration cap 'threatens quality' at Scots universities

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/immigration-cap-threatens-quality-at-scots-universities-1.1039062>

Pride and prejudice: The Victorian roots of a very British ambivalence to immigration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britain/pride-and-prejudice-the-victorian-roots-of-a-very-british-ambivalence-to-immigration-2016353.html>

Not all good migrants are skilled migrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/hamish-mcrae/hamish-mcrae-not-all-good-migrants-are-skilled-migrants-2013792.html>

More immigration advice providers could close

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/jun/30/legal-aid-immigration-closures>

Non-EU immigration to the UK: the statistics

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2010/jun/26/non-eu-immigration-uk-statistics>

Immigration cap exclusions turn policy into gesture, say critics

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jun/28/immigration-cap-theresa-may>

This immigration cap makes no sense

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/28/immigration-cap-economy>

Theresa May: immigration cap will not harm UK economy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/jun/28/theresa-may-immigration-cap-economy>

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Race Relations

News

Faith, hopes, and policy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/jul/03/religion-policy-faith-society>

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Equality

New publication

Equality, Cohesion and Public Services

http://clients.squareeye.com/uploads/2020/documents/Equality_FINAL_2020PST_June_2010.pdf

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Racism and Religious Hatred

New Publication

Hate Crime Response in the OSCE Region: Commitments Unfulfilled

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/pdf/Reaction-to-ODIHR-2010.PDF>

News

Campaign targets hate crime in north east of Scotland

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/north_east_orkney_and_shetland/10472560.stm

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Other Holyrood

Public Petitions Committee

Gypsy Travellers (Council Tax)

Consideration of PE1333, by Shamus McPhee on behalf of the Scottish Gypsy Traveller Law Reform Coalition, which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to investigate the inequalities and discrimination that are faced by Scottish Gypsy Travellers and members of the settled community who reside in mobile homes in the assessment of council tax liability and of water and sewerage charges.

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Other Westminster

Debate

Act of Settlement

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm100701/debtext/100701-0021.htm#1007013200001>

Early Day Motion

Alan Meale (391) Listed places of worship grant scheme - That this House notes the contribution to UK society of religious organisations whose followers every year undertake millions of hours of unpaid work within communities and generally contribute tens of millions of pounds to other charities in addition to the large sums raised for local church work; further notes that the Listed Places of Worship Grant, the scheme which enables all listed places of worship in the UK to reclaim 100 per cent. of value added tax on repairs and maintenance, is scheduled to end in March 2011; wonders whether HM Treasury realises that approximately £110 million per year is spent on the upkeep of such buildings, with 66 per cent. of this sum being contributed by local congregations so that future generations may enjoy their use in the heart of their local communities; and calls on the Government to re-examine its approach not only to this scheme but also to the continuation beyond 2011 of the transitional Grant Aid rate relief mechanism, without the help of which many fine, historic, worthwhile and useful community properties would have been lost or today be found to be beyond repair.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41331&SESSION=905>

Press Release

Your Freedom website launched: Nominate laws and regulations you would like to see abolished.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100701-yourfreedom.aspx

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New Publication

State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2010: focus on religious minorities

<http://www.minorityrights.org/download.php?id=840>

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Other News

Specialist unit reports more male forced marriages

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/10469935.stm>

Youngsters to set out manifesto

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/politics/youngsters-to-set-out-manifesto-1.1038720>

Other News (continued)

New Member of the Commission announced

<http://scottishhumanrights.com/news/latestnews/article/mattsmith>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/46-ComVic/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Palliative Care Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/50-PalliativeCare/index.htm>

Bills in Progress Westminster

House of Lords Reform Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/houseoflordsreformhl.html>

**** Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

Identity Documents Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Draft National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (17 September 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/313390/0099355.pdf>

Review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes

(1 July 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/26-end-child-detention/terms-of-reference.pdf?view=Binary>

Identity Documents Bill (Committee consideration to be completed by 8 July)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2010/06/identity-documents-bill-committee-issues-call-for-evidence/>

Consultations (continued)

Equality Act: obtaining information in potential discrimination and equality of term cases (3 July 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/new_streamlined_procedure_for.aspx

**** Migration Advisory Committee: level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK** (7 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/mac-consultation-annual-limit/0610/mac-consultation-annual-limit?view=Binary>

**** Limits on non-EU economic migration** (17 September 2010)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/limits-on-non-eu-migration/>

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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**

Mixed-race identity and the arts (online debate)

9 July 2010 (11.00 – 1.00)

Runnymede online debate to discuss questions about the way race and identity is conceived of within our society. For information, and to register, see

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/199/281/Online-debate-Mixed-race-identity-and-the-arts.html>

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 July 2010 in Glasgow

26 August 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=87>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Certificate in Equality and Diversity Practice

Glasgow University

Applications must be submitted by mid-August, course begins September 2010

This new one day/week work-based programme has been developed in partnership with BEMIS and Glasgow Works and other partners, who are key players within the field of equality and diversity practice. Recognising current developments in legislation and social policy, the programme provides a solid foundation of theoretical understanding and practice methodologies in relation to equality and diversity issues. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10vi_bemis_gu.pdf

or contact Liz Docherty 0141 330 1812 / e.hodge@educ.gla.ac.uk or Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk

Third Sector Research Conference

15 October 2010 in Edinburgh

For information contact Helen Swatton 01412258019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org

The needs and experiences of refugee women

22 October 2010 in Glasgow

Guest speaker: Kirsty Thomson, Solicitor, Women and Children's Department at Legal Services Agency. 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>

Judge a book by its cover? Not me!

3 November 2010 in Inverness (9.30 – 12.30)

SCVO training course to find out more about the processes of stereotyping, and how misinformed judgements can lead to prejudice and discrimination. For more information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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

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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/>