

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration System

Mark Spencer (Sherwood) (Con): What recent progress she has made on reform of the immigration system. [20299]

David Evennett (Bexleyheath and Crayford) (Con): What recent progress she has made on reform of the immigration system. [20307]

Bob Blackman (Harrow East) (Con): What recent progress she has made on reform of the immigration system. [20309]

Phillip Lee (Bracknell) (Con): What recent progress she has made on reform of the immigration system. [20315]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): In just six months, the coalition Government have made significant progress in the reform of the immigration system. We have introduced an interim limit on non-EU economic migrants and consulted on proposals for the annual limit. We are also reviewing student and family routes. We have made significant progress towards ending the detention of children and we have also begun exploring improvements to the asylum system.

Mark Spencer: The Minister will be aware that companies such as Rolls-Royce, in my constituency, require highly skilled staff from outside the EU. What can be done to ensure that those companies have access to those highly skilled staff while also ensuring that the immigrants coming in have the right skills?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: ... this is what we are seeking to achieve under our annual limit: we want to ensure not only that the skills that may not be available at the moment in this country are made available, but that jobs are also available for British workers. I commend to him the research published by the Home Office last week showing that 29% of those who came in under the tier 1 route—the route meant for the most highly skilled: the people who are so highly skilled that they do not even need a job offer—were employed in low-skilled roles. That tells me that the points-based system has not been working as well as it should have been.

David Evennett: I welcome my hon. Friend's actions to date on this matter, but in order to bring net migration down to a sustainable level a robust limit on non-EU economic migration is vital. Will he update us on what progress he has made on dealing with other routes into the UK, for example, bogus colleges and illegal transportation?

Reply from Damian Green: I agree with my hon. Friend that it is not just the economic routes we are looking at—as I have said, we are examining other routes. We are, of course, committed to attracting the brightest and best students to the UK, and we welcome legitimate students coming here to study legitimate courses, but there has been and still is significant abuse of the student route. Part of our summer crackdown on illegal immigration has been aimed at bogus colleges. We have suspended the licences of another five bogus colleges in the past three months, and I am happy to assure him and the House that we will continue to crack down as hard as possible on those using the student route to promote illegal immigration.

Bob Blackman: My hon. Friend has referred to the previous Government's policy of relying on a points-based system for controlling immigration. Can he elucidate on the figures he cited on the success of tier 1 migrants—by definition, the brightest and best in obtaining highly skilled jobs?

Reply from Damian Green: The detail of the tier 1 research is fascinating because, as I say, it showed that nearly a third of the people who came in under that route were doing essential but low-skilled jobs—they were shop assistants, they were working in fast food outlets, and so on. Those are all jobs that need to be done, but upwards of 2 million people are unemployed in this country and they will find it very strange that those jobs, in particular, are being done by people who have come to this country under a route that is supposed to be specifically designed for the most highly skilled. That situation seems to be unfair to many of our British workers.

Philip Lee: What are the Government doing to tackle the problem of sham marriages in the immigration system?

Reply from Damian Green: Some Labour Members seem not to think this an important issue, but it is an extremely important issue. Part of our summer crackdown has been precisely aimed at sham marriages, and that campaign has produced more than 800 arrests. Perhaps most vividly, and extremely regrettably, a Church of England vicar has been convicted of facilitating sham marriages. We are working very hard with the Church authorities to make sure that nothing like this happens in future and that we help vicars, those in register offices and all such people to make sure that they are not accidentally involved in any more of this type of criminality.

Keith Vaz (Leicester East) (Lab): One area that might well need reform is the humane removal of failed asylum seekers, following the death only 20 days ago of Jimmy Mubenga. Will the Minister confirm newspaper reports that the contract for escort services provided by G4S has now been terminated? What immediate steps, pending the outcome of the police investigation and the other investigations, is he taking to ensure that that kind of tragic event never happens again?

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Damian Green: The right hon. Gentleman will know, of course, that while a police investigation is going on it would be completely improper of me to give any details about that investigation. I can confirm that the contract for the removals has been given to Reliance, but I should say at this point to clear up any possible misunderstanding that the tendering for the new contract took place under the previous Government, last September, and the decision was taken in August. The change in the contract away from G4S has nothing to do with any recent events.

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): One of the changes that the hon. Gentleman has made to the immigration service system is to bring forward pre-entry English language testing for spouses overseas. What assessment has he made of the availability and quality of English language teaching in places such as Pakistan and India, where many of these spouses come from?

Reply from Damian Green: The hon. Lady mentions two particularly entrepreneurial societies where, if there is a need for businesses, businesses will spring up. I remind her that the desire to introduce English language tests in that sphere was promoted by a Government of which she was a member. We have brought it forward to this November because, as I am sure she agrees, it is a significant way of ensuring that everybody who comes to this country can be fully integrated into the life of this country. That seems to me to be an extremely important goal for the long-term health of our society.

Pete Wishart (Perth and North Perthshire) (SNP): Does the Minister appreciate and understand that the different nations of the UK have different immigration requirements that require different solutions? Will he therefore start to explain how his immigration cap will help the nations of Scotland and Wales?

Reply from Damian Green: The immigration cap will help all parts of the United Kingdom by ensuring that we bring in the skills of those we need while not having the scale of immigration that we have had over the past 10 years, which has proved simply unsustainable. I am sure that the hon. Gentleman would agree that we could not carry on as we had done over the past decade. Over that decade, more than 2 million people net arrived in this country, putting pressure on public services. That is why we need an immigration limit and it will be for the benefit of every one of the nations of the United Kingdom.

Shabana Mahmood (Birmingham, Ladywood) (Lab): On the subject of reforms to the immigration system and the particular point of deportation, the death of Jimmy Mubenga a few weeks ago was the first time that an escorted individual has died during deportation. My right hon. Friend the Member for Morley and Outwood (Ed Balls) has twice requested a briefing from the Home Secretary regarding the circumstances of that case, and both requests have been refused. Will the Minister now make a statement to the House, updating Members on the progress of any internal investigation into Mr Mubenga's death and the use of restraint during enforced deportation more generally? In particular, will he state whether the use of restraint on children during deportation is also being reviewed?

Reply from Damian Green: I welcome the hon. Lady to the Front Bench and congratulate her on her very rapid promotion. May I repeat what I said to the right hon. Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz)? There is a police investigation going on at the moment. It would clearly be inappropriate for me or my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to give any details about this case while the police investigation is going on. I am surprised that the shadow Home Secretary asked the hon. Lady to do that while a police investigation was going on.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/debtext/101101-0001.htm#1011019000012>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Rules (UK Science Base)

Jo Swinson (East Dunbartonshire) (LD): What representations she has received from scientific organisations on the likely effects on the UK's science base of proposed changes to the immigration rules. [20305]

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Our recent consultation on the immigration system fully involved scientific organisations, which have underlined the importance of being able to recruit the best scientists from around the world. I am aware of the case of the Beatson institute in my hon. Friend's constituency, and I can assure her that the UK Border Agency is looking closely at this and related cases.

Jo Swinson: I thank the Home Secretary for that reply. She refers to the Beatson institute, which is a world-class cancer research facility that needs to attract the very best scientists in their field, regardless of their nationality. Previously it required about five tier 2 visas every year; that has been cut to just one under the new regime, so I welcome the fact that the issue will be looked at. Does she recognise the damage that could be caused to the Beatson, and to other scientific institutions, as a result of the unintended consequences of the immigration cap, and will she look again at whether an exemption could be made for science and research?

Reply from Theresa May: I am grateful to my hon. Friend for recognising that the UK Border Agency will look at the very real case that has been presented by the Beatson institute in relation to its particular requirements. We have a commitment, as a coalition Government, to reduce net migration into this country. I believe that it is important that we do that, but do it a way that will ensure that we can truly attract the brightest and the best into this country to do the valuable work that they do in places such as the Beatson institute.

Andrew Miller (Ellesmere Port and Neston) (Lab): ... Will the Home Secretary therefore publish the cross-departmental analysis that brings together the impact on our science base and competitiveness of Lord Browne's report, the comprehensive spending review, cuts in departmental science, and the immigration cap?

Reply from Theresa May: As the hon. Gentleman has an interest in these matters, he will be aware that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has made efforts to protect the spending in relation to research on science. In looking at how we introduce our immigration cap, we will be making efforts to ensure that institutes and universities that require access to truly the brightest and the best are able to have it.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/debtext/101101-0001.htm#1011019000018>

Scotland: Immigration

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of measures to encourage immigration to Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Government.[HL3027]

Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness): The Government are aware that the Scottish economy and Scottish society have benefited from migration to this country. By reforming the UK immigration system, the Government will ensure that Scotland and the UK can attract and retain those people who are able and willing to contribute to our economy and national life. It will also better regulate and manage the flow of people into our country in order to increase accountability and better manage community integration across the UK. The UK Border Agency works closely with Scottish government officials on policy and operational matters.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101103w0001.htm#10110366000337>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Stephen Mosley (City of Chester) (Con): How many immigrants entered the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available. [20308]

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): A total of 528,000 long-term migrants entered the UK in 2009, according to the most recent figures from the international passenger survey. Of these, 437,000 were non-UK nationals. IPS figures do not include asylum seekers, those who have arrived from Northern Ireland, and those who change their original intentions and therefore alter their length of stay. Final detailed figures for 2009 will be published on 25 November.

Stephen Mosley: I understand that my hon. Friend has recently been to Heathrow to see our front-line border controls in action. Will he give the House his assessment of the quality of our current systems to detect illegal entry into the UK at the first port of call?

Reply from Damian Green: We do have a comprehensive border protection framework, provided not just by the UK Border Agency but by the police and other agencies. The whole House will recognise that there will be an increase in passenger journeys and freight volume, and in the use of ever more sophisticated technologies by those who have malicious intent of either illegal immigration or, even worse, terrorism. That is one reason why we are setting up a new border police command within the new national crime agency, which will enhance our existing capacity to protect our borders.

Phil Woolas (Oldham East and Saddleworth) (Lab): I thank the Minister for that straightforward answer. On 27 February, he told the House in relation to border control that we would become increasingly dependent on technology. In table A.6 in the spending review document, we see that there is to be a 49% reduction in capital investment in the Home Office's budget. Is he confident that he has the resources to provide the kit needed to protect our borders at airports and ports from illegal immigration and, given the events of the past few days, from potentially dangerous weapons and other attacks?

Reply from Damian Green: Yes is the answer to the very serious question that the hon. Gentleman asks. He has been intimately involved in this subject for some years, so he will be pleased to know that the e-Borders system will continue, I hope in an improved way, under our new arrangements, and that other areas of capital spending such as the integrated casework project will also continue so that we use technology and the experience of our border officers to keep our borders safe.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/debtext/101101-0001.htm#1011019000019>

Immigration

The Earl of Clancarty: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many creative workers have been refused entry at the United Kingdom border since tier 5 was introduced. [HL2464]

Reply from Earl Attlee: Since the introduction of tier 5 on 27 November 2008, our records show that 4,023 visa applications have been refused in total. However, it is not possible to identify those who have been refused at the border for not holding the required tier 5 certificate without detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Lord Turnberg: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential impact on United Kingdom science of the operation of a cap on non-European Union immigration. [HL2749]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Home Secretary launched a consultation over the summer to ensure that the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

department took a wide range of views and evidence into account and was able to assess it before plans were announced for the first full annual limit. The consultation is now closed and the responses are being carefully assessed. The Government will announce their decisions in due course.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will ensure that changes in the immigration rules do not prejudice the integrity of the immediate families of refugees, whether before or after they are accepted for naturalisation.[HL3067]

Reply from Earl Attlee: The Government recognise the importance of allowing refugees to be joined by their family, and the Immigration Rules make specific provision for that.

Where a refugee becomes a British citizen, he or she may still be joined by family. However, as the grant of citizenship causes the refugee status to cease, the Government believe that the family member(s) should have to satisfy the same requirements as people coming to join other British citizens would have to meet. The changes to the Immigration Rules to which the noble Lord is referring (Cm 7944) clarify the rules to deliver this aim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101101w0001.htm#1011015000694>

Deportation Services (Private Companies)

Greg Mulholland (Leeds North West) (LD): What recent representations she has received on the regulation of private companies contracted to provide deportation services; and if she will make a statement. [20314]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): All detention and escorting services provided by private sector companies are subject to internal and external oversight. Contracted staff are vetted carefully by the Home Office as part of their accreditation to work as detention custody officers or escorts, and services are monitored by UK Border Agency officials and the independent monitoring board and through announced and unannounced inspections by Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons.

Greg Mulholland: I thank my hon. Friend for that answer. Of course, it is part of a functioning immigration system sometimes to remove foreign nationals who no longer have a right to stay. Nevertheless, that has to be done in a regularised and humane way. What plans does my hon. Friend have to limit and regulate the use of force as part of the accountability that he rightly talks about?

Reply from Damian Green: As I have explained in answer to previous questions, there is already significant regulation. Indeed, as I have just said, there is quite rightly a large number of checks, and the people who escort those who have no right to be in this country and who therefore have to be removed do need to be checked. Baroness O'Loan published a report into the issue in March 2010 and she found no evidence of systemic abuse by UK Border Agency escorts removing individuals from the UK. I am glad that that was true then and I am determined to make sure it continues to be true in the future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/debtext/101101-0001.htm#1011019000021>

Immigration: Deportation

Baroness Neuberger: To ask Her Majesty's Government what restraint methods are now used in deportations; and whether there has been any change of practice recently.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): My Lords, the vast majority of people who are being removed from this country depart voluntarily. There is a small category of people who resist. It is known policy that escorts may be used to control and restrain such individuals and that these

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

techniques are accredited by the National Offender Management Service.

Following the death of Mr Mubenga, the UK Border Agency temporarily suspended the use of control and restraint on scheduled flights for a 10-day period between 15 and 25 October. That was for the purpose of carrying out an immediate review to see whether the techniques used on the aircraft were appropriate.

The use has been reinstated. The National Offender Management Service, which conducted this review, has said that there is no substantiation to the claims that have been made that the restraints being used were inherently dangerous. We are now going on to conduct more investigation of the appropriateness and utility of restraint. We do not believe that we have anything like achieved the last word. So I can assure the House that this issue, which I know is a matter of anxiety to us all, will be taken forward and that we are examining what needs to be done very thoroughly.

Baroness Neuberger: I thank my noble friend the Minister for her reply. It is very reassuring to hear what she said. Given the news that we are now to have a new contractor, Reliance, conducting these deportations, perhaps I may ask whether its contract will spell out in greater detail than hitherto what control can be used, and, indeed, whether the individual staff members will have to sign up to a code of practice. I think that that would give the House considerable reassurance.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The noble Baroness raises some of the absolutely pertinent issues which our further review needs to take into account. I cannot comment precisely on the contract of the company that will be employed in addition to G4S but I think it fair to say that the Government feel they need to look at all aspects of the services provided. They need to start with the contract and go right through to what happens on the aircraft.

Lord Rosser: My Lords, what checks will the Government be making to ensure that the new private security firm involved in deportations carries them out in accordance with the laid-down practices and procedures, including, in particular, the use of force?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: My Lords, as the House may know, there are several control and monitoring systems in place. Contrary, perhaps, to some of the prevalent views, they are in fact very active. The Chief Inspector of Prisons has oversight of all the detention facilities, which includes the escorts, and he conducts inspection visits on an unannounced basis. The independent monitoring board is based at Heathrow. After the last Question that I was asked on this subject I inquired how active that independent monitoring board was, and I was told that it is very active. It has produced critical comment on some of the practices it has observed, although not in this area, and it has said specifically that it does not think that there is a systemic problem, which I know is one of the anxieties in the House. Furthermore, detainees themselves have the right to make complaints. Those go to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and he reviews them. There are many controls trying to ensure that there is both a good system and proper practice.

Lord Anderson of Swansea: My Lords, voluntary departures are clearly much more humane and give much better value to the taxpayer. Are the Government convinced that there are enough incentives available for people who depart voluntarily?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: We are trying to increase the number of people who are willing to depart voluntarily. Nevertheless, we also encourage people, when we have to oblige them to go, to do so in a compliant fashion. We are making very great efforts to ensure two things: first, that the maximum number of people who are not entitled to stay do depart this country; and, secondly, that when they have to be escorted, it is done in a proper, humane fashion.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness O'Loan: My Lord, can the Minister tell us what alternative methods to the distraction techniques that are used by detention officers exist? Can she tell us, possibly at a later date, what distraction techniques are used in other parts of these islands by the various detention services? Does she agree that the use of pain-induced compliance requires much more stringent management and that such management will inevitably incur further cost?

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: I hope the noble Baroness will forgive me, but I did not hear all her question, although I heard the last part. One of our objectives is not to be put in a position where any pain-induced compliance technique has to be used. As a result of this latest incident, not only have we gone through with all escorting officers their duties and the methods of restraint they use, but we have taken them all the way through in detail with particular emphasis on the health and safety aspects of the job, including positional asphyxia, which is a particular source of attention at the moment. We clearly need to have extremely well informed and educated guards on duty.

Baroness Williams of Crosby: May I express to the Minister our appreciation for the energetic way in which she has followed up the concerns of the House? Will she consider allowing the guidance offered by the UK Border Agency to private companies, which is currently not in the public domain, to be made available in the Library to Members of both Houses? That would help us in sustaining the very high standards that she wants to see.

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: I think that is a perfectly reasonable request and I shall see that it is done.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101102-0001.htm#10110262000453>

Asylum: Deportation

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of asylum seekers awaiting deportation were in detention on the latest date for which figures are available. [19588]

Reply from Damian Green: National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom. The Statistical Summary for the second quarter of 2010, the most recent available, coupled with local management information indicates that one child of an asylum seeking family was detained with its family awaiting removal as at 30 June 2010.

This figure is based on management information and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. It is provisional and may be subject to change.

Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration:

Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

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

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continues to work with its corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/text/101101w0001.htm#10110139000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times a grant of asylum has been (a) revoked and (b) not renewed under paragraph 339 A of the Immigration Rules in each of the last five years. [20273]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of times an asylum grant has been revoked under paragraph 339A of the Immigration Rules in each of the last five years is as follows:

<i>Decision year</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>
2005	7
2006	11
2007	9
2008	16
2009	17

There have been no refusals to renew an asylum grant under paragraph 339A of the Immigration Rules since the process came into place in August 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101102/text/101102w0001.htm#10110298000040>

Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of opting in to the EU Directive on human trafficking. [20644]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt in to the Directive at the outset, but to review the position once the Directive has been agreed. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage.

In reaching this decision, the Government considered whether the Directive would make a practical difference to the way the UK fights trafficking and whether it contained operational co-operation measures from which the UK would benefit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/text/101101w0001.htm#10110139000015>

Press Releases

New updated comprehensive guidance for employers on preventing illegal working

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/08-new-guide-preventing-illegal>

Theresa May vows to restore public confidence in immigration system

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/immigration-first>

New publications

Your inflexible friend: The cost of living without cash

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/0994/Azure_Card_ReportNov2010.pdf

Survey on legal aid for asylum seekers in Europe

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_ELENA_Survey_on_%20Legal_Aid_for_Asylum%20Seekers_in_Europe_October_2010.pdf

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Home Affairs Committee Report: Immigration Cap

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmhaff/361/361.pdf>

British Citizenship Statistics 2009

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0910tabs.xls>

Unaccompanied Minors' Rights within the European Union: Is the EU Asylum and Immigration Legislation in line With the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Full-Version_Unaccompanied-Minors.pdf

Impact of spending cuts on refugee community organisations

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/briefings/Briefing%20-%20impact%20of%20spending%20cuts%20on%20RCOs%2022%201010.pdf>

News

Asylum pilot scheme removes one family

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11670884>

Fears cap on immigrants will hamper UK business

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Fears-cap-on-immigrants-will.6608706.jp>

MPs raise immigration cap doubts

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11679467>

EU chides UK over migrant workers from Eastern Europe

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11673133>

Rise in pupils with foreign first tongue is real talking point

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/Rise-in-pupils-with-foreign.6611115.jp>

Border Agency 'may discriminate against Pakistanis'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11690816>

David Cameron unveils 'enterprise visa' plans

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11689463>

Child trafficked into Scotland as sex slave

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Child-trafficked-into-Scotland-as.6612318.jp>

Theresa May pledges immigration abuse crackdown

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-11700950>

1300 asylum seekers may be forced out

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/1300-asylum-seekers-may-be-forced-out-1.1066396>

Foreign students must 'benefit the economy'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/foreign-students-must-benefit-the-economy-2126718.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Minimum salary requirement for foreign workers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8114056/Minimum-salary-requirement-for-foreign-workers.html>

Theresa May promises immigration crackdown

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/05/theresa-may-immigration-crackdown>

Immigration: Tories find that 'simple' solutions are not always possible

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/05/theresa-may-immigration-cap>

Big businesses welcome government roll-back of immigration caps

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/07/businesses-immigration-cap-rollback-government>

Eviction threat to refugees as funding talks break down between Border Agency and council

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2010/11/07/eviction-threat-to-refugees-as-funding-talks-break-down-between-border-agency-and-council-86908-22699138/>

Rise in number of children trafficked into Scotland

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/news/Rise-in-number-of-children.6615850.jp>

The scandal of the refugees forced to live on just £5 a day

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/the-scandal-of-the-refugees-forced-to-live-on-just-5-a-day-1.1066496>

Integration: a two way process

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/juan-camilo/integration-two-way-process>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Press Release

Communities Minister hears the concerns of the British Chinese community

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/1756955>

News

Salmond shows support for Scottish faith schools

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/editor-s-picks/salmond-shows-support-for-scottish-faith-schools-1.1065671>

Fewer children adopted after equality rules force agencies to shut

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/8110274/Fewer-children-adopted-after-equality-rules-force-agencies-to-shut.html>

Church of England eyes £5m of state funds to combat extremism

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/01/church-england-project-combat-extremism>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Crime: Hate

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that police forces routinely keep records of the religion or beliefs of defendants and victims in cases of racially or religiously aggravated offences, and make them available to the Crown Prosecution Service.[HL2656]

Reply from Earl Attlee: The Government understand the importance of the recording of hate crime, which is why the programme for government includes a commitment to improve the collection of these data. We are currently liaising with the police on the implementation of this commitment and we anticipate the collection of this data to begin in April 2011. This will provide us with police recorded crime data for the Government's five hate crime strands (disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation).

However, in order to balance the commitment on the better collection of hate crime data with our desire to end Whitehall interference in local policing, the data will not be disaggregated to reflect the religion or belief of offenders and victims. We are removing targets and reviewing the data burden placed on forces. We believe that the work that is being taken forward achieves this balance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101101w0001.htm#1011015000676>

English Defence League

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have assessed the threat posed to community cohesion and good race relations by the activities of the English Defence League; and whether they are taking measures to counter their influence.[HL2807]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The Government will not tolerate those who spread hate and seek to divide society and deliberately raise community tensions. The Government, working with police and other agencies, routinely assess community tensions. This includes any perceived threat posed to effective community cohesion by the activities of extremist organisations such as the English Defence League. Where appropriate, suitable measures are taken at community level by the relevant authorities to counter their influence and minimise their impact.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101101w0001.htm#1011015000679>

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Hill of Oareford on 27 July (WA 323), how they intend to deal with bullying and drop out when they support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils during the transition from primary to secondary education.[HL2613]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Hill of Oareford): The coalition Government have made tackling bullying, particularly bullying motivated by prejudice, one of their top priorities. It is not acceptable for a child to be victimised because of their race or religion. The Government will empower schools so that they can take a zero-tolerance approach to tackling bad behaviour and bullying. We will issue shorter and clearer guidance to schools on how to prevent and tackle bullying and work with Ofsted to ensure that tackling bad behaviour and bullying is given more prominence in planned changes to school inspection. The department implemented the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Achievement Programme in order to offer targeted support to Gypsy Roma Traveller parents and pupils, and specifically to identify good working practice within schools during the transition from primary to secondary school when many Gypsy and Traveller parents may decide to home educate their children. The National Strategies Programme, in common with all other national strategies programmes, will end in spring 2011. However, the good practice that has been captured during the course of this programme has been documented within the National Strategies "Moving Forward Together: Raising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Achievement" resources which have been disseminated to schools and local authorities and can be downloaded from the National Strategies website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101101w0001.htm#1011015000689>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Mark Hendrick (955) Islamophobia -That this House recognises the important contribution the Muslim community makes to society in the UK; recognises the problems they face in day to day life coming up against Islamophobia, both in the workplace and outside; and calls on the Government to bring in tighter regulation to tackle this and other forms of religious and racial discrimination.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41944&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Racism plagues every society, says UN expert

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true>

News

Ed Miliband is dragged into 'race-hate' minister furore

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Ed-Miliband-is-dragged-into.6615115.jp>

BNP members to be barred from teaching

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2010/nov/02/bnp-members-barred-teaching>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Public Petitions Committee

Gypsy/Traveller Encampments (Guidance) (PE1364)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/or-10/pu10-1502.htm#Col2993>

Other Holyrood (continued)

Parliamentary Motion

S3M-7302 Richard Baker: Scottish Police Muslim Association—That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Police Muslim Association (SPMA) on hosting the Crime Affects All Communities event on 3 November 2010; notes that the event is aimed at the Asian community and seeks to raise awareness of the risk posed by organised criminals and to identify ways of reporting in confidence; recognises that, delivered along with the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, the event will bring together experts from law enforcement to examine a range of issues, including the role of Crimestoppers and how serious organised crime impacts on Scotland; congratulates the SPMA on all its work, and, recognising that this will be the first time that such an event has taken place in engaging with the Asian communities in this particular manner, hopes that it will lead to similar events in the future.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=20096>

Press Releases

Protection for vulnerable groups

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/03112745>

Scots feeling safer from crime

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/02102112>

'News hound' wanted by Scottish Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-10/pa10-046.htm>

450 years since Reformation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/01082435>

and

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/11/03101638>

New publication

2009/10 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/328846/0106298.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Hajj Advisory Group

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation his Department had with community leaders before taking the decision not to include a medical team within the British Hajj Delegation. [19875]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The decision to discontinue the medical element of the British Hajj Delegation was taken by Ministers following a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) review in March 2010. The review did not include consultations with community leaders but, rather, took an objective view of the situation on the ground. The review noted significant improvements to the medical

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

facilities provided for Pilgrims by the Saudi authorities since the British Hajj Delegation first began 11 years ago. It also noted the declining demand for medical assistance for minor ailments from British Hajjis.

The decision brings our support for British Hajjis more into line with the support we provide for British nationals at other events. The FCO does not provide medical services at any other event involving large numbers of British nationals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/text/101101w0003.htm#1011022000039>

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003: Prosecutions

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought under the provisions of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force; and if he will make a statement. [21378]

Reply from Crispin Blunt: There have been no prosecutions under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 reported to the Ministry of Justice for England and Wales, from its introduction in March 2004, up to the end of 2009 (latest available). The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is intended to help to prevent this unacceptable practice from happening in the first place. Research suggests a number of barriers to prosecution, including pressure from the family or wider community, lead to cases going unreported. Despite the lack of prosecutions to date, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 provides a clear message that female genital mutilation is an unacceptable practice and illegal in England and Wales.

A range of guidance has been issued to heighten awareness among all relevant professionals. The Home Office issued guidance to all chief officers of police in England and Wales on the investigation of cases of female genital mutilation when the Act came into force in 2004. The Association of Chief Police Officers incorporated female genital mutilation in guidance for police forces which was revised and reissued in 2008. The Crown Prosecution Service included female genital mutilation in its Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence, which was disseminated to all prosecutors by the end of 2008. This was accompanied by a modular training package which has been rolled out to all CPS areas.

The Government appointed a cross government female genital mutilation coordinator in September 2009 and a number of initiatives have been implemented to improve the Government response to tackling female genital mutilation. Most recently, the Home Office, in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department of Health and Department for Education, have developed draft Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines to assist practitioners handling cases of female genital mutilation. These guidelines are open for consultation at:

www.fco.gov.uk/fgm

Following consideration of responses, we hope to publish these guidelines in spring 2011.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in 2011.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101103/text/101103w0002.htm#10110372000016>

Other Westminster (continued) Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (956) Diwali - That this House recognises the importance of Diwali to communities across the UK which will be celebrating the Festival of Lights on 5 November 2010; welcomes the fact that Hindus and Sikhs in the UK are freely able to observe their faith; wishes all those celebrating a happy Diwali; notes that the message of respect, justice and tolerance that is central to Diwali can be recognised by all those in Britain; and calls on the Government to join Hindus and Sikhs in celebrating the Festival this week.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=41945&SESSION=905>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's message for Diwali

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/latest-news/2010/11/prime-ministers-message-for-diwali-56265>

Communities Secretary sends message of good wishes for Diwali

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/multimedia/communities/1759760>

[TOP](#)

Other News

IT glitch hits disclosure process

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/IT-glitch-hits-disclosure-process.6612193.jp>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

** Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

Equality Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/329413/0106532.pdf>

Final Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/329408/0106531.pdf>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

Forced Marriage etc. (Protection and Jurisdiction) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/53-forcedMarriage/index.htm>

Local Electoral Administration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Palliative Care Bill

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

Public Records Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/index.htm>

Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill

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

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/064/amend/psc0640411a.1131.html>

House of Lords Reform Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Border Control) Bill

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

**** Identity Documents Bill**

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

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101101-gc0001.htm#10110119000202>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101103-gc0001.htm#10110365000123>

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Report Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101101/debtext/101101-0002.htm#10110129000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101102/debtext/101102-0002.htm#10110269000001>

Report Stage Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/098/pro0980111p.245-251.html>

Consideration of Bill as at 1 November

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/098/amend/psc0980111m.975-981.html>

Consideration of Bill as at 2 November

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/098/amend/psc0980211m.1025-1031.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill (cont)

Bill as brought to the House of Lords from the Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/2011026.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/en/2011026en.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101103-gc0001.htm#10110365000123>

Return of Asylum Seekers (Applications from Certain Countries) Bill

[http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/returnofasylumseekersapplicationsfromcertaincountries.html)

[11/returnofasylumseekersapplicationsfromcertaincountries.html](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/returnofasylumseekersapplicationsfromcertaincountries.html)

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency (10 November 2010)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

The Forced Marriage (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Bill (25 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/inquiries/Call.htm>

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO) Draft Regulations Discussion Paper (26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/48453/0105742.pdf>

Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order (26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

**** The Future of the Citizenship Survey** (30 November 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1756366.pdf>

Shaping Bereavement Care (2 December 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/327965/0105922.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education (closes 31 December 2010)

http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen

Consultations (continued)

**** Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy**

(14 January 2011)

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx

Introducing fee charges for appeals in the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-Tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (21 January 2010)

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

**** New or updated this week**

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

9 November 2010 in Glasgow

17 December 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore immigration terminology, main refugee nationalities, why people flee and factors affecting migration, the Refugee Convention - its history and interpretation, the UK asylum process and current implementation in Scotland, how to develop culturally sensitive services, and issues facing practitioners and possible solutions; best practice for support and advocacy. For information contact Jamie Spurway jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/553_an_introduction_to_working_with_a_sylum_seekers_and_refugees

**** this week!**

Violence Against Women Faith, Culture and Practice Training

11 November 2010 in Stirling (10.00 – 4.00)

23 February 2011 in Stirling(10.00 – 4.00)

Amina training to explore the faith and cultural dimensions associated with the perpetration of violence against women in the Muslim and other Communities. For information contact pdu@stirling.gov.uk / 01786 442 562.

**** this week!**

EHRC dialogue session with minority ethnic communities

12 November 2010 in Stirling (11.30 – 2.00)

24 November 2010 in Dumfries (11.30 – 2.00)

As part of its strategy to empower grass root community groups and organisations, BEMIS is arranging sessions to stimulate dialogue and direct engagement between the EHRC and local community groups. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047/ tanveer.parnez@bemis.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Still not easy being British

12 November 2010

Webchat and Q&A about multiculturalism and developments in Muslim identity politics with Tariq Modood, Catherine Fieschi, and Sunny Hundal discussing. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/events-conferences/econferences/still-not-easy-being-british.html>

Asylum law, beyond the first tier tribunal

23 November 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council legal seminar for immigration advisers, solicitors and advocates to examine representation of asylum claims to the Upper Tribunal and Court of Session. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/745_asylum_law_beyond_the_first_tier_tribunal

Working with Interpreters

25 November 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 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=94>

Scottish Interfaith Week

28 November – 5 December 2010

The theme for Scottish Interfaith Week 2010 is *Faith in Action*. Details of events will be posted at <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/22.html> as they become available.

UKBA (formerly NASS) asylum support - the essentials

30 November 2010 in Glasgow

3 February 2010 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course for people supporting those going through the asylum process. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / jamie.spurway@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/325_ukba_formerly_nass_asylum_support_-_the_essentials

Youth Interfaith Connect Conference

2 December 2010 (10.00 – 3.00)

ACPOS conference for young people to discuss issues such as the impact of faith in Scotland today, the impact of religious and sectarian hate crime on our communities, the role of the media in representing faith communities, religious education in schools, identity faith and belief, and faith and social action. For information contact Fiach OBroin-Molloy 01786 456000 / 07769 920 462 or see <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/> and discussion forum <http://www.interfaithconnect.org/forum/>

Equality Act 2010: What does it mean for you?

2 December 2010 in Stirling

19 January 2011 in Edinburgh

17 February 2011 in Inverness

Equality and Human Rights Commission conferences to provide information about how the Act works and how to use it, what discrimination means and who is protected. For information contact David Reilly David.Reilly@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/11ii_ehrc.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Demands, Challenges, Opportunities: the changing third sector-public policy relationship

3 December 2010 in Edinburgh

SCVO Third Sector Research Conference to bring together Scottish Government, local government, third sector and academic researchers, to showcase their work and discuss a range of findings of relevance to public policy in Scotland. For information contact Helen Swatton 0141 225 8019 / helen.swatton@scvo.org or see

<http://microsites.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1176&from=EventHome>

Home Sweet Home?

10 December 2010 in Falkirk (9.30 – 1.00)

Seminar to explore particular issues faced by black and minority ethnic (BME) women and children. These include – Forced Marriage; Honour Violence; FGM; Domestic Abuse; No Recourse to Public Funds. For information contact Alicia Kirkwood

Alicia.kirkwood@falkirk.gov.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/10x_home.doc

[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>

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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/>