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MEMO

16 September 2013
ISSUE 364

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, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Spousal Visas

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130909/debtext/130909-0004.htm#1309102000002>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure that the immigration document checks which are the subject of recent consultations and proposed to be included in the forthcoming Immigration Bill do not result in unlawful discrimination; and whether they intend to issue a code of practice for primary healthcare providers and for private landlords in carrying out those checks.[HL2140]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government share the desire to ensure that measures in the forthcoming Immigration Bill do not result in unlawful discrimination. The consultations on these proposals have now closed and we are considering the responses received. Full consultation reports and impact assessments will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-Immigration>

Entry Clearances

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on reducing the income thresholds for family visas applications. [168472]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government has no plans to reduce the minimum income threshold for sponsoring a spouse or partner and dependent children of non-European economic area nationality to settle in the UK under the family immigration rules. The level of the income threshold, which was set in the light of advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee, reflects the level of income at which a couple, once settled in the UK, generally cannot access income-related benefits. The income threshold therefore prevents family migrants becoming a burden on the taxpayer and helps to ensure that they are well enough supported to integrate effectively in British society.

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family visa applications have been paused since 5 July 2013. [168473]

Reply from Mark Harper: Spouse or partner and child settlement visa and leave to remain applications have been put on hold since the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in MM & Others, where the only grounds on which the application falls to be refused are the applicant's failure to meet the income threshold (under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules or the related evidential requirements under Appendix FM-SE).

The Home Office is putting in place arrangements to monitor the number of applications put on hold.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130913/text/130913w0002.htm#13091339000086>

Entry Clearances: Married People

David Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department plans to amend spouse visa rules following the High Court judgement on 5 July 2013. [168474]

Reply from Mark Harper: We have no plans to amend the Immigration Rules for spouse or partner visa applications following the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in MM and Others. The Home Office is pursuing an appeal against the judgment. The Court of Appeal has agreed to our request to expedite this, but it is a matter for the Court of Appeal how quickly the appeal is considered. Until the legal challenge has been finally determined by the courts, applications will be placed and will remain on hold where grounds relating to the income threshold would be the sole basis for refusal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130913/text/130913w0002.htm#13091339000087>

Immigration: Dependent Relatives

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many decisions were made in relation to applications for entry clearance and extension of stay for adult elderly

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

dependants during the year commencing 9 July 2012; and of those applications how many were (1) successful, (2) unsuccessful, (3) withdrawn and (4) lapsed.[HL2143]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Adult dependent relatives who wish to join a settled person or a British citizen and who meet the immigration rules qualify for immediate settlement and do not require an extension. Following rule changes in July 2012, this route is now only accessible to applicants applying from outside the UK. The latest published figures for 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 on entry clearance applications from dependants (other than children or partners of those who were settled in the UK or British citizens) are given in the table below. Decisions on entry clearance visa applications from outside the UK providing immediate settlement (indefinite leave) to dependants (other than children or partners of those who were settled in the UK or British Citizens)

Quarter	Resolved	of which			
		Issued	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed
2012 Q3 (July to September)	676	400	264	5	7
2012 Q4 (October to December)	674	277	396	0	1
2013 Q1 (January to March)	576	221	350	3	2
2013 Q2 (April to June)	509	212	292	3	2

Decisions (resolutions) may relate to applications made in earlier quarters, and may include decisions based on rules in place before 9 July 2012.

Source: Table be_01_q, Family route: Other (for settlement), Immigration Statistics April-June 2013

The published statistics do not separately identify how many of these decisions relate to elderly dependent relatives. It is also not possible to separately identify decisions on application made under the family Immigration Rules implemented on 9 July 2012. The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on entry clearance applications within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of the latest release, Immigration Statistics April-June 2013, is available from the Library of the House and from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationDependentRelatives>

Immigration: Non-EEA Partner Applications

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many decisions were made in relation to non-European Economic Area partner applications from within the United Kingdom for entry clearance and for extension of stay during the year commencing 9 July 2012; and of those applications how many were (1) successful, (2) unsuccessful, (3) withdrawn and (4) lapsed.[HL2142]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Information is published on entry clearance decisions (issued, refused, withdrawn and lapsed) and grants and refusals of an extension of stay. The latest published figures for 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 relating to non-European Economic Area national partners in the family route are given in the tables below.

Quarter	Applicant type	Category	Issued	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed
2012 Q3	All	Family: Partner	7,626	2,215	51	22

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

2012 Q3	All	Family: Partner (for immediate settlement)	241	35	4	2
2012 Q4	All	Family: Partner	6,780	5,008	46	15
2012 Q4	All	Family: Partner (for immediate settlement)	232	75	0	2
2013 Q1	All	Family: Partner	4,862	3,522	48	8
2013 Q1	All	Family: Partner (for immediate settlement)	362	86	2	0
2013 Q2	All	Family: Partner	5,274	3,097	37	5
2013 Q2	All	Family: Partner (for immediate settlement)	151	68	1	0

Decisions (resolutions) may relate to applications made in earlier quarters, and may include decisions based on rules in place before 9 July 2012.

Source: Immigration Statistics, April-June 2013, table be_01_q

Quarter	Applicant type	Category	Decisions	Grants	Refusals
2012 Q3	Main applicant	Spouse (probationary period applications)	2,733	2,416	317
2012 Q3	Main applicant	Family Life (10 year route)	810	728	82
2012 Q4	Main applicant	Spouse (probationary period applications)	4,514	3,731	783
2012 Q4	Main applicant	Family Life (10 year route)	1,571	1,471	100
2013 Q1	Main applicant	Spouse (probationary period applications)	11,896	9,027	2,869
2013 Q1	Main applicant	Family Life (10 year route)	2,610	2,501	109
2013 Q2	Main applicant	Spouse (probationary period applications)	5,811	4,282	1,529
	Main applicant	Family Life (10 year route)	5,041	3,757	1,284

Includes civil partners and unmarried partners.

Family Life (10 year route) relates to partners and parents who cannot satisfy the requirements for the 5 years family route but who are seeking to remain in the UK on the basis of their right to respect for family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

May include decisions based on rules in place before 9 July 2012.

Source: Immigration Statistics, April-June 2013, table ex_01_q

It is not possible to separately identify decisions on applications made under the family Immigration Rules implemented on 9 July 2012.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on entry clearance and extension of stay decisions within the Immigration Statistics release. A copy of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the latest release, Immigration Statistics April-June 2013, is available from the Library of the House and from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationNon-EEAPartnerApplications>

Immigration: Non-EEA Partners

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the impact on the time taken to process cases as a result of the current suspension of decision-making on non-European Economic Area spouse or partner and child settlement visa and leave to remain applications.[HL2144]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Non-EEA spouse or partner and child settlement visa and leave to remain applications have been put on hold since the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment in *MM & Others*, where the only grounds on which the application falls to be refused are the applicant's failure to meet the income threshold (under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules or the related evidential requirements under Appendix FM-SE). The Home Office is appealing against the judgment and such applications will remain on hold until the legal challenge has been finally determined by the Courts. The Court of Appeal has agreed to the Home Office's request for expedition, but it is a matter for the Court how quickly the appeal is considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationNon-EEAPartners>

Immigration: Non-EEA Visas

Baroness Hamwee: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to process any backlog of non-European Economic Area spouse or partner and child settlement visa and leave to remain applications for which decision-making is currently suspended; and whether additional resources will be made available to meet any backlog.[HL2145]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Once the legal challenge, in *MM & Others*, to the income threshold under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules has been finally determined by the Courts, the Home Office will determine, according to the outcome of those cases, how best to conclude those non-EEA spouse or partner and child settlement visa and leave to remain applications, which have been put on hold since the 5 July 2013 High Court judgment. In the mean time, an applicant whose case has been put on hold can withdraw their application and submit a fresh application if, by virtue of a change in circumstances, they can now meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules, including the income threshold under Appendix FM.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationNon-EEAVisas>

Immigration: Student Immigration Checks

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 24 July (WA 206–7), what assessment they have made or intend to make of their plans to require landlords to conduct immigration checks on tenants, in the case of (1) European Union students, and (2) non-European Union students, awaiting a decision from the Home Office with regard to their leave to remain in

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the United Kingdom at the time of agreeing or renewing a tenancy agreement (or equivalent).[HL2136]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Home Office officials have engaged with a range of organisations that represent students during consultation on proposals to prevent illegal migrants obtaining privately rented accommodation. The consultation closed on 21 August 2013, and we are currently reviewing responses. A full consultation report and impact assessment will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationStudentImmigrationChecks>

Medical Justice Report: Detention Centres

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the recent report from Medical Justice Expecting Change; and whether they have received representations from NHS trusts in the areas where detention centres exist.[HL2190]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what response they have made to the responses of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives to the recent report from Medical Justice Expecting Change.[HL2192]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether pregnant asylum applicants are always treated as complex cases for maternity care.[HL2194]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): We have not responded formally to the Medical Justice report and have no plans to do so. Home Office Immigration Enforcement, which manages the immigration detention estate, would be happy to engage direct with the two Royal Colleges that expressed concern about issues raised in the report. Asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers who are receiving support from the Home Office, and victims of human trafficking can access and are fully entitled to the National Health Service without charge.

The maternity care provided to those women by NHS midwives is covered by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines on complex pregnancies and should be the same high standard we expect all pregnant women to receive and this should include the high quality handovers of care between maternity services when women move from one area to another. This supports women receiving personalised maternity care which includes having a named midwife who is responsible for the majority of her care and continuity of care when that midwife is unavailable.

From 2013-14, the Department will also be introducing a maternity and children dataset which will provide details of the number of women who are asylum seekers and refugees receiving maternity care and will provide outcome data for mothers and babies to support commissioning and provision of care.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-MedicalJusticeReportDetentionCentres>

Immigration: Detention

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the effectiveness of detaining pregnant women, and (2) the views on that matter of the organisations which signed Asylum Aid's Charter of Rights of Women Seeking Asylum.[HL2191]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Detention is a vital and effective tool in supporting the enforced return of persons with no lawful basis of stay in the UK who choose not to leave voluntarily. This applies equally to pregnant women.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Pregnant women are detained only in limited circumstances, where their removal is imminent and medical advice does not suggest their confinement before the due removal date. Pregnant women who are less than 24 weeks' pregnant may also be detained in the asylum Detained Fast Track process.

The recommendation in the Charter of Rights of Women Seeking Asylum that women who are at any stage of pregnancy or who are breastfeeding should not be detained was not accepted. That remains our position.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldtoday/writtens/090913.htm#hdg-ImmigrationDetention>

Asylum: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are in receipt of (a) section 95 support for asylum applicants and (b) section 4 support for a failed asylum applicant who cannot return home. [168071]

Reply from Mark Harper: As at end of June 2013, there were 21,423 asylum seekers, including dependants, in receipt of Section 95 and 4,472 in receipt of Section 4 support for failed asylum applicants who cannot return home.

The data presented above, are published in table as16q and table as18q (Asylum data tables Volume 2) of Immigration Statistics: April—June 2013, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130911/text/130911w0001.htm#1309116400042>

Detention Centres

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to expand the immigration detention estate. [167856]

Reply from Mark Harper: The capacity and location of the detention estate is under constant review and we consider any opportunities to rebalance it in order to aid removal of those who have no right to remain in the UK. The conversion of HMP The Verne in Dorset into an Immigration Removal Centre, which will add 580 beds was announced by the Ministry of Justice on 4 September 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130911/text/130911w0001.htm#1309116400045>

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people held in immigration detention had been held for more than (a) 18 months, (b) 24 months and (c) 36 months on 1 September 2013. [167863]

Reply from Mark Harper: The requested information is not available. Figures on people held in detention are collated as at the last day of each quarter, on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December of each year and published in Immigration Statistics quarterly releases. The latest figures show that as at 30 June 2013, 27 people were detained for between 18 months and 24 months, 11 for between 24 months and 36 months and one for between 36 months and 48 months.

Data on the length of detention of people in detention are readily available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: April-June 2013, table dt_09_q from the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Figures as at the 30 September 2013 will be published in Immigration Statistics

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

July-September 2013 on 28 November 2013.

Published figures on people held in immigration detention are those detained in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers at short term holding facilities, pre departure accommodation and immigration removal centres.

Figures exclude those held in police cells, Prison Service establishments, short term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130911/text/130911w0001.htm#13091164000049>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Julian Huppert (488) Home Office returns pilot scheme – That this House deplores the recent Home Office poster campaign running in UK Border Agency offices in Glasgow and London advising people seeking advice to 'go home'; believes that this poster campaign is an insensitive and ineffective way of dealing with illegal immigration and is unlikely to encourage voluntary returns; notes that this is not the only instance of this type of campaign following the heavily criticised vans carrying similar messages; further notes that charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have expressed their concerns about the campaign; further believes that this scheme is likely to undermine its stated aims whilst creating an environment of fear; and urges the Government to halt immediately this pilot scheme and to work with local authorities, community groups and NGOs to encourage voluntary returns in a more effective, liberal, sympathetic and humane manner.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/488>

Press Release

Progress in EU migration policy since 1999

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-13-702_en.htm?locale=en

News

Sturgeon hits out at asylum 'help to leave' campaign

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/sturgeon-hits-out-at-asylum-help-to-leave-campaign.22110422>

Scottish independence: Immigration queries 'whatever referendum result'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-24094649>

Scotland could have broadest human trafficking law

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scotland-could-have-broadest-human-trafficking-law-1-3085807>

Glasgow 2014 could lead to an influx of victims of human trafficking, according to European Commission

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/glasgow-2014-could-lead-influx-2268811>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Human trafficking alert over 2014 Glasgow Games

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/human-trafficking-alert-over-2014-glasgow-games-1-3091673>

Xenophobic Britain drives foreign students away, claims professor

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10304634/Xenophobic-Britain-drives-foreign-students-away-claims-professor.html>

Immigrants 'abusing entrepreneur visas' to remain in Britain

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3866588.ece>

Home Office 'did not predict huge surge in immigration visas for entrepreneurs'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/12/immigration-visas-entrepreneurs-home-office>

Seasonal migrant workers scheme closes to help British into work

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/12/seasonal-migrant-workers-scheme-closes>

Seasonal agricultural migration scheme scrapped

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-24064774>

Foreign students 'are put off Britain by xenophobes'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article3867839.ece>

Detainees at Yarl's Wood immigration centre 'facing sexual abuse'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/14/detainees-yarls-wood-sexual-abuse>

Proposed bill to tackle trafficking: Our response

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2168_proposed_bill_to_tackle_trafficking_our_response

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Equality

News

Judge permits Muslim defendant to wear veil

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/judge-permits-muslim-defendant-to-wear-veil-8812910.html?origin=internalSearch>

Judge allows Muslim woman to wear niqab in London court

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/12/judge-allows-muslim-woman-wear-niqab>

Judge allows Muslim woman defendant to wear a face veil

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3867666.ece>

Muslim woman allowed to enter plea without showing her face - but may still have to remove her veil for trial

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418981/Muslim-woman-allowed-enter-plea-showing-face--remove-veil-trial.html>

Equality

News (continued)

Birmingham Metropolitan College decides on U-turn over veil ban

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-24072854>

Birmingham college reverses decision to ban Muslim face veils after protests

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/13/birmingham-college-muslim-veils>

Birmingham college forced into U-turn over Muslim veil ban following outcry

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/birmingham-college-forced-into-uturn-over-muslim-veil-ban-following-outcry-8814502.html?origin=internalSearch>

Cameron stands firm on Muslim veil bans despite U-turn by Birmingham college

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3868064.ece>

Muslim defendant allowed to wear face veil in the dock

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10305828/Muslim-defendant-allowed-to-wear-face-veil-in-the-dock.html>

Birmingham college bans the burka

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/birmingham-college-bans-the-burka-8807148.html?origin=internalSearch>

David Cameron backs college's decision to ban Muslim veils

<http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/david-cameron-backs-colleges-decision-to-ban-muslim-veils-8812680.html?origin=internalSearch>

Coalition split over college's ban on veil

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3867655.ece>

Students angry at ban on veils

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3865853.ece>

Veiled Insult

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article3868950.ece>

Behind that veil, Britain is losing its spine

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/regulars/guestcolumn/article1313493.ece>

The faces behind the veil: Muslim women speak out against ban

<http://www.independent.co.uk/incoming/the-faces-behind-the-veil-muslim-women-speak-out-against-ban-8812767.html?origin=internalSearch>

Nick Clegg 'uneasy' about ban on Muslim veils in school

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/sep/12/nick-clegg-muslim-veils-school>

Clegg backs teachers who want pupils to remove veils in class

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10304285/Nick-Clegg-backs-teachers-who-want-pupils-to-remove-veils-in-class.html>

David Cameron would support a ban on Muslim veils at his children's school

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10308610/David-Cameron-would-support-a-ban-on-Muslim-veils-at-his-childrens-school.html>

Equality

News (continued)

Cameron backs Birmingham college ban on Muslim students wearing religious veils but Clegg feels 'uneasy'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418989/Cameron-backs-Birmingham-college-ban-Muslim-students-wearing-religious-veils-Clegg-feels-uneasy.html>

Civilised society must not draw a veil over the niqab

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/10308793/Civilised-society-must-not-draw-a-veil-over-the-niqab.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-07669 James Kelly: Antisectarian Gold Awards for Loch and St Anthony's Primary Schools—That the Parliament congratulates the Rutherglen primary schools, Loch and St Anthony's, on becoming the first schools to gain the Gold Award from what it considers the leading antisectarian charity, Nil by Mouth; appreciates that, in order to obtain what it sees as this highly prestigious award, which is part of the charity's champions for change accreditation scheme, the schools worked together on a number of projects that were aimed at breaking down barriers; understands that pupils took the lead on developing an antisectarian project, which also aims to change attitudes in adults; notes that champions for change was launched nearly two years ago at Stonelaw High School in Rutherglen and that, since then, a number of schools in the area have worked toward developing antisectarian education across the curriculum; praises the efforts of the staff and pupils at both Loch and St Anthony's in their efforts to create a more tolerant Scotland, and recognises what it believes is the importance of such grassroots educational initiatives in building better communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-07669&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

The hidden epidemic of hate crime

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-23956771>

Call for action on Traveller racism and abuse

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/call-for-action-on-traveller-racism-and-abuse-1.128569>

Police face court over refusal to hand over reports on anti-Muslim 'bias'

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/sep/13/police-court-reports-anti-muslim-bias>

FA receives backing for crackdown on use of the word 'Yid' — even by Tottenham fans

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/sport/football/clubs/tottenhamhotspur/article3866242.ece>

FA warning on use of word 'Yid' by all supporters including Tottenham's

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2013/sep/11/fa-tottenham-hotspur>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Tottenham manager Andre Villas-Boas supports Football Association campaign to try and rid the sport of the word 'Yid'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/tottenham-manager-andre-villasboas-supports-football-association-campaign-to-try-and-rid-the-sport-of-the-word-yid-8812703.html?origin=internalSearch>

Jewish academic Moty Crista sues Unison for racial discrimination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jewish-academic-moty-crista-sues-unisonfor-racial-discrimination-8810113.html>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Referendum – one year to go

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Referendum-one-year-to-go-41d.aspx>

A Budget for Scotland's Future

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/A-Budget-for-Scotland-s-Future-400.aspx>

New Publications

Scottish Budget Draft Budget 2014-15

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00433802.pdf>

Equality Statement: Scottish Budget Draft Budget 2014-15

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00433836.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Attorney-General how many convictions for committing female genital mutilation there were in (a)2010-11, (b) 2011-12 and (c) 2012-13. [168248]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: There have been no prosecutions or convictions in respect of offences relating to female genital mutilation in the last three years.

In September 2012 the Director of Public Prosecutions chaired a roundtable meeting to consider the lack of prosecutions, and to explore why so few cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) are being referred to the CPS for charge and prosecution. The roundtable meeting was drawn from a range of groups including parliamentarians, groups representing the victims of FGM, members from the medical profession, the police and the CPS. A key outcome of the meeting was

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the publication of an action plan setting out the steps to be taken to strengthen investigation and evidence to support a successful prosecution.

On 5 September 2013 the Director chaired a second roundtable meeting to discuss progress on the FGM action plan. The roundtable, one year on, looked at the progress made on the different elements of the action plan and the Director highlighted that, as a result of work to date, the CPS and the police were now in a much better position to tackle FGM. An updated action plan will be published shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130910/text/130910w0001.htm#13091059000082>

Female Genital Mutilation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has allocated to tackling the practice of female genital mutilation at home and abroad. [168212]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The Government are absolutely committed to preventing and tackling female genital mutilation (FGM). The Home Office announced on 18 July 2013 that it will provide £15,971 of funding towards a new prevalence study, to be carried out by Equality Now and City University.

Other funding which the Government have allocated to tackling FGM on domestic and international initiatives since 2011 is as follows:

Home Office—£100,000 fund over two years to provide grants of between £2000 and £5000 to frontline organisations supporting work to strengthen the voice of women to speak about FGM and work to abandon the practices; and,

Department for International Development—£35million programme to address FGM, in Africa and beyond. The aim of the programme is to see a reduction in cutting by 30% in at least 10 countries over five years.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in how many cases asylum was granted on the grounds of the risk of female genital mutilation in each year since 2010; [168223]

(2) in how many cases asylum was applied for on the basis of the risk of female genital mutilation but subsequently rejected since 2010. [168224]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office does not routinely record, on its Case Information Database, information about the grounds on which asylum is claimed.

The information requested could be obtained only by a manual search of the files of all asylum claims from women since 2010 and this could be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is given to police officers on tackling and prosecuting instances of female genital mutilation. [168231]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: Police guidance and training on investigating domestic abuse already includes dealing with cases of female genital mutilation (FGM). Our cross-Government Action Plan, published in March 2013, sets out our clear commitment to work on further guidance and learning programmes for the police on sexual and domestic violence, including FGM, forced marriage, 'honour' based violence (HBV) and stalking.

The Government has also recently reviewed its Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines on FGM, originally published in February 2011, for front-line professionals such as teachers, GPs, nurses and police. The guidelines aim to raise awareness of FGM, highlight the risks that people should be aware of and set out clearly the steps that should be taken to safeguard children and women from this abuse. They are a key development in preventing girls from being harmed by FGM.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on granting asylum to women and girls at risk of female genital mutilation. [168232]

Reply from Mark Harper: An individual who claims that she would, on return to her home country, suffer female genital mutilation may qualify for refugee status if she is able to demonstrate that she has a well-founded fear. This may include evidence that female genital mutilation is knowingly tolerated by the authorities or that the authorities are unable or unwilling to offer effective protection.

Asylum decision-makers examine claims for international protection sensitively and ensure that all evidence relating to an individual's claim is taken into account. Specific guidance and training regarding gender-specific issues, including the risk of female genital mutilation, has been issued to decision-makers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130911/text/130911w0001.htm#13091164000048>

Press Releases

Referendum Agreement signed with Scottish government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-secretary-of-state-sign-referendum-agreement-with-scottish-government>

Prime Minister: Scotland's future is in Scotland's hands

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-scotlands-future-is-in-scotlands-hands>

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New Publication

Being Jewish in Scotland

http://www.scojec.org/news/2013/13viii_bjis_report/report.pdf

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Other News

Being Jewish in Scotland: Publication of Full Findings

http://www.scojec.org/news/2013/13ix_bjis/bjis.html

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Children and Young People Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Education and Culture Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8488&mode=pdf>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Criminal Justice Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

**** Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

Equal Opportunities Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8487&mode=pdf>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8488&mode=pdf>

**** Scottish Independence Referendum Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/61076.aspx>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/SB_13-57.pdf

Stage 1 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8486&mode=html#iob_76919

Victims and Witnesses Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Bills in Progress (continued)

Westminster

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumseekersreturntonearestsafecountry.html>

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/charitablestatusforreligiousinstitutions.html>

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/collectionofnationalitydata.html>

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/facecoveringsprohibition.html>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/lobbyistsregistrationofcodeofconduct.html>

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourrestriction.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Counter-terrorism (closing date 30 September 2013)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/130723-counter-terrorism-new-inquiry/>

Inquiry on Race and Higher Education (closing date 31 October 2013)

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/492/272/APPG-Inquiry-on-Race-and-Higher-Education.html>

Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (closing date 4 November 2013)

Draft SORP

<http://www.charitycorp.org/media/513587/charity-sorp-exposure-draft.pdf>

Consultation document

<http://www.charitycorp.org/media/513666/charity-sorp-invitation-to-comment.pdf>

Language Controls for Doctors - Proposed Changes to the Medical Act 1983

(closing date 2 December 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237302/language_controls_doctors_consultation.pdf

**** Proposed Human Trafficking Bill** (closing date 6 December 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/20130909_Human_Trafficking_Consultation_final_version.pdf

Tried and Trusted? The Role of NGOs in Asylum Seeker and Irregular Migrant Voluntary Return (no closing date given)

<https://www.isurvey.soton.ac.uk/7654>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** Racism and Hate Crime Conference**

19 September 2013 (9.15 – 2.00)

Frae Fife conference to discuss the impact of racism and hate crime/incident in Fife, the reporting system, and support for victims. For information contact ade@fraefife.co.uk / 01592 204 005.

"Domestic Abuse and Minority Ethnic Women, Children & Young People"

26 (9.30-4.30pm) & 27 (9.30-12.30pm) September 2013 in Edinburgh

17 (9.30-4.30pm) & 18 (9.30-12.30pm) October 2013 in Edinburgh

28 (9.30-4.30pm) & 29 (9.30-12.30pm) November 2013 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/owhjag2> or contact Ola, Mridu, or Lisa 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

** Black History Month

1 to 31 October

Full programme available at <http://www.crer.org.uk/BlackHistory/2013Brochure.pdf>

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

3 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

8 November 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/burro73> or contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with interpreters

22 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

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. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/9fs8ae5> or contact 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk.

Mental Health and Ethnicity

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Conference to present an evidence based approach to influence the development of a healthier minority ethnic community in Scotland. Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2013. For information contact Sidra Shirjeel sidra.shirjeel@cc3.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmvj354>

Discrimination Law in 2013 – Trick or Treat?

31 October 2013 in Edinburgh

Scottish Discrimination Law Association conference in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, covering the year's key developments in discrimination law. Reduced rates may be available for voluntary organisations. For information contact Angela Barclay angela.barclay@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5951.

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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.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

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

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation 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/>

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