

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Child Trafficking

Christine Grahame (South of Scotland) (SNP):

4. To ask the First Minister what resources the Scottish Government has put in place to detect and prevent child trafficking. (S3F-2968)

Reply from the First Minister (Alex Salmond): We place the highest priority on eradicating that despicable crime and supporting the victims. That is why we have given an additional £4 million to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, to help it to address trafficking and other organised crime. We have strengthened the support to victims through annual funding of £50,000 and an innovative pilot scheme that will provide guardians to the victims of child trafficking. We have also put in place comprehensive new guidance to support the child trafficking and child protection units.

Christine Grahame: Does the First Minister agree that one of the major advances in Scotland is the pioneering multi-agency resources service—MARS—which is a child-protection hub and is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom? It allows professionals from various agencies to work together more effectively and share expertise and best practice. However, as a recent report by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Young People highlighted, more focused preparation is needed to deal with trafficked children's specific and complex needs. How does the Scottish Government plan to take forward the key recommendations that are contained in that important report?

The First Minister: The multi-agency resource service is typical of the approach that is taken by this Government to strengthen the protection of and support for our most vulnerable children and young people. The Scottish Government is now providing £500,000 of funding over three years to MARS, at the University of Stirling.

That spirit of partnership and focus on practical solutions will govern how we address the recommendations by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People on child trafficking. We have already taken action to address many of the recommendations and will reflect further on all the findings in the report, and will be in close consultation with our key partners in trafficking and child protection.

Trish Godman (West Renfrewshire) (Lab): The First Minister will be aware of a report by the Equal Opportunities Committee on prostitution and trafficking and of the fact that there have been no prosecutions for child trafficking in Scotland. I know that there is a question about numbers, but it seems to me that, if one child is trafficked into this country, that is one too many.

Given that the Government does not fund all the child trafficking voluntary organisations that work at the coal face, what action will the First Minister take to reinforce laws in order to bring forward prosecutions in child trafficking, where appropriate?

The First Minister: I am sure that the range of actions that I set out in response to Christine Grahame will convince the member of the Government's intent and seriousness. Incidentally, all those measures have, rightly, received support across the chamber. That applies to the legal framework, support to the victims, the comprehensive new guidance on child trafficking and child protection and, of course, the additional funding to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, to help it address this enormous problem.

I absolutely agree that one child in such circumstances is one child too many.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6191&mode=html#job_56029

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

S3M-8155 Robin Harper: Scotland: a Safe Place for Child Traffickers?—That the Parliament notes with alarm the conclusions of the report on child trafficking by Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People published on the 14 March 2011, which notes that 83 children may have been trafficked into Scotland in the last year and a half without a single person being convicted of the crimes; considers that there is now an evidence base as a result of this report, and urges the Scottish Government to act as swiftly as possible on the recommendations of the report, especially in light of the evident willingness of the professionals contacted during the research to improve the identification and treatment of children trafficked into and within Scotland and in relation to the traumatic effects of the exploitation that these children experience.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=21028>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before Parliament a statement of changes in the immigration rules that will reshape tier 1 of the points-based system (PBS) for migration, tighten the requirements of tier 2 of the PBS, and tighten criteria for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. The changes also include a route of entry for family reunion for those granted protection; reduce the re-entry ban for immigration offenders who leave promptly, and facilitate visits by diplomatic and special passport holders from Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The statement of changes will take effect from 6 April 2011. This Government are committed to reducing net migration to the UK to the tens of thousands. We review all routes of entry to the UK and implement a range of measures spanning all aspects of the immigration system.

To continue reading the lengthy statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110316/wmstext/110316m0001.htm#11031610500012>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Refugee Agencies: Funding

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of cuts in funding for refugee advice services.[HL7357]

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones): The Government have extended grant agreements with voluntary sector partners to provide advice and support services for asylum seekers for a further period of two years. The levels of funding provided by these grant agreements have been reduced in line with reductions in the numbers of people claiming asylum and in the numbers of people in receipt of asylum support and therefore in need of these services.

The impacts of these reductions will vary in different locations across the UK. The UK Border Agency will continue to work closely with voluntary sector partners and others, at national, regional and local level to assess and mitigate the impact of these reductions.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government why contracts for the refugee integration and employment services are to end in September.[HL7358]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The Refugee Integration and Employment Service contracts expire in September 2011 in line with the agreed contract term. In the context of the Government's strategy to tackle the fiscal deficit there is a need to make significant savings across the UK Border Agency, and it is not possible to fund a stand-alone refugee integration service beyond the expiry of the contracts.

However, it is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end-to-end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector. In addition, UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical, cost-neutral solutions to address the integration needs of refugees.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration was given to the United Kingdom's obligation under the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees when deciding to cut funding for refugee advice services.[HL7359]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The UK has a long and proud tradition of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

supporting refugees in need of protection and fully meets its international obligations. The fulfilment of these obligations is not affected by reductions in funding for advice services.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath: To ask Her Majesty's Government what specialist services will be available for refugees and asylum seekers after the recent cut in funding for refugee advice services. [HL7360]

Reply from Baroness Neville-Jones: The Government have extended grant agreements with voluntary sector partners to provide advice and support services for asylum seekers for a further period of two years. These services include, for example, helping destitute asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers to apply for asylum support and assisting those already in receipt of asylum support to notify the UK Border Agency of any changes in their circumstances.

The levels of funding provided by these grant agreements have been reduced in line with reductions in the numbers of people claiming asylum and in the numbers of people in receipt of asylum support and therefore in need of these services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110314w0001.htm#11031416000466>

Immigration

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications for the UK of the proposals in the EU Agenda for new skills and jobs in respect of migration; what assessment she has made of likely trends in migration to the UK from (a) EU and (b) non-EU countries; and if she will make a statement. [46853]

Reply from Damian Green: We do not anticipate that the EU New Skills and Jobs agenda will have any significant implications for migration to the UK. The Government will work to ensure that any specific legislative proposals respect national competence and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and are accompanied by a full impact assessment.

We use Office for National Statistics long-term international migration data to assess likely trends in migration to and from the UK. Historical data are available on the Office for National Statistics website. We monitor the trends in EU migration to the UK, as well as the number of British citizens returning and leaving. In recent years these have broadly balanced out, with the majority of net migration being explained by the balance of non-EU nationals. Our assessment of the likely trends in net migration from non-EU countries will be discussed in impact assessments supporting policies aimed at reducing net migration. These will be made publicly available on the UK Border Agency website.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110316/text/110316w0002.htm#110316115000058>

Asylum: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has any plans to open an office of the UK Border Agency to process claims relating to asylum seekers resident in Scotland in (a) Glasgow, (b) Edinburgh and (c) Aberdeen. [46004]

Reply from Damian Green: There are currently no plans to open an asylum screening unit in Scotland; however claims relating to asylum seekers are routinely processed at our offices in Glasgow after initial screening.

We have always been clear that anyone seeking asylum should do so at the first available opportunity—this means on arrival at a port of entry. Only those who have failed to claim on arrival have to travel to Croydon to make their asylum application.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

We recognise there may be a small number of exceptional cases who are unable to travel to Croydon. Applicants, whose circumstances are such that they are unable to travel to Croydon, may have their application recorded and screened at a local regional office. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the annual cost to the public purse of processing initial applications for asylums in Scotland. [46005]

Reply from Damian Green: We do not hold these cost estimates but we are currently developing a process to cost our different outputs, for example asylum conclusion. We will seek to publish this information in due course.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of reductions in the budget for the UK Border Agency on refugee charities in Scotland in receipt of funding from that body. [46421]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government have extended grant agreements with voluntary sector partners in Scotland to provide advice and support services for asylum seekers for a further period of two years. The levels of funding provided by these grant agreements have been reduced in line with reductions in the numbers of people claiming asylum and in the numbers of people in receipt of asylum support and therefore in need of these services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110315/text/110315w0003.htm#11031585000012>

Asylum: Community Relations

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the potential effects on levels of community cohesion of reductions in funding for refugee integration programmes. [45886]

Reply from Damian Green: We do not believe that the reductions in funding for refugee integration activity will have a significant impact on community cohesion. It is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical, cost neutral, solutions to address the integration needs of refugees.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for future funding for the integration of refugees after they are granted limited leave to remain. [45887]

Reply from Damian Green: It is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical, cost neutral, solutions to address the integration needs of refugees. The membership will include representatives from other Government Departments.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect on the budgets of (a) other Government departments and (b) local authorities of the cessation of her Department's funding for refugee integration. [45888]

Reply from Damian Green: Individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services. The impact of the reduction in funding on the budgets of other Departments and local authorities will therefore be

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

minimal. UK Border Agency officials will be co-chairing a working group with the voluntary sector to identify practical cost neutral solutions to address the integration needs of refugees. The membership will include representatives from other Government Departments.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110315/text/110315w0003.htm#11031585000011>

Asylum

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time elapsed between an application for asylum and final determination of the case in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [44434]

Reply from Damian Green: In the last 12 months the average length of time elapsed between an application for asylum and final determination of the case was 263 calendar days.

In answering this question we have assumed the date of final determination to be the date an application was either granted or became appeal rights exhausted (ARE)

For those cases which either

- (1) had no re-course to appeal;
- (2) chose not to exercise appeal rights; or
- (3) appealed out-of-time, we have taken final determination to be the date of initial decision.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to ensure refugees can access (a) employment, (b) housing and (c) financial assistance from 1 April 2011; and if she will make a statement. [46187]

Reply from Damian Green: Individuals granted refugee status have full entitlement to access public funds and services.

The Refugee Integration and Employment Service currently provides help and support for new refugees in addressing their integration needs and accessing their entitlements. These contracts expire in September 2011 in line with the agreed contract term.

From October it is proposed that the most vulnerable new refugees will continue to be able to access advice and signposting through the end to end advisory and support services for refugees and asylum seekers which will continue to be delivered under extended agreements with the voluntary sector.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110315/text/110315w0003.htm#11031585000009>

Asylum

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in reducing the time taken to determine asylum applications. [45424]

Reply from Damian Green: The average percentage of asylum claims that have received an initial decision within 30 days is 61% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 46% for cohorts in the 12 months before May 2010. The average percentage of asylum cases concluded (granted or removed) within six months was 53% for cohorts since May 2010, compared to 48% for cohorts in the 12 months prior to May 2010.

Both of these indicators form part of a new framework that measures our progress

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

towards an asylum system with swifter case conclusions and no backlogs, delivered at significantly lower cost to the taxpayer. Through the Asylum Improvement Project we have been testing a number of new ideas to improve the speed of the system including increased use of specialist case owners, tools to improve the flow of decision making, and a more structured approach to interviews and decisions.

Ben Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of recent events in countries of North Africa and the Middle East on numbers of applications for asylum in the UK. [45952]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is closely assessing the risks that recent events in north Africa and the middle east may present to asylum intake. So far there is no indication of a significant change in applications for asylum made by nationals of affected countries, or from the surrounding areas. Nonetheless the UK Border Agency will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that it is well placed to manage any emerging risks and respond effectively should the situation change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110314/text/110314w0001.htm#11031414000061>

Detention Centres: Children

Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in immigration removal centres in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010. [44815]

Reply from Damian Green: The requested information is not available. Published figures show that 1,120 children entered detention solely under Immigration Act powers in 2009 and 405 in 2010; however, some of these children may have entered detention more than once.

The Home Office publishes statistics on children entering detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

On 16 December 2010, the Government announced the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. A new non-detained family returns process was also announced to deliver the coalition commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes.

A fresh approach to managing family returns is being developed which places greater emphasis on engagement with families and aims to encourage families to leave without the need for enforcement action if they are found to have no legal right to be in the UK.

Most elements of this new process went live across the UK on 1 March, including the setting up of a new independent Family Returns Panel to advise the UK Border Agency on how to ensure the return of those families who do not take up the opportunities to leave under their own steam. A range of options has been developed to provide sufficient flexibility for a tailored approach to each family.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110314/text/110314w0001.htm#11031414000069>

Children: Human Trafficking

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made in locating the 77 children suspected of having been trafficked who have gone missing from children homes in the London Borough of Hillingdon since March 2006. [43035]

Tim Loughton: According to the London borough of Hillingdon, around 25% of the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

children to whom the question refers have been located through immigration processes, or having come to the notice of the police. Inquiries are continuing in relation to the other children. The local authority, the police and the United Kingdom Border Agency meet regularly to review the progress of these inquiries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110314/text/110314w0002.htm#11031426000028>

Human Trafficking

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to implement Article 6 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in relation to the incorporation of study of human trafficking in statutory schooling. [47130]

Reply from Damian Green: The UK has an obligation under the Council of Europe Convention to provide educational programmes for young people during their schooling, emphasising the unacceptable nature of discrimination based on gender, the consequences thereof, gender equality and the dignity and integrity of every human being.

The non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) at Key Stages 3 and 4 provide opportunities for young people to explore such issues as:

the similarities, differences and diversity among people of different race, culture, ability, disability, gender, age and sexual orientation;

the impact of prejudice, bullying discrimination and racism on individuals and communities;

characteristics of positive relationships, and awareness of exploitation in relationships and of statutory and voluntary organisations that support relationships in crisis; and,

the need to take the initiative in challenging this and other offensive behaviours and in giving support to victims of abuse.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to take steps in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in the next 12 months. [47131]

Reply from Damian Green: We keep our compliance with the Council of Europe convention under review.

Prevention of human trafficking will be a central part of the new strategy which will be published in the spring.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110317/text/110317w0002.htm#11031770000097>

Press Releases

Minister responds to visa system report

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/exit-checks-2015>

Changes to settlement from 6 April

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/42-settlement>

Changes affecting Tier 2 sponsors from 6 April 2011

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/41-t2-sponsor-changes>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Government 'rolls out the red carpet' for entrepreneurs and investors

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/march/39-entrepreneurs-investors>

Tougher rules for overseas visitor access to NHS

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/MediaCentre/Pressreleases/DH_125276

News

Up to 181,000 migrants 'may have overstayed visas'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-12736759>

Britain failing to identify migrants on expired visas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/mar/15/britain-migrants-expired-visas>

Report claims 181,000 migrants 'in UK illegally'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/report-claims-181000-migrants-in-uk-illegally-2242254.html>

MPs warn student visa proposals could 'cripple' sector

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12764476>

Skilled jobs open to migrants to be halved

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/8379096/Skilled-jobs-open-to-migrants-to-be-halved.html>

Wiping out child trafficking a top priority, says Salmond

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/news/Wiping-out-child-trafficking-a.6736029.jp>

Super-rich to be given fast-track to settle in Britain

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/mar/16/new-immigration-rules-super-rich>

Immigration detainees 'denied life-saving drugs'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/immigration-detainees-denied-lifesaving-drugs-2247056.html>

Sign here Mr Cameron to stop human trafficking

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/sign-here-mr-cameron-to-stop-human-trafficking-2247055.html>

Report brands Scotland a haven for child traffickers

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/tfn/news/report-brands-scotland-a-haven-for-child-traffickers/>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Westminster Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (1612) Midsomer Murders - That this House notes with concern the comments of Brian True-May, the producer and co-creator of ITV's Midsomer Murders, in which he implied that the show would not be successful if it included ethnic minority characters; welcomes the action taken so far by ITV; further notes that there is no place for such attitudes in today's society and media; further welcomes ITV's work in integrating minorities into some of its programmes, such as Emmerdale; recognises the need for greater representation of ethnic minorities in television; and asks ITV and other broadcasters to continue to ensure programming is properly reflective of modern British society including in quintessential English villages.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2010-11/1612>

Press Release

Crucifixes in Italian State-school classrooms: the Court finds no violation

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int///tkp197/viewbkm.asp?action=open&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649&key=89126&sessionId=68281712&skin=hudoc-pr-en&attachment=true>

New Publication

Cohesion, counter-terrorism and community in West Yorkshire

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/cohesion-community-West-Yorkshire-summary.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Equality Act 2010: Public Sector Equality Duty

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Equality Act 2010 includes a new single public sector Equality Duty which will replace the existing race, disability and gender equality duties and will extend to also cover gender reassignment in full, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

The Act contains a power enabling a Minister of the Crown to make regulations imposing specific duties on public bodies listed in parts 1 (general) and 4 (cross-border authorities) of schedule 19 to the Act to enable them to carry out the Equality Duty more effectively. Following a public consultation on draft specific duties regulations which ran from August to November last year, revised draft regulations were published alongside the Government's response to the consultation on the Government Equalities Office website on 12 January 2011.

Since then, we have considered the draft regulations further in the light of our policy objective of ensuring that public bodies consider equality when carrying out their functions without imposing unnecessary burdens and bureaucracy. As a result, we think there is room to do more to strip out unnecessary process requirements. Today, we are publishing a policy review paper seeking views on new draft specific duties regulations. Our proposals are designed to deliver a clear focus on transparency, freeing up public

Equality

Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

bodies to take responsibility for their own performance in delivering equality improvements and to publish the right information so that the public can hold them to account. This approach will be better for equality because it will focus on the delivery of results, not the performance of bureaucratic processes.

The new general Equality Duty will come into force on 5 April. For the period from 5 April until the new specific duties are in place, public bodies will still need to comply with the general Equality Duty.

We welcome comments on the new draft regulations from public bodies, equality organisations, users of public services, businesses which work with public organisations and other interested parties. Comments should be submitted to the Government Equalities Office by 21 April 2011.

The policy review paper, including the draft regulations, is available on the Government Equalities Office website: www.equalities.gov.uk. Copies are also being placed in the Library of the House. Comments can be sent to: specificduties@geo.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110317/wmstext/110317m0001.htm#11031756000021>

News

U-turn likely over staff diversity questions

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8388821/U-turn-likely-over-staff-diversity-questions.html>

Labour shadow minister says Tories 'want Muslims out of London'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8387429/Labour-shadow-minister-says-Tories-want-Muslims-out-of-London.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Sectarianism

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive how much it spent on anti-sectarianism programmes in schools in (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009. (S3W-40273)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government has provided funding over the period in question to a wide range of organisations to deliver projects to tackle sectarianism and all forms of religious intolerance across all aspects of Scottish society, including in schools. The total amounts provided are as follows:

Financial Year	Total Funding Provided
2007-08	£325,250
2008-09	£281,000
2009-10	£415,600

However, the specific amounts for work in schools cannot be identified as the work of these organisations cut across many areas.

Work on anti-sectarianism programmes in schools over the three years include development of an online educational resource; delivery of workshops in schools to nearly 3,000 pupils who have now gone on to deliver anti-sectarian work

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Question (continued)

within their school curricula; roll out of a programme of educational workshops utilising the role model status of footballers to educate young people to tackle Islamophobia, and specific work in local schools with P6 and P7 pupils to address sectarianism.

The Scottish Government also provides core funding to Learning Teaching Scotland which is the national body responsible for reviewing the curriculum, developing assessment to support learning and providing national guidance and advice to the education system on the use of Information Communication Technology to support learning and teaching in Scottish schools. Anti-sectarianism may arise as part of Religious and Moral Education or Social Studies. However, the curriculum in Scotland is not set in statute. It is for local authorities and schools themselves to decide on the delivery of particular subjects within schools and the resources to be used to address their local needs.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pq=S3W-40273>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Religious Hatred: Crimes of Violence

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of violent attacks targeted against people with a particular religious belief or ethnicity in other countries. [45315]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We strongly support the right to freedom of religion or belief as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the full implementation of the 1981 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Our high commissions and embassies receive information on human rights, including allegations of abuse, from a wide variety of sources. These include local non-governmental organisations, human rights defenders and local media. Our high commissions and embassies use this information in their assessment of the local human rights situation, and raise allegations of human rights abuses with host Governments on a case-by-case basis. Where possible our embassies take action on individual cases where persecution or discrimination has occurred. We also lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws and work with host Governments to encourage intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. We condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110314/text/110314w0003.htm#11031426000084>

Press Releases

Commission launches rehabilitation of hate crime offenders study

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/scottish-news/press-releases-2011/commission-launches-rehabilitation-of-hate-crime-offenders-study/>

Cardinal criticises Government's "Anti-Christian Foreign Policy"

<http://www.scmo.org/articles/cardinal-criticises-government%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%9Canti-christian-foreign-policy%E2%80%9D.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

Foreign Office Minister comments on report into Christians facing persecution

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=PressR&id=565536782>

William Hague accused of 'anti-Christian' foreign policy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/8382903/William-Hague-accused-of-anti-Christian-foreign-policy.html>

2011 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<https://wcd.coe.int/wcd/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1762131&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

New Publications

Rehabilitation of hate crime offenders

Report

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Research/rehabilitation_of_hate_crime_offenders_report_word_for_web_2_.doc

Executive Summary

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Research/rehabilitation_of_hate_crime_offenders_executive_summary_word_for_web_.doc

Index of Persecution: An Executive Summary of Aid to the Church in Need's *Persecuted and Forgotten?*

[http://www.scmo.org/attachments/download/6/THE%20INDEX%202011%20\(PDF\).pdf](http://www.scmo.org/attachments/download/6/THE%20INDEX%202011%20(PDF).pdf)

News

Sergeant guilty of race hate keeps his police job

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/sergeant-guilty-of-race-hate-keeps-his-police-job-1.1090883>

They're gypsies, yeah, they must be bad

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article581782.ece>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Meat Industry

John Scott (Ayr) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive, in light of the EU Council decision not to take forward plans to label meat from animals that are slaughtered without stunning in different ways from meat that is slaughtered after stunning, what further measures can be taken in Scotland to deliver clear labelling on this issue. (S3W-40264)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government intends to consult with our stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Regulation 1099/2009,

Other Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

which introduces new controls on the protection of animals at slaughter. The issue of slaughter without pre-stunning is one of the areas on which views will be sought. In addition, we will also take the opportunity to consult on the related issue of the labelling of meat produced from animals slaughtered without pre-stunning.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40264>

Civil Partnerships

George Foulkes (Lothians) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive, in light of the UK Government proposal to allow civil partnerships to take place in consenting religious places, whether the law would have to be amended in Scotland to allow this and, if so, what plans the Scottish Government has to make any such amendment. (S3W-39681)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: The Civil Partnership Act 2004 would have to be amended to allow civil partnerships to be registered in religious premises in Scotland. This would require primary legislation. The issue of where people can enter into civil partnerships is devolved, and any amendment to the 2004 act in relation to this would therefore be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-39681>

Civil Partnerships

George Foulkes (Lothians) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what meetings or discussions ministers had in 2010 with (a) UK Government ministers, (b) faith leaders, (c) religious organisations and (d) other groups or organisations regarding civil partnerships in religious premises. (S3W-39682)

Reply from Fergus Ewing: In 2010 Scottish Government officials met representatives of a number of religious and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organisations to discuss civil partnerships in religious premises including the Quakers, the Liberal Jewish community, the Equality Network, Stonewall Scotland and the LGBT Network.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-39682>

Parliamentary Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee Legacy Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-11/eor11-04.htm>

Press Releases

Charities incorporation legislation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/03/17121740>

Her Majesty the Queen to address new Parliament

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/nmCentre/news/news-11/pa11-006.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) Census

MEMO+ The 2011 Census

http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2011/11iii_census.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Meat Industry

John Scott (Ayr) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive, in light of the EU Council decision not to take forward plans to label meat from animals that are slaughtered without stunning in different ways from meat that is slaughtered after stunning, what further measures can be taken in Scotland to deliver clear labelling on this issue. (S3W-40264)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government intends to consult with our stakeholders on the implementation of the EU Regulation 1099/2009, which introduces new controls on the protection of animals at slaughter. The issue of slaughter without pre-stunning is one of the areas on which views will be sought. In addition, we will also take the opportunity to consult on the related issue of the labelling of meat produced from animals slaughtered without pre-stunning.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-40264>

Slaughterhouses

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research her Department has (a) evaluated and (b) commissioned on levels of pain and distress experienced during the slaughter process by animals (i) not stunned and (ii) stunned prior to slaughter. [45971]

Mr Paice: DEFRA and the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry commissioned and joint funded research to investigate the effects of slaughter by ventral neck incision on the EEG in calves (project number MH0129). This work commenced in January 2005 and the final report was published in the *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* in April 2009. This work indicates that the neck cut associated with religious slaughter evokes a pain response in anaesthetised calves. DEFRA has commissioned the following projects since the beginning of 2005 which relate to the pain and distress experienced by animals stunned prior to slaughter:

MH0128: Novel and humane gaseous killing methods for pigs;

MH0129: Investigation of the EEG effects-of-slaughter-by ventral-neck incision in calves: humane slaughter study;

MH0135: Containability and aversiveness of different gas mixtures used for the stunning of slaughter weight pigs;

MH0138: Reducing bird stress and discomfort on the poultry shackling line;

MH0145: Study to identify the welfare costs and benefits of existing and novel on-farm culling methods of poultry.

Details of all DEFRA R and D projects can be found by searching for the project code at: <http://randd.defra.gov.uk>

DEFRA has not specifically evaluated any research on levels of pain and distress experienced during the slaughter process by animals stunned or not stunned prior to slaughter. However we do seek to ensure policy decisions reflect latest

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

scientific evidence and will consider all relevant published research before final decisions are made. In addition the Farm Animal Welfare Council conducted a review of research when it prepared its reports on red and white meat slaughter in 2003 and 2009 respectively.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on requiring the stunning of animals prior to slaughter. [45972]

Mr Paice: We would prefer to see all animals stunned before slaughter. However, religious slaughter (slaughter without prior stunning) is currently allowed in the UK in recognition of the religious beliefs of Muslim and Jewish faiths. This is consistent with the European directive 93/119/EC which permits an exemption from the requirement to stun animals for methods of slaughter required by certain religious rites.

In the UK slaughter without prior stunning can only be undertaken in a slaughterhouse. Schedule 12 of the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 sets out the requirements in more detail, including conditions for restraint, handling, slaughter and minimum bleed-out times.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110315/text/110315w0002.htm#11031575000077>

Press Release

Commission on a UK Bill of Rights launched

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease180311a.htm>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Who's In Charge: Control and Independence in Scottish Charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=0c9211ae-4107-410b-a59e-e4161e9ef1f8&opt=1>

[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>

Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6188&mode=html#iob_55986

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/b58bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

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>

Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/apps2/business/orsearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6188&mode=html#iob_55984

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/57-LocalElecAdmin/b57bs3-aspassed.pdf>

**** Public Records Bill**

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

Stage 3

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Business/ORSearch/ReportView.aspx?r=6188&mode=html#iob_55988

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/56-PublicRecords/b56bs3-aspassed.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/110315-0001.htm#11031582000178>

Ministerial Statement

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110317/wmstext/110317m0001.htm#11031756000014>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/040/amend/ml040-ii.htm>

**** Scotland Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/cwh1151503m.1627-1630.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/amend/pbc1151503a.1641-1646.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/pbc1641603a.1647-1649.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2010-2011/0164/amend/pbc1641703a.1663.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Scotland Bill (continued)

House of Commons Committee consideration of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110314/debtext/110314-0002.htm#11031411000001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm110315/debtext/110315-0001.htm#11031569000002>

Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/pro1151503p.423-429.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/115/pro1151503p.433-436.html>

Bill showing amendments made in Committee

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-public-bill-office/2010-11/compared-bills/Scotland-bill-110316.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

(closing date)

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland (25 March 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/scotland/projects-and-campaigns-in-scotland/inquiry-into-human-trafficking-in-scotland/call-for-evidence/>

International Commission for Aid Impact (scrutiny of UK overseas aid) (7 April 2011)

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/>

Equality Act: Draft Code of Practice for Schools in Scotland (22 April 2011)

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-consultations/>

Strathclyde Police Equality and Diversity Strategy (30 April 2011)

<http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?locID=1596&docID=-1>

Changes to Immigration-Related Home Office Statistical Outputs (4 May 2011)

[http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=\[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf](http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.immigration-consultation-2011-pdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/11/immigration-consultation-2011.pdf)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Corporate Plan (24 May 2011)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=e66c5cf8-36b4-421c-93e1-f4aceffa7ec>

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

European Year of Volunteering

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2011

VAF is making available small grants to promote and celebrate the work of volunteers in

Funding Opportunities (continued)

Scotland. The majority of grants will be around £500 but grants of up to £1,000 may be awarded for exceptional projects. For information and application forms see http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/5,858/grants/european_year_of_volunteering_eyv_grant/

Call for proposals - European Refugee Fund 2011

Closing date for applications: 21 April 2011

A call for proposals for the European Refugee Fund is aimed at organisations involved in setting up projects that assist in the resettlement of refugees through the Gateway Protection Programme. Eligible applicants include non-governmental organisations, charities, local government, inter-governmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations. Project proposals from local, regional and national organisations will be considered. For information see

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/40-erf-gateway>

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Hijab - The Light Behind the Veil

23 March 2011 in Glasgow

Amina launch of a short film about Scottish Muslim women. For information contact info@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 585 8026.

**** this week!**

Election Hustings

24 March 2011 in Glasgow (5.30)

In the run-up to the Scottish Parliament election, the STUC's Black Workers' Committee, whose key objective is to encourage the engagement of black and minority ethnic people with the political process in Scotland, are holding a "hustings event" to debate issues of importance to black and minority ethnic people in this election campaign. For information contact 0141 337 8100 / info@stuc.org.uk

**** this week!**

Advancing Scotland as a Learning Society: a Community Learning and Development perspective

25 March 2011 in Inverness (9.30 – 5.00)

28 April 2011 in Dundee (meeting focusing on faith issues) (9.30 – 5.00)

16 May 2011 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 5.00)

Series of seminars to explore views on advancing of Scotland as a Learning Society. We hope that you will all be part of this national conversation. For information see http://www.cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/CLD_Standards_Council/The_Standards_Council_Conversations or contact Kirsty Horne k.horne@ltsotland.org.uk.

Migrants' Rights - More than just talk!

30 March 2011 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Launch of the second phase of the Migrants' Rights Scotland Communication Strategies Project which aims to strengthen information exchange and collaborative action of migrant communities and supporting organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/6xh8pz2>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

BEMIS AGM

5 April 2011 in Glasgow (5.30 – 8.00)

The BEMIS AGM will be held at the GO Business and Training Centre, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow, G1 2AD. For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 / mail@bemis.org.uk

OSCR Outreach Programme: Becoming a Charity

19 April 2011 in Dundee (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist organisations in deciding whether to register as a charity, and, if so, to do so. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=6bb95a2f-165b-4bbc-8f78-25fd07c79e34> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

Researching Poverty at Community Level

The second pilot programme will begin in April 2011

BEMIS in partnership with Glasgow Caledonian University (Scottish Poverty Information Unit) and Faith in Community Scotland are offering a 12 week Certificate Level training programme to empower local community and faith groups with much needed necessary skills in relation to research and tackling poverty. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.pdf and registration form http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/11iv_bemis.doc or contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047.

OSCR Outreach Programme: Completing OSCR Returns

10 May 2010 in Aberdeen (10.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training for charity advisors to enable them to assist charities to complete annual and supplementary monitoring returns. For information see <http://www.oscr.org.uk/EventItem.aspx?ID=41d2239c-6e59-4edb-96ea-cfd052854b50> or contact communications@oscr.org.uk

[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/>

Useful Links (continued)

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

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

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

[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/>