



Supported by



MEMO

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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>.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Immigration (Biometric Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120123-gc0001.htm#1201236000129>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Asylum

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects her Department to conclude resolution of the backlog of legacy asylum cases. [90773]

Reply from Damian Green: As Jonathan Sedgwick, then acting chief executive of the UK Border Agency (UKBA), reported to the Home Affairs Committee on 12

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

September 2011, 479,000 of the 500,500 cases in the legacy programme had been fully concluded by summer 2011.

23,000 remaining cases were fully reviewed but due to various barriers could not be brought to a final conclusion. The UKBA established the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) to remove such barriers and bring these cases to a final conclusion. Rob Whiteman, chief executive of the UKBA, reported to the HASC on 22 December that the number of live cases had reduced to 17,000. CAAU will continue to progress these cases and resolve them as barriers are lifted.

CAAU is also responsible for the active monitoring of 98,000 controlled archive cases. As Rob Whiteman reported to the HASC on 22 December, this has now reduced to 93,000 cases and the UKBA has committed to reduce this to fewer than 50,000 cases by April 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120124/text/120124w0001.htm#12012461000034>

Asylum

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers remained in the UK in each of the last five years; and what steps she is taking to reduce the numbers of such asylum seekers remaining in the UK after a decision has been made. [91521]

Reply from Damian Green: The number of open cases in the New Asylum Model, also known as the asylum Work in Progress case load (WiP) was published on the HM Government website in August 2011, reflecting June data. Of these, the number subject to removal action (ie failed asylum seekers) was 24,738.⁽¹⁾

Data on numbers of failed asylum seekers is not available for previous years.

The agency works hard to overcome barriers to removal for all applicants whose appeal rights are exhausted.

We are making best use of charter flights to effect volume removals and reduce their unit cost. We have also expanded the range of countries to which we remove, including opening up routes to Sri Lanka. We continue to explore the feasibility of charter services to other logistically difficult destinations.

We are also enhancing relations with key foreign embassies and high commissions to improve the rate of travel document issuance. We continue to successfully execute re-documentation operations for a number of key nationalities.

⁽¹⁾ All cases that applied before 5 March 2007, belong to the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) and are not included in the New Asylum Model statistics. There were 21,600 of these in the live workflow open in September, as well as 98,000 cases in the controlled archive.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120125/text/120125w0002.htm#12012546000004>

Human Trafficking: Repatriation

Christopher Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to provide financial support to victims of human trafficking who wish to return to their country of origin. [91525]

Reply from Damian Green: The Government's Assisted Voluntary Returns for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme is available to non-European economic area (EEA) victims of trafficking in the UK. This programme is run in partnership with the Choices service of Refugee Action. The AVRIM scheme can provide support in acquiring travel documentation, a flight to their country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at departure and arrival

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

airports. In some cases, Choices will arrange referral to appropriate partners in the country of origin. Victims may also be eligible for reintegration assistance of up to £1,000.

The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), also run in partnership with Choices, offers assistance to eligible non-EEA victims who have raised trafficking as part of an asylum claim and want to return permanently to their country of origin.

Assistance is also available under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) programme where the victim is an unaccompanied child or part of a defined family unit in the UK with at least one child.

Further details can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/modernised/returns/assisted-voluntary-returns.pdf?view=Binary>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201212/cmhansrd/cm120124/text/120124w0001.htm#12012461000037>

Press Releases

Tighter English language test requirement for Tier 1 and 2 applicants in the UK

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/tier-2-5-1-elr>

An asylum seeker may not be transferred to a Member State where he risks being subjected to inhuman treatment

http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P_83947/

New Publications

Nationality at point of National Insurance number registration of DWP benefit claimants: February 2011 working age benefits

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2012/nat_nino_regs.pdf

Rules governing enforced removals from the UK

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmhaff/563/563.pdf>

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers December 2011

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-dec2011?view=Binary>

The Filipino Community in Northern Ireland

http://www.nicem.org.uk/uploads/publications/Bayanihan!_January_2012.pdf

EU Single Permit Directive: a small step forward in EU migration policy

http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/pub_1398_eu_single_permit_directive.pdf

News

MPs attack private security guard immigration removals

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16733390>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Dangerous deportation techniques may still be in use, MPs warn

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/26/deportation-techniques-mps-warn>

Clegg falling short on promise over young immigrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/clegg-falling-short-on-promise-over-young-immigrants-6295377.html>

Home Office and business department do battle over overseas students

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/home-office-and-business-department-do-battle-over-overseas-students-6296340.html>

Rebuke for Duncan Smith over immigrant statistics

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rebuke-for-duncan-smith-over-immigrant-statistics-6294283.html>

Asylum-seekers soar at school in shadow of Heathrow Airport

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/asylumseekers-soar-at-school-in-shadow-of-heathrow-airport-6295373.html?origin=internalSearch>

Damian Green: 'brightest and best' immigrants given priority

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9047318/Damian-Green-brightest-and-best-immigrants-given-priority.html>

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Race Relations

New Publication

National strategies for Roma inclusion

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/national-strategies/index_en.htm

News

Life as an ethnic minority police officer

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9024974/Life-as-an-ethnic-minority-police-officer.html>

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Equality

New Publications

The Racial Equality Directive: application and challenges

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-RED-synthesis-report_EN.pdf

Combating Racial Discrimination

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA_Factsheet_RED_EN.pdf

Equality

New Publications (continued)

Migration Policy Group toolkit for political parties to mainstream diversity

http://www.migpolgroup.com/news_detail.php?id=193

News

Religion takes a back seat to rights in court, says theologian

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/9035886/Religion-takes-a-back-seat-to-rights-in-court-says-theologian.html>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day 2012

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6749&mode=html#iob_61296

Press Releases

Prime Minister's Holocaust Memorial Day message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/holocaust-memorial-day/>

Speak up, Speak out: Holocaust Memorial Day 2012

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsstories/communities/2075991>

Foreign Secretary calls for zero tolerance on hatred and discrimination

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=721873882>

Holocaust Memorial Day is opportunity to end to discrimination, says TUC

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/equality/tuc-20523-f0.cfm>

Remembering the Holocaust reminds us of the need to step up human rights compliance

http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/news_and_events/infocus12_2701_en.htm

Fight against hate and intolerance must continue says OSCE Chairperson on Holocaust Remembrance Day

<http://www.osce.org/cio/87370>

Why we must remember the Holocaust – Navi Pillay

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

Surjit Singh Chhokar Murder to be Reinvestigated by Strathclyde Police Under Double Jeopardy Legislation

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/01/Surjit-Singh-Chhokar-Murder-be-Reinvestigated-Strathclyde-Police-Under-Double-Jeopardy-Legislation>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued)

News

Stephen Lawrence's mother says No 10 must do more on race

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/27/stephen-lawrence-mother-no-10-race>

How to teach ... Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2012/jan/23/holocaust-memorial-classroom-resources>

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Other Holyrood

Independence Referendum

Statement by the First Minister on the Referendum Consultation

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6749&mode=html#job_61291

Debate: Claim of Right

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6751&mode=html#job_61341

Press Release: Independence referendum consultation

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/01/referendumconsultation25012012>

Press Release

Chinese New Year

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/01/chinesenewyear2012>

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Other Westminster

New Publication

Advocate General Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC speech at Glasgow University: "Scotland's Constitutional Future"

[http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/Scotland's%20Constitutional%20Future%20-%20AG%20Speech%20Glasgow%20University%20\(20%20January%202012\).doc](http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/Scotland's%20Constitutional%20Future%20-%20AG%20Speech%20Glasgow%20University%20(20%20January%202012).doc)

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Other News

Hajj: Journey to the Heart of Islam

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2012/jan/29/hajj-heart-islam-british-museum-review>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

** Budget Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/45791.aspx>

Stage 1 Debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=6749&mode=html#job_61292

** The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 (Commencement) Order 2012

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2012/20/made/data.pdf>

The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 will come into force on 1 March 2012

Police and Fire Reform Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/45701.aspx>

Bills in Progress Westminster

Human Trafficking (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill

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

** Scotland Bill

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/amend/am079-o.htm>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/amend/am079-n.htm>
and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2010-2012/0079/amend/su079-ia.htm>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201212/ldhansrd/text/120126-0001.htm#12012670000817>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Right to family reunification of third-country nationals living in the EU

(closing date 1 March 2012)

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/consulting_0023_en.htm

DirectScot - Scotland's public services and information portal

(closing date 1 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/01/DirectScot>

Consultations (continued)

Police and Fire Reform Bill (closing date 6 March 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/46080.aspx>

Proposals for A Freedom Of Information (Amendment) Bill

(closing date 8 March 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/365157/0124123.pdf>

**** Scotland's constitutional future** (closing date 9 March 2012)

<http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/17779-Cm-8203.pdf>

Forced marriage (closing date 30 March 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage/>

**** Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 30 April 2012)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/Final_version_as_lodged.pdf

**** Your Scotland – Your Referendum** (closing date 11 May 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00386122.pdf>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

**** new or updated this week**

First Funding Stop 4 Community – new search tool for sources of funding

<http://www.open4community.info/glasgow/Default.aspx>

European Programme for Integration and Migration

Closing date for applications: 1 March 2012

http://www.epim.info/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/EPIM-2012-Call-for-Proposals_Information-sheet.pdf

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

'Where's The 'EM' In Community Planning? Your Community / Your Money?'

31 January 2012 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.30)

Ethnic Minority Third Sector Network seminar to discuss council and community planning budgets. For information contact Sue Barnes 0141 548 8047 / sue.barnes@bemis.org.uk

or see http://www.bemis.org.uk/emts/Programme_EMTS_31st_Jan.pdf

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

2 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

22 March 2012 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/7rl85rl> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

First Funding Stop!

2 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30)

Launch of GCVS funding search tool. For information contact Isobel Traynor 0141 332 2444 / isobel.traynor@gcvs.org.uk

**** European Training Programme for Roma Mediators**

Closing date for applications 6 February 2012

ROMED joint Council of Europe/European Commission programme to enhance the quality and the effectiveness of mediators, assistants and facilitators. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/7423cgx>

Advocacy, the media and monitoring

9 February 2012 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

Runnymede Trust seminar to provide information and advice on the implementation and promotion of policies on equality and non-discrimination with a particular focus on advocacy, the media and monitoring. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/333/273/Glasgow-capacity-building-training-for-NGOs.html>

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children & Young People

13th (9.30-4.30pm) & 14th(9.30-12.30pm) February 2012in Edinburgh

19th(9.30-4.30pm) & 20th(9.30-12.30pm) March 2012in Edinburgh

Shakti training to increase awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information contact Mridul, Lisa, or Aleksandra 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Towards Guidelines for Ethical Research Practice

Week of 13 February – date still to be confirmed – in Edinburgh

BEMIS and GRAMNet consultation on the subject of guidelines for ethical research practice in social sciences and humanities. For information contact seminar@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/12ii_bemis.pdf

Promoting Youth Employability and Rights

21 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.30)

Conference jointly organised by BEMIS, the Scottish Refugee Council, STUC, CEMVO, and the Scottish Inter Faith Council to address gaps in support for youth employment, present new opportunities to help break barriers and discrimination in the job market, and seek to develop a charter on supporting youth employment. For information see http://bemis.org.uk/conference/yer/YER_Conference_Flyer.pdf or contact Tanveer Parnez conference@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Sandra Walker swalker@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8100.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Goals training

Last week of February 2012-01-15(dates to be confirmed from 23/24, 27/28, or 28/29)
BEMIS training for Ethnic Minority Third Sector organisations and Volunteers to empower, motivate and build capacity of new community groups and organisations to be more active in decision-making processes and provide them with leadership skills. For information contact Tanveer Parnez 0141 548 8047 / tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk.

Tackling the exploitation of migrant workers: using employment and equality law

27 February 2012 in Aberdeen (10.30 – 3.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Migrant event to re-enforce advisor's knowledge of how to use the law to protect workers who are often vulnerable to exploitation at work. For information contact David Reilly equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5967.

UKBA Asylum Support - The Essentials

28 February 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/77beqc7> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Equality in employment

29 February 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training that includes recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and also examines issues around equality in volunteering. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

The Gathering

29 February – 1 March 2012 in Glasgow

SCVO seminars, exhibition, and marketplace with over 100 exhibitors. For the full programme see <http://www.gatherscotland.org.uk/programme-of-events/attend-an-event/>

Working with Interpreters

6 March 2012 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/6vjcbt8> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Tackling racism and promoting race equality for youth and community workers

9 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.45)

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (9.30 – 3.45)

Show Racism the Red Card training to raise awareness of issues of racism and its impact on young people, examine how race equality can be promoted, empower delegates to challenge racism and respond to racist incidents, and equip delegates with knowledge and resources to educate young people against racism. For information contact Ruth McGeoch support@theredcardscotland.org / 0141 222 2058.

Open Your Mind - Speak Out Against Racism

17–25 March 2012

European-wide Action Week Against Racism. For information and materials see http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/infoARW_12.htm

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Collecting and using Equalities information

20 March 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to equalities monitoring including best practice examples, ideas on how to use the information you collect and practical tips for implementing successful monitoring systems. For information contact Stacey Anderson Stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk / 0141 332 2444.

New Muslim Cool

22 March 2012 in Glasgow (all day)

Faith Matters event about the work of Hamza Perez a Muslim Hispanic American whose multi-faith work has seen Christians and Jews support him during difficult times post 9/11. For information contact pa@faith-matters.co.uk / 0207 554 8847 or see <http://faith-matters.org/images/stories/Faith%20Matters%20New%20Muslim%20Cool%20UK%20Tour%20March%202010.pdf>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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>

Useful Links (continued)

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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