

## 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](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job 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, 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](mailto:MEMO@scojec.org) and requests to be added to circulation to [mail@bemis.org.uk](mailto:mail@bemis.org.uk)**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

#### Asylum seekers

**Siobhan McMahon:** To ask the Scottish Executive what recent discussions it has had with the (a) UK Government and (b) UK Border Agency regarding the treatment of asylum seekers in Scotland. (S4W-7209)

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** Asylum and Immigration are matters reserved to the UK Government, the United Kingdom Borders Agency (UKBA) and its delivery partners. However, the Scottish Government remains clear that whilst asylum seekers are in Scotland they are to be welcomed and supported, and to that end has regular discussions with UKBA and its delivery partners about the myriad issues relating to asylum seekers living here.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-07209&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Siobhan McMahon:** To ask the Scottish Executive what impact the proposed transfer of the contract for providing accommodation and transport for asylum seekers to Serco Civil Government on 31 August 2012 will have on the support that the Scottish Government provides to asylum seekers whose application to remain in the UK has been refused. (S4W-7210)

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** Asylum and Immigration are matters reserved to the UK Government, the United Kingdom Borders Agency and its delivery partners, and provision of support is a matter for them. However, the Scottish Government remains clear that whilst asylum seekers are in Scotland they are to be welcomed and supported, and to that end provides funding to the Scottish Refugee Council (£1.65 million during 2012-15) in order that they can work with local partners to provide support, advice and practical assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-07210&ResultsPerPage=10>

**Siobhan McMahon:** To ask the Scottish Executive whether, under the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003, destitute asylum seekers who have been granted support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 can apply for accommodation. (S4W-7211)

**Reply from Nicola Sturgeon:** Scottish local authorities are obliged by statute to provide asylum seekers with accommodation under the homelessness legislation where eligibility for such assistance has been granted by the United Kingdom Borders Agency.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-07211&ResultsPerPage=10>

## Westminster Ministerial Statement

### Migrant Tuberculosis Screening

**The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** I wish to inform the House of the outcome of a review that has been conducted by the UK Border Agency with support from the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) of our arrangements for screening migrants from high incidence countries for active pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), and of our intention to make changes to longstanding policy in this area both to better protect UK public health and use public resources more effectively. TB is a global public health issue. While TB rates in this country are stable, HPA data indicate higher rates of infection concentrated in particular metropolitan areas, and overall the UK's TB rate compares unfavourably with other developed nations. Much of the UK's TB burden is attributable to international migration. Around three quarters of TB cases in the UK occur in those born outside of the UK, and screening of migrants from high incidence countries for active TB forms part of the range of measures to prevent and control TB in the UK. The existing policy is that people subject to immigration control arriving in the United Kingdom from high incidence TB countries and intending to stay for over six months are screened at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for the active disease. This screening entails an examination of arriving passengers through the use of X-rays. The Government have decided that this policy should now be changed on medical and financial grounds. The weight of medical opinion is that screening for TB in this manner can no longer be considered to make any real contribution to the detection and management of the disease. X-rays alone cannot provide a definite diagnosis, which requires laboratory testing that cannot be performed in the airport environment. Current

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

screening arrangements at our airports detect very few active cases. Changes in the travel industry over the past few decades now means that an increased number of people arrive at other UK ports where screening facilities are not available.

The UK Border Agency has been piloting the pre-migration screening of persons applying for long-term visas and entry clearance from high incidence TB countries on a model routinely employed by the USA, Australia and Canada. Screening overseas in advance of the visa application process enables the use of laboratory tests where X-rays or clinical judgment suggests the possible presence of TB. It also increases the possibility of detecting and intercepting drug and multi-drug resistant forms of the disease. Where individuals are found to have active pulmonary TB, they must successfully undergo treatment before their application to come to the UK can be considered. This approach is already sanctioned by existing powers in the immigration rules. The experience of our international partners is that pre-migration screening can assist in reducing the rate of imported infection.

The current UK pre-migration TB screening programme covers 15 countries considered high incidence for TB by the World Health Organisation, and has demonstrated clear potential to detect active TB and achieve savings for the NHS. We therefore intend to expand this programme to those visa applicants applying to stay in the UK for longer than six months from the over 80 countries with a high incidence of TB, beginning the roll-out this summer (list attached). On-entry X-ray checks at Heathrow and Gatwick airports will be phased out.

The complex nature of the disease means that TB screening of migrants as part of immigration clearance can only make a limited contribution to TB control in the UK. One third of the world's population is estimated to have latent TB. A minority will develop the disease in its active form at some point in their lives, but it is currently impossible to establish through screening if this is likely to occur in any individual case. Most foreign-born TB patients only develop the disease in its active form years after arrival in the UK. We will therefore explore ways to improve the sharing of information between the UK Border Agency and the HPA about individuals coming to live in the UK for more than six months from high incidence countries. This will complement the systems that are already in place at a local level for connecting individuals with healthcare services.

Tuberculosis high incidence countries:

**To read the lengthy list of countries currently covered by pre-screening pilot, see**  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/wmstext/120521m0001.htm#1205212000004>

## Westminster Parliamentary Questions

### Immigration

**Lord Laird:** To ask her Majesty's Government whether those applying for leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom on the basis of being the unmarried partner of a United Kingdom national are eligible to obtain such leave if the United Kingdom national is married to another person.[HL249]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** A person can qualify for leave to remain in the United Kingdom as the unmarried partner of a UK national who is married to someone else, provided that the sponsor can show that the marriage has permanently broken down.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120523w0001.htm#12052360000752>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Entry Clearances: Appeals

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target time her Department has set for the time taken between promulgation of an entry clearance appeal determination when the appellant is successful and the issuing of entry clearance to the appellant. [108084]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The UK Border Agency aims to establish whether an appeal should be contested within five working days from a decision being promulgated.

Appeals that are not contested are referred back to the relevant Visa Section, who aim to issue any relevant entry clearance within eight weeks of receiving the referral. Timescales can be affected by the standard of the postal, telephone and e-mail services in some locations in which International Group operates.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/text/120522w0003.htm#12052254000096>

### Immigration

**Simon Reevell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy immigration cases are being handled by her Department; and how many new legacy immigration cases were identified on average per month in the last 12 months. [107043]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Rob Whiteman, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 3 May that there were 21,000 live legacy cases to conclude, 80,000 cases in the asylum Controlled Archive and 21,500 cases in the migration Controlled Archive which the Case Assurance and Audit Unit (CAAU) will continue to manage, taking robust action to trace applicants and conclude cases where new information comes to light which allows cases to be progressed.

In the financial year April 2011 to March 2012 an average of 138 new legacy cases per month were identified by the CAAU.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/text/120522w0003.htm#12052254000099>

### Entry Clearances

**Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken to process visas was by category of visa, in each of the last three years; and what the longest time taken was in each category in each such year. [107185]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The information requested is provided in the following tables.

*To read the lengthy tables see*

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/text/120522w0002.htm#12052254000095>

### Short-term Visas (Appeals)

**John Spellar:** What her policy is on appeals against refusals of applications for visas for short-term visits. [108048]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** Genuine visitors will always be welcome to visit the UK. Only the family visitor route currently offers a right of appeal. Subject to parliamentary approval, that will be removed by 2014.

**John Spellar:** That reply will be heard with very considerable concern and anger in many communities across the country. Families who are trying genuinely to have family reunions, weddings and so on are being held up. Does the Minister not recognise that the main problem is that the appeals process is jammed up because of the low level of

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

decision making in the UK Border Agency and the stubborn refusal of managers to review that, saying that it will be sorted out in the appeals system? I have letters to that effect. Why does not the Minister address the issues and look after the community?

**Reply from Damian Green:** I am addressing precisely those issues. Clearly, the right hon. Gentleman missed the first part of the answer—genuine visitors will always be welcome to visit the UK. The current appeals process takes around eight months. Re-applying takes about 15 days, so it is quicker and easier for people to apply again. The current visit visa appeal system costs about £29 million a year to administer—money that could be much better spent on other parts of the immigration system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/debtext/120521-0001.htm#1205214000028>

### Non-EU Migrant Cap

**Harriett Baldwin:** What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the permanent cap on non-EU work migrants after its first year of operation. [108028]

**Iain Stewart:** What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the permanent cap on non-EU work migrants after its first year of operation. [108030]

**Karen Bradley:** What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the permanent cap on non-EU work migrants after its first year of operation. [108036]

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** The annual limit, together with other measures such as raising the minimum skills level, has ensured that we have kept the numbers of non-EU workers at sustainable levels while allowing employers to access the brightest and best migrants.

**Harriett Baldwin:** The seasonal agricultural workers scheme, which expires in December 2013, allows farmers and growers to bring in workers from as far away as Ukraine and Moldova. Does the Minister agree that welfare reform should make it more attractive for British crops to be picked by British workers?

**Reply from Damian Green:** My hon. Friend makes a good point. Immigration reform is one necessary element of creating a more balanced labour force, but the other two elements are welfare and educational reform, which will ensure that British workers are trained and have the right attitude to take the jobs available, in agriculture or in other sectors. *[Interruption.]* The Opposition Front-Bench team appear to deride these types of jobs. I suggest that is a big mistake.

**Iain Stewart:** I welcome the new income and language criteria introduced alongside the cap. Does the Minister agree that these measures give the public confidence that economic migrants are here to benefit the economy and contribute to society?

**Reply from Damian Green:** It is important that we create, as we are doing, a more selective immigration system designed to attract and reward migrants who can make the biggest contribution to our economy. By raising the minimum skills threshold and the English-language requirements, we have ensured that only migrants who are highly skilled or who have skills that are in short supply can come to the UK to work and settle.

**Karen Bradley:** Of course, immigration is not just about those coming but about those leaving the country. ... migration. Will the Minister tell the House what the Government are doing to break the link between coming here temporarily and settling here permanently?

**Reply from Damian Green:** One of the many failures of the previous Government was that they made settlement an automatic consequence of five years' residence in the UK. Settlement in the UK is a privilege, not a right, and unrestricted settlement rights are not in the UK's best interests. The changes we implemented in April will mean that, from April 2016, those wishing to settle here will have to

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

earn a minimum salary of £35,000 or the appropriate rate for the job, whichever is higher. That is better for the long-term health of our immigration system.

**Frank Field:** Given that the Government have just released data showing that one in five unemployed households contain a member who has never had a job, is there not a case, while this recession lasts, for temporarily restricting movement generally from Europe, so that the Government's welfare reforms can have a fair wind?

**Reply from Damian Green:** I have great admiration for the right hon. Gentleman's work on immigration and welfare, but I do not think that closing off the European labour market would be appropriate in a recession, because it would presumably apply both ways, meaning that British workers looking for jobs in the rest of the EU would also be badly affected. He is quite right to suggest, however, that the problems of the British economy need to be solved at the same time as the severe problems in the eurozone.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** My impression is that the fact that companies have never reached the cap in the number of available work permits suggests that it is not the Government-imposed cap that has affected this. One consequence that I see is that companies are exporting the work that would have been done in the UK to other countries, or using intra-company transfers. What is the Minister doing to ensure that we keep work in Britain?

**Reply from Damian Green:** First, we are putting limits on intra-company transfers—limits that were never there under the previous Government. We have set a minimum salary threshold of £40,000 for those who stay for longer than one year and a minimum salary of £24,000 for those who stay for less than one year. The hon. Lady identifies a potential problem, in that people could use intra-company transfers to try to drive out British workers, but that is precisely why we have taken these effective measures—to stop that kind of abuse of the system.

[108044] **Denis MacShane:** Is the Minister concerned that France now attracts 50% more visitors from India than we do and that Switzerland, which has joined Schengen, is also experiencing a disproportionate surge in business visitors and tourists as a result? Is it reasonable to impose a £78 visa charge? People have to travel hundreds of miles to visit Britain for any reason. We might be open for business, but we are jolly well closed to foreigners under this Government.

**Reply from Damian Green:** I have to say that that is complete nonsense. Our tourism industry is doing better than ever before. Somebody planning to fly here on holiday from India would have to pay £78 for a six-month visa, which would not be an even remotely significant part of the total cost of their holiday, so I have to say that the right hon. Gentleman has simply got it wrong.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/debtext/120521-0001.htm#1205214000017>

### Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

**Philip Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to break the link between foreign nationals coming to work in the UK and subsequently gaining permanent residency. [108226]

**Reply from Damian Green:** On 29 February, we announced changes which will break the link between coming here to work and settling permanently and ensure that only those who make a significant economic contribution can stay. In future, most skilled workers will need to be paid a minimum salary of £35,000 to settle here.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/text/120521w0003.htm#12052136000022>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### European Convention on Human Rights (Immigration)

**Sajid Javid:** If she will bring forward proposals to amend the immigration rules to prevent misuse of article 8 of the European convention on human rights. [108032]

**Stewart Jackson:** If she will bring forward proposals to amend the immigration rules to prevent misuse of article 8 of the European convention on human rights. [108033]

**David Evennett:** If she will bring forward proposals to amend the immigration rules to prevent misuse of article 8 of the European convention on human rights. [108046]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May):** By this summer, we will have in place new immigration rules, which will help to end abuse of article 8. The Government are considering responses to the public consultation on changes to the family migration rules ... and expect to announce the results shortly. This will include changes relating to article 8.

**Sajid Javid:** The UK Border Agency recently reported that almost 4,000 foreign criminals are free to walk our streets. My Bromsgrove constituents know that it was the previous Labour Government who put the rights of criminals before the rights of ordinary law-abiding citizens. What steps does my right hon. Friend plan to take to start deporting these criminals?

**Reply from Theresa May:** My hon. Friend rightly raises an issue that causes considerable concern to members of the public. We have changed the way in which we deal with foreign national offenders. We now start deportation action 18 months before the end of the sentence, and in order to speed up the process we are chartering more flights to remove foreign offenders, but we are indeed having to make good a system that was of course put in place by the last Labour Government. When we deal with article 8, we will ensure that it provides less reason for people to claim that they need to remain here in the UK.

**Stewart Jackson:** The abuse of article 8 undermines faith not only in our own criminal justice system but in human rights generally, as envisaged by the original British jurists who founded the convention in 1946. Will my right hon. Friend confirm that the Government will hold true to the Brighton declaration and make it clear that the sovereignty of our Parliament and our UK courts must be sacrosanct?

**Reply from Theresa May:** As my hon. Friend knows, we are making a number of efforts to ensure that the operation of the European convention in relation to the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom courts is as we believe it should be. That does indeed entail the decisions made at the Brighton conference concerning changes in the operation of the European Court of Human Rights. It also involves what we are doing to clarify the fact that article 8 is a qualified right and not an absolute right.

**David Evennett:** There is real concern in my constituency about appeals being lodged under article 8 allowing people to remain in the UK longer without leave to remain. Does my right hon. Friend agree that changes in article 8 will complement the Government's changes to the family route of settlement policy, and will prevent further abuse of the system?

**Reply from Theresa May:** Yes. That is why the Government will be making changes in the family migration route along with their changes to article 8. Given that article 8 is about the right to a private and family life, the two are relevant to each other. What is crucial, however, is that article 8 is not an absolute right. It is qualified, and it allows the Government to operate a system under which people do not have an automatic right to stay here for the purposes of a family life. We want our courts to operate article 8 in the way in which it is written in the convention.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/debtext/120521-0001.htm#1205214000020>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### “Topical Questions” about Immigration

[108053] **Sheila Gilmore:** Given that the vast majority of international students leave the UK at the end of their courses, why do the Government insist on counting them when calculating net migration figures, which other countries do not count, to the detriment of institutions such as Edinburgh university in my constituency that are competing with other countries for those students?

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Damian Green):** First, I assure the hon. Lady that there is not a limit on the number of students coming in. The reason we include them in the immigration system is simply that the UN definition of an immigrant is someone who comes to a country with the intention of staying there for more than a year, so any student who comes to stay for more than a year, according to the UN definition, is an immigrant.

T5. [108056] **Jackie Doyle-Price:** Of course, controlling immigration does not happen only at our borders; it also involves ensuring that migrants abide by their obligations under immigration rules. With that in mind, what more is being done to tackle the problem of persistent over-stayers?

**Reply from Damian Green:** We have taken action against employers, in particular, as the main reason for people over-staying is in order to work illegally. Last summer we had a big effort against over-staying illegal workers. I am happy to report to my hon. Friend that that is working. The last quarter of 2011 showed an increase in enforced removals and voluntary departures of those who should not be here, on both the previous quarter and the last quarter of 2010, so the effective and tough measures we are taking are now visibly working.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/debtext/120521-0001.htm#1205214000029>

### Entry Clearances: Pakistan

**Fiona Mactaggart:** ... how many appeals against refusal of entry clearance for (a) settlement and (b) family visits made by applicants in Pakistan were (i) allowed, (ii) dismissed and (iii) withdrawn in (A) 2010, (B) 2011 and (C) 2012 to date. [107723]

**Damian Green:** The information requested is shown in the following table.

		<i>Appeals</i>		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>(i) Allowed</i>	<i>(ii) Dismissed</i>	<i>(iii) Withdrawn</i>
<i>(a) Settlement</i>	(A) 2010	117	114	30
	(B) 2011	414	268	23
<i>(b) Family visit</i>	(A) 2010	327	1,283	26
	(B) 2011	486	330	3

*Notes:* 1. The data provided are based on management information and are provisional and subject to change. 2. We are unable to release statistics relating to the year 2012 as these are yet to be published. They will become available shortly.

**Fiona Mactaggart:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest time was between the promulgation of a determination by the First-Tier Tribunal allowing an entry clearance (a) settlement appeal and (b) appeal for a family visitor and the issuing of entry clearance to the appellant by the British high commission in Pakistan for entry clearances issued in (i) 2010, (ii) 2011 and (iii) 2012 to date. [107755]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The date of promulgation of a determination is not recorded centrally by the UK Border Agency's Visa Sections. To collect this information would require the examination of individual records which would incur disproportionate costs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/text/120521w003.htm#12052136000019>



## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to have cleared its backlog of student visa expirations. [107574]

**Reply from Damian Green:** The Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May), is confident that the UK Border Agency will have completed all action on this cohort of Tier 4 student notifications by the end of May.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/text/120521w0003.htm#12052136000018>

### Immigration: Children

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were detained for immigration purposes in the United Kingdom in (1) 2008, (2) 2009, (3) 2010, and (4) 2011. [HL364]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** The requested information is available only from 2009 when publication of these data began. 1,119 children entered detention in 2009, 436 in 2010 and 99 in 2011. Figures on people entering detention relate to those solely detained under Immigration Act powers in immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation, and exclude those recorded as entering police cells, Prison Service establishments and short-term holding rooms at ports and airports (for less than 24 hours), those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.

The Home Office releases statistics on detention, solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly basis within Immigration Statistics, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120528w0001.htm#1205281000524>

### Child Detention (Immigration Centres)

**Jeremy Corbyn:** How many children and their families are being held in immigration detention. [108041]

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Lynne Featherstone):** During 2011, 99 children entered immigration removal centres, short-term holding facilities and pre-departure accommodation, which compares with 436 in 2010 and with 1,119 in 2009. The numbers held at any one time in 2011 were very low; snapshot figures from the end of each quarter ranged from zero to one child.

**Jeremy Corbyn:** When the coalition Government made their unequivocal statement in May 2010 that they would end all "detention of children for immigration purposes", many of us welcomed that, because we had always thought such detention to be wrong. Will the Minister therefore explain what response she has given to the Refugee Council's "Not a minor offence" report, which describes the detention of unaccompanied children arriving in this country from Afghanistan, Iran or Iraq? These children arrive deeply disturbed and very frightened, and they find that their first interaction with this country is to be put in detention and kept there. Will she please guarantee that no more children will be kept in detention, and that instead cases will be referred to the relevant local authority immediately where children arrive in this country?

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** The hon. Gentleman raises the issue of the report by the Refugee Council that was published this morning. Obviously, we will consider the Refugee Council's recommendations as we continue to improve at all

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

levels, but I point out to the hon. Gentleman that under the Labour Government it was 28 days before Ministers got involved, whereas under this Government it is 72 hours.

**Philip Hollobone:** What happens to families who are claiming asylum in this country having passed through other safe countries before getting here? Are we returning them to the last safe country that they left or do we offer them the opportunity to stay in this country indefinitely?

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** We return where we can, obviously, but the important point is that we have a process for returning and we follow it.

**Lisa Nandy:** Many of the children whom the Minister describes are age-disputed young people. Will she confirm that the appalling and shambolic X-ray pilot—described as “appalling” by the four UK Children’s Commissioners and subsequently abandoned—will not resume and that she will work with children’s professionals and medical experts to find an effective solution to the very difficult problem of determining the age of children?

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** The hon. Lady might or might not know that, in light of the view expressed by the National Research Ethics Service that that trial is research and therefore requires NRES approval, we have paused it while we work with our partners to seek formal ethical approval.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/debtext/120521-0001.htm#1205214000025>

### Detention Centres: Children

**Jonathan Edwards:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made in ending the detention of unaccompanied children for immigration purposes. [109235]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Children who are unaccompanied are detained only in exceptional circumstances. At the border we may need to hold individuals while inquiries are made to decide whether they can be admitted to the country or until the next available return flight if they are refused entry. Those unaccompanied children who fall into this category may also need to be held until alternative accommodation is arranged, usually through Children’s Services. Not being able to hold children would prevent us from fulfilling our legal duty of care by releasing unaccompanied children before social workers arrived to support them, placing them at greater risk. It could also weaken border security by allowing people into the country who have no right to be here. We are constantly looking at ways in which the time spent being held in this way can be reduced by improving decisions and the response times from other agencies. We are also seeking to identify improvements to the ways in which young people’s ages are assessed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120524/text/120524w0001.htm#12052475000013>

### Asylum Seekers: Children

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett:** To ask Her Majesty’s Government what action they propose, as part of their review of the level of asylum support, to tackle severe poverty experienced by children in asylum-seeking families.

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** My Lords, asylum support rates are currently under routine review. Careful consideration is always given to the impact of rates on families with children. Any decision to adjust rates will also reflect the temporary nature of asylum support and the fact that asylum seekers have access to fully equipped accommodation, with utility bills paid. No person who has sought protection in the United Kingdom need be destitute while their application is decided.

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett:** My Lords, the Children's Society and refugee organisations have reported alarming evidence of growing destitution among asylum-seeking children, young people and families, due in part to levels of financial assistance well below those of income support. Can the Minister explain how this state of affairs is compatible with the Government's obligations under Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, both of which uphold the right to an adequate standard of living?

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, I am aware of the report from the Children's Society, and my honourable friend Damian Green and officials have met the society to discuss it. The noble Baroness asked for an explanation of the disparity between income support levels and the rates of support that we offer asylum seekers. The simple reason is that asylum seekers get all their accommodation and utility bills paid, and therefore it is not necessary to pay their support at 100%. The noble Baroness will also be aware-I think this is important-of how this disparity occurred. Until 2008 asylum rates were set at 70% of income support, and a decision was then taken by the Government of the time-who, as the noble Baroness will be aware, happened to be a Labour Government-to break that link. Since then, the levels have been set annually each year in accordance with what has been felt to be appropriate.

**Baroness Sherlock:** My Lords, I think that the Minister may have slightly misheard my noble friend Lady Lister. She asked specifically whether the Government can tell us whether they are satisfied that they are meeting their human rights obligations. Perhaps I may ask the Minister a simpler question. Have the Government made any formal assessment of whether the levels of support they supply under Section 55 of the Act meet the requirements of that section? In other words, have they done an assessment and can they be satisfied that children's health and well-being are being protected?

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, we are obliged to look at those matters each year and we do so. We do not believe that the levels of support should be at 100% of income support because we are paying for other things, such as rent, rates and utility bills, which amount to a very large proportion of what would otherwise be accounted for in income support. We are satisfied that the rates are right and we are continuing to look at them. I repeat that the link in rates, which was originally set at 70% of income support, was broken by the party opposite when it was in government. It can explain that if it wishes.

**The Lord Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich:** My Lords, many in this House will recall a significant debate about the development of children in their early years. Will part of this review help us to understand whether the rates of support for children in asylum-seeking families mean that they are indeed developing emotionally, socially and physically in a way that will prevent a lot of trouble later in life?

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, we will take all factors into consideration when we review those figures. We will look at them, but I think that I ought to repeat to the right reverend Prelate that obviously we hope that people will be in the position of seeking asylum for a relatively short time before a decision is made. If a decision is then made that they can stay in the country, obviously ordinary rules about benefits will apply. If they are going back to their own country, it will then be a matter for the country they go back to.

**Lord Tomlinson:** The noble Lord has made great play several times of the fact that the previous Government broke the link with 70% but he has not yet told us what the new link is. It is deemed to be appropriate when it is fixed, but can he tell us whether the current link is more than 70% or less than 70%. If it is less, what is it?

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, there was an informal link of 70%, which is what I was referring to. Now if one looks at the different rates of income support,

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

we can see a whole range of different rates, varying from, I am told, something from just below 60% up to 100%. It varies according to the rate of benefit. I am more than happy to write in greater detail if the noble Lord wishes, but it is rather too complicated to give such information at the Dispatch Box in the time that is available to me.

**Baroness Hamwee:** My Lords, it is estimated that 120,000 children are living in the UK without legal immigration status. That estimate was made by the University of Oxford which, in a recent report, also commented that, "because of contradictory and frequently changing rules and regulations", both in immigration and in the allied areas that we have been discussing, access to public service has been hugely jeopardised. These are changes that have happened over the past 20 years or so. Can the Minister comment on how our policies can be better joined up, which is something that has challenged every Government?

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, the Question relates just to those seeking asylum. Obviously there are other means of dealing with those who have failed to get asylum status or for those covered in other ways. For example, Section 4 support is available to those who have failed to get asylum, should they be destitute. Other than that, we look to see whether they have families here who might also be able to support them. However, I think that my noble friend's question is wide of the Question on the Order Paper.

**Lord Martin of Springburn:** My Lords, the Minister mentioned decisions made by previous Governments. To his credit, David Blunkett, when he was Home Secretary, abolished vouchers which were being given to asylum-seeker families, which were undignified not only for the asylum seekers but for their children. I hope that a time when we are looking for savings we never go back to the voucher system that we had approximately 10 years ago. I can report that in many of the schools in Glasgow, the asylum-seeker children who came 10 years ago are now at university and in further education.

**Reply from Lord Henley:** My Lords, we accept that it is right that asylum support should be given. The important question is to decide what the rate should be. I think that the noble Lord would accept that when David Blunkett made decisions on these matters it was agreed that it should not be as high as the income support rate because asylum seekers were being looked after in other ways in terms of rent, rates and utility bills. If that is the case, obviously decisions have to be taken on what the rate should be. Obviously it should not be as high as the income support rate.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120523-0001.htm#12052370000484>

### Asylum: Young People

**Lisa Nandy:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the proposal of the Immigration Law Practitioner's Association to establish regional expert age assessment centres made in its 2007 report *When Is a Child Not a Child*. [106407]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Currently, age assessments are carried out by local authorities using a Merton-compliant process. The UK Border Agency's focus is on establishing whether the techniques and processes used for carrying out age assessments can be improved. The agency intends to address these issues before it considers the arrangements for the location of age assessments. In light of this the agency has no current plans to adopt the proposal from the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120524/text/120524w0001.htm#12052475000009>

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

### Illegal Immigrants: Deportation

**Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to increase the number of illegal immigrants who are successfully removed. [107728]

**Reply from Damian Green:** We prefer that people leave the UK voluntarily. However if this option is refused then we will enforce removal including arresting and detaining those who refuse to comply.

We plan to increase the volume of removals this year by building better processes and performance management for our enforcement teams; improving our contact management procedures; developing the hostile environment in the UK so that it is increasingly difficult for illegal migrants to access public services prior to their arrest; delivering commercial solutions for increasing removals; and improving our management information on those individuals who leave the UK voluntarily.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120523/text/120523w0001.htm#12052375000020>

### Human Trafficking (Prosecutions)

**Peter Bone:** How many prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service brought for human trafficking in the last 12 months. [108450]

**Keith Vaz:** What steps he is taking to increase the number of prosecutions for human trafficking. [108455]

**Reply from the Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve):** The Crown Prosecution Service has charged and prosecuted 133 offences of human trafficking in the past 12 months, 1 May 2011 to 30 April 2012. The CPS prosecutes human trafficking-related cases under other legislation as well. The CPS is taking a number of steps to increase prosecutions, but is dependent on cases being referred for investigation by law enforcement agencies.

**Peter Bone:** ... May I encourage him to look at the problem where police spend time, money and effort breaking up criminal gangs of human traffickers, only for the CPS to charge them with much lesser offences, getting shorter sentences that are no deterrent to the human traffickers? It is essential that we prosecute people for human trafficking. What can the Attorney-General do?

**Reply from the Attorney-General:** I agree entirely with my hon. Friend that it is important that the right offences should be prosecuted, and if he wishes to draw to my attention instances where he feels that has not happened, I am always prepared to take the matter up. It is also right to point out that in deciding how to prosecute, the Crown Prosecution Service will look very carefully at all the surrounding issues, including sometimes the vulnerability of the offender, and may on occasion consider that the best way in which the public interest can be served is in prosecuting a lesser offence, but the principle must always be that the offence charged and prosecuted should meet the gravity of the crime.

**Keith Vaz:** I agree with the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr Bone) and pay tribute to him for the work he does in this area. Some 100,000 people are trafficked around Europe every year. This is a cross-border crime that requires cross-border co-operation. What steps is the Attorney-General taking through the Crown Prosecution Service and the Metropolitan police to work with Interpol and Europol to find the perpetrators of this cross-border crime and make sure that they are brought to justice? It must be done on an international basis.

**Reply from the Attorney-General:** I agree entirely with the right hon. Gentleman. It is indeed an international crime. Within the European Union there are CPS liaison magistrates in other countries, the European Judicial Network contacts, the Serious Organised Crime Agency liaison officers and Eurojust to assist. Outside

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the EU the position is more complicated, but we have some liaison CPS working in a number of countries with which we have particular important links. The right hon. Gentleman will be aware that under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, the extraterritoriality provisions provided for in EU directives have been implemented, although they have not yet been brought into operation, so that these offences can now be prosecuted here even if they were committed abroad. Ultimately, the CPS will be dependent on the evidence produced to it. That will come from the police or SOCA, and for those reasons, the CPS, while doing its best, will always continue to be dependent on the quality of the information it gets.

**Tom Brake:** Does the Attorney-General agree that just as the CPS must increase the number of prosecutions against people guilty of human trafficking, it must also stop prosecuting those who have been trafficked, such as in the case of AVN?

**Reply from the Attorney-General:** Yes, I agree entirely with the right hon. Gentleman. As he knows, the CPS has a process in operation, which has been echoed by the Home Office, to provide protection for those who have been trafficked. He will also be aware that, with the encouragement of all political parties, the previous Government signed up to providing protection against deportation for those who had been trafficked.

**William McCrea:** As the tragedy of human trafficking crosses all regions of the United Kingdom, what recent discussions have been held with the devolved Administrations?

**Reply from the Attorney-General:** I agree entirely with the hon. Gentleman. The best thing I can do is write to him. I am perfectly aware that the CPS liaises extensively with the CPS in Northern Ireland and the Lord Advocate's Department in Scotland, and I will provide him with that information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/debtext/120522-0001.htm#12052232000031>

### Human Trafficking

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials are involved in administering the National Referral Mechanism for suspected victims of trafficking; and in what parts of the country these officials are based. [108879]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Under the National Referral Mechanism decisions about who is a victim of trafficking can only be made by trained specialists. The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), and the UK Border Agency are the only designated 'Competent Authorities' able to perform this role. Seven staff located within the UKHTC in Birmingham—including five SOCA officers and two staff seconded from the UK Border Agency—undertake this role on a full time basis. In addition approximately 120 trained staff within the UK Border Agency who are located across the United Kingdom undertake this role alongside other duties.

**Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what cost was incurred by the (a) UK Border Agency and (b) UK Human Trafficking Centre in administering the National Referral Mechanism for suspected victims of trafficking in the latest period for which figures are available. [108880]

**Reply from Damian Green:** Funds have not been specifically allocated to administering the National Referral Mechanism and work has been absorbed within business as usual running costs by the UK Border Agency and the UK Human Trafficking Centre, part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Details of the annual accounts of the UK Border Agency and Serious Organised Crime Agency can be found using the following links:

## Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

*UK Border Agency*

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/>

*Serious and Organised Crime Agency*

<http://www.soca.gov.uk/about-soca/library>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120523/text/120523w0001.htm#12052375000019>

## Westminster Early Day Motion

**Varendra Sharma (136) Deportation of Tamils to Sri Lanka** – That this House expresses its concern that Mr Easwarathasan Kietheeswaran, a Tamil, was deported to Sri Lanka and has now been found killed in April 2012, confirming the concerns reported by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch of the significant risk to Tamils returned to Sri Lanka; notes with anxiety that removal directions have been set for the forced return of a group of Tamil asylum seekers on charter flight PVT030 on 31 May 2012; and urges the Government to take urgent action to review its policy of the removal of Tamils to Sri Lanka in the present climate so that further deaths and human rights abuses can be prevented and to halt the removals planned for 31 May 2012.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/136>

## Press Releases

**New migration rules are making a real difference**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/migration-rules-take-effect>

**Summer 2011 interns exempt from Tier 2 cooling off period**

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/may/52-summer-intern-exemption>

**New screening to tackle tuberculosis in the UK**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/tuberculosis-screening>

## New Publications

**The work of the UK Border Agency (November 2010-March 2011): Government Response**

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/TSO-PDF/committee-reports/142.pdf>

**No way out, no way in: Irregular migrant children and families in the UK**

[http://irregularvoices.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/compas\\_report\\_web.pdf](http://irregularvoices.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/compas_report_web.pdf)

**Navigating the System: Advice provision for young refugees and migrants**

[http://www.seekingsupport.co.uk/images/navigating\\_the\\_system\\_final.pdf](http://www.seekingsupport.co.uk/images/navigating_the_system_final.pdf)

**The role of UK migration policy in supporting strong, integrated families**

[http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/sites/default/files/APPG-migration-Family\\_migration-May-2012.pdf](http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/sites/default/files/APPG-migration-Family_migration-May-2012.pdf)

## Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

### **Immigration Statistics January - March 2012**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q1-2012/>

### **Monthly asylum application tables - March 2012**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-mar-2012?view=Binary>

### **Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers April 2012**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-apr2012?view=Binary>

### **“The Second Torture”: the immigration detention of torture survivors**

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/secondtorturereport.pdf>

## News

### **Migration to UK more than double government target**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18189797>

### **250,000 a year still migrate to UK**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/250000-a-year-still-migrate-to-uk-7785238.html>

### **Only a slight fall in immigration despite Coalition vows to slash numbers**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9287417/Only-a-slight-fall-in-immigration-despite-Coalition-vows-to-slash-numbers.html>

### **Net Immigration To Britain Above 250,000 Despite Coalition Promises**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/24/immigration-net-immigration-figures-250000-government-theresa-may-david-cameron\\_n\\_1541773.html?ref=uk](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/05/24/immigration-net-immigration-figures-250000-government-theresa-may-david-cameron_n_1541773.html?ref=uk)

### **Teenage refugees still being routinely locked up**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teenage-refugees-still-being-routinely-locked-up-7769547.html>

### **Visa rules on TB screening to change**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/health/visa-rules-on-tb-screening-to-change-1-2308873>

### **Court cases hampered by translation failures**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9287880/Court-cases-hampered-by-translation-failures.html>

### **Dundee's immigrant population doubles in three years**

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/News/article/22989/dundee-s-immigrant-population-doubles-in-three-years.html>

### **Britain makes plans to combat new tide of economic migrants**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/britain-makes-plans-to-combat-new-tide-of-economic-migrants.17704939>



## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### **Migrant alert over euro crisis**

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/uk/migrant-alert-over-euro-crisis-1-2320836>

#### **Asian community targeted 1: Curry house raids**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/asian-community-targeted-1-curry-house-raids.17695459>

#### **In Europe, Migrants Rate Their Lives Worse Than Native Born**

[http://www.gallup.com/poll/154721/Europe-Migrants-Rate-Lives-Worse-Native-Born.aspx?utm\\_source=add%2Bthis&utm\\_medium=addthis.com&utm\\_campaign=sharimg%23.T7ufMiTBnM.twitter](http://www.gallup.com/poll/154721/Europe-Migrants-Rate-Lives-Worse-Native-Born.aspx?utm_source=add%2Bthis&utm_medium=addthis.com&utm_campaign=sharimg%23.T7ufMiTBnM.twitter)

[TOP](#)

## Race Relations

### Westminster Debate

#### **Minority Ethnic and Religious Communities: Cultural and Economic Contribution**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120524-0001.htm#12052458000789>

### Press Releases

#### **European Commission calls on Member States to implement national plans for Roma integration**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/499&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### **The Commission's Communication on "National Roma Integration Strategies: a first step in the implementation of the EU Framework"**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/12/379&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### New Publications

#### **The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States**

Report

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2012-Roma-at-a-glance\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-2012-Roma-at-a-glance_EN.pdf)

Factsheet

[http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Factsheet\\_ROMA\\_EN.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/FRA-Factsheet_ROMA_EN.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## Equality

### Westminster Debate

**Disability: Black and Minority-ethnic Disabled People**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120522-0001.htm#12052235000406>

### Press Release

**New approach to equality pays off**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/equality-strategy>

### New Publication

**The Equality Strategy – Building a Fairer Britain: Progress Report**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/equalities/equality-strategy-publications/progress-report?view=Binary>

[TOP](#)

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

**S4M-02955 Christina McKelvie: Different Voices, Best of Friends - Stop Sectarianism**—That the Parliament commends the project, Different Voices, Best of Friends - Stop Sectarianism, which has been developed by the Machan Trust with the assistance of Sense Over Sectarianism, Lanarkshire Songwriters Group and the New Makers Trust; understands that primary 6 and 7 pupils from Glengowan, Stonehouse, Craigbank, Machanhill, Hareleeshill, St Mary's, Dalserf, Newfield, Netherburn and Robert Smillie primary schools wrote and sang songs condemning sectarianism in their communities; understands that the pupils produced a CD of the songs, which it considers to be a great collection of music, and that copies of this were distributed at a live performance; applauds the creativity of the staff and pupils on their work in writing and singing the songs; welcomes the project as a positive and alternative approach in educating the pupils, and encourages other groups and organisations similar to the Machan Trust to continue carrying out what it sees as their outstanding work in order to help remove sectarianism from Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-02955&ResultsPerPage=10>

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions

#### **Police: Racism**

**Lord Ouseley:** To ask Her Majesty's Government how their race integration policies, reflected in the Equality Strategy, the Social Mobility Strategy and Creating the conditions for integration, are contributing to the elimination of racism and the fair treatment of black and minority ethnic people by the police service in England and Wales, in particular by the Metropolitan Police Service.[HL10]

**Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Henley):** Equality and

## Racism and Religious Hatred

### Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

diversity are particularly important for the police service in England and Wales in the context of policing our diverse communities.

The Government have set out three priority areas for the service to make improvements in equality and diversity:

the police workforce—the workforce needs to be more representative of the communities it serves, especially at more senior ranks; communities—local democratic accountability will place new demands on the service to maintain good relationships with communities; and, crime—improving service to the public will mean forces should focus on crimes that have a disproportionate impact on minority communities. The Government will back the service to deliver the changes needed to make more rapid progress against these priorities.

**Lord Ouseley:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements will be imposed on police and crime commissioners to eradicate racism from all aspects of the services for which they are responsible, and how they will be accountable for this.[HL11]

**Reply from Lord Henley:** Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will be subject to the public sector equality duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, which will require them to have due regard, in exercising their functions, to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between races. PCCs will also be required, under Section 1(8)(g) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, to hold the chief constable to account, in particular, for the exercise of the chief constable's duties relating to equality and diversity. This will include the public sector equality duty mentioned above, which applies to chief constables as well as to PCCs. PCCs will be directly accountable to their electorate for the decisions they take. Their compliance with these equalities obligations will also be scrutinised by a police and crime panel containing members of the local authorities in the police area and co-opted independent members.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120521w0001.htm#12052118000233>

#### Discrimination: Ethnic Groups

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research on the incidence of discrimination by caste and descent in the UK. [108382]

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** We have carefully considered the findings of the report by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. The report identifies evidence suggesting that discrimination and harassment on grounds of caste exists in the UK, but notes that it is impossible to determine categorically that caste discrimination and harassment within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 has occurred. That is why we have also been giving full and careful consideration to the correspondence and representations put forward by both those who want the Government to legislate and those who are opposed to such legislation being introduced, before reaching any final conclusion on this matter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120521/text/120521w0003.htm#12052136000016>

#### Discrimination: Ethnic Groups

**Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to bring forward regulations under the Equality Act 2010 to address the incidence of discrimination by caste or descent in the UK. [108381]

**Reply from Lynne Featherstone:** We are still carefully considering the evidence available to us, including the report by the National Institute of Economic and

## Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Social Research, and will make a decision on whether to bring forward regulations under the Equality Act 2010 in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/text/120522w0002.htm#12052254000092>

## News

**Is Britain a racist nation? One in three Brits 'admits to being racist', according to poll**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2151056/Is-Britain-racist-nation-One-Brits-admits-racist-according-poll.html>

**More than 87,000 racist incidents recorded in schools**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18155255>

**87,915 racist incidents in schools over five years**

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/education/87-915-racist-incidents-in-schools-over-five-years-1-2313836>

**88,000 'racist incidents' reported in schools, study finds**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/9286738/88000-racist-incidents-reported-in-schools-study-finds.html>

**Daily torment of racism in the classroom**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-18150650>

**Roma 'face same inequalities in west Europe as in east'**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18176450>

**Pupils asked 'why do people hate Jews?' in GCSE exam**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/9288585/Pupils-asked-why-do-people-hate-Jews-in-GCSE-exam.html>

**Anti-Semitism exam question causes offence**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article3425919.ece>

**'Why do people hate Jews?' Shocking GCSE religious studies question set by Britain's biggest examinations board**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2149734/Why-people-hate-Jews-Shocking-GCSE-religious-studies-question-set-Britains-biggest-examinations-board.html>

**Extremists win march rights as judge axes SDL ban**

<http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/extremists-win-march-rights-as-judge-axes-sdl-ban-1-2318021>

**Jacqueline Woodhouse jailed for racist Tube rant**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-18251807>

**Watchdog to examine Big Fat Gypsy Weddings adverts**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18244941>

[TOP](#)

## Other Holyrood

### Press Releases

#### **Better support for victims and witnesses**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/victims22052012>

#### **Previous convictions in court**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/previousconvictions23052012>

#### **£600,000 for "inspirational" awards programme**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/inspirational-awards-programme25052012>

[TOP](#)

## Other Westminster

### Debate

#### **Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012**

*col 653* **Lord Davies of Oldham:** ... provision will be made for multi-faith observance during the Games. We should recognise how much in certain cultures this is of the greatest importance; after all, we all remember the 1924 Olympic Games when Liddell was not prepared to run on a Sunday. That dimension of those participating in the Games deserves proper recognition. I hope that the Minister will give a reassurance that we have fulfilled the expectations of the International Olympic Committee with regards to this provision. ...

*col 667* **Baroness Garden of Frognal:** ... Four years ago, LOCOG set up a faith reference group that includes the nine faiths recognised by the IOC: Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh, Hindu, Baha'i and Zoroastrian. This group has looked at all aspects of the plans, including the multifaith centres, prayer spaces, food provision, uniform design, quiet areas and accommodation, not only for athletes but for the workforce, volunteers, media and spectators, where appropriate.

We are conscious that with the Games taking place during Ramadan and on the 40th anniversary of the Munich attacks this multifaith approach has been crucial. LOCOG's faith adviser, the Reverend Canon Duncan Green, who was appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, has led this work, but LOCOG has also worked closely with the Muslim Council of Britain and its general-secretary Dr Muhammad Bari, so I hope noble Lords are reassured on this issue. It has been taken extremely seriously, and I assure the noble Lord, Lord Davies, and other noble Lords that considerable efforts have been made by LOCOG to ensure that the needs of faith communities have been addressed appropriately and respectfully. ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/120521-0001.htm#1205217000466>

### Parliamentary Questions

#### **Forced Marriage (Prosecutions)**

**Stephen Hepburn:** What recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of prosecutions for forced marriage. [108453]

**Reply from the Solicitor-General (Mr Edward Garnier):** None personally, but the Home Office recently concluded its public consultation on forced marriage and the

## Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Prime Minister has announced our intention to sign the Council of Europe's convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, which will require us to criminalise forced marriage. Currently, in this jurisdiction there is no specific crime of forced marriage, and offences within that term are prosecuted under, for example, the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, the Sexual Offences Act 2003, or other suitable statutes.

**Stephen Hepburn:** Every year in this country, thousands of children are subjected to the cruelty of forced marriage. The Government are quite right in what they say and they will act against this, but nothing at all was mentioned in the Queen's Speech. Can the Solicitor-General tell us exactly when we will have a Bill in this House so that we can outlaw this barbaric practice 100%?

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** No, I cannot say precisely when we will have a Bill to outlaw this barbaric practice, but I can assure him that our signing of the convention will lead inexorably in that direction.

**Bob Blackman:** Can my hon. and learned Friend inform the House what penalties are envisaged for this terrible crime once it is made a criminal offence?

**Reply from the Solicitor-General:** No, but the penalties will be quite severe. The only guidance I can give my hon. Friend is to look at the penalties imposed under existing convictions. For example, last year there were 42 prosecutions for forced marriage under the various statutes I have referred to, a number of which led to quite lengthy sentences.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm120522/debtext/120522-0001.htm#12052232000033>

## Early Day Motion

**Valerie Vaz (106) Female genital mutilation**— That this House notes that an estimated 80,000 women and girls in the UK are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), 24,000 of whom are girls under the age of 15 years; further notes that these procedures have no health benefits and are recognised internationally as a violation of human rights; acknowledges FGM as an important public interest issue, as it physically and mentally damages young women; further acknowledges there can be serious complications with pregnancy and childbirth if a woman has undergone FGM; welcomes the work of the Female Genital Mutilation National Clinical Group; commends its encouragement of healthcare professionals including midwives, obstetricians, nurses, public health professionals, community workers, policy makers, police and others to work together to identify women and girls who are at risk, to support those who have already suffered and to prevent the practice of FGM; further welcomes the new legal guidance issued by the Crown Prosecution Service; looks forward to an increase from zero in the number of prosecutions brought for offences relating to FGM; and calls for politicians, professionals and communities to continue to work in partnership to bring an end to the practice of female genital mutilation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/106>

## News

**MPs want curbs on 'unacceptable' religious slaughter**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-18187137>

[TOP](#)

## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Holyrood

#### **\*\* Police and Fire Reform Bill**

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

Proposed amendments (stage 2)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/51112.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/51179.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/51252.aspx>

Scottish Government press release

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/policefire24052012>

#### **Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48001.aspx>

#### **\*\* Welfare Reform (Further Provision) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/48804.aspx>

Stage 1 debate

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7042&mode=html#iob\\_64083](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7042&mode=html#iob_64083)

Scottish Government press release

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/05/welfarereform23052012>

### Westminster

#### **Crime and Courts Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/crimeandcourts.html>

#### **Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/humantraffickingandexploitationfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictims.html>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

#### **\*\* closes this week!**

**European Commission's Communication on a Global Approach to Migration and Mobility** (closing date 31 May 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu-home-affairs-sub-committee-f/inquiries/parliament-2010/global-migration-and-mobility1/>

**Personal beliefs and medical practice** (closing date 13 June 2012)

[https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation\\_Dtl.aspx?consult\\_Id=268&status=2&criteria=](https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=268&status=2&criteria=)

**International Migration Statistical Outputs** (closing date 5 July 2012)

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/about-ons/consultations/open-consultations/international-migration/international-migration-statistical-outputs---consultation-document.pdf>

## Consultations (continued)

**Where Gypsy/Travellers Live** (closing date 13 July 2012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/49027.aspx>

**\*\* Making Justice Work for Victims and Witnesses** (closing date 20 July 2012)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0039/00393452.pdf>

**Responsible officers in the new health architecture: Amendments to the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) 2010 Regulations** (closing date 25 July 2012)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_133601](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_133601)

**Equality Act 2010: employer liability for harassment of employees by third parties** (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/third-party-harassment/consultation-document?view=Binary>

**Equality Act 2010: repeal of two enforcement provisions** (closing date 7 August 2012)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equality-act-wider-enforcement/consultation-document?view=Binary>

**Your rights, your future** (closing date 9 September 2012)

<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=EUCitizenship3&lang=en>

**Here to Stay: People with learning disabilities from ethnic minority communities including new migrants** (no closing date given)

<http://www.snapsurveys.com/swh/surveypreview.asp?k=132127029508>

**Facing Facts: EU project to improve monitoring and recording of hate crimes and incidents throughout the European Union** (no closing date given)

[http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page\\_id=158](http://www.ceji.org/facingfacts/?page_id=158)

**Runnymede Equality Survey** (no closing date given)

<http://rminsight.co.uk/surveys/runnymede/>

[TOP](#)

## Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

## Events/Conferences/Training

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**Scottish Community Development Network**

7 June 2012 in Glasgow

Re-launch of the Scottish Community Development Network, and opportunity to discuss current policy and practice contexts and set an agenda for SCDN for the forthcoming year. To register for the event see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RSRLWNC>



## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **Migration in times of economic crises**

11 June 2012 in Glasgow (time tbc)

GRAMNet postgraduate colloquium to reflect on the challenges facing those who take part in any form of transnational migration, during times of economic crisis. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2800> or contact [gramnet.pg@gmail.com](mailto:gramnet.pg@gmail.com).

### **Human Rights, 'personalisation' and welfare reform**

11 June 2012 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

The first in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

### **The Asylum Process**

14 June 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.45)

Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the UKBA asylum process and its current implementation in Scotland, including the interviews, reporting and the decision to grant or refuse asylum. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1568\\_the\\_asylum\\_process](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1568_the_asylum_process).

### **Forced labour and exploitation in the UK food industry**

14 June 2012 in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh (6.00 – 7.30)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation discussion of research into the experiences of forced labour and exploitation in the UK food industry, based on interviews with migrant workers from Poland, China, Latvia and Lithuania. For information see <http://migrantsrightsscotland.org.uk/?p=2792> or contact Beth Hurrell 01904 615946 / [beth.hurrell@jrf.org.uk](mailto:beth.hurrell@jrf.org.uk).

### **\*\* Refugee Week**

18-24 June, Scotland-wide

For a full programme of events throughout Scotland see

[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/4300/RWS\\_programme\\_2012.pdf](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/4300/RWS_programme_2012.pdf)

### **Human Rights and citizenship**

26 June 2012 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 12.30)

The second in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

### **UKBA Asylum Support**

28 June 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://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1576\\_ukba\\_asylum\\_support](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1576_ukba_asylum_support) or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Human Rights, poverty, and the economy**

28 June 2012 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.30)

The third in a series of three SCVO debates on human rights in relation to topical issues. To book a place see <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SCVOhumanrights>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **The needs and experiences of refugee women**

20 July 2012 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of fundamental issues affecting women seeking asylum in Scotland. It is appropriate for those working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://tinyurl.com/7osl6r5>.

### **An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees**

24 July 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://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1577\\_an\\_introduction\\_to\\_working\\_with\\_asylum\\_seekers\\_and\\_refugees](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1577_an_introduction_to_working_with_asylum_seekers_and_refugees) or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **\*\* The Essentials of Asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection**

21 August 2012 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with people seeking asylum and refugees to provide an introduction to core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmb7pll>.

### **\*\* Working with Interpreters**

31 August 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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / [train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) or see [http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1574\\_working\\_with\\_interpreters](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/1574_working_with_interpreters)

[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](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/>

## Useful Links (continued)

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

Scottish Refugee Council [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

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

Volunteer Development Scotland [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](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 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/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.