

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[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 and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Asylum Seekers (Destitution)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7553&mode=html#job_68960

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Asylum Seekers

Linda Fabiani: To ask the Scottish Government whether any Scottish police force personnel have been involved in the forcible removal of asylum-seeking families with children from domestic addresses in Scotland and if so, on how many occasions and on what dates since 1 May 2010. (S4W-10974)

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The removal of immigration offenders is a matter for the UK Border Agency. As such the Scottish Government does not hold information on whether any Scottish police personnel have been involved in any such removal.

A direct weblink to the answer is currently unavailable, but it can be read in the written answers report 21/11/2012

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20121121.pdf

Human Trafficking

Helen Eadie: To ask the Scottish Government how many victims of human trafficking returned from Scotland to their country of origin were (a) EU, (b) European non-EU and (c) non-European nationals and what the cost was in each of the last five years. (S4W-11116)

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: This information is not held by the Scottish Government. The enforced return of migrants and the assisted return of non-EEA nationals are reserved matters for the UK Government.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-11116&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Ministerial Statement

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is today laying before the House a statement of changes in immigration rules. In April last year the Government made substantial changes to the tier 1 (Entrepreneur) and tier 1 (Investor) categories. The Home Office has been reviewing how effective these changes have been. As a result, a number of minor changes are being made to these two categories, including:

Providing for entrepreneurs with funding from Departments of devolved Administrations;
Lowering the English language requirement for entrepreneurs in response to concerns that the high requirement was a possible deterrent to potentially successful businesses;
Restricting the ability of students to switch into the entrepreneur route, due to concerns about abuse;

Restricting investors from working as professional sportspeople, to prevent them circumventing the sports governing body endorsement needed in the dedicated routes for sportspeople;

Additional controls to ensure entrepreneurs and investors genuinely have access to the funds they claim they do;

Providing for investors' leave to be curtailed if they fail to maintain the required level of investment; and

Clarifications to confirm that points will not be awarded for investments against which applicants have taken out loans, or investments that are held in offshore custody.

I am making minor changes to tier 2, the route for skilled workers with a job offer. These include supporting business by allowing very senior intra-company transferees to extend their stay in the UK for up to nine years (other transferees are restricted to a maximum of five years); making provision for barristers to apply in tier 2; and making the operation of "cooling off periods" more flexible for migrants who leave the UK before their leave expires. I am setting the annual allocations of places for participating countries and territories in the tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme), and widening the definition of a training programme under the tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange category to include training by HM armed forces and UK emergency services.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statement (continued)

I am making changes to the international agreement sub-category of tier 5, to make more specific provision for contractual service suppliers (who do not otherwise have a UK presence) seeking admission under the relevant commitments in certain international trade agreements to which the UK is a party.

Applicants for settlement on the basis of work or economic activity in the UK must complete a continuous period of lawful residence in the UK—usually five years with exceptions for some tier 1 investors and entrepreneurs and some highly skilled migrant programme migrants. Although it has been our practice to permit some absences from the UK during this period, the length of the short absences has not been specified.

I am making changes to the Immigration Rules for indefinite leave to remain for work permit and other pre-points based system employment, for businesspersons, innovators, investors, self-employed persons, writers, artists and composers, those here on the basis of UK ancestry and for tier 1 general, tier 2 general, sportsperson and Minister of religion migrants and retired persons of independent means. These changes clarify that absences of up to 180 days in a 12-month period are permitted, provided the absence is for a reason that is consistent with the migrant's purpose of stay in the UK or for serious or compelling reasons.

I am also making minor changes to the tier 4 immigration rules on students, including allowing students to start work on a business idea or as a doctor or dentist in training as soon as they have submitted an appropriate application; removing an avenue used by applicants to circumvent our rules that ensure an applicant has sufficient funds to cover their course and maintenance; and extending the period of the interim limit where educational institutions that have not achieved both a satisfactory educational oversight inspection from a specified body and highly trusted sponsor status are subject to an interim limit on the number of international students that can be recruited.

I am making a number of changes to the immigration rules on family and private life. These mainly reflect experience of the operation of the new rules since they were implemented on 9 July 2012 and will help to make those rules as clear and comprehensive as possible. The changes mainly concern the child and parent provisions of the rules and the specified evidence required to meet the financial requirements of the rules. In addition to these changes, I am also creating a more robust, clear and transparent criminality framework against which immigration applications will be assessed. At present, there are few specific thresholds in the immigration rules. Much is left to discretion, except at the settlement stage where an unspent conviction results in mandatory refusal. There is some advantage to this flexibility in that it allows discretion to deal with hard cases, but it also means that there is a lack of consistency in dealing with offences. These changes will make it clearer about the level of offending that will lead to refusal.

The consequential changes will also:

change the periods before a deportation order will normally be revoked;

introduce a limited leave “route” for foreign and Commonwealth ex-armed forces personnel who fail to qualify for indefinite leave or citizenship because of a relatively minor conviction;

introduce a re-entry ban of five years for any offender who leaves the UK as a requirement of a conditional caution; and

introduce a discretionary power to curtail leave where a person commits an offence within the first six months of entering the UK.

Finally, I am also making a number of minor technical changes, corrections and updates to lists contained in the Immigration Rules. Details of these are set out in the explanatory memorandum being laid today to accompany the changes.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121122/wmstext/121122m0001.htm#12112235000006>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration Rules

Paul Blomfield: What plans [the Home Secretary] has to review the timing, frequency and communication of changes to the immigration rules and associated guidance. [128814]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): Changes to the immigration rules and associated guidance are scheduled twice each year, with additional urgent changes being made when required. Guidance explains how the rules must be applied, and it may be updated more frequently. We keep the need for changing the rules and the guidance under constant review.

Paul Blomfield: I thank the Minister for his reply, but he will know that there have been 15 changes to the UK Border Agency's guidance to the higher education sector in relation to tier 4 sponsors over the past couple of years. Does he acknowledge the concern on both sides of the House and beyond at the inclusion of international students in net migration targets? Will he also acknowledge that, despite the damage that that has caused to university recruitment, the Government said in their response to the Lords Science and Technology Committee that they were committed to the growth of the university sector? Will he commit to a period of stability in relation to guidance, and to providing better support for tier 4 sponsors?

Reply from Mark Harper: The hon. Gentleman knows this area very well as a result of his long experience in the sector. He will be aware that we did a full consultation before we introduced the changes to tier 4 rules, and that we rolled them out in three tranches in order to give the sector time to adjust to them. He is wrong on this point: we deliberately protected the university sector, and the UCAS figures that we have just seen show that international student acceptances to universities are up by 4%. Our education sector is open for business.

Lorely Burt: I very much welcome the coalition Government's efforts to manage and control immigration, but does the Minister agree that we would be throwing the baby out with the bathwater if we were to exclude specialist temporary workers who were the existing employees of British companies? We cannot say to inward investors, "We want your money, but we don't want your workers or your expertise to help us to grow the company."

Reply from Mark Harper: The hon. Lady will know that we have a cap on skilled workers, and that, so far, we have not come anywhere near to it taking effect. No business that has wanted to hire a skilled worker who meets the requirements has been unable to do so. Our policies are sound: we are keeping control of immigration but contributing very successfully to economic growth.

Meg Hillier: ... For all the Minister's comments just now about there being no cap, he is causing confusion and complication in a sector that could be driving the British economy. When will he rethink?

Reply from Mark Harper: I really do not think that the hon. Lady is right. We have a cap on skilled migration, but we have not come anywhere near it. We have a clear system for businesses being able to bring in skilled workers. If she has specific examples from businesses in her constituency, I would be delighted to meet the people involved so that I can set out clearly what our policies are, and if there are genuine issues, I will absolutely look at them.

James Clappison: Will my hon. Friend give me an assurance that all changes will be properly announced? In particular, I should like an assurance that there will be no repeat of what happened from 1997 onwards, when there was a massive increase in the number of work visas granted to non-EU workers, without proper announcement, and the implementation of a de facto open-door immigration policy—even though it sounds very much as though the Opposition would like to do the same thing again.

Reply from Mark Harper: I can give my hon. Friend that assurance. We want to

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

ensure that we have firm but fair immigration controls, and that we have a cap on immigration, not least so that businesses can give British workers a proper opportunity to get into employment. If there are skill shortages, they can be dealt with. Our university sector is protected. We have sensible policies that have been announced to the House, and I am very happy to defend them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/debtext/121119-0001.htm#1211197000014>

Migration Controls

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the potential effects on schools, housing and the NHS of the end of transitional controls on migration from Romania and Bulgaria. [128836]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government do not routinely produce forecasts of levels of migration from individual countries.

The difficulty in producing a reliable forecast, which would need to take account of a variety of factors, is in this instance accentuated because we are not the only member state required to lift labour market restrictions in 2013.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/text/121119w0002.htm#12111923000071>

Entry Clearances

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the visa applications rejected in (a) 2010 and (b) 2011 were made by graduates or skilled workers. [126710]

Reply from Mark Harper: Under Tier 2 (skilled worker) and pre-Points Based System equivalents, there were 2,995 refusals (main applicants) in 2010 and correspondingly 1,462 refusals in 2011. This information relates to refusals of entry clearance visas for the skilled workers route (Tier 2 of the Points Based System and pre-PBS equivalents). Some of the refusals may have been for individuals who did not meet the required skill criteria.

Information on whether visa refusals relate to applications by graduates is not available.

Data relating to grants and refusals of visas by Tier, are published in table 'be.01' of the quarterly Home Office statistical release 'Immigration Statistics', available from the Home Office's Science, Research and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/research-statistics/migration/migration-statistics1/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121122/text/121122w0001.htm#12112248000084>

Migration

Christopher Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what (a) financial and (b) other contributions the Government made to support the work of UK international organisations for migration in the last year in which information is available. [124517]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Secretary of State for the Home Office can confirm that financial contributions made by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in financial year 2011-12 consist of the following:

A membership payment to IOM, half of which is paid for by the Department for International Development (DFID), the other half of which is paid by the UK Border Agency.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The amount calculated and invoiced is for calendar years, but the amount calculated due from both parties for the financial year 2011-12 was £1,941,190.34. Payment to IOM for running the UKBA Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) programme in Afghanistan for 2011-12 amounted to £718,635.67. This represents a payment on account for services receivable during the period August 2011 to August 2012.

Payment to IOM for running a Facilitated Return Scheme (FRS) in 2011-12 amounted to £396,176.27. This represents a payment on account for services during the period April 2011 to March 2012.

An amount of £28,978.34 was also paid in financial year 2011-12 in relation to payments for moving refugees.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121122/text/121122w0002.htm#12112248000088>

Student Visas

Pamela Nash: How many student visas [the Home Secretary] expects to be issued in 2013. [128822]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): Our student visa reforms are tackling abuse of the system while protecting universities.

We do not publish forecasts of numbers of grants, but the recently published entry clearance visa statistics for the year to June 2012 show that the number of tier 4 study visas was 214,000. That is a 30% decrease on the year before, mainly from the non-university sector. There is no cap on recruitment to universities and, as I have said, UCAS acceptances of non-EU students are up 4%.

Pamela Nash: I thank the Minister for his answer. He has said that the number of visas granted has gone down. Does he want that trend to continue, or does he agree with me that that will damage any attempt to promote our higher education system as a great British product?

Reply from Mark Harper: As I have said, there is no cap on the number of students going to universities. I want the number of visas granted to people who plan to come to the United Kingdom to abuse our immigration system to go down, which is exactly what has happened. We have got rid of the abuse and we are making sure that our university sector is open for business. I make no apologies for the fact that I have said that three times during questions. We have a good offer for our university sector, and it can make a success of it.

Nicholas Soames: Given the scale of the earlier abuse, does my hon. Friend agree that the integrity of the student visa system depends on interviews? Is he satisfied that there will be sufficient staff at our embassies and consulates overseas to cope with the valued and welcome arrival of students in this country?

Reply from Mark Harper: My right hon. Friend makes a very good point. We have started to do some interviewing in some high-risk countries, which has been very successful and has demonstrated the value of interviewing in certain locations, which allows us to drive out some clear abuse. Where that makes sense, we will continue to do it and will increase our ability to do so.

Chris Bryant: The Prime Minister told students in Dubai ... that there is no limit on international students in the UK, and the Minister has repeated that this afternoon. However, the Migration Advisory Committee states that there will have to be 86,600 fewer students over the next three years if the Government are to meet their target. Who is right? Is Boris Johnson right to say that we are losing a massive business opportunity? Is the director general of the CBI right to say that it is putting people off? Or is the Minister just confused?

Reply from Mark Harper: The hon. Gentleman should understand that we have a

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

net migration target, so those students who come to the UK, study and leave make no contribution to the net migration statistics. Our universities can go out, recruit smart students and educate them and they will make no difference at all to net migration. The Prime Minister is absolutely spot on and I think that it is the hon. Gentleman who is confused, as someone who does not believe in having a net migration target at all.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/debtext/121119-0001.htm#121119700021>

Student Visa System

Marcus Jones: What steps [the Home Secretary's] Department is taking to reform the student visa system; and if she will make a statement. [128816]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): We have overhauled the student visa regime with a series of reforms designed to drive abuse out of the system while improving standards in the sector. As I said in reply to the previous question, we have seen that being successful. The overall number of visas in the part of the sector where there has been abuse is down, but the number of non-EU students accepted into our universities is up. Our universities are very much open for business, and there is no cap on recruitment to them.

Marcus Jones: ... Will my hon. Friend reassure us that his Department will continue to pursue bogus colleges, which for far too long under the previous Labour Government just opened doors for people to come to this country on bogus student visas?

Reply from Mark Harper: I very much agree with my hon. Friend. The point of having student visas is to allow students to come here to study, not to work illegally. We have a very good offer for our higher education sector; students can come here, study and take up work appropriately, and then come here after their studies for post-study work. It is a very good offer. Our good universities should have no trouble converting it into attracting students and saying that they are very much open for business.

Jeremy Corbyn: Will the Minister take this opportunity to wish the international students at London Metropolitan university all the best for their continuing studies there and assure those who have been given one year that they will indeed be allowed to complete the totality of their degree course? Will he confirm that he is having discussions with the university to allow it once more to recruit international students to what is an excellent course of study offered by it?

Reply from Mark Harper: The hon. Gentleman will know that London Metropolitan university did not carry out the obligations it was supposed to under its sponsor licence, yet it was given plenty of notice to do so. He will also know that the legitimate students who were here appropriately have been given the opportunity to stay either to the end of their course or to the end of the academic year. They have all been written to, and all had the opportunity to reply. UKBA is working closely with the university to make sure that those legitimate students are properly protected.

Karl McCartney: I am pleased to hear that the Government are cracking down on the number of bogus students. However, with the closure of the post-study work route, what reassurance can the Minister give me and the House that we are not discouraging bright and capable international students from studying in the UK in the light of the short time frame they are given to find graduate employment? [128837]

Reply from Mark Harper: Those students who are here to study at universities have an opportunity to find graduate level employment for several months after the end of their course. They can then convert their visa into a work visa and stay here after their course. I think that gives bright students every opportunity to do so,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

without letting people stay here to do unskilled work that is not of economic benefit to the United Kingdom.

Nick Raynsford: Does the Minister accept that, while it is entirely right to bear down on abuses in the system, it is widely felt by higher education institutions throughout the United Kingdom that a message is being conveyed to areas such as south-east Asia and China that this country is no longer as welcoming as other European countries to overseas students who wish to study here? Does he recognise that that is potentially very damaging to the long-term health of the UK economy?

Reply from Mark Harper: I can tell the right hon. Gentleman that Ministers take every opportunity—as I have today—to make clear that we have a very good offer to make. The only people whom I ever see quoted in the media saying that the UK is closed for business seem to be people from the education sector. I have pointed out to them directly, and will do so again, that there is a great offer for our university students. They should help us to sell and market Britain abroad, as I take every opportunity to do.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/debtext/121119-0001.htm#1211197000016>

Immigration Controls

Shaun Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process a request to reconsider a decision made on an application for indefinite leave to remain was in each of the last five years. [127456]

Reply from Mark Harper: Where an individual is refused indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom a right of appeal is triggered. For this reason the UK Border Agency (UKBA) does not routinely reconsider cases. As reconsideration is not identified as a specific case type on UKBA databases, the requested statistical data are not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121121/text/121121w0002.htm#12112170000098>

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants received support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [128015]

Reply from Mark Harper: During the second quarter of 2012 there were 1,067 grants of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The total number receiving support under section 4 as at the end of second quarter of 2012 was 2,360.

The number of grants of asylum support under section 4 and the total number supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are published on a quarterly basis. Latest figures are available in Table as.18.q of the release 'Immigration Statistics, April to June 2012' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121121/text/121121w0002.htm#12112170000092>

Asylum Seekers

Stephen Phillips: What plans [the Home Secretary] has to speed up the removal of people refused asylum in the UK. [128820]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): Swift action will be taken against all those who have no lawful permission to remain in the UK. That includes not only failed asylum seekers, but everyone who does not have permission to be here. We are not repeating the last Labour Government's mistake of focusing only on one thing at a time and letting everything else get out of control, which resulted in the situation we inherited when we came to power.

Stephen Phillips: Speaking as a member of the European Scrutiny Committee, I am extraordinarily grateful to my hon. Friend for that answer. He will know that the issue of those who remain in this country illegally is of huge concern to all our constituents. Can he update the House on what action is being taken to deal with it specifically in the east midlands and my constituency?

Reply from Mark Harper: I am grateful to my hon. and learned Friend for that question, and I will enjoy being scrutinised by him, as a member of the European Scrutiny Committee, in due course. I can give him a couple of examples. Obviously, we have conducted enforcement operations in his constituency, and he might also be interested to know that this summer in London Operation Mayapple led to more than 2,000 individuals from the London area without permission to be in the UK leaving the country. The number of enforced overstayer removals is up 21% compared with April to September 2011, and arrests are up 16% this year compared with last year.

Keith Vaz: As the Minister will know, the report published last week by the Home Affairs Committee showed that the current backlog in the UKBA had reached one third of a million cases, which is equivalent to the population of Iceland. While I absolutely accept that this backlog began under the previous Government and was there under successive Governments, it has risen by 25,000 in the last three months. What steps is the Minister going to take to ensure this backlog is cleared, and will he commit to ensuring there are no more bonuses to senior UKBA officials until it is cleared?

Reply from Mark Harper: The right hon. Gentleman—who, of course, chairs the Home Affairs Committee—will know that we inherited 500,000 cases on asylum alone from the previous Government, and we have been diligently working through them. He will also know that that will be the focus of a report in due course. Some of the cases will be closed because we see no evidence that the person concerned is in the country, but others will have to be worked through. I will make sure that there is a clear timetable to work through all of them, to ensure that all the people concerned are given a clear decision and matters are concluded on a timely basis so we can finally clear up the situation we inherited from the previous Government.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/debtext/121119-0001.htm#121119700019>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries failed asylum seekers were returned from the United Kingdom in (1) 2005, (2) 2009, and (3) 2011.[HL3163]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The table below shows the number of failed asylum seekers removed or voluntarily departing from the UK by destination for 2005, 2009 and 2011.

It is not possible within these figures to say what stage in the asylum process individuals have reached at the time of their removal, including whether their claim has failed at that point, as those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage without necessarily notifying the UK Border Agency.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Following a change to the published categories that separated removals and voluntary departures, figures for 2005 and 2009 are not directly comparable with those for 2011. Latest figures for removals and voluntary departures due to be published on Thursday 29 November will include updated figures published under the new categorisation backdated to 2004.

Figures provided are latest published statistics on those removed or voluntarily departing from the UK appearing in Tables rv.06 and rv.06.q of the release, Immigration Statistics: April-June 2012. This is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science, research and statistics web pages: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-tabs-q2-2012/removals-q2-2012-tabs>.

To read the very lengthy table see the link below

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they undertake monitoring of the lives of failed asylum seekers following their deportation from the United Kingdom; and, if so, how.[HL3164]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The UK does not routinely monitor the lives of failed asylum seekers who return to their home country. They are, by definition, foreign nationals who have been found as a matter of law not to need the UK's protection and it would be inconsistent with that finding for the UK to assume an ongoing responsibility for them when they return to their own country.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government to which countries failed asylum seekers are not currently deported by the United Kingdom.[HL3165]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: There are no countries to which the UK Government will not return failed asylum seekers.

At any given time, there may be countries to which the UK Border Agency does not enforce returns due to practical and logistical considerations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121121w0001.htm#12112181001944>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they ensure that deported asylum seekers in need of medical attention are not deported to countries where the necessary medical treatment is not available.[HL3167]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Individuals whose asylum claims have been refused and who require medical treatment which is either unavailable or difficult to access in their countries of origin will not be removed to those countries where this would be inconsistent with our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. Each person in this situation is considered individually, but for removal not to take place, there must be truly compelling humanitarian considerations.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121121w0002.htm>

Asylum Seekers: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they ensure that children under 16 are not deported to countries where they are threatened with harm.[HL3166]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The UK Border Agency does not seek to remove any individual-whether adult or child-unless the agency and the courts are satisfied that they are not at risk of harm on return. All asylum applications are given full consideration within the requirements of the Refugee Convention and the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

European Convention on Human Rights, and by using up to date and wide ranging country specific information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121121w0002.htm#12112181001945>

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were detained under the detained fast track process in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [128699]

Reply from Mark Harper: 2,118 principal applicants were accepted onto the Fast Track process in 2011.

The number of applicants accepted onto the fast track process is published on an annual basis. The latest figures are available in Tables as.11 and as.12 of the release 'Immigration Statistics, April to June 2012' which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q2-2012/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121121/text/121121w0002.htm#12112170000097>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to prevent human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [128828]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government are absolutely committed to tackling human trafficking and punishing the perpetrators of this terrible crime.

We published our human trafficking strategy in July 2011 and the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group report, published on 18 October 2012, provides a current and full assessment of the Government's anti-trafficking efforts across the UK.

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces include anti-human trafficking measures in their strategic assessment; and how many police forces plan to include such measures in such assessments in 2013. [128951]

Reply from Damian Green: Data on local force strategic assessments are not collected centrally. The Government are committed to combating human trafficking and we will work with police and crime commissioners, who will be responsible for setting local policing priorities in 2013, to ensure that the threat of human trafficking is tackled at a local, as well as a national and international, level.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/text/121119w0001.htm#12111923000066>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Virendra Sharma (731) International Migrants Day – That this House acknowledges the contribution that migrants continue to make to this country in all spheres of life; notes that many migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and can face unacceptable levels of abuse; and joins in the celebration of United Nations' International Migrants Day on 18 December 2012 as an opportunity to raise awareness about the contribution and the rights of migrants in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2012-13/731>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **Press Releases**

Request for expressions of interest: Impacts of Tier 1 (Investor) and Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrants on the UK economy (closing date 30 November)
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/home-office-science/eoi-migrants-ukecon-hos12039?view=Binary>

Changes to the Immigration Rules
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/november/35-rules>

Flexible changes to Immigration Rules for the brightest and best
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/brightest-best-changes>

Can't ignore the rights of migrants
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12820&LangID=E>

New Publications

An inspection of the UK Border Agency's handling of legacy asylum and migration cases March – July 2012
<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/UK-Border-Agency-s-handling-of-legacy-asylum-and-migration-cases-22.11.2012.pdf>

The UK Border Agency's response to the report of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration on the handling of legacy asylum and migration cases March – July 2012
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/response.pdf>

News

Lawyers told to give full disclosure in asylum cases
<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/lawyers-told-to-give-full-disclosure-in-asylum-cases-1-2645669>

Asylum seeker houses 'unfit for children'
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-houses-unfit-for-children-8335931.html>

UKBA attacked over 'inaccurate' information given to MPs
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20436013>

Immigration chiefs accused of misleading Parliament after 'devastating' report exposes UK Border Agency incompetence and inefficiency
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-chiefs-accused-of-misleading-parliament-after-devastating-report-exposes-uk-border-agency-incompetence-and-inefficiency-8340845.html>

Meeting your next-door immigrant in the EU
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-20428114>

Migrant and refugee women of the year awards
<http://awards.migrantforum.org.uk/#&panel1-3>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

UK grants highest number of EU citizenships

<http://euobserver.com/justice/118240>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Governance and Communities

Michael McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will review its funding of Stonewall in light of Stonewall giving the Bigot of the Year award to Cardinal O'Brien and nominating Archbishop Tartaglia. (S4W-10933)

Reply from Alex Neil: Stonewall UK's awards are not funded by the Scottish Government.

We provide funding for Stonewall Scotland for its work to tackle inequality in relation to sexual orientation. In the period 2012-15 this has been awarded to Stonewall Scotland to implement its Good Practice Programme. This programme works with public sector organisations to assist them in reducing the discrimination and inequalities experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual staff and service users in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. We have no plans to review this funding.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-10933&ResultsPerPage=10>

Governance and Communities

Michael McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the impact on social cohesion of Stonewall giving Cardinal O'Brien the Bigot of the Year Award. (S4W-10934)

Reply from Alex Neil: As we said when we issued our consultation on same sex marriage last year, we hope that everyone will treat those with different or opposing views with courtesy and respect, in accordance with the very highest standards of democratic discourse. The Scottish Government remains committed to sexual orientation equality and to ensuring religious freedom.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-10934&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Debate

Religion in the United Kingdom

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121122-0003.htm#12112245000890>

Press Release

Religious leaders should promote recognition for all religious and belief communities, participants at OSCE meeting say

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/97433>

Race Relations (continued) News

Stop chasing Roma. Start including them

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2006469&Site=DC&ShowBanner=no&Target=self&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Equality Act 2010

Lord Lester of Herne Hill: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their proposed changes to the Equality Act 2010 will satisfy the principle of non-regression; and whether they will ensure that the changes do not weaken the legal protection of alleged victims of unlawful discrimination, as provided by the previous legislation. [HL3105]

Baroness Stowell of Beeston: On 10 October, the Government published their response to earlier consultations on repealing provisions in the Equality Act 2010 (the Act) concerning harassment by third parties (Section 40(2)-(4)); obtaining information about a possible contravention of the Act (Section 138); and employment tribunals' power to make wider recommendations in discrimination cases (Section 124(3)(b)). Following the consultation, the Government proposed taking forward each of these repeals through a suitable legislative vehicle.

The Government are satisfied that none of these changes constitute a reduction in the level of protection required by the relevant European directives. On the legal protection of alleged victims of discrimination, the Government's view is that none of the measures substantively reduce the protection available under the Act, or under the legislation which preceded the Act.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/121122w0001.htm#12112255000225>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Islam

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on recording Islamophobia as a separate category of hate crime; and if she will make a statement. [127686]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The Government is committed to improving the recording of all hate crimes. We recently published the first set of Official Statistics on hate crimes recorded by the police, which included those crimes motivated by religious hatred. Some police forces capture data on hate crimes against particular faith groups for intelligence purposes, and we would encourage this where it reflects local priorities. However, we also strive to strike the right balance between recording crime to the appropriate national level of detail and imposing new burdens on the police, and as a result have no current plans to mandate that forces have in place specific systems to separately record hate crimes against particular faith groups.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121119/text/121119w0002.htm#12111923000082>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) **Press Release**

Detailed analysis of religious hate crime

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/11/religious23112012>

New Publications

Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2011-12

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00408745.pdf>

Discrimination in the EU in 2012

Report http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_393_en.pdf

Summary http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_393_sum_en.pdf

UK Factsheet http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_393_fact_uk_en.pdf

Factsheets for other EU countries are available from

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_399_380_en.htm#393

Roma people in Europe in the 21st century: violence, exclusion, insecurity

<http://www.aedh.eu/plugins/fckeditor/userfiles/file/Discriminations%20et%20droits%20des%20minorit%C3%A9s/AEDH%20Roma%20REPORT.pdf>

News

Religiously aggravated charges rise

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/religiously-aggravated-charges-rise.19497146>

Rehab scheme urged as religious hate crime in Scotland rises by over 25 per cent

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/rehab-scheme-urged-as-religious-hate-crime-in-scotland-rises-by-over-25-per-cent-1-2653764>

Religious hate crime in Scotland up a quarter

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/9699595/Religious-hate-crime-in-Scotland-up-a-quarter.html>

Domestic abuse and racism sees 10% rise in Scotland despite overall crime reduction

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/domestic-abuse-and-racism-sees-10-rise-in-scotland-despite-overall-crime-reduction-1-2646020>

Number of racist incidents increase by 10%

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/number-of-racist-incident-increase-by-10-x.19475681>

Number of recorded racist incidents up by 10 per cent in year

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/number-of-recorded-racist-incident-up-1446533>

Racism in football: 'Problems still exist at grassroots level'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/20365922>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

Press Release

Referendum Bill Committee unanimously recommends Section 30 Order to Parliament
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/56974.aspx>

New Publication

Scottish Policing Performance Framework: Annual Report 2011-12
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00408644.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Independence Referendum (Electoral Commission)

2. **Bob Blackman:** What role the Electoral Commission will play in the referendum on Scottish independence. [128889]

11. **Karen Lumley:** What role the Electoral Commission will play in the referendum on Scottish independence. [128899]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (Michael Moore): The agreement reached between the United Kingdom and Scottish Governments recognises the importance of the independent Electoral Commission and that the referendum should be based on the normal rules for referendums held across the UK.

Bob Blackman: It is clearly important for all parties to respect the independence of the Electoral Commission. Does my right hon. Friend agree that if the SNP Administration in Scotland were to ignore the commission's advice, that would taint the whole process and call into question whether the referendum was fair?

Reply from Michael Moore: My hon. Friend is right to highlight the expertise and experience of the Electoral Commission, which is indeed a highly respected institution. I do not think that it would be in the interests of the Scottish Government or any nationalists to pit themselves against the commission's advice.

Karen Lumley: Does my right hon. Friend share the concern that the referendum question submitted to the Electoral Commission by the Scottish Government is weighted in favour of a positive outcome?

Reply from Michael Moore: I understand the concern that people feel about the formulation presented by the Scottish Government, but I think that, given its great experience, great expertise and trusted status, the Electoral Commission is in the right position to carry out the right procedures. I am ready to stand by its advice, and I hope that the Scottish Government are too.

Iain Davidson: Does the Secretary of State accept that while the Electoral Commission may be a trifle wishy-washy on occasion, it is necessary for an impartial body to decide important questions such as the question of the question? The alternative is for separatists to be both referee and player, and it is simply unacceptable for the party that is on one side of the argument to decide the rules as well.

Reply from Michael Moore: I entirely agree with the eminent Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee. He and his colleagues have been conducting a series of investigations of that issue and others relating to independence. I believe that

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the referendum must be seen to be fair to both sides. We cannot possibly have folk calling the outcome into question at the end of the process, which is why we have laboured long and hard to secure a referendum that is legal, fair and decisive. I hope that the Scottish Government will accept the Electoral Commission's advice.

Ann McKechin: Given that any proposal to extend the franchise to 16 and 17-year-olds is unlikely to take effect until the spring of 2014, will the Electoral Commission provide advice on how all those young people will be able to register and vote in any referendum?

Reply from Michael Moore: The hon. Lady has raised an important point about the potential extension of the franchise. It will be for the Scottish Government to present detailed proposals, but I imagine that the Electoral Commission will be closely involved in the guidance that is provided for all voters as we approach the referendum.

Eleanor Laing: Yesterday, the gentleman who gave evidence to the Select Committee chaired by the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson) on behalf of the Yes Scotland campaign for separation refused to state categorically that his campaign would abide by the advice of the Electoral Commission. What sanctions can be imposed on a Government, a Parliament or a campaign that blatantly refuses to take the commission's advice?

Reply from Michael Moore: I understand my hon. Friend's anxiety, but this Government and their predecessors have always followed the advice of the Electoral Commission, and I would expect the Scottish Government to do so as well.

Mike Weir: The Secretary of State has just asserted yet again that no Government have ever ignored the advice of the Electoral Commission, and has implied that the Scottish Government might. Far from ignoring the commission's advice, the Scottish Government have yet to receive it. Meanwhile, the right hon. Gentleman's Government have rejected the Electoral Commission's advice on the desirability of referendums on council tax in England. Will he now put the record straight?

Reply from Michael Moore: I hope that I can reassure the hon. Gentleman and help him to calm down. As the Electoral Commissioner John McCormick said on television just the other weekend, "For every referendum that has taken place, the Electoral Commission's advice and question has been accepted."

As for the issue of local government referendums, none has taken place. We have already said that we have reflected on the Electoral Commission's advice, and I shall be presenting proposals on that question very shortly.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121121/debtext/121121-0001.htm#12112171000018>

Female Genital Mutilation

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of female genital mutilation operations carried out in the UK in each of the last three years. [129395]

Reply from Jeremy Browne: The prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK is difficult to estimate because of the hidden nature of the crime and the Home Office has not made an estimate of the number of FGM operations in the last three years.

A study based on 2001 census data suggested that over 20,000 girls under 15 could be at high risk of FGM in England and Wales.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm121122/text/121122w0001.htm#12112248000085>

Other Westminster (continued) Press Releases

Prime Minister's Diwali reception speech

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/transcript-of-the-prime-ministers-diwali-reception-speech/>

Foreign Office Minister has spoken about an independent Scotland in relation to the EU

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=837030882>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

SCVO State of the Sector Survey 2012

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SCVO-State-of-the-Sector-2012-FINAL-1515.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Volunteers wanted for the 2014 Commonwealth Games

<http://volunteer.glasgow2014.com>

The voices of older ethnic minorities and migrants are not heard in Europe

<http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/2012-11-22%20AGE-ENAR%20PR%20older%20minorities%20and%20migrants.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/51531.aspx>

** Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedule 5) Order 2013

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0040/00404790.pdf>

Referendum Bill Committee Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/55799.aspx>

** Social Care (Self-directed Support) Bill

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/56946.aspx>

and

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/56996.aspx>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/SB_12-70.pdf

Bills in Progress (continued) Westminster

Draft Communications Data Bill

Draft Bill as published

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm83/8359/8359.pdf>

** Crime and Courts Bill

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0049/amend/am049-c.htm>

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

[http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/humantraffickingandexploitationfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictims.html)

[13/humantraffickingandexploitationfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictims.html](http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/humantraffickingandexploitationfurtherprovisionsandsupportforvictims.html)

Small Charitable Donations Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

The UK Government's new approach to consultation

(closing date 30 November 2012)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/secondary-legislation-scrutiny-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/consultations/>

Review of the impact of ending employment restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals on the agriculture and food processing sectors

(closing date 18 January 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/call-saw-sbs.pdf>

** Scottish Parliament: post-legislative scrutiny (closing date 25 January 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/Call_for_views.pdf

Parliamentary inquiry into new family migration rules (closing date 31 January 2013)

<http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/family-inquiry>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Equality Strategy

(closing date 9 February 2012)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/tell-us-what-you-think/>

National Action Plan for Human Rights (closing date 29 March 2013)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/actionplan/participatesnap>

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>

Consultations (continued)

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

Engagement of PTAs and Parent Councils with parents from ethnic minority communities (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JQVRK5R>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

'Communities Together: Build a Bridge'

26 November 2012 in Glasgow (4.00 – 6.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide event organisers with information about the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2013: 'Communities Together: Build a Bridge'. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk

**** this week!**

Training to support survivors of sexual violence

26 November 2012 in Edinburgh

11 February 2013 in Dundee

Shakti and Rape Crisis Scotland training for staff and volunteers within minority ethnic organisations. For information contact Ola 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk.

**** this week!**

Meet the Charity Regulator

27 November 2012 in Stirling (10.00 – 4.00: public session)

27 November 2012 in Stirling (1.45 – 4.00: charity session)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events for the public, explaining how charities must operate and report to the Regulator, and for charity trustees, highlighting how charities can work with the regulator to meet challenges they face. For information see [http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-stirling-\(public-session\)/](http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-stirling-(public-session)/) (Stirling) and [http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-paisley-\(charity-session\)/](http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/meet-the-charity-regulator/meet-the-charity-regulator-paisley-(charity-session)/)

**** this week!**

Equality issues in the Forth Valley

28 November 2012 in Stirling (2.00 – 4.00)

30 November 2012 in Falkirk (1.30 – 5.00)

Central Scotland Regional Equality Council events in partnership with Forth Valley public sector service providers to inform people about new equality legislation, and explain what setting equality outcomes actually means to people in Forth Valley and how communities can contribute to and influence this process. For information contact Gillian Currie 01324 610 950 / gillian.currie@centralscotlandrec.org.uk.

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Becoming a charity and choosing the right legal form

29 November 2012 in Inveraray (10.00-12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training to take an in depth look at the pros and cons of registering as a charity, and explain the various legal forms available, including the new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) structure. For information see <http://www.scvo.org.uk/oscr/oscr-outreach-becoming-a-charity/>

**** this week!**

Working with interpreters

29 November 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course for those who work with non-English speaking service users, including asylum seekers and refugees, who need a comprehensive understanding of how to work with interpreters. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/9fs8ae5> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Equality in employment

29 November 2012 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

GCVS training to provide practical tips and explanations to help organisations meet their legal and ethical responsibilities. Issues covered include recruitment, monitoring and dignity at work, and issues around equality in volunteering. For information see http://www.gcv.org.uk/whats_on/1507_equality_in_employment

**** this week!**

Freedom to Practice Religion

30 November 2012 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 11.00)

Interfaith Week discussion on how far religious freedoms should extend, which follows on from recent debates surrounding religious groups' rights to maintain traditional practices such as carrying and wearing symbols or articles of clothing central to their faith (e.g. kirpan, hijab, crucifix). For information contact Frances Hume fhume@scottishinterfaithcouncil.org.

**** this week!**

Scottish Parliament Family Day

1 December 2012 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00 – 5.00)

To mark St Andrew's Day the Scottish Parliament has a range of special free events for families and visitors. For information see

<http://scottish.parliament.uk/PublicInformationdocuments/FamilyDay091112.pdf>

**** this week!**

Words Per Minute: Home

2 December 2012 in Glasgow (4.00 – 6.00)

Scottish Refugee Council event featuring live music, stories, short film and new writing, all looking at what 'home' means in relation to refugee experiences. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/d7pzig77> or contact Suzi Simpson 0141 223 7939 /

suzi.simpson@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

The essentials of asylum: understanding what causes refugees to flee and the process of seeking protection

4 December 2012 in Glasgow (1.00 – 4.30)

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 / <http://tinyurl.com/c8w7nha>

Racist Incident Reporting in Scotland's Schools

5 December 2012 in Glasgow (2.30)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights report launch examining statistics and policies from Scotland's Local Authorities to explore how the racist incident reporting system operates and whether it meets its potential as a tool to combat racism in schools. For information contact Nadia Rafiq 0141 418 6530 / nadia@crer.org.uk.

Bridges to Change

5 December 2012 in East Renfrewshire (6.00 – 8.30)

Voluntary Action conference to identify local equality priorities. For information contact Linda McCullagh 0141 876 9555 / Linda.McCullagh@va-er.org.uk.

The housing journey from seeking asylum to settling in Scotland

13 December 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 / <http://tinyurl.com/9lca9cq>

**** Mainstreaming Equalities**

16 January – 20 March 2013 in Glasgow

deadline for applications: 7 January 2013

Institute of Leadership and Management training to support voluntary sector organisations to develop capacity on mainstreaming equality. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/13i-iii_equalities.pdf or contact John Robertson 0141 332 2444 / john.robertson@gcvs.org.uk.

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

25 January 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council training to identify fundamental issues facing asylum seekers and refugees today, and highlighting current legislation and entitlements. Reduced fees available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/cn3znfi> or contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / <http://tinyurl.com/burro73>

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

28 January 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30) and 29 January 2013 (9.30 – 12.30)

25 February 2013 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30) and 26 February 2013 (9.30 – 12.30)

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

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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

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

[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.