

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish Parliament website has recently been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on the Scottish Parliament website, copy the details from MEMO into the search facility at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/searchadvanced.aspx>.

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The UK Parliament is prorogued until 8 May 2013.

Prorogation is the period between the end of one session of Parliament and the State Opening of Parliament that begins the next session.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debate

Immigration (Bulgaria and Romania)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130422/halltext/130422h0001.htm#13042225000001>

Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (Amendment)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130423/debtext/130423-0001.htm#13042358000002>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

British Citizenship

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 6 February (WA 58), why the revised Life in the UK Test was launched on 25 March when the revised practice questions and answers book and separate study guide were published on 28 March.[HL6694]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Life in the UK test is based on the handbook *Life in the UK: a guide for new residents* which was published on 28 January 2013, eight weeks before the new test was launched on 25 March 2013. The handbook contains all the information necessary to pass the test.

The Stationery Office (TSO) produces a study guide and a practice question and answer book, which supplement the handbook. These are not Home Office publications, although the Home Office is aware of their content and has confirmed their accuracy. TSO needed to check the content of these companion products against the official handbook after its publication to ensure they were of greatest use to the reader, and used its best endeavours to publish as soon as possible.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 6 February (WA 58), what evidence will be required as proof of English proficiency for applicants taking the Life in the UK Test from October 2013.[HL6695]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: From October 28 2013, applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK or naturalisation as British citizens will be required to pass the Life in the UK test and have an intermediate level English language speaking and listening qualification. Details of the new requirements, including acceptable qualifications, are contained in the statement of intent *Knowledge of language and life in the UK for settlement and naturalisation*, which was published on 8 April 2013 and is available in the House Library and at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/knowledge-of-language-and-life-in-the-uk-for-settlement-and-naturalisation-statement-of-intent>.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001062>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government what statistics they keep on visitors and other categories of people staying beyond the time allowed on their visa; how many visitors were estimated to have overstayed in the last year for which figures are available; what action they are taking to return those who do overstay; and whether they will introduce a security bond system for those from high-risk countries to reduce the level of such illegal immigration. [HL6521]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): We do not collect the data requested. Overstayers who come to our attention are put through a removals process. Where appropriate, we promote voluntary departure. Capita have been contracted to assist with contact management and delivering more voluntary departure case outcomes. Otherwise we will enforce removal. With fingerprints now recorded with every visa application, establishing identity for the purpose of removal is becoming simpler. We have also changed the Immigration Rules to make it clear where the balance lies between family life and the public interest in removal. We have split the UK Border Agency to create a new, dedicated immigration enforcement directorate within the Home Office which will strengthen enforcement action.

We are taking further action to protect public benefits and services from

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

overstayers. Additionally, the details of identified overstayers are shared with CIFAS, the UK's fraud prevention service, to deny them access to financial services.

As the Deputy Prime Minister referenced in his immigration speech on 22 March 2013, and the Home Secretary has previously announced, we are considering the possibility of a bonds scheme to incentivise compliance, particularly by visa applicants who might overstay their visa.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0002.htm#13042232001133>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are in place to ensure that pensioners in the UK who are EU nationals have (a) comprehensive health cover and (b) sufficient income to live without needing income support before being allowed to enter or remain resident in the UK. [150710]

Reply from Mark Harper: All EU nationals, including pensioners, have a right of admission and residence in the UK for an initial period of three months.

An EU national who remains in the UK beyond the initial period of three months as a self-sufficient person (which would apply to pensioners) is required to hold comprehensive sickness insurance and sufficient resources to prevent themselves and any family members from becoming an unreasonable burden on the social assistance system of the UK.

In such cases, strict checks are made to ensure that the requirements set out in the regulations are met. It is not desirable to state the exact nature of these checks as such disclosure may enable immigration offenders to circumvent our checking processes and prejudice the operation and integrity of our immigration controls, but these include checks on whether the EU national is exercising free movement rights in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130423/text/130423w0001.htm#13042399000035>

Healthcare: Migrants

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what access economically inactive migrants have to health and social care; and whether they have any plans for reform in that area.[HL6690]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): Economically inactive migrants can access National Health Service healthcare but can expect to be charged for NHS hospital treatment unless they are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or exempt from charges under regulations. If chargeable, they will have to pay the full amount prior to treatment unless their need is urgent or immediate, in which case payment may take place afterwards. The department has concluded the initial phase of a major review of charging visitors and migrants for NHS care. We will consult on proposals for change shortly.

For social care, it is for each local authority to determine if they have a duty to provide social care to an individual, taking account of all circumstances and the relevant facts. There are currently no plans to make any changes in this area.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130424w0001.htm#13042456000148>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Children

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to prevent harm to children held indefinitely in immigration detention centres and separated from their parents.[HL6736]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Government do not hold children indefinitely in immigration detention centres and separated from their parents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130425w0001.htm#13042559000595>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 12 March (WA 48), what financial support is available to asylum seekers while their cases are being decided. [HL6547]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Asylum seekers who are destitute can apply to the Home Office for support. The support usually consists of accommodation and a weekly allowance to meet the person's essential living needs. However, persons who have found their own accommodation, for example through friends or relatives, can apply for the weekly allowance only.

The table below sets out the current weekly allowances provided to asylum seekers and various categories of dependants that may also be supported.

Levels of cash support from 18 April 2011	
	£
<i>Single person</i>	
Aged 18 or over (excluding lone parent)	36.62
Aged 25 years or over (excluding lone parent), where the decision to provide cash support was made before 5 October 2009 and the person reached age 25 prior to that date.	42.62
<i>Qualifying couples</i>	
Both 18 years or over	72.52
<i>Lone parent age 18 or over</i>	
Age 18 or over	43.94
<i>Personal allowance for dependent children</i>	
Person aged under 16	52.96
Person aged 16 but under 18 (except where the person is a member of a Qualifying Couple)	39.80

In addition, asylum seekers who have young children aged between one and three years are eligible to receive an extra £3 per week per child. Children aged less than one year attract an extra £5 per week per child. Asylum seekers can also apply for a maternity payment of £300 to help with the costs arising from the birth of a child.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what, if any, reduction there has been in the number of caseworkers interviewing and processing asylum applications in the past 12 months; and what assessment they have made of the impact of any such reduction on the quality and speed at which asylum claims are processed.[HL6682]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The information required on caseworker numbers in the now former agency, henceforth referred to as the Home Office, is not held in a format compatible with the request. However the Home Office does publish data against 15 key performance measures. Specifically, asylum intake;

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

work in progress (WiP) cases; intake; asylum support costs; productivity; asylum unit cost; initial decisions in 30 days; cases concluded in six months; cases concluded in 12 months; cases concluded in 35 months; cases removed in 12 months; decision quality; appeal representation rate; appeal win rate; and asylum grant rate.

Our most recent published statistics on speed and quality of decisions are at the link below:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/asylum-performancel.xls?view=Binary>.

The statistics show an asylum system which is performing steadily on quality and speed. On speed, although performance on initial decisions within 30 days fell slightly in FY11-12, conclusions overall are performing well:

asylum cases concluded within 12 months (up from 56% in FY 10-11, to 63% in FY 11-12); asylum cases concluded within 36 months (up from 63% in FY 10-11, to 70% in FY 11-12); and asylum cases concluded within six months steady at 53% in FYs 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Decision quality also rose from 88% in financial year FY 2010-11 to 89% in FY 2011-12.

To build on this, and further improve performance, the Home Office is implementing a new asylum operating model. This will see caseworkers concentrated in a smaller number of casework hubs with greater co-ordination and specialisation. Ahead of this, the Asylum Casework Directorate has initiated a national performance drive across all regional offices which is expected to show further improved performance in the next set of figures to be published.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what benefits have been realised from co-operation between the UK Border Agency and Asylum Aid on the Right First Time project.[HL6683]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Right First Time pilot was one of a number of recent initiatives in which the Home Office and refugee groups have worked together to make improvements to the asylum system.

Recommendations resulting from the pilot were not rolled out nationally following the conclusion of the pilot. However, findings from the project will be reviewed afresh in conjunction with the Early Legal Advice pilot evaluation, which is due to be published shortly. We will then consider whether further improvements can be made to the asylum system based on the lessons learnt and information gained from both pilots.

Lord Marlesford: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens who have served the British military or other British government body in Afghanistan have applied for asylum or residence in the United Kingdom in each of the last six years; and how many have been given permission to remain in the United Kingdom.[HL6714]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Information about the previous occupations of asylum applicants can be provided only by examining individual case records, which would incur disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001053>

Asylum Seekers: Homosexuality

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 12 March (WA 56), how many homosexual individuals have been removed to countries where homosexuality is or was a criminal offence since 2003, regardless of whether there is or was "no real risk of persecution or of the authorities taking action against gay people in such countries".[HL6544]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): This information is not available. The sexual orientation of asylum applicants is not formally recorded for management information purposes, although the sexual orientation of the individual would of course be taken into account should it be relevant to their asylum claim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001054>

Asylum: Repatriation

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the (a) nationality and (b) gender was of each person assisted to return home under the Assisted Voluntary Return Scheme operated by Refugee Action on (i) 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 and (ii) 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012; and to which country each such person was returned. [151839]

Reply from Mark Harper: Three male individuals from Albania, Bangladesh and India were returned to their home countries respectively under the Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) scheme on 31 December 2012 run by Refugee Action. There were no AVR's on 1 January 2011, 31 December 2011 or 1 January 2012. The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures are available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: October to December 2012, tables rv.01 to rv.08, from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Science website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2012/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2012>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130424/text/130424w0001.htm#13042470000010>

Deportation: EU Nationals

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals challenged deportation orders in each of the last five years; and how many such challenges were (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful. [151154]

Reply from Mark Harper: The requested data is shown in the following table:

<i>Year appeal lodged</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of appeals lodged	112	150	260	272	373	1,167
<i>Of which:</i>						
Successful (appeal allowed)	38	54	117	129	132	470
Unsuccessful (appeal dismissed)	39	60	83	75	109	366

(a) All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

(b) Data relates to appeals lodged between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012.

(c) Appeal outcomes may have been reached in years subsequent to the year the appeal was lodged or may remain outstanding. Appeals awaiting an outcome are not shown in the table above.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130424/text/130424w0001.htm#13042470000014>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Human Trafficking

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the children referred by the UK Border Agency in 2012 to the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking first arrived in the United Kingdom on a document with a visa.[HL6264]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Of the 98 potential child-trafficking cases referred into the National Referral Mechanism by the UK Border Agency and Border Force in 2012, 29 can be matched to a UK visa.

Figures relate to cases where the applicant was under 18 years old at the time of referral. This data is based on UK Border Agency and Serious Organised Crime Agency management information and as such has not been quality-assured as part of the production of National Statistics outputs. It is provisional and subject to change.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many of the children referred by the UK Border Agency in 2012 to the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking have had their cases referred to the police for child abuse or human trafficking-related investigations.[HL6266]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Ninety-eight potential child-trafficking cases were referred into the National Referral Mechanism by the UK Border Agency and Border Force in 2012. All 98 cases were referred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and in 60 cases an additional referral was made to a local police team. Figures relate to cases where the applicant was deemed to be under 18 years old at the time of referral. This data is based on UK Border Agency and Serious Organised Crime Agency management information and as such has not been quality-assured as part of the production of National Statistics outputs. It is provisional and subject to change.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Vietnamese, (2) Nigerian, and (3) Chinese, children have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since it was launched in 2009.[HL6363]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: A breakdown of Vietnamese, Nigerian and Chinese minors referred to the National Referral Mechanism since April 2009 can be found in the following table. This information has been compiled by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

	2009*	2010	2011	2012	Total
Vietnamese	34	49	61	96	240
Nigerian	12	29	25	67	133
Chinese	21	15	10	20	66

* Data provided from April to December 2009.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many calls have been made to the UK Border Agency hotline since it was launched in October 2011 regarding human trafficking concerns about individuals on aeroplanes before they have landed in the United Kingdom.[HL6364]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Border Force operates a discreet internal reporting line to enable external law enforcement partner agencies to pass border-related intelligence into Border Force. This line has been made available to two trusted partners in the airline industry to help them report human trafficking concerns and we are working with others in the industry to extend this.

Since the launch of the human trafficking airline initiative in October 2011, the line has received three calls from airlines that have identified trafficking concerns onboard flights bound for the UK. By its nature, human trafficking is a covert crime and difficult to spot. However, the training provided to cabin crew to date has

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

increased awareness and the likelihood that any indicators evident during flight will be recognised.

The data is based on management information and as such has not been quality-assured as part of the production of National Statistics outputs. It is provisional and subject to change.

Lord Harris of Haringey: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Stowell of Beeston on 21 March (Official Report, col. 669-72), how many people were referred to the National Referral Mechanism in each of the last three years; and of those, how many were (1) women, (2) children or (3) deported to their country of origin.[HL6512]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The table below details the number of referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in the past three calendar years and how many of them were subsequently removed from the United Kingdom.

Year	Total Referrals	Women	Children	Enforced Removal
2010	710	400	186	17
2011	946	461	297	35
2012	1186	575	372	40

The majority of those subject to enforced removal were found not to be victims of trafficking after consideration in the NRM. In the three year period there were less than five enforced removals where there was a NRM conclusive decision that the individual was a victim of trafficking.

The annual removals figures are not directly comparable with NRM annual referral figures, as the former relate to the year of removal, whereas the latter relate to the number of National Referral Mechanism referrals received in that year. All enforced removal figures provided have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to implement a central system to record data on what happens to trafficked children after referral to the National Referral Mechanism, in particular whether they are a victim or a witness or subsequently go missing.[HL6586]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government are committed to safeguarding victims of child trafficking. Those that come into care are allocated a social worker who will assess their needs and draw up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to these. Local authorities hold a range of data locally on their looked after children, and there are currently no plans to implement a central system of recording with regard to trafficked children.

The Government are committed to understanding the experiences of trafficking children while in local authority care. We are funding a scoping study to get a better understanding of how child trafficking policies are operating in practice. We are also taking steps to improve the quality and consistency of data on when and why children go missing from care.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect a child trafficking strategic threat assessment report to be published by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.[HL6587]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The UK Human Trafficking Centre is compiling the 2012 strategic threat assessment for human trafficking to be published in the summer. This will cover both adults and children.

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government who will hold responsibility for the prevention of child trafficking when the National Crime Agency starts operations in October 2013.[HL6589]

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Human Trafficking will remain the responsibility of the UK Human Trafficking Centre, which will be part of the National Crime Agency. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre will continue to lead on all cases involving sexual exploitation of children, including where elements of trafficking may be present, within the UK.

Baroness Doocoy: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the problem of trafficking of Vietnamese children, in the light of no convictions for the trafficking of Vietnamese children since 2009 despite Vietnamese children accounting for a quarter of all referrals of child trafficking.[HL6590]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The first report of the inter-departmental ministerial group (IDMG) on human trafficking, published as a Command Paper (Cm 8421) on 18 October 2012, recognised Vietnam as a key source country. The UK actively supports and participates in international efforts to disrupt human trafficking networks that can lead to investigations and prosecutions overseas. The UK will continue to monitor Vietnam.

Baroness Doocoy: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Nigerian children have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since April 2009; and what percentage of those children have received a positive conclusive grounds decision.[HL6591]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Data from the UK Human Trafficking Centre show that, as of 27 March 2013, 160 potential child victims of trafficking with a declared country of origin of Nigeria had been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since April 2009. 44 individuals (27.5%) have received a positive conclusive grounds decision. Fifty-seven cases are awaiting positive reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds decisions.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to end human trafficking following the first annual report of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking.[HL6691]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government continue to strengthen the UK's efforts to combat human trafficking, through their human trafficking strategy and with direction and oversight from the inter-departmental ministerial group (IDMG) on human trafficking. Through its annual report, the IDMG will assess trends, work with civil society organisations and make recommendations continually to test, reinforce and strengthen the UK's approach to tackling this crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0002.htm#13042232001103>

Press Releases

Supporting victims of trafficking

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supporting-victims-of-trafficking>

Hidden nature of human trafficking revealed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hidden-nature-of-human-trafficking-revealed>

New asylum rules: better protection for refugees seeking shelter in EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20130419STO07452/html/New-asylum-rules-better-protection-for-refugees-seeking-shelter-in-EU>

Civil Liberties Committee backs plan to improve asylum procedures

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130422IPR07521/html/Civil-Liberties-Committee-backs-plan-to-improve-asylum-procedures>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

MEPs back deal with Council on police access to asylum seekers' fingerprints

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20130422IPR07522/html/MEPs-back-deal-with-Council-on-police-access-to-asylum-seekers'-fingerprints>

Get your school involved with Simple Acts for Refugee Week Scotland 2013!

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_week_scotland/blog/s/1977_get_your_school_involved_with_simple_acts_for_refugee_week_scotland_2013

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/191900/asylum-feb2013.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/191928/child-detention-mar2013.ods

Independent Chief Inspector of Border and Immigration: Inspection Plan for 2013-14

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Inspection-Plan-2013-14-FINAL.pdf>

Fractured Childhoods: the separation of families by immigration detention

<http://www.biduk.org/download.php?id=236>

One step forward, two steps back: Evaluating the institutions of British immigration policymaking

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2013/04/one-step-forward_immigration-institutions_Apr2013_10679.pdf

News

Polls: No indication of huge Romanian-Bulgarian influx

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22221841>

Bulgaria ambassador hits out at UKIP poll 'propaganda'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22238575>

Thousands of Romanians and Bulgarians could head to Britain in 2014 to look for work

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/thousands-of-romanians-and-bulgarians-could-head-to-britain-in-2014-to-look-for-work-8585166.html>

Poll stokes fears over influx of EU migrants

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/poll-stokes-fears-over-influx-of-eu-migrants-1-2905489>

Bulgarians and Romanians won't flock to Britain, say ambassadors

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/apr/23/romania-bulgaria-immigration-uk>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Why immigration polls are not to be trusted

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/apr/22/eu-bulgaria-romania-immigration-poll-bogus-statistics>

Diplomats: Up to 35,000 Bulgarians and Romanians will come to UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22271313>

Will parliament speak up for asylum seekers?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/apr/23/parliament-speak-up-asylum-seekers>

Crime doesn't rise in high immigration areas – it falls, says study

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/apr/28/immigration-impact-crime>

Tory MP urges 20-year ban for migrants who abuse visas

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22254444>

Call for tighter laws on human trafficking

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/call-for-tighter-laws-on-human-trafficking-1.86223>

Scheme for young asylum seekers 'could be model for UK'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-22310696>

EU unveils plans to help migrant workers

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-22318291>

New single force 'gives police the power to tackle human-traffickers in Scotland'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3745658.ece>

Edinburgh's Lord Provost calls for an end to refugee destitution

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/1975_edinburgh_s_lord_provost_calls_for_an_end_to_refugee_destitution

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Adoption

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many transracial adoptions were effected in England in (1) 2010, (2) 2011, and (3) 2012.[HL6112]

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many same-race adoptions were effected in England in (1) 2010, (2) 2011, and (3) 2012.[HL6113]

To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the failure rates for (1) transracial, and (2) same-race, adoptions.[HL6114]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash):

The Department for Education does not collect data which could tell us whether a child is adopted by parents of the same or a different ethnicity. Information is available on the ethnicity of looked-after children who are adopted but information on the ethnicity of adopters is not collected by the department. The attached table 1 shows the number of looked-after children adopted by ethnicity for each year from 2010.

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

This information has been taken from Table E1 of the Statistical First Release "Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers)-year ending 31 March 2012". This Statistical First Release can be found on the department's website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/a00213762/children-looked-after-las-england>

Copies of this report will be placed in the House Libraries.

In November 2012, Ofsted published a statistical release which contains information on the ethnicity of adopters. The number of adopters approved in the year 2011-12 by ethnicity can be found in section C of the "Adoption quality assurance and data form 2011-12" available at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/adoption-quality-assurance-and-data-forms-2011-12-first-statistical-release>

Copies of this report will be placed in the House Libraries.

The Department for Education does not currently collect information on adoption breakdowns but has recently commissioned research to understand better the number and causes of adoption breakdowns. This research is expected to be published in early 2014. Current research does not support the idea that adoptions will be more likely to break down if there is no ethnic match. It suggests that disruption rates are much the same and there are few differences in most psychosocial outcomes, including self-esteem for children placed with prospective adopters who are an ethnic match and for those without an ethnic match¹.

Information on the number of children who return to care following a breakdown of a previous adoption will be collected for the first time in 2014; however, the data will not include any information on the ethnicity of adoptive parents. The failure rates for (1) transracial and (2) same race adoptions will not therefore be available from this new data collection.

¹*Pathways to Permanence for children of black, Asian and mixed ethnicity: dilemmas, decision-making and outcomes*, Selwyn J et al. (2010)

Table 1: Looked-after children who were adopted during the years ending 31 March by ethnic origin^{1, 2}								
Years ending 31 March 2010 to 2012								
Coverage: England								
		Numbers			Percentages			Numbers and percentages
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	
All looked-after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March		3,200	3,090	3,450	100	100	100	
Ethnic origin		3,200	3,090	3,450	100	100	100	
	White	2,670	2,600	2,930	83	84	85	
	Mixed	350	320	330	11	10	10	
	Asian or Asian British	50	60	60	2	2	2	
	Black or Black British	100	80	90	3	2	3	
	Other ethnic groups	20	20	30	1	1	1	
	Other ³	10	20	20	-	-	1	

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Source: SSDA 903

1. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
2. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
3. "Other" comprises information refused or not yet available which was collected for the first time in 2009.
- Negligible. Percentage below 0.5%.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001047>

Fostering

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the relative effectiveness of transracial and same-race fostering of black and minority ethnic children; and what evidence has been used in any such assessment.[HL6115]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): There has been no specific assessment made of the relative effectiveness of transracial and same-race fostering of black and minority ethnic children.

Children requiring foster care come from a wide range of backgrounds, and the Government are committed to encouraging people from all backgrounds and walks of life to come forward to foster children, whatever their ethnic background.

When placing a child in foster care, the local authority must give due consideration to the child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background. These factors should be considered in the context of the full range of the child's needs, in order to determine the most appropriate placement to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001092>

New Publication

The Integration Consensus: 1993–2013: How Britain changed since Stephen Lawrence

<http://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/IntegrationConsensus.pdf>

News

Multiculturalism has won the day. Let's move on

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/22/multiculturalism-won-uk-move-on>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Gypsies and Travellers

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to address the significant disparity between the educational attainment of Gypsy, Roma and

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Traveller pupils at secondary schools and that of the general population; and what evidence they have as to the effectiveness of those steps.[HL6518]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): In 2012, the Department for Communities and Local Government published a ministerial working group progress report on Gypsies and Travellers on tackling the inequalities they face around education, health, criminal justice, planning and access to benefits and financial services. Six of these were education commitments.

Three of the education commitments have been met. The virtual head teachers' pilots and the exclusions trials are both in progress and are due to report in 2014 and 2015 respectively. The consultation on whether to repeal Section 444(6) of the Education Act 1996 ended on 22 February and the results are currently being analysed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0002.htm#13042232001098>

Education Act 1996

Baroness Whitaker: To ask Her Majesty's Government what account they will take in their consideration of the repeal of Section 444(b) of the Education Act 1996 of the case for providing opportunities for distance learning for the children of travelling families to enable them to receive an improved education.[HL6118]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools (Lord Nash): We have consulted on whether to repeal Section 444(6) of the Education Act 1996, which provides a defence for travelling families in certain circumstances if their children are absent from school. This consultation has now closed and we are reviewing all the responses we have received, including those about distance learning.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001079>

EU: Roma Communities

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to engage in dialogue with the European Union in order to address the issues encountered by Roma communities both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.[HL6598]

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): The Government work closely with the European Commission and other EU member states on issues relating to Roma. For example, the Department for Communities and Local Government represented the UK at meetings of National Roma Contact Points in October 2012 and March 2013, which were chaired by the European Commission, and brought together officials from all the EU member states. The National Roma Contact Points were set up following the EU's adoption of Council conclusions on national Roma integration strategies in 2011 and are responsible for co-ordinating national efforts to improve the situation for Roma communities, for tracking the progress made under the national Roma integration strategy and for reporting to the European Commission.

We have also supported initiatives of other international organisations such as that of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe which hosted a round table last September to discuss "Overcoming barriers to integration of migrant, minority and Roma and Sinti women into their communities and into society as a whole". Also, government representatives and education experts on the Council of Europe Roma experts' group visited the Czech Republic and Slovakia to look at

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

inclusive education in 2012 and arrangements were made for the Council of Europe's Roma mediator training programme to come to the UK.

Central to our international efforts to combat discrimination against Roma communities are our embassies in central and eastern Europe. In the Czech Republic, our embassy, working with colleagues from Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia, as well as local non-governmental organisations, organised a day of events last year to highlight positive role models from Roma communities and to consider how best to promote positive images of Roma through the media.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422w0001.htm#13042232001087>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Question

Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

Siobhan McMahon: To ask the Scottish Government how many convictions there have been under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4O-2044)

Reply from Roseanna Cunningham: Between 1 March and 31 December 2012, proceedings in relation to 64 charges had been concluded under section 1 of the Offensive Behaviour and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. Fifty four charges were convicted (84%). During the same time period, proceedings in relation to four charges had been concluded under section 6 of the Act, with 1 charge convicted (25%).

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4O-02044&ResultsPerPage=10>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-06331 Mary Fee: Remembering Stephen Lawrence, 20th Anniversary—That the Parliament expresses, with support from BEMIS, its sympathy and solidarity with Doreen and Neville Lawrence and, in particular, its admiration for the life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, whom it considers an inspiring young man who, 20 years ago, was cruelly murdered in a horrifying racist attack in south-east London in April 1993; welcomes what it considers the continuing excellent and inclusive work of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, which, since 1998, has supported young people from diverse, disadvantaged backgrounds to help them to break the social and economic barriers in employment, education and training particularly in Stephen's chosen profession of architecture and urban design, and commits to secure in 2013 and beyond what it sees as the legislative legacy from the inquiry by Sir William Macpherson into matters arising from his death, namely the principle that public authorities relentlessly try to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good community relations, as currently reflected in the public sector equality duty in the Equality Act 2010.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-06331&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Castes

William Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what the policy of her Department is on placing discrimination on the grounds of caste on an equal footing as other discrimination on the grounds of race under section 9(5) of the Equality Act 2010; and if she will bring forward legislative proposals to that end. [151220]

Reply from Helen Grant: The UK Government thinks that no-one should suffer prejudice or discrimination. Such behaviour is wrong and should not be condoned whether or not it is prohibited by legislation. This is a deeply complex issue but we have not seen any evidence so far that suggests that legislation is the most appropriate way of dealing with caste discrimination, to the extent that this exists in Britain.

The current Government is the first Government to address the issue of caste discrimination. A written ministerial statement of 1 March 2013, *Official Report*, columns 39-40WS, announced an educational initiative with the Hindu and Sikh communities on the complex and sensitive issue of caste prejudice.

William Bain: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what assessment she has made of the compatibility of the current law on racial discrimination in the UK with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in respect of (a) discrimination on grounds of caste and (b) other matters. [151510]

Reply from Helen Grant: The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination refers to racial discrimination as being based on "race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin".

The convention places no obligation on states to incorporate it into domestic law and the UK has not done so. The Government understands its obligation under the convention to take all necessary measures to ensure that the law and practice of the UK fully respects and implements all the provisions of the convention. The Government is confident that it has done so and continues to do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130424/text/130424w0001.htm#13042469000033>

Police: Racism

Lord Clinton-Davis: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the allegation made by the Metropolitan Black Police Association that the Metropolitan Police Service is institutionally racist.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, the Government do not believe that the Metropolitan Police Service is still institutionally racist. It has worked hard to improve relations with communities and the representativeness of its workforce since the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. The commissioner has been clear that he will not tolerate racists in the force, and has publicly stated his determination to ensure that the force looks more like the community that it serves.

Lord Clinton-Davis: I thank the Minister for that reply. The Metropolitan Black Police Association has made very serious allegations to the effect that the Metropolitan Police is still institutionally racist, 20 years after the infamous Lawrence case. It has referred to the wholly disproportionate number of stop-and-search cases involving the black and Asian communities compared with the white. What is being done to address this alleged-repeat "alleged"-situation?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: My right honourable friend Damian Green, the Minister for Policing, recently met the National Black Police Association to discuss its concerns about race in policing and offered to work in partnership with the College of Policing because, as noble Lords will know, that new institution will be important in strategies such as this. There have been suggestions that

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

elements in policing, as with other institutions, still sustain racist attitudes, but it is clear from the comments of the commissioner of the MPS, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, that he is determined, and he is supported by the Government in this regard, to stamp it out.

Lord Waddington: My Lords, does this not come close to the pot calling the kettle black? What could be more institutionally racist than insisting on having a black police association?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: For my part, I am reassured that any drivers that ensure that the police more fully reflect the communities that they serve must be a good thing, so I cannot join with my noble friend in this regard. A lot of progress has been made in increasing the number of police officers from BME backgrounds but there are still too few, and there are still too few in the higher ranks of the police force. I hope that one of the considerations of the direct entry scheme will be to ensure that some of the higher levels of the policing profession are from British minority ethnic backgrounds.

Lord Harris of Haringey: My Lords, can the Minister tell us how many senior officers of ACPO rank there are from black and minority ethnic communities as a proportion of the total? Can he also say what steps will be taken to ensure that individuals who come in by direct entry from those communities are not set up to fail because they will not have been through the normal ranks structure?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Of course, that hazard would apply to any candidate. However, I am confident about that policy and I believe it will enhance the policing profession. I have some figures here. There are 6,604 BME officers in the 43 forces in England and Wales, representing 5% of total police officer strength. The proportion of those of chief inspector rank or **25 Apr 2013 : Column 1528** above is only 3.7%. I think that bears out the point that the noble Lord is making, one with which I do not disagree. There are too few at that level.

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, I thank the Minister for a very helpful Answer. Does he not agree that, 20 years after Stephen Lawrence was stabbed to death and after the Macpherson report on institutional racism, it is time to look at this issue again? In particular, does he not agree that it would be right to ask HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to undertake a thematic review of race relations policies to see what progress has been made since then?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Since the Macpherson report, which was the initial report, as noble Lords will know, there have been a number of allegations. Indeed, currently there is a review investigating allegations of a conspiracy to cover up this case. We will take that review seriously. It does not alter the fundamental strategy, which is to try to make sure that police numbers and the ethnic make-up of policing reflect the communities that they serve.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I recently had the pleasure of spending six days out with team A of Southwark Metropolitan Police Service. During that time, we conducted a stop and search of a black man outside the Damilola Taylor Centre. Including myself, there were three representatives of the Metropolitan Police Service handling the coercive power of the state, and every single person who walked past us was from the black community in the area. When will my noble friend the Minister insist that all police services raise their levels so that they reflect the populations that they serve, give a time limit for that to take place and perhaps even make it a performance indicator?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: My noble friend reinforces much of what I have been saying. In January 2012, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police initiated the "stop it" campaign as a way of trying to ensure a better balance. The police must use stop and search in a proportionate fashion, and we will consider the outcomes of that strategy. I commend my noble friend on joining in that

Racism and Religious Hatred Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

particular exercise. I attended a dinner here with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police the other evening for the parliamentary police programme, which is widely supported by parliamentarians-indeed, Members of this House were present. I commend that programme. Anything that makes us, in politics, more aware of the decision-making and the thoroughness with which the police do their work is worth while.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130425-0001.htm#13042554000424>

Press Release

Stephen Lawrence murder sparked "monumental change

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/stephen-lawrence-murder/>

News

Call for review of sectarian law amid row

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/call-for-review-of-sectarian-law-amid-row.20883067>

Anti-sectarianism Act sparks plea to law officer

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/anti-sectarianism-act-sparks-plea-to-law-officer-122157n.20893987>

Catholic midwives win appeal over abortion case

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-22279857>

Government backs down over proposals to outlaw caste discrimination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-backs-down-over-proposals-to-outlaw-caste-discrimination-8584536.html>

Minorities stopped disproportionately in decade after Macpherson report

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/apr/22/ethnic-minority-britons-stop-search-white>

Ethnic minority stop and search rates double since 1999: get the data

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/apr/22/ethnic-minority-stop-search-rates-doubled>

Metropolitan Police still institutionally racist 20 years after Stephen Lawrence murder, black police leaders say

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/metropolitan-police-still-institutionally-racist-20-years-after-stephen-lawrence-murder-black-police-leaders-say-8581873.html>

Stephen Lawrence anniversary: Racism fight goes on

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-22189158>

Tory councillor quits over remarks about ethnic children

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-22243953>

Paige Bain, 16, has racist attack jail term overturned

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-22250013>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

The UKIP leader and the Facebook racist: Nigel Farage shakes hands with party candidate who says discrimination is 'just ethnic banter' and supports extreme Right
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2315656/The-UKIP-leader-Facebook-racist-As-UKIP-leader-Farage-pictured-shaking-hands-English-Defence-League-supporter-candidates-embroiled-homophobic-row.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Motion

S4M-06378 Drew Smith: Official Opening of the Glasgow Gurdwara—That the Parliament notes that the new Glasgow Gurdwara at 37 Albert Drive opens on 28 April 2013; understands that the current Glasgow Gurdwara, on Nithsdale Road, is the oldest Gurdwara in Scotland, was established in the 1960s and is home to the Sangat of Glasgow's southside community; recognises that the new Gurdwara is a purpose-built facility and will serve as the new spiritual home for the Sikh community in the southside of Glasgow; understands that this multi-million pound facility, which has already become a landmark on Glasgow's southside, has been funded solely from community and business donations; further notes that the new Gurdwara will have the capacity to accommodate 1,000 worshippers; further understands that the opening ceremony will take place from 10am to 9pm and that it will involve various community-led celebrations and the raising of the Sikh flag; hopes that the opening ceremony is a success, and wishes all of the community associated with this Gurdwara every success and happiness in the years to come.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-06378&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Releases

Summer Cabinet 2013 schedule announced

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/04/summer-cabinet-2013-schedule-announced23042013>

Press regulation in Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/04/press-reg23042013>

Standards, Procedures, and Public Appointments Committee announces consultation on Members Interests Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/62474.aspx>

News

Leveson Inquiry: MSPs call for UK-wide regulation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-22286213>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Sharia Law

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130423/halltext/130423h0002.htm#1304239200002>

Parliamentary Questions

Scotland Referendum

Philip Hollobone: What discussions he has had with the Scottish Government on how many non-UK EU nationals will be eligible to participate in the Scottish independence referendum in 2014. [150806]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell): On 15 October 2012, the UK and Scottish Governments signed an agreement to ensure that a legal, fair and decisive referendum on Scotland's future can take place. It is for the Scottish Parliament to determine the franchise for the referendum.

Philip Hollobone: Would it not be completely outrageous were the Scottish Parliament to decide to use the local election franchise and therefore allow the possibility of the future constitutional make-up of the United Kingdom to be decided by some several hundred thousand non-UK EU nationals?

Reply from David Mundell: It will be for the Scottish Parliament to determine the franchise, but my hon. Friend is incorrect: the number of EU nationals able to vote on the Scottish Parliament franchise is less than 2% of the total.

Anas Sarwar: Those who defend our country should be allowed to take part in deciding its future. What steps will the Minister take to make sure that armed forces personnel serving abroad will be able to cast their votes in the referendum?

Reply from David Mundell: This is an important matter. A service declaration is already in place which allows armed forces personnel with a link to Scotland to register at an address in Scotland. It will be for the Scottish Parliament, if it so chooses, to put additional measures in place.

Mike Crockart: Does the Minister agree that another difficulty with regard to the people who will be able to vote in this election is the issue of 16 and 17-year-olds? Has he had any discussions with the Scottish Government to see whether they have found a solution to the severe problems that that will cause, including putting 14 and 15-year-olds on the register?

Reply from David Mundell: The Scottish Parliament will have the ability to allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in the referendum. A draft Bill has been introduced for debate in the Scottish Parliament, which is the appropriate place for those issues to be considered.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130424/debtext/130424-0001.htm#13042444000018>

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Cox: To ask Her Majesty's Government what information they have on the number of instances of female genital mutilation carried out in the United Kingdom in the past 10 years.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, the prevalence of female genital mutilation in the UK is difficult to establish because of the hidden nature of the crime. However, the Government are absolutely committed to tackling FGM and protecting the 20,000 girls who a 2007 study estimated were at high risk of being subjected to FGM in England and Wales each year.

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Baroness Cox: My Lords, I thank the Minister for his sympathetic reply. Is he aware that in 1983 I supported a Bill outlawing female genital mutilation in this country, which was strengthened by further legislation in 2003, but that according to research currently as many as 65,000 women living in this country have suffered FGM? It is feared that some may have undergone the procedure here and others sent abroad for the practice, but there has not been a single prosecution. Therefore, what effective provisions are being undertaken urgently to protect the estimated 30,000 girls currently at risk in this country?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I congratulate and thank the noble Baroness for her support in tackling this abhorrent form of abuse. The law alone cannot eliminate this practice, as I think noble Lords will agree, but it needs to be properly enforced, of course. The Government welcome the CPS action plan to address barriers to securing a prosecution. They have also funded some front-line organisations to encourage communities to abandon the practice themselves, issued multi-agency guidelines to support front-line professionals and published a statement opposing FGM.

Lord Walton of Detchant: My Lords, is the Minister aware that in the 1980s, when I was president of the General Medical Council, that council decreed that any doctor registered with the GMC who was found to have carried out the operation of female genital mutilation would be subject to the full disciplinary procedures of the GMC and would be accused of serious professional misconduct? Just as there have been no convictions, as far as I am aware there have been no references to the GMC of doctors accused of carrying out this procedure. How can that be explained?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: It is difficult to explain except in terms of the very secretive nature of this crime and the unwillingness of victims to come forward. The noble Lord has rightly pointed to the key role that health and social services can play in providing support for communities in seeking to rid this country of this abuse.

Baroness Rendell of Babergh: My Lords, some months ago the Director of Public Prosecutions undertook to appoint a committee to produce a report on female genital mutilation, in all its aspects, in the United Kingdom and to publish it in the summer. May we know when that report is likely to appear because, as has been mentioned, there has never been a prosecution and the practice continues as it has been done for about 25 years? Is it not time that we had this report so that we could look forward to something being done to put an end to this horrible practice?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I am sure that I reflect the sentiment of the whole House in thanking the noble Baroness for her interest in this matter and her engagement with it. The Government are not happy with a situation in which there have been no prosecutions. We are pleased that the Director of Public Prosecutions is engaging with that. We are working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service and we hope that the report of which the noble Baroness speaks will be made public and that we can build our strategy on it.

Baroness Trumpington: My Lords, this was the first work that I had to do when I held the office that the Minister holds today. When I tried to talk about this subject to the people involved, they said, "If you try to stop us, we'll do it on the kitchen table". Am I right in thinking that this kind of thought still exists among the people who wish to continue this horrible practice?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: We know that there are some strong feelings on this issue. Indeed, yesterday there was a report of a campaigner being abused by people who disagreed with her. This is not an easy subject. It is a hearts and minds issue, so we have to influence these communities and encourage them to recognise that there is no religious or medical basis for this abuse of young people and it should stop. I can assure the House that the

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Government take it very seriously.

Baroness Gould of Potternewton: I am pleased to hear how seriously the Government take this issue. How much funding are they initiating in order to train teachers, nurses, health workers and carers to recognise when there is a possibility of FGM happening and when it has taken place? Also, how is that funding being distributed across the country? I declare an interest as the president of FORWARD.

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I am very grateful to the noble Baroness for her involvement with FORWARD, which presented a key report that identified the 66,000 possible victims of this abuse. The amount of money spent is within individual department budgets, but there is a specific £50,000 budget dedicated to ensuring that this matter is fed across departments and that leaflets are produced. The Government are spending £35 million in countries where this practice is prevalent, in seeking to change the cultural background against which the abuse occurs.

Lord Chidgey: On that very point, my noble friend is possibly aware that, since 1997, DfID-supported anti-FGM education and empowerment programmes have led to some 5,500 communities in Senegal abandoning FGM. What discussions is the Minister's department having with DfID to establish the impact of the success of those programmes on British African communities in the UK, particularly with regard to Somalia, where 98% of young girls are still mutilated, placing thousands of Somali girls in this country at risk?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: My noble friend has identified Somalia as a particular area of concern. We are working very closely across all government departments. I think it is clear to noble Lords that the only way we can achieve progress is by using all the levers available to us: government departments; communities; and, through DfID, the overseas cultural base of this practice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422-0001.htm#1304224000387>

Press Releases

First annual report on financial provisions of Scotland Act 2012 published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-annual-report-on-financial-provisions-of-scotland-act-2012-published>

Crime and Courts Bill receives Royal Assent

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crime-and-courts-bill-receives-royal-assent>

New Publication

First annual report on the implementation of the financial provisions of the Scotland Act 2012

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192494/First Annual Report on the Implementation and Operation of Part 3 of the Scotland Act 2012.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192494/First%20Annual%20Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20and%20Operation%20of%20Part%203%20of%20the%20Scotland%20Act%202012.pdf)

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Other News

Tackling female genital mutilation 'taboo' in Birmingham

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-22186436>

Glasgow Gurdwara: £3.8m Sikh temple prepares to open its doors

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-22300608>

Scotland's largest Sikh temple to open after community effort

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scotlands-largest-sikh-temple-open-1852484>

Britain's REAL big society

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/special-report-britains-real-big-society-8591235.html>

The Roman Catholic Church 'could raise £3m from Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme'

http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/bulletin/third_sector_daily_bulletin/article/1180146/the-roman-catholic-church-could-raise-3m-gift-aid-small-donations-scheme/?DCMP=EMC-CONThirdSectorDaily

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Post-16 Education Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/56717.aspx>

**** Scottish Independence Referendum Bill**

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

Equality Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00420408.pdf>

**** Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/60464.aspx>

Equality Impact Assessment

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00420403.pdf>

**** Victims and Witnesses Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8092&mode=pdf>

Health and Sport Committee: Stage 1 evidence

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8087&mode=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>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords message

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130422/debtext/130422-0002.htm#1304223800001>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0156/amend/psc1562204m.1215-1216.html>

House of Lords Motion to be moved on House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0098/amend/am098-a.1-4.html>

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130423-0001.htm#13042386000691>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130425/debtext/130425-0002.htm#13042550000004>

**** Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill**

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

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons reasons and amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130422-0002.htm#13042260001212>

House of Commons consideration of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130423/debtext/130423-0002.htm#13042381000002>

House of Lords insistence and reasons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2012-2013/0163/13163.1-2.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2012-2013/0100/amend/ml100-i.1-4.html>

Lords consideration of Commons amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201213/ldhansrd/text/130424-0002.htm#13042483000763>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130425/debtext/130425-0002.htm#13042550000004>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** Draft guidance to charities on the Scottish independence referendum**

(closing date 15 May 2013)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/new-draft-guidance-on-scottish-independence-referendum/>

Making Justice Work - Courts Reform Bill (closing date 24 May 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/02/5302/downloads>

Beyond 2011: user requirements for future population and socio-demographic information (closing date 10 June 2013)

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/beyond-2011/consultations-events/consultations/user-requirements.html>

Design of the Data Sharing and Linking Service (closing date 29 May 2013)

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/eDRIS/DSLS-consultation/>

Scottish Independence Referendum Bill (closing date 6 June 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ReferendumScotlandBillCommittee/RefBill_call_for_evidence_21_March_2013.pdf

See Hear: A strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Scotland (closing date 28 June 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00417992.pdf>

**** Interests of the Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill** (closing date 22 July 2013)

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

Our Communities, Your Duties (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KN9FT6N>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

30 April 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

The Human Rights Question: What sort of Scotland, and what sort of constitutional future?

1 May 2013 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar to examine how those involved in civil society groups are working to promote and protect rights, and consider the extent to which the referendum context affects this work. For information see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/5386404882>.

**** this week!**

Meet the Charity Regulator

1 May 2013 in Wick (10.00 – 12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to provide an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in charity regulation, equality and fundraising. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/c8f7kh8> or contact Lorna Edwards communications@oscr.org.uk / 01382 220446.

UKBA asylum support

8 May 2013 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 contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/9l2b3te>.

Muslim Families' Experiences of the Education System in England and Scotland

13 May 2013 in Edinburgh (2.00 – 5.30)

Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity launch of research findings about Muslim pupils' educational outcomes in England and Scotland, Muslim families' educational aspirations, Muslim families' negotiation of school choice and attitudes to faith schools, and Home/school negotiations of cultural practices. For information contact Fannie Kong creid@ed.ac.uk or see <http://mpeees.eventbrite.co.uk>

Influencing Politicians and Political Structures

22 May 2013 in Glasgow (10.30 – 4.30)

Coalition for Equality and Rights training to communicate effectively with political decision makers. For information contact Nadia nadia@crer.org.uk / 0141 418 6530 or see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/influencing-politicians-political-structures>

The housing journey from seeking asylum to settling in Scotland

30 May 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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 or see <http://tinyurl.com/c9wuzp9>.

Working with interpreters

30 May 2013 in Glasgow (1.15 – 4.45)

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 or see <http://tinyurl.com/c8k983b>.

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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

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

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

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

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

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