

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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The Scottish Parliament is now in recess until 2 September. The House of Commons will be in recess from 18 July to 2 September, and the House of Lords from 30 July to 8 October. During the summer MEMO will be issued fortnightly on 15 and 29 July, 12 and 26 August, and 9 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S4M-07270 Christina McKelvie: Scottish Charity Partnership of the Year Award— That the Parliament congratulates the Scottish Refugee Council and the Aberlour Childcare Trust on winning the Scottish Charity Partnership of the Year award at the Scottish Charity Awards on 13 June 2013; understands that the Scottish Refugee Council and the Aberlour Childcare Trust worked in partnership to form the Scottish Guardianship Service (SGS), which works with and supports children and young people who arrive in Scotland unaccompanied and separated from their families or who have

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Motion (continued)

been trafficked; applauds the SGS's system of allocating a guardian who helps the children and young people to navigate through the immigration and welfare processes, helps them to feel supported and empowered throughout the asylum process, to access the help that they need when they need it and helps them to make informed decisions about their future; commends the work of Catriona MacSween and the team at the SGS, and welcomes what it considers the profound positive impact that the SGS is having on young lives now and will have in the future.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-07270&ResultsPerPage=10>

Westminster Debates

Immigration and Security

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130704-0002.htm#13070440000530>

Immigration Rules: Impact on Families

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130704-0002.htm#13070446000145>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Migrant Access to the NHS

The Secretary of State for Health (Jeremy Hunt): The United Kingdom successfully attracts many millions of visitors and migrants each year. If our country is to remain competitive, we need to continue to welcome those who come here to work and to study. At the same time public services like the NHS are under increasing strain, coping with the demands of an ageing population and financial pressures. The NHS is and will remain free at the point of delivery for its residents, but it cannot continue as an international rather than a national health service. We urgently need to address this or the system is likely to become unsustainable.

Our health system is very generous to overseas visitors, perhaps one of the most generous in the world. We allow people who are living here temporarily to use the NHS and exempt many of them from charging, while any visitor, including tourists, can visit a general practitioner free of charge. These sorts of services are often not available for our citizens when they are abroad.

The NHS struggles to identify and recover the cost from those not entitled to free treatment. NHS resources, both financial and clinical, are used to treat and care for people who have no long-term commitment to our country and should contribute towards it. To address these issues, I am launching a consultation today inviting views on proposed changes to the way temporary migrants and visitors access the NHS in England. The purpose of this consultation is to examine critically who should be charged in the future; what services they should be charged for; and how we can ensure that the system is better able to identify chargeable patients and recover costs. As health is a devolved matter, this consultation is looking specifically at how to address the challenges for the NHS in England. The aim is to ensure they make a fair contribution to the cost of treatment, while not restricting access and maintaining the essential public health role of the NHS. ...

To read the full statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130703/wmstext/130703m0001.htm#13070355000005>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Immigration Bill Consultation

The Minister for Immigration (Mark Harper): The forthcoming Immigration Bill will make it more difficult for illegal migrants to live in the UK unlawfully and ensure that legal migrants make a fair contribution to our key public services. I am launching two consultations to set out some proposals on how we will achieve this. ...

We are responding to public concern that the current rules regulating non-EEA migrant access to publicly funded health care services are both overly generous, particularly when compared with wider international practice, and poorly applied. ...

This consultation will run in parallel to a separate Department of Health consultation which analyses the vulnerabilities of the current charging regime for overseas visitors in England, and sets out a range of proposals for reforming the system, including through improved registering and tracking of chargeable patients.

The second consultation launched today concerns proposals to prohibit illegal migrants from renting accommodation in the UK ... This forms part of the Government's wider drive to prevent illegal migration, including by removing the means by which migrants can live in the UK unlawfully. ...

To read the full statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130703/wmstext/130703m0001.htm#13070355000006>

Armed Forces Family Migration

The Minister for Immigration (Mr Mark Harper): This statement informs the House of changes to the immigration rules affecting members of Her Majesty's forces and their families, which will be laid before Parliament in September to come into force on 1 December 2013. Full details are included in a statement of intent which I have published today. Copies are available in the Library of the House and on the Home Office website.

Changes to the immigration rules affecting non-European economic area (non-EEA) nationality family members of British citizens and persons settled here were implemented on 9 July 2012 as part of the Government's overall programme of reform of immigration routes. Those changes aimed to ensure that non-EEA family members seeking to live in the UK will not become a burden on the taxpayer and will be able to integrate effectively in British society.

Under temporary transitional arrangements, non-EEA family members of British citizens serving in Her Majesty's forces were exempted from the family immigration rules changes pending a review of the rules affecting all non-EEA dependants of Her Majesty's forces personnel, including family members of Foreign and Commonwealth citizens serving in Her Majesty's forces. That review has now taken place and has produced a single set of rules covering the non-EEA family members of British service personnel and also the families of Foreign and Commonwealth citizens serving in Her Majesty's forces, including Gurkhas discharged since 1 July 1997. The new rules will cover the dependants of service personnel currently dealt with under parts 7 and 8 of the immigration rules. They are intended to align the treatment of non-EEA family members of service personnel with the general approach to family immigration. At the same time they aim, so far as possible and appropriate, to treat all non-EEA dependants of service personnel in the same way, irrespective of the immigration status of the sponsor. And finally, they make special arrangements, in certain respects, to cater for the situations brought about by overseas postings which are a feature of service life.

To read a list of the rules that will apply from 1 December 2013 see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130704/wmstext/130704m0001.htm#13070439000010>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Civil Penalty Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Mark Harper): Last week we published proposals to regulate migrant access to health services and prevent access by illegal migrants to privately rented accommodation, with measures to be taken forward in the Immigration Bill. Today we are launching a consultation on proposals to strengthen and simplify the civil penalty scheme to prevent illegal working. The consultation will run for six weeks. A copy will be available in the House Library and on the Home Office website at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/consultations/>.

Illegal working encourages illegal immigration. It also undercuts legitimate businesses through illegal cost-cutting activity by rogue employers, and is often associated with other forms of exploitative behaviour—including harmful working conditions for employees and tax evasion. The Government are committed to taking action to effectively tackle illegal working. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister have recently proposed that the civil penalty against employers who exploit illegal labour should be doubled.

Employers already have a responsibility to check that their employees have the right to work in the UK and, since 2008, this has been underpinned by a civil penalty scheme. This has been successful in requiring employers to make right to work checks and imposing a sanction on those who do not. We are proposing to further refine these requirements to get tougher on employers who continue to exploit illegal labour and increase the sanction to reflect the harm they cause. We are also conscious of the burdens on legitimate business, so we are also proposing a number of measures to significantly reduce the administrative costs of complying with the requirement to make right to work checks. Legitimate businesses will benefit in two ways: from tougher sanctions against rogue employers and from our intention to make it easier for compliant businesses to fulfil their duties.

The Immigration Bill will make it more difficult for illegal migrants to live and work in the UK. We want to ensure that people come to the UK for the right reasons. As we extend a warm welcome to the many migrants who make such an important contribution to life in the UK, we want to see tough action against those who have no right to be here, and also against the unscrupulous employers who exploit them.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130709/wmstext/130709m0001.htm#13070947000005>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Entry Clearances

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the Visitor Visa Bond on the number of business trips to the UK from (a) Pakistan and (b) India which seek to secure bilateral trade and investment; [163286]

(2) what consideration her Department has given to the risk of reciprocation from countries chosen for the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163287]

(3) for what reasons her Department selected Bangladesh as a country with which to trial the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163298]

(4) for what reasons her Department selected Nigeria as a country with which to trial the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163299]

(5) for what reasons her Department selected Ghana as a country with which to trial the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163300]

(6) for what reasons her Department selected Sri Lanka as a country with which to trial the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163301]

(7) for what reasons her Department selected Pakistan as a country with which to trial the

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163302]

(8) for what reasons her Department selected India as a country with which to trial the Visitor Visa Bond scheme; [163303]

(9) what estimate she has made of the potential effect of the proposed Visitor Visa Bond scheme on levels of net migration to the UK; and what the evidential basis is for that estimate. [163304]

Reply from Mark Harper: We plan to introduce a pilot scheme later this year to test the impact of requiring financial bonds from selected visit visa applicants as a means of deterring non-compliance by those who overstay their visa. The details of the scheme are still being finalised, including the locations for the pilot and nationalities in scope, and will be announced in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130708/text/130708w0001.htm#13070835000050>

Health Services: Immigrants

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to limit access to health services for immigrants and seek back payment costs for services. [161843]

Reply from Anna Soubry: Entitlement to free national health service hospital treatment is limited to those who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or exempt from charges under regulations. Chargeable migrants provided with urgent treatment before they have paid, who do not clear any outstanding debt, may be subject to debt collection proceedings and may be refused a new visa or extension of stay.

Following a major review, the Department will shortly consult on a number of proposals to change the rules and procedures on charging visitors and migrants for health services, including improving how the NHS can identify, charge and recover charges where they should apply. The Department has no plans to deny necessary, access to health services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130701/text/130701w0004.htm#1307021000020>

Immigrants: English Language

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2013, *Official Report*, column 804W, on conditions of employment: English language, if she will make it her policy to require all immigrants to the UK to speak English in the workplace. [162795]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Immigration Rules contain provisions which require migrants applying to come to the UK to work under the points-based system to have an appropriate level of English, generally at B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages which is a level at which individuals can be expected to deal with daily routine matters within the workplace. Pre-entry English requirements also apply to certain other immigration categories which confer permission to work, for example those coming as partners and spouses of British citizens and people settled here.

These measures aim to ensure that migrants with a route to permanent residence in the UK are able to speak English and integrate into UK society but behaviour within the workplace is a matter for individual employers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130702/text/130702w0001.htm#13070280000078>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Migrant Workers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their response to the ad hoc query from the European Migration Network (EMN) on 9 January regarding legislative or practical changes on the issue of labour market access for asylum-seekers, that the United Kingdom was "awaiting the outcome of litigation on this issue and will review our policy on this issue in line with the court's decision", (1) whether they are currently reviewing their policy, and (2) whether they plan to submit an updated answer to the EMN.[HL918]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): On 7 June 2013 the Government's policy on permission to work for asylum seekers was upheld in the High Court. It found that the policy is lawful and does not breach EU law. (1) The policy is not therefore being reviewed; and (2) any future European Migration Network ad hoc queries will reflect the policy at that time; it is not normal procedure to update previous ad hoc queries.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130701w0001.htm#1307015000488>

Visas: Foreign Domestic Workers

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the impact on the well-being of foreign domestic workers of the introduction in April 2012 of the one-employer visa regime.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, the reforms to the route for overseas domestic workers restored the original purpose of the route as a way to accompany an overseas employer visiting the UK, and included measures to minimise the risk of ill treatment. All overseas domestic workers receive written information about their employment rights. The Government have seen no persuasive evidence of any deterioration in the treatment of overseas domestic workers since the April 2012 reforms.

Lord Hylton: My Lords, the Minister is responsible for safeguarding vulnerable people. Will he therefore personally investigate why, in 24 out of 29 cases, such workers were paid no wage at all, while not being allowed out unescorted, having their passports taken away from them and not even having a room to themselves? Will the Government accept that their safeguards often prove ineffective, since domestics are too frightened to go to the police or employment tribunals? Is it not time to prevent such domestic slavery happening?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I understand the noble Lord's concern and thank him for asking this Question. The Government are aware of the report from Kalayaan, and my honourable friend Mark Harper, Minister for Immigration, has agreed to meet Kalayaan the Tuesday after next. I have been invited to join that meeting. I understand that the report was based on the 29 individuals on the new visa who sought Kalayaan's advice in 2012. I have to say that this contrasts with the 156 who went to Kalayaan under the old regime last year and the 300 it would normally get in the preceding years. In turn, that compares with the 15,000 to 16,000 domestic visas issued annually—a figure that has not in fact varied since this new procedure was put in place.

Baroness Cox: Is the Minister aware that the new visa system, which ties migrant domestic workers to one employer, removes all their protections and deprives them of any resort in terms of challenging, appalling conditions of employment and abuse, which, as the noble Lord, Lord Hylton, said, is in effect a form of modern-day slavery? How will Her Majesty's Government ensure that such trafficked domestic workers will receive legal representation if they need it, given that, as their visas are limited to six months under

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

proposed legal reforms, they would not pass the residency test of at least one year's residence in the UK?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I understand the noble Baroness's concerns, and indeed this is one of the issues that the Minister for Immigration is considering. However, perhaps I may put into perspective what the April 2012 reforms require. The control of the scheme is itself one of the protections in place. Previously there was a five-year period, and a six-month period obviously enables us to discipline that particular application so much better. We require evidence of an existing employer-employee relationship and 12 months of overseas employment before the visa application can be made. We also require that written terms of condition of employment accompany that visa application and are produced with it. Employees are still entitled to the protections in UK employment law, and they are provided with a letter in a number of languages setting out their rights under the law.

Baroness Smith of Basildon: My Lords, nobody wants to see the visa system abused. However, I am confident that the Government do not think it is right that anybody working in this country should be made more vulnerable to slavery or physical, sexual or mental abuse, with effectively no power to take action to protect themselves, as we heard from the noble Lord, Lord Hylton. Will the noble Lord consider, in the meeting that he will shortly have with Mark Harper MP, what action the Government will take to ensure that those who are responsible for such crimes will be brought to justice, and not allowed to get away with it by deporting the evidence?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: Indeed, anybody who violates the trafficking laws in this country is subject to the full force of the criminal law. Given that individuals have already worked for their employer for 12 months overseas, it is reasonable to assume that there is a normal employer-employee relationship between those individuals.

Lord Tebbit: It is my understanding that there is a great deal of abuse of such people, most often Filipinos, by the embassies of certain nations which we need not mention. What can my noble friend do about that? Embassies claim diplomatic immunity, and they abuse those people, Filipinos in particular, who then essentially escape from the embassies and become illegal immigrants here. What can we do to help them?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: We are bound by the Vienna convention in terms of the employment of staff at embassies, so the extension of British employment law in that regard is not possible. I think that this Question focuses, legitimately, on those who come here under the new six-month visitor domestic service agreements, which is a different arrangement.

Baroness Butler-Sloss: My Lords, I declare an interest as co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking. One of the great problems is that if these women who have been trafficked—and I suspect that there is a substantial minority about whom we do not know—cannot get another job, they will be sent home and may be re-trafficked. The Government need to recognise that this is a real problem.

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: I have tried to make it clear that these people are not casually trafficked. They must be in the employment of the employer for 12 months before they come to this country. It is designed for people accompanying overseas visitors, who I think this country seeks to encourage. However, I do not think that the scenario that the noble and learned Baroness points out actually exists. There is the national referral mechanism. Any information on trafficking represents a criminal offence, and we would not hesitate to prosecute.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130704-0001.htm#13070440000516>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration Rules

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following decisions of the First Tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in the cases IA/11284/2012 and I/19205/2012, they plan to amend Rule 289A of the Immigration Rules so as to include all persons who are in informal relationships with abusive partners.[HL1091]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Rule 289A enables an applicant who is in the UK as the married or unmarried partner of a person settled in the UK or a British citizen and who is the victim of domestic violence to apply for indefinite leave to remain before the expiry of the normal probationary period. The applicant will have originally come to the UK with the intention of living permanently here as a consequence of a relationship with someone settled here. We do not intend to extend Rule 289A to migrants who entered the UK on a different basis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130703w0001.htm#13070382000633>

Immigration: Married People

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures the Government is taking to reduce the arrangement of marriages primarily for immigration purposes. [162070]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Government recognises the risk that sham marriages, arranged primarily for immigration purposes, pose to our immigration system and their links to wider criminality, such as fraud and benefit abuse. We are working closely with our partners across government and with local registration services and the Anglican Church, to identify and tackle sham marriages at the earliest point.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence the Government has collected on the number of marriages arranged primarily for immigration purposes. [162071]

Reply from Mark Harper: Under section 24 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 registrars are required to report to the Home Office any persons they have reasonable grounds to suspect are entering into a marriage arranged primarily for immigration purposes. Section 24 reports are investigated and, where appropriate, action is taken. We received 384 section 24 reports in 2007; 344 in 2008; 561 in 2009; 934 in 2010; 1,741 in 2011; and 1,891 in 2012.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refusals of (a) entry to and (b) residence in the UK were made in each of the last five years on the basis of a sham marriage. [162072]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information regarding the number of foreign nationals refused entry to and residence in the UK on the basis of sham marriage is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with a spousal visa have not been given leave to remain at the end of their probationary period in each year since 2008. [162743]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on how many individuals with a spousal visa were refused leave to remain at the end of their probationary period is not aggregated in national reporting systems. This information could only be obtained by a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130702/text/130702w0001.htm#13070280000081>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 3 June (*WA 134*), whether they will seek to amend provisions in the European Economic Area Free Movement Directive allowing European Union nationals to bring their non-European Union family members into the United Kingdom without income restrictions; and whether they have assessed the compliance with human rights standards of United Kingdom Immigration Rules that require British citizens to meet the minimum income threshold of £18,600 to sponsor non-European Economic Area national spouses to settle in the United Kingdom.[HL901]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The rights of European Union nationals to live and work in other Member States, and to be accompanied by their family members who do not hold European Union nationality, are set out in the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) by which the UK is bound. The Directive is implemented in the UK through the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006. The introduction of an income requirement for non-EEA family members of EEA nationals would require significant changes to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 which would require the re-opening of the Free Movement Directive in order to be lawful.

The Government does not tolerate abuse of free movement. The Home Secretary has consistently raised her concerns about fraud and abuse of free movement at the Justice and Home Affairs Council, and we are working to curb such abuse domestically, and together with our European partners. The Government will also examine the scope and consequences of the free movement of people across the EU as part of the Review of Balance of Competences in 2013.

On 13 June 2012, the Government published its assessment of the compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights of the minimum income threshold and other requirements of the Immigration Rules which, from 9 July 2012, are to be met by a non-EEA national spouse applying to settle in the UK with a British citizen.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130708w0001.htm#13070818000361>

Immigrants: Pregnant Women

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions her Department has had with the UK Border Agency on the collection of information regarding the detention of pregnant women for immigration purposes; [162041]

(2) what the period of detention was for each pregnant woman detained for immigration purposes (a) in 2010, (b) in 2011, (c) in 2012 and (d) on 1 June 2013; [162042]

(3) how many pregnant women were detained for immigration purposes (a) in 2010, (b) in 2011, (c) in 2012 and (d) on 1 June 2013. [162043]

Reply from Mark Harper: There have been no recent discussions on the collection of information regarding the detention of pregnant women for immigration purposes.

Health care assessments are carried out on all persons entering detention, but it is for each individual to decide what information they divulge about any medical condition. If a pregnant woman chooses to inform removal centre health care staff of her condition, the detail would be held on her medical file which is confidential between patient and doctor. The Home Office does not hold such information centrally and does not seek permission for disclosure.

Information on the number of pregnant women detained for immigration purposes

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and their length of detention could be obtained by checking individual records only at disproportionate costs.

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pregnant woman have been assessed under the fast track procedure of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal since the inception of that procedure. [162044]

Reply from Mark Harper: Information on how many pregnant women have been assessed under the fast track procedure is only held at the level of paper case files or within the notes section of the Home Office Case Information Database (CID). Such data is not aggregated in national reporting systems, which would mean this question could only be answered through a disproportionately expensive manual case by case search to collate the data.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130701/text/130701w0001.htm#1307019000036>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of applications for student visas were dismissed in each of the last five years. [162218]

Reply from Mark Harper: The latest published figures for outcomes of visa applications (including refusals) for study (excluding Student visitors), in each of the last five years appear in the following table:

<i>Visa applications and resolution, for study (excluding student visitors(1)), main applicants and dependants, 2008-12</i>							
	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Resolved</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Withdrawn/lapsed</i>
2008	343,273	332,872	231,975	70	98,646	30	2,257
2009	428,819	414,335	303,361	73	103,259	25	7,715
2010	367,187	391,602	285,544	73	90,451	23	15,607
2011	310,958	318,360	261,870	82	51,017	16	5,473
2012	234,684	235,652	209,804	89	24,013	10	1,835

(1) Student visitors are allowed to come to the UK for six months (or 11 months if they will be studying an English Language course) and cannot extend their stay. *Source:* Table be_01_q. 'Immigration Statistics', January to March 2013

The latest Home Office immigration statistics, including those for entry clearance visas, are published in the release Immigration Statistics January to March 2013, which is available from the Library of the House and on the Department's website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130702/text/130702w0001.htm#1307028000070>

Visas

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 3 June (WA 154), how soon after a visa for leave to enter the United Kingdom for work or student purposes is taken up can an application for indefinite leave to remain be granted; how soon after that can a person apply for British citizenship; and whether they are considering breaking the link between such grants and citizenship or to extend the time periods involved.[HL1015]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Those in the UK on work routes can generally qualify for settlement after a period of five years' residence. There are accelerated routes for

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

those who have leave as an Entrepreneur or Investor. There is no direct route to settlement for those here in a student category.

A person who is the spouse or civil partner of a British citizen can apply for citizenship once they have been granted indefinite leave to remain and have been resident in the UK for a period of three years. Other applicants have to meet a five year residence requirement and have had indefinite leave to remain for a period of 12 months.

We have no plans to amend the requirements for citizenship at the current time.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130708w0001.htm#13070818000379>

Migrants: Romanians and Bulgarians

The Lord Bishop of Derby: To ask Her Majesty's Government what resources have been allocated to provide support for local voluntary organisations to meet any additional costs arising from the entry of migrants from Bulgaria and Romania.[HL1295]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): Work to address pressures, including financial pressures, arising from the entry of migrants from Bulgaria and Romania is best assessed and delivered at a local level; including through mainstream funding programmes such as health and education.

This Government is focusing on work to cut out abuse of free movement and to address "pull" factors for immigration, such as access to benefits and public services.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130708w0001.htm#13070818000365>

Asylum

Dan Jarvis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken for a decision on asylum was for (a) under 18 male, (b) under 18 female, (c) over 18 male and (d) over 18 female applicants in each of the last 10 years. [162863]

Reply from Mark Harper: Data prior to 1 October 2006 is not aggregated in national reporting systems and can only be provided through a disproportionately expensive manual case search to collate the figures. As consequence we have provided data from 1 October 2006 onwards and these figures are shown in the table:

Table 1: Average processing times for asylum decisions. 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2013

Days		Financial year						
Sex	Age	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Male	Under 18	172	219	195	139	113	164	134
Female	Under 18	192	207	222	151	115	166	119
Male	18 and over	145	214	198	104	57	67	46
Female	18 and over	118	188	175	91	57	74	51

Notes: 1. The 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. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to first asylum claim and initial decisions only. 4. Data relate to applications lodged between 1 October 2006 and 31 March 2013. 5. Processing time based on the average number of calendar days between the application raised date and first case outcome date. Data refer to completed applications only.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130708/text/130708w0001.htm#13070835000048>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 13 June (WA 255), what is their rationale for allowing asylum seekers to apply only for jobs which appear on the shortage occupation list. [HL1405]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): Allowing asylum seekers to apply only for jobs which appear on the shortage occupation list ensures that asylum seekers do not have any enhanced employment access over legitimate economic migrants applying to enter the UK under Tier 2 (skilled workers). As such, it avoids any incentive for economic migrants to make unmeritorious asylum claims to gain better access to employment. On 7 June 2013 the Government's policy on permission to work for asylum seekers was upheld in the High Court.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130710w0001.htm#13071091000325>

Immigrants: Detainees

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of alleged unlawful immigration detention have been heard in courts in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and of those cases, how many were (a) found in favour of the plaintiff, (b) found in favour of the defendant, (c) withdrawn and (d) settled out of court. [156772]

Reply from Helen Grant: Information relating to alleged unlawful immigration detention is not held on the Administrative Court Office database in a searchable statistical format. The case files over the five-year period (40,000 case files) would have to be viewed individually to provide the specific information requested and therefore the information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many cases of alleged unlawful immigration detention that were heard in courts in England and Wales in each of the last five years the plaintiff was in receipt of civil legal aid. [156773]

Reply from Jeremy Wright: The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) does not hold the information requested. Cases of unlawful immigration detention cannot all be distinguished in the LAA's systems from those relating to wider unlawful detention.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130704/text/130704w0002.htm#13070463000084>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has given to law enforcement and prosecuting authorities on not proceeding with a prosecution or imposing a penalty in cases where victims of trafficking have been compelled to take part in criminal activities. [162138]

Reply from the Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has issued comprehensive legal guidance to advise prosecutors of the steps they should take in cases where the police have arrested potential victims of trafficking who have committed criminal offences and referred them for charge. If information suggests that they have been trafficked, prosecutors are advised to make full enquiries and consider whether the case against them should be discontinued. However, a prosecutor can only take these steps if they have information from the police or other sources that a suspect might be a victim of trafficking.

Following recent cases in the Court of Appeal in which victims of trafficking were

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

prosecuted and convicted, having been advised to plead guilty by their legal representative, the CPS is considering new guidelines for prosecutors, which are to be shared with the police and other law enforcement agencies and the Law Society to ensure a more joined-up approach in these cases.

Guidance, published in 2011 by the Child Exploitation On-line Protection Centre (CEOP), advises that police should be alert to the possibility that any person, adult or child, identified in a cannabis farm could be a victim of trafficking and the steps that they should take.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130702/text/130702w0003.htm#13070294000093>

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the number of victims of trafficking who have been compelled to take part in criminal activities in each year since 2010. [162140]

Reply from Mark Harper: 74 individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism between 2010 and 2012 have received a Positive Conclusive Grounds Decision where criminality is listed as the exploitation sub type.

The figures broken down by year are: 2010: five; 2011: 33; 2012: 36.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130702/text/130702w0001.htm#13070280000076>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated in 2012-13 and has allocated in 2014-15 for (a) research into the prevention of human trafficking and (b) rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. [160493]

Reply from Mark Harper: No Home Office funding, for research into the prevention of human trafficking in 2012-13, was allocated.

Funding for research projects is considered as required.

The Home Office has granted £44,266, in total, to the Refugee Council and The Children's Society for a joint bid to undertake a scoping review of the practical care arrangements for trafficked children. This will add value to our understanding of the issues affecting the lives of this vulnerable group of young people and will be useful in shaping future policy and enhancing practice in this area.

In 2012-13, the Home Office paid £1.5 million to the Ministry of Justice, to fund the victim care contract for adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales.

The victim care contract will be retendered for 2014-15 and the funding position will be kept under review.

Budgets for research and rehabilitation in 2014-15 have not yet been agreed.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130705/text/130705w0002.htm#13070541000070>

Human Trafficking

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding she has made available to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the purpose of tackling human trafficking, by amount of funding and name of recipient NGOs. [162854]

Reply from Mark Harper: In 2012-13, the following organisations received funding from the Home Office to undertake activities to help combat human trafficking:

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

	£
Eaves	43,762
Stop the Traffik	20,512
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	10,000
Refugee Council/The Children's Society	44,266

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have received detailed training on combating human trafficking. [162855]

Reply from Mark Harper: Human trafficking training for all new police officers in England and Wales is mandatory. To date, 24,656 police officers have also completed an on-line training package for human trafficking. This is supplemented by locally developed and delivered training in individual police forces.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of (a) accommodation, (b) medical care, (c) psychological assistance, (d) material assistance, (e) legal aid and advice, (f) access to the labour market, (g) vocational training and education, (h) police services (crime prevention, repatriation, compensation), (i) compensation and (j) translation and interpretation services for victims of human trafficking. [162856]

Reply from Mark Harper: Since 1 July 2011, The Salvation Army has been contracted to oversee and coordinate the provision of support to adult victims of trafficking who have been referred through the National Referral Mechanism. As prime contractor, The Salvation Army delivers tailored support to victims, taking into account their individual needs. Where required, support includes access to the services set out in the question. Trafficked children who come into the care of local authorities receive the full range of support.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place a copy of her Data Collection Strategy for the purpose of combating human trafficking in the Library. [162857]

Reply from Mark Harper: A specific strategy on data collection is not available. The Government is working with a number of agencies and organisations to strengthen data collection, following the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group's report which was published on 18 October 2012. Progress on strengthening data collection will be included in the second report of the Group, expected later this year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the relevance to the UK of 144 actions in the Irish Government's National Action Plan to prevent and tackle trafficking in human beings. [162859]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK works closely with its international partners to combat trafficking in human beings. This includes work with authorities in Ireland to strengthen our response and to prevent people being trafficked into, out of and within the UK, including preventing abuse of the Common Travel Area.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum sentence available for human trafficking is; and how many times maximum sentences have been used in each of the last 30 years. [162860]

Reply from Mark Harper: On conviction on indictment for any offence of human trafficking and for slavery, servitude and forced labour, the maximum sentence is imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.

The human trafficking offences came into force in 2004. Between 2004 and 2012 no individual received the maximum sentence.

Prosecutors may charge any additional offences which might be disclosed in the evidence, such as rape, false imprisonment or assault, to reflect the full

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

criminality. On conviction, these offences may attract further sentences of imprisonment to run consecutively to a sentence of imprisonment for human trafficking. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is that for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The maximum sentence in such cases has been 21 years imprisonment for a defendant convicted of trafficking for sexual exploitation, false imprisonment, rape and causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual care plans have been developed for people who are potential victims of human trafficking in each of the last 30 years. [162861]

Reply from Mark Harper: Data on the number of individual care plans developed to support potential trafficking victims is not held centrally. Adult victims, in England and Wales, who are referred to the Salvation Army for care and support, will have a care plan put in place to meet their specific needs. Responsibility for the care, protection and accommodation of all child trafficking victims rests with local authorities regardless of nationality or immigration status. A social worker must assess the needs of each child and draw up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of the child's needs.

Victim support in Scotland and Northern Ireland is devolved. I understand that similar provisions are in place there.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received concerning extending the period for recovery and reflection governing victims of people trafficking; and what her policy is on extending a renewable temporary residence where a person wishes to assist with investigation or prosecution of such trafficking. [162862]

Reply from Mark Harper: The UK provides for a minimum recovery and reflection period of 45 days. This is 15 days longer than the minimum 30 days suggested in the European Convention on Action against Trafficking. Where a case requires complex consideration, and victims have particularly acute needs case by case consideration is given to extending the recovery and reflection period.

Where a victim of trafficking is assisting the police with a criminal investigation or prosecution, a renewable 12 month leave grant will be considered at the request of the police. This period can be extended if an active investigation or trial takes longer than 12 months and the person's ongoing presence in the UK is necessary to support proceedings.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130708/text/130708w0001.htm#13070835000051>

Human Trafficking

Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will request the Salvation Army, as part of its contract for support services to adult victims of human trafficking (a) to collect, from 1 August 2013, additional data each month on the countries in which those subject to trafficking are first identified and (b) to identify which police force, non-governmental organisation or other first responder made the initial referral; and if he will make a statement; [163335]

(2) if he will make it his policy to establish procedures to record counties in which those subject to human trafficking are discovered. [163336]

Reply from Helen Grant: The Salvation Army is contracted to co-ordinate and oversee the provision of support and assistance to victims to help them start to recover from their terrible ordeal. Under the existing contractual arrangements,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

the Salvation Army already collects information on the organisation or agency that has made the referral and this is published. The safety of identified victims is of the utmost importance and publishing information as to the county or police force from where they were referred through to The Salvation Army for support could result in them being rediscovered by their trafficker.

Identification of potential victims of trafficking is a role undertaken by the National Referral Mechanism which is operated by the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130708/text/130708w0004.htm#13070846000053>

Human Trafficking

Peter Bone: To ask the Attorney-General if he will undertake a review of whether any victims of human trafficking have been prosecuted for offences that relate to their trafficking. [164322]

Reply from the Attorney-General: At this stage, I have no plans to undertake a formal review of cases whereby victims of human trafficking have already been prosecuted for offences that relate to their trafficking offences. Following recent cases in the Court of Appeal in which victims of trafficking were prosecuted and convicted, having been advised to plead guilty by their legal representative, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is considering new guidelines for prosecutors, which are to be shared with the police and other law enforcement agencies and the Law Society to ensure a more joined-up approach in these cases.

The CPS has issued comprehensive legal guidance to advise prosecutors of the steps they should take in cases where the police have arrested potential victims of trafficking who have committed criminal offences and referred them for charge. If information suggests that they have been trafficked, prosecutors are advised to make full inquiries and consider whether the case against them should be discontinued. In addition, guidance, published in 2011 by the Child Exploitation On-line Protection Centre (CEOP), advises that police should be alert to the possibility that any person, adult or child, identified in a cannabis farm could be a victim of trafficking and the steps that they should take.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130709/text/130709w0001.htm#13070993000061>

Press Releases

High Court judgment on minimum income threshold for family migrants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/87-min-income-threshold>

Proposals for tougher sanctions against employers who exploit illegal migrant labour

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/july/20-civil-penalties>

Students with International Baccalaureate qualifications

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/july/11-baccalaureate>

New immigration rules for Armed Forces families announced

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-immigration-rules-for-armed-forces-families-announced>

Migrant workers: their right to health care

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Migrantworkerstheirrighttohealthcare.aspx>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Demand fosters human trafficking

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Demandfostershumantrafficking.aspx>

Applicants for refugee status claiming to be persecuted for their homosexual orientation may form a 'particular social group' under EU refugee law

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2013-07/cp130087en.pdf>

New Publications

The work of the UK Border Agency (October-December 2012)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmhaff/486/48601.htm>

UK Border Agency annual reports and accounts 2012-13

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/annual-reports-accounts/annual-report-12-13.pdf?view=Binary>

An investigation into the progress made on legacy asylum and migration cases

<http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CAAU-Report-Final-26-June-2013.pdf>

Social and Public Service Impacts of International Migration at the Local Level

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf

The fiscal implications of new Family Migration Rules: What does the evidence tell us?

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/Family_migration_costs_briefing-9-7-2013.pdf

News

Scottish trafficking laws may criminalise victims

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/politics/scottish-trafficking-laws-may-criminalise-victims-1-2985116>

Is justice penalising the slaves, not the slavery?

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/opinion/comment/graham-o-neill-is-justice-penalising-the-slaves-not-the-slavery-1-2987026>

Foreigners face more charges to access NHS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23156403>

New migrants to face £1,000 healthcare levy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk-news/2013/jul/03/immigrants-levy-healthcare>

UK spouse immigration rules 'unjustified', High Court says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23198144>

BBC had 'liberal bias' on immigration

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/bbc-had-liberal-bias-on-immigration-1-2987805>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

BBC had 'deep liberal bias' over immigration, says former news chief

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2013/jul/03/bbc-deep-liberal-bias-immigration>

True toll of mass migration on UK life: Half of Britons suffer under strain placed on schools, police, NHS and housing

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2355208/Toll-mass-migration-UK-life-Half-Britons-suffer-strain-places-schools-police-NHS-housing.html>

Capita says 8,000 potential illegal visa 'overstayers' have left UK

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23187320>

Vince Cable: Visa rhetoric off-putting to students

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/vince-cable-visa-rhetoric-off-putting-to-students-1-2992358>

Student visas cost universities £67m

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-23256293>

Pope attacks 'globalisation of indifference' towards migrants

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/pope-attacks-globalisation-of-indifference-towards-migrants.21556045>

Warning on migration reforms cost

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/warning-on-migration-reforms-cost.21560103>

Jimmy Mubenga: Heathrow deportee 'unlawfully killed'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-23244203>

Jimmy Mubenga was unlawfully killed, inquest jury finds

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk-news/2013/jul/09/jimmy-mubenga-unlawfully-killed-inquest-jury>

Jimmy Mubenga case exposes the dark side of deportation

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/10/jimmy-mubenga-dark-side-deportation>

Jimmy Mubenga's unlawful killing was a death waiting to happen

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/09/jimmy-mubenga-unlawful-killing-death-waiting-happen>

Deported Angolan Jimmy Mubenga 'unlawfully killed' on flight, jury rules as CPS reconsiders charges for G4S guards

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/deported-angolan-jimmy-mubenga-unlawfully-killed-on-flight-jury-rules-as-cps-reconsiders-charges-for-g4s-guards-8697820.html?origin=internalSearch>

Foreign-trained doctors 'face GP exam discrimination'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23245607>

Convicted killer wins human rights battle to stay in the UK

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/convicted-killer-wins-human-rights-battle-to-stay-in-the-uk.21567417>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Net migration 'could be underestimated', campaigners say

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23265391>

UK immigration backlog 'tops 500,000' say MPs

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23295435>

Immigration backlog cases 'will take up to 37 years to clear'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/immigration-backlog-cases-will-take-up-to-37-years-to-clear.21593361>

Resources needed to deal with immigration backlog

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/resources-needed-to-deal-with-immigration-backlog.21596975>

Immigration backlog of 500,000 cases will take 40 years to clear, complain MPs

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3815636.ece>

Immigration: Forty year backlog of 500k applicants

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/uk/immigration-forty-year-backlog-of-500k-applicants-1-2999852>

Immigration backlog tops 500,000 and will take 37 years to clear, warn MPs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10176439/Immigration-backlog-tops-500000-and-will-take-37-years-to-clear-warn-MPs.html>

Immigration backlog of 500,000 cases will take 37 years to clear, say MPs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk-news/2013/jul/13/immigration-backlog-37-years-clear>

Immigration backlog 'will take nearly 40 years to clear'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-backlog-will-take-nearly-40-years-to-clear-8706557.html>

Judge warns against 'hopeless' applications to halt deportations

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jul/11/judge-hopeless-application-halt-deportations>

Lib Dem MP Sarah Teather attacks 'nakedly political' plot to make UK 'hostile' to immigrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lib-dem-mp-sarah-teather-attacks-nakedly-political-plot-to-make-uk-hostile-to-immigrants-8707347.html>

Stop-and-search blitz on foreigners

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1287421.ece

They come over here, speak good English, get good jobs... Immigrants get better jobs than native Britons, figures reveal

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/they-come-over-here-speak-good-english-get-good-jobs-immigrants-get-better-jobs-than-native-britons-figures-reveal-8706554.html>

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Extremism and Integration

Rehman Chishti: What steps he is taking to tackle extremism and promote integration in Britain. [163426]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles): Like the rest of the House, the Government believe in challenging the forces of hate and the politics of division—from Islamic preachers of hate, to English Defence League thugs, to violent Trotskyite protesters. We are championing what we have in common and what unites us as a British nation across class, colour and creed.

Rehman Chishti: I thank the Secretary of State for that answer. It has been said that “extremism breeds not within communities, but in their gaps and margins. In places where the webs and safety nets of community that sustain dignity, self-worth, autonomy and solidarities fail.”

What steps are being taken to tackle that?

Reply from Eric Pickles: It is most important for us to concentrate on those things that unite us. Very early on in this Government, we took a decision to separate the Prevent strategy from integration. My Department’s role has been to try to ensure that those parts that we can celebrate, as British citizens together, work together.

In particular, we have carried out a number of initiatives, including working with inter-faith groups, schools and detached youth workers. I have been grateful for the co-operation in individual constituencies from both sides of the House in respect of our ability to recognise that people of good will can celebrate the differences that exist.

Keith Vaz: A recent report by Teesside university, following the atrocity in Woolwich, showed that between 22 May and 25 June this year there were 241 anti-Muslim attacks. What support are the Government giving to local community groups under the Prevent strategy to deal with that hate?

Reply from Eric Pickles: The most important thing that we did was establish a way of recording anti-Muslim attacks. We took on board what had been happening with anti-Semitic attacks and took some of it across. I have to say to the right hon. Gentleman that those statistics include things being said on Twitter as well as actual attacks against individuals, and it is important that we have a degree of grading.

In the aftermath of the tragic and unjustified recent murder of Drummer Rigby, there were a number of attacks on mosques. I talked to the imams of just about every single one, and they wanted to be clear that the attack was not in their name. They condemned it and were looking towards greater integration within society.

Bob Stewart: Councils increasingly have to translate their documents into other languages. How does that help the integration of communities in our country?

Reply from Eric Pickles: I do not think that it does, and I say that as a sinner repented. I was leader of Bradford council and we did translate. I realised that that attempt to integrate was a process that further isolated. The one thing that does unite us is our language of English. We should do everything we can to ensure that people learn English.

Lisa Nandy: Is the Secretary of State aware that in some areas of the country, including Bradford, extremist groups are targeting young people and offering to keep them safe from on-street grooming, purely as a way of promoting their disgusting, far-right views? Will he tell us what his Department is doing to support local councils to tackle the problem?

Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Eric Pickles: I thought it significant that the Friday before last, throughout the country, mosques read a sermon explaining the difficulties of grooming and ways in which we can tackle it. A number of councils right around the country have been helpful in tackling the issue. We have been in close contact to ensure that the true voices of the community are heard, and not that perversion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130708/debtext/130708-0001.htm#13070810000017>

News

Scotland's most ethnically diverse street

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/features/scotland-s-most-ethnically-diverse-street-1-2991437>

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Equality

New Publications

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Fundamental rights: challenges and achievements in 2012

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/annual-report-2012_en.pdf

Annual Activity Report 2012

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/annual-activity-report-2012_en_0.pdf

News

Commission welcomes government review of stop and search

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2013/july/commission-welcomes-government-review-of-stop-and-search/>

Politics needs more black and Asian people

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/jul/08/vaughan-gething-wales-assembly-equality>

It's time to boost ethnic minority representation in the media

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/08/redress-ethnic-minority-representation-media>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Caste Discrimination

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have commissioned from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on caste discrimination; what relevance any such research has to the implementation of changes to the Equality Act 2010 agreed by Parliament during the last Session; and whether they will place an account of any such research in the Library of the House.[HL590]

Reply from Baroness Stowell of Beeston: The Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission are in discussion about the Commission undertaking research into key aspects of the prospective legislation on caste discrimination. The Commission has a role as a National Human Rights Institution and regulator of equality law to consider the effectiveness and likely effect of the proposed change of law.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130704w0001.htm#13070449000144>

New Publication

Tackling Racism in Youth Work: Scottish Youth Workers' views on dealing with racist attitudes and behaviours

<http://www.crer.org.uk/Publications/YouthWork.pdf>

News

Vandals target Scottish mosque

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/vandals-target-scottish-mosque.21574160>

Far-right group march ban

<http://www.glasgowsouthandeastwoodextra.co.uk/news/local-headlines/far-right-group-march-ban-1-2997433>

Worry at SDL plan to march in Asian community in Ramadan

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/worry-at-sdl-plan-to-march-in-asian-community-in-ramadan.21540985>

Race attack driver: Police took 41 days to respond

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/race-attack-driver-police-took-41-days-to-respond-1-2989543>

Police forces to examine Macpherson Inquiry records

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23210976>

Police accused of failing to follow up racist assault

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/police-accused-of-failing-to-follow-up-racist-assault-129658n.21530641>

Anti-Semitic teacher loses tribunal claim that his views are a legitimate 'philosophical belief'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/antisemitic-teacher-loses-tribunal-claim-that-his-views-are-a-legitimate-philosophical-belief-8690522.html>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Jewish surveyor awarded £20,000 payout after he was forced to quit his job because of boss's anti-Semitic rants

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2361774/Jewish-surveyor-awarded-20-000-payout-forced-quit-job-bosss-anti-Semitic-rants.html>

Engineering boss 'told Jewish worker he wanted to lock up "Yids" like Alan Sugar's son and gas them'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2359472/Engineering-boss-told-Jewish-worker-wanted-lock-Yids-like-Alan-Sugars-son-gas-them.html>

Twitter agrees to hand over details of people who post racist or anti-Semitic comments after French legal battle

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2361751/Twitter-agrees-reveal-names-people-post-racist-anti-Semitic-comments-losing-French-legal-battle.html>

Extraordinary life of the café owner who took on the racists

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/extraordinary-life-of-the-caf-owner-who-took-on-the-racists-8706364.html>

'If you are allergic to black people, don't come in' – at first I balked ...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jul/11/black-people-racism-martha-renee-kolleh>

'I am a black woman. If you are allergic to black people, don't come in': Yorkshire cafe owner warns potential customers she 'doesn't bite' after previous bad reactions

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2359316/Yorkshire-cafe-owner-Martha-Renee-Kolleh-puts-sign-warn-customers-Im-black-woman.html>

Appeal for calm in wake of nail bomb attack on mosque

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime-courts/appeal-for-calm-in-wake-of-nail-bomb-attack-on-mosque.21592248>

Call for community calm amid controlled explosion at mosque

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/uk/call-for-community-calm-amid-controlled-explosion-at-mosque-1-3000894>

Tipton mosque blast: Controlled explosion on 'device' found in garden

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-23300321>

Police carry out controlled explosion after blast aimed at Tipton mosque

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article3816108.ece>

Forensic officers find remains of mosque nail bomb

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/10178058/Forensic-officers-find-remains-of-mosque-nail-bomb.html>

Tory ministers accused of renegeing on pledge to end caste discrimination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-ministers-accused-of-renegeing-on-pledge-to-end-caste-discrimination-8704049.html>

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Other Holyrood

Parliamentary Questions

Female Genital Mutilation

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to open a clinic specialised in female genital mutilation. (S4W-15791)

Reply from Shona Robison: Opening a clinic specialised in female genital mutilation (FGM) would be a matter for health boards to decide. Currently in Scotland, the NHS offers all available assistance to ensure positive health outcomes for women identified as being victims of FGM.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15791&ResultsPerPage=10>

Female Genital Mutilation

Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government what action it plans to take in relation to the number of cases brought under the Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005. (S4W-15792)

Reply from Shona Robison: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a form of physical abuse of women and girls and a violation of their human rights under the guise of culture and/or religion.

To date there have been three reported incidents of FGM in Scotland, with no prosecutions or court convictions. The Scottish Government tackles FGM through a multi-agency approach which includes a variety of preventative and supportive interventions to encourage reporting involving voluntary and community groups. We also work proactively with key partners such as the police, health, social services and education to ensure that FGM continues to be a priority.

All cases reported to Police Scotland under the Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005 are investigated and appropriate action taken with the records being kept for monitoring purposes.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-15792&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

New donation and transplant plan

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/New-donation-and-transplant-plan-259.aspx>

New Publications

Annual Report 2012-13

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/PublicInformationdocuments/Annual-Report-2013-English.pdf>

A Donation and Transplantation Plan For Scotland 2013-2020

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00427357.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Broadcasting: Religion

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Channel 4's decision to broadcast the Muslim call to prayer every day during the month of Ramadan, and of the effect this may have on community relations in the United Kingdom. [HL1312]

Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): Programming decisions are ultimately a matter for Channel 4 and its regulator. I would observe that Channel 4 has a long history of alternative programming. Freedom of worship is an important British liberty, and we should show respect to all faiths, especially during their festivals. Religious practices of many faiths are featured in the media from time to time, and there is a long tradition of religious tolerance in this country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130710w0001.htm#13071091000329>

Airports: Racial Profiling

Lord Ahmed: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many United Kingdom citizens of Pakistani origin were profiled at United Kingdom airports; and how that figure compares to that for other United Kingdom citizens.[HL742]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): We do not profile by race or ethnicity.

Lord Ahmed: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many international flights are targeted for profiling purposes each year; and which destinations and airlines have been prioritised in this regard over the last five years.[HL743]

Lord Taylor of Holbeach: All international flights are subject to checks at the border. Border Force uses intelligence and risk based criteria to inform targeted operations and the identification of persons on both inbound and outbound flights who may present a risk to Border Security.

Lord Ahmed: To ask Her Majesty's Government what statistics they maintain regarding profiling of different racial and ethnic groups at United Kingdom airports; and whether they will publish figures for each of the last five years.[HL744]

Lord Taylor of Holbeach: We do not profile by race or ethnicity.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130701w0001.htm#1307015000466>

Press Releases

Prime Minister's video message for Ramadan 2013

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-video-message-for-ramadan-2013>

Deputy Prime Minister's video message for Ramadan 2013

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-prime-ministers-video-message-for-ramadan-2013>

Foreign Secretary's Ramadan message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-ramadan-message--4>

Baroness Warsi sends her best wishes to those observing the month of Ramadan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/baroness-warsi-sends-her-best-wishes-to-those-observing-the-month-of-ramadan>

Other Westminster Press Releases (continued)

Islamic finance: foreign policy opportunities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/islamic-finance-foreign-policy-opportunities>

News

Stop and search: home secretary launches consultation on police powers

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2013/jul/02/stop-search-theresa-may-police-powers>

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New Publication

Evaluation of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-external_evaluation-final-report.pdf

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Other News

First black minister appointed to the Welsh Government

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/socialjustice/2013/130701-minister-appoint/?jsessionid=CCA55FB8EE6993C3674D1A1AAC3DD017?lang=en>

British Asians set lower BMI target

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-23143010>

Warning over cousin marriages: Unions between blood relatives in Pakistani community account for third of birth defects in their children

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2355277/Warning-cousin-marriages-Unions-blood-relatives-Pakistani-community-account-birth-defects-children.html>

Marriage between first cousins 'doubles risk of having baby with life-threatening birth defects'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/marriage-between-first-cousins-doubles-risk-of-having-baby-with-lifethreatening-birth-defects-8686232.html>

Why don't black people run marathons?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/the-running-blog/2013/jul/03/why-dont-black-people-run-marathons>

How Muslims are changing English football culture

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/23159023>

'It's dangerous to ignore ethnicity in adoptions,' says Floella Benjamin

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/its-dangerous-to-ignore-ethnicity-in-adoptions-says-floella-benjamin-8684078.html>

Other News (continued)

Turbaned Sikh men take their fashion to the streets

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/fashion/fashion-blog/2013/jul/11/turban-sikh-men-fashion-streets>

School's out and the knife awaits

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/newsreview/features/article1286938.ece>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

Children and Young People Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Criminal Justice Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

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>

Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill

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

Victims and Witnesses Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumseekersreturntonearestsafecountry.html>

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/charitablestatusforreligiousinstitutions.html>

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/collectionofnationalitydata.html>

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/facecoveringsprohibition.html>

Bills in Progress

Westminster (continued)

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/lobbyistsregistrationofcodeofconduct.html>

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourrestriction.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes next week!**

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

**** closes next week!**

Children and Young People Bill (closing date 26 July 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/General%20Documents/Call_for_written_evidence.pdf

Review of the Balance of Competences: Asylum and Immigration

(closing date 5 August 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199891/asylum-immigration-call-for-evidence.pdf

**** Tackling illegal migration in privately rented accommodation** (21 August 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/33-landlords/>

**** Stop and Search** (closing date 13 August 2013)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/stop-and-search>

**** Prevention of illegal working: Strengthening and simplifying the civil penalty scheme** (closing date 20 August 2013)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/civil-penalties/>

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill (closing date 23 August 2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/63773.aspx>

Scrutiny of the draft budget 2014-15 (closing date 23 August 2013)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/65208.aspx>

Consultations (continued)

**** Migrant access to health services in the UK** (closing date 28 August 2013)
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/34-healthcare/>

Criminal Justice Bill (closing date 30 August 2013)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/65418.aspx>

Inquiry into proposals for an independent fiscal body (closing date 6 September 2013)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/65292.aspx>

**** Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)** (closing date 4 November 2013)

Draft SORP

<http://www.charitySORP.org/media/513587/charity-sorp-exposure-draft.pdf>

Consultation document

<http://www.charitySORP.org/media/513666/charity-sorp-invitation-to-comment.pdf>

Tried and Trusted? The Role of NGOs in Asylum Seeker and Irregular Migrant Voluntary Return (no closing date given)

<https://www.isurvey.soton.ac.uk/7654>

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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**

2014 Commonwealth Games Security Training

Mid August 2013 onwards in Glasgow; closing date for applications, 31 July 2013

For information see <http://www.cardonald.ac.uk/courses/show/927>

**** Festival of Politics**

23 to 25 August 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

Full programme: <http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/pdf/FOPEventsProgramme2013.pdf>

**** What is the Future of Immigration in Scotland?**

25 August 2013 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (12.30 – 2.00)

Discussion to explore current immigration policy in the UK and Scotland and examine what kind of immigration Scotland might need in the future. For information see

<http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk/207.htm>

An introduction to working with asylum seekers and refugees

3 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 4.30)

8 November 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 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working with interpreters

22 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.15 – 1.00)

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

Mental Health and Ethnicity

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Conference to present an evidence based approach to influence the development of a healthier minority ethnic community in Scotland. Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2013. For information contact Sidra Shirjeel sidra.shirjeel@cc3.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmvj354>

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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/>

Useful Links (continued)

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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