

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Contents

Immigration and Asylum	New Publications
Community Relations	Other News
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Scottish Independence Referendum	Job Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events/Conferences/Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 3 August 2014.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-10428 Bob Doris: Kurdish Community Marks Refugee Week in Glasgow—That the Parliament acknowledges what it considers the positive impact that the Kurdish community has had on Glasgow and Scotland, which many families have made their home over the years, often after fleeing violence and persecution; welcomes the way that Scotland's Kurdish communities have embraced Scottish culture and seek to ensure that future Scottish Kurds are enriched by their Kurdish heritage; commends Ako Khalil Zada and his team for the formation of the new Glasgow Kurdish association, which hosted an evening of dance, poetry, song, fashion and traditional Kurdish food as part of Scottish Refugee Week at Maryhill's Community Central Hall, and congratulates everyone involved on what it considers the well-attended event's great success, which brought

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

together people from many different communities to celebrate Kurdish culture in Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10428&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Debates

Asylum Seekers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140626-gc0001.htm#14062685000494>

Migration Statistics

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140626/halltext/140626h0001.htm#14062670000001>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements

Immigration Removals (New Restraint System)

The Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): I am today announcing that I have formally approved a new restraint system for safely managing people being escorted during immigration removals.

This fulfils a commitment by this Government to provide training for escort staff that reflects the environment they work in, both in-country and overseas. The bespoke training is tailored to the experience and behaviour of detainees and staff in immigration removals and provides practical tools to de-escalate situations and minimise the use of restraint.

The new system has been assessed by the independent advisory panel for non-compliance management, chaired by Stephen Shaw. The panel was established to provide support to the National Offender Management Service in the design of the new training package to provide independent advice on the quality and safety of the new package, in particular on the use of restraint techniques.

The report by the independent advisory panel for non-compliance management is welcomed by the Government. The report recognises the balance to be struck between treating detainees with respect and minimising the need for restraint, with our responsibility to enforce immigration law, which sometimes requires the use of physical intervention.

After careful consideration of the panel's comprehensive assessment of the quality and safety of the new system, the Government have accepted all of its recommendations.

The new training for overseas and in-country escort staff will begin implementation on 28 July 2014.

I am placing a copy of the full report of the independent advisory panel for non-compliance management and the Government's response to the report in the Library of the House. A redacted version of the manual for escorting safely and supporting guidance will be published in due course.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140626/wmstext/140626m0001.htm#14062669000010>

Student Visas

The Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): ... Since the reforms we introduced in 2011, it has been a requirement for all student visa applicants

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Ministerial Statements (continued)

to prove they can speak English at an appropriate level. All students in further education or at a university that relies on English language testing, who want to extend their stay by applying for a new student visa have to be tested by one of five companies licensed by the Government. One of those companies, the European subsidiary of an American firm called Educational Testing Service, was exposed by the BBC's "Panorama" programme earlier this year following systematic cheating at a number of its UK test centres. Facilitated by organised criminals, this typically involved invigilators supplying, even reading out, answers to whole exam rooms, or gangs of impostors being allowed to step into the exam-candidates' places to sit the test. Evidently, this could happen only with considerable collusion by the test centres concerned. ...

Officials from immigration enforcement and UK Visas and Immigration have not found evidence to suggest there is systematic cheating taking place in the tests carried out by the other providers.

As soon as the allegations of systematic cheating were first made, we suspended ETS testing in the UK, put a hold on all immigration applications from those in the UK using an ETS test certificate, and made all applications from overseas subject to interview by UK Visas and Immigration staff. In April ETS's licence to conduct tests for immigration purposes ended, and two weeks ago we formally removed the company as a test provider in the immigration rules. ...

At certain private further education colleges, as many as three quarters of the file checks completed by UKVI officers were a cause for concern. ...

Other universities are involved in the continuing investigation, and further action may follow, although because of the steps they have already taken to improve their processes, including voluntarily ceasing overseas recruitment to London sub-campus, we will not at this stage remove their right to sponsor foreign students. Because much of the worst abuse we have uncovered seems to be taking place at London sub-campus of universities based in other parts of the country, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education will examine these London campuses to see whether further action should be taken against their parent universities.

The Government do not take such action lightly, but we are clear that this kind of irresponsibility cannot go without serious sanction. We have already removed some 750 bogus colleges from the list of those entitled to bring foreign students to Britain, and of these, almost 400, we now know, were linked to those who obtained invalid ETS certificates. We have tightened up the rules for individual students. We have reduced the level of immigration to Britain in part by cutting out abuse in the student visa system. But we have always said we must remain vigilant against abuse. The steps I have outlined today show that we will not hesitate to take firm action against those—students, colleges and universities—who do not abide by their legal responsibilities, and we will resolutely pursue organised criminality to bring those responsible to justice. I commend this statement to the House. ...

To read the full statement and subsequent question and answer session in the House of Commons see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/debtext/140624-0001.htm#14062429000001>

To read the full statement and subsequent question and answer session in the House of Lords see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140624-0001.htm#14062437000450>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

Entry Clearances

Angus Brendan MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many family visas were granted (a) in each year since 2011 and (b) in the current year up to the latest available quarter for which figures are available; and what the (i) category of family visa and (ii) UK nation of residence of the sponsor of each such visa was. [201341]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The available information requested is given in the following table:

<i>Family entry clearance visas issued, by category.</i>				
<i>Visa category</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>Q1 2014 (January to March)</i>
Family: Partner	33,496	30,411	23,557	6,825
Family: Child	97	85	73	16
Family: Other	4,306	3,710	4,233	1,591
Family: Partner (for immediate settlement)	1,336	1,097	1,084	176
Family: Child (for immediate settlement)	4,596	4,001	3,844	726
Family: Other (for immediate settlement)	1,892	1,588	899	296
Total	45,723	40,892	33,690	9,630

Source: Immigration Statistics, January - March 2014, Before Entry Volume 2, table be_01_q

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on entry clearance visa grants by category in table be_01_q (Before Entry tables volume 2) within the 'Immigration Statistics' release. The numbers are broken down by nationality in table be_06_q_f (Before Entry tables volume 4). It is not possible to separately identify those granted visas under the old family rules and those granted visas under new family rules implemented on 9 July 2012.

A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics January - March 2014' is available from the Library of the House and from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The figures provided relate to family members issued visas in the family immigration route. Statistics on the dependants of migrants issued visas in other routes, such as the Points Based System, can be found within the published data at the above link.

The information requested in part (ii) on the UK nation of residence of the sponsor of each of the family visas of interest is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Furthermore, not all sponsors are based in the UK and not all individuals granted a visa in the family route have a sponsor.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140623/text/140623w0002.htm#1406241000086>

Illegal Immigrants

Lord Vinson: To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the cost to public funds, in each of the last five years, of compensation payments to illegal immigrants who had been unlawfully detained beyond the statutory period; and what was the legal aid cost of the lawyers undertaking those compensation claims. [HL289]

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Lord Faulks): 1 April 2008 we have reported on compensation cases and disclosed information on individual cases where the costs exceeded £250,000. We do not report the individual details on cases below this threshold, or prior to this date.

Information relating to compensation, ex-gratia and adverse legal costs payments

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

is available and can be found within the Losses and Special Payments disclosure in the UKBA Annual Report and Accounts. These are available on the Home Office Website via the attached link.

www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=uk-border-agency

Legal Aid Agency data does not distinguish between false imprisonment claims made by illegal immigrants and those made by other individuals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140624w0001.htm#14062444000232>

National Insurance: Asylum

Andy McDonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that asylum seekers are able to receive a national insurance number without unnecessary delay. [200843]

Reply from Esther McVey: For those granted leave to remain as a result of a successful asylum claim, a joint fast track national insurance number application process operates between DWP and the Home Office.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/text/140624w0002.htm#14062469000114>

Social Security Benefits: Asylum

Andy McDonald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that asylum seekers receive the benefits to which they are entitled. [200845]

Reply from Esther McVey: Asylum seekers are normally excluded from claiming most benefits.

Those who cannot claim benefits receive support provided by Asylum Support, a part of the Home Office that deals with accommodating and supporting asylum seekers and their dependants.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/text/140624w0002.htm#14062469000119>

Asylum: Housing

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to ensure that accommodation provided by the COMPASS contracts meets the Decent Homes Standards. [201006]

Reply from Karen Bradley: It is a statutory requirement that social housing meets the Decent Homes Standard as defined in the Housing Act 2004.

All COMPASS contracts incorporate the requirements of the Decent Home Standards for social housing as part of the contractual performance management arrangements and are robustly monitored through three key performance indicators which relate specifically to property standards.

Providers are required to inspect all properties on a monthly basis or at the point when a service user first occupies the property. In addition, the Home Office has a team of 17 contract compliance officers who also closely monitor property standards as part of their contract compliance and assurance role.

Any failure of the critical service levels may result in financial penalties.

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department takes to ensure that asylum seekers in COMPASS accommodation are able to register complaints quickly and easily. [201007]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The COMPASS contracts lay down requirements for the management of enquiries and complaints received in respect of accommodation services provided to asylum seekers.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

COMPASS providers have a complaints service in place through which the asylum seeker, their representative, the voluntary sector or local authorities can raise concerns or issues direct. Providers also provide asylum seekers with a detailed briefing on how they can raise a complaint as part of the move in process. Asylum seekers can raise a complaint in a confidential way, and with the assistance of an interpreter when required.

The complaints process is subject to performance management under the Key Performance Indicators regime. Providers are required to report their performance in terms of dealing with complaints on a monthly basis. In addition, the Home Office has a team of 17 contract compliance officers who also closely monitor complaints made to providers or made direct to the Home Office as part of their contract compliance and assurance role.

Any failure of the critical service levels may result in financial penalties.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140626/text/140626w0002.htm#14062697000061>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: To ask her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 6 May (WA 322), what form the review of asylum support rates will take; and which stakeholders will be consulted.[HL449]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The review is an internal Home Office one, to ensure that the payments provided to destitute asylum seekers are sufficient to cover their essential living needs consistent with the judgement of 9 April. The Home Office has met with representatives of "Still Human Still Here", a coalition of organisations with an established interest in the issue. The review will take full account of both their views and the details of the judgment of 9 April.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140626w0001.htm#14062679001692>

Asylum: Gender Recognition

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: To ask her Majesty's Government how many people seeking asylum in the United Kingdom on the grounds of trans-related issues have been refused asylum and deported to their countries of origin over the last five years.[HL375]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office does not centrally record this specific data and the information requested could only be obtained through a manual search of individual case files. This would exceed the cost limit.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140626w0001.htm#14062679001693>

Deportation: LGBT People

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon: To ask her Majesty's Government how many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender asylum seekers have been deported from the United Kingdom over the last five years.[HL376]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): It is not possible to provide information on the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender asylum seekers who have been deported from the UK, as sexual identity is not information that the Home Office centrally records.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140626w0001.htm#14062679001696>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum

Matthew Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to speed up claims by asylum seekers. [200219]

Reply from Karen Bradley: Claims for asylum are increasing. In 2013 the number of asylum applications within the EU was the highest it has been since 2002. The UK has experienced an increase of 30% between 2010 and 2013—with an 8% increase between 2012 and 2013 alone.

We are committed to resolving these quickly, while continuing to improve the quality of our decision-making, and we are making changes to our processes and management to make sure we do so.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140623/text/140623w0002.htm#1406241000082>

Asylum

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department If she will ensure that all asylum interviews are routinely audio and video recorded. [200379]

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Home Office is required to allow claimants, with some exceptions, to have their asylum interviews electronically recorded on request. The request to record the interview is at the discretion of the claimant. The invitation to interview letter advises eligible claimants to inform the asylum office if they wish the interview to be recorded, and to provide a minimum of 24 hours notice of their request to avoid a delay on the day. For those in detention, at least three days notice must be provided. We recognise that digitally recording asylum interviews has the potential to bring benefits to both asylum seekers and to the Home Office and we are currently exploring this as an option for the future.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140626/text/140626w0002.htm#14062697000060>

Asylum: Syria

Julian Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme since its launch; and how many people are expected to arrive in the UK under that scheme by December 2014. [200675]

Reply from Karen Bradley: To date 50 Syrians have arrived in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

The scheme is based on need, rather than designed to meet set arrival projections. However, we will continue to bring groups here on a regular basis, and envisage that several hundred people will be helped over the next three years.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/text/140624w0001.htm#14062465000003>

New Publications

Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/handbook-law-asylum-migration-borders-2nded_en.pdf

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322331/children-detention-may2014.ods

Immigration and Asylum New Publications (continued)

Monthly asylum application tables

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322309/asylum-apr2014.ods

News

Yarl's Wood: deported asylum seekers to give evidence to parliament

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/28/immigration-prisons-and-probation>

Scale of student visa fraud condemned as 'truly shocking'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-27993775>

50,000 'cheated in English tests'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/50-000-cheated-in-english-tests-1.439035>

English language tests inquiry declares thousands of results invalid

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/24/english-language-tests-cheating-results-invalid-overseas-students>

Government promises crackdown on immigrant abuse of student visa system

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/government-promises-crackdown-on-immigrant-abuse-of-student-visa-system-9560827.html>

48,000 immigrants feared to have cheated in English tests

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4128841.ece>

50,000 'cheated in English tests'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2668116/50-000-CHEATED-IN-ENGLISH-TESTS.html>

Asylum rejects 'get poor advice'

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/asylum-rejects-get-poor-advice-1.439997>

MSP sets out asylum process vision

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2670628/MSP-SETS-OUT-ASYLUM-PROCESS-VISION.html>

Asylum rejects 'get poor advice'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2668832/ASYLUM-REJECTS-GET-POOR-ADVICE.html>

Married but alone: the student couples separated by immigration laws

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2014/jun/23/students-married-couple-separated-immigration-laws>

'Constraint' worry on immigration

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/constraint-worry-on-immigration-1.441457>

Deportation escorts to be trained in safer restraint methods

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/26/deportation-escorts-training-safer-restraint-methods-jimmy-mubenga>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Restraint training for deportation

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2670886/RESTRAINT-TRAINING-FOR-DEPORTATIONS.html>

Serco apologises after dismissals related to Yarl's Wood allegations

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/jun/24/serco-apologises-dismissals-yarls-wood-allegations>

The Home Office faces a crisis of confidence over immigration controls

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10922993/The-Home-Office-faces-a-crisis-of-confidence-over-immigration-controls.html>

Romanians sleeping rough in London have tripled just months after borders opened... (and 2,000 are arrested in 12 weeks)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2673475/Romanians-sleeping-rough-London-tripled-just-months-borders-opened-2-000-arrested-12-weeks.html>

Inquest blasts immigration centre's 'shambolic' records in US man's death

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/jun/27/inquest-immigration-centre-shambolic-us-tourist-death>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-10465 James Dornan: Congratulations to the Muslim Council of Scotland on Ramadhan/Eid-UI-Fitr Open Day—That the Parliament congratulates the Muslim Council of Scotland on its Ramadhan/Eid-UI-Fitr Open Day, which is bringing together members of local communities and different faiths; welcomes that the 2014 open day is taking place in 15 mosques across Scotland and that the council plans to extend this to around 40; recognises what it sees as the important role that projects such as this have in dispelling myths about other religions, and welcomes the fact that people of all faiths and none are working together to make Scotland a better place.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10465&ResultsPerPage=10>

News

Multiculturalism in reverse as teenagers buck the trend towards integration

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10931854/Multiculturalism-in-reverse-as-teenagers-buck-the-trend-towards-integration.html>

British culture forced out of schools

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4132655.ece>

Poor white pupils put off school by multicultural timetable

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/10930854/Poor-white-pupils-put-off-school-by-multicultural-timetable.html>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Motion

S4M-10441 Angus MacDonald: Coalition of Racial Equality and Rights' Political Shadowing Scheme—That the Parliament considers that there is a need for better representation of black and ethnic minorities in the political arena; welcomes the Coalition of Racial Equality and Rights' political shadowing scheme; encourages present and future black and ethnic minority participants to take full advantage of what it considers this unique opportunity and to put into practice what it considers the influential communication, equality and diversity and government training that they will receive on the scheme, and considers that they will gain a deeper understanding of Scottish politics and appreciate the practicalities of politics at all levels, which will further empower and inspire them to become politically active.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-10441&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Government reforms aid attainment among black pupils

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-reforms-aid-attainment-among-black-pupils>

News

Henry unveils ethnic minorities bid

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/henry-unveils-ethnic-minorities-bid-1.437991>

Ethnic TV talents 'just need a break'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ethnic-tv-talents-just-need-a-break.24579668>

Lenny Henry: We are hemorrhaging black talent to America h

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/bbc/10922493/Lenny-Henry-We-are-hemorrhaging-black-talent-to-America.html>

Who is top of the class? Black children achieve biggest rise in test and exam results of any ethnic group, new figures show

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2670433/Black-pupils-achieved-biggest-rise-test-exam-results-ethnic-group.html>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Releases

Vandalism of a Jewish cemetery in Manchester

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vandalism-of-a-jewish-cemetery-in-manchester>

States must step up efforts to counter racism on the Internet and social media

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14790&LangID=E>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued) **News**

Spite club: Race-hate group who target Muslims organise street fighting sessions to train recruits

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/spite-club-race-hate-group-who-3746128>

Women targeted in rising tide of attacks on Muslims

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jun/28/women-targeted-attacks-muslims>

Women more at risk of Islamophobia than men because traditional headscarves 'make them a target'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2673854/Women-risk-Islamophobia-men-traditional-headscarves-make-target.html>

'Sickening' anti-Semitic attack on Manchester cemetery

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-27994943>

Two boys, 13, held after Jewish graves are daubed with Nazi swastikas

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/two-boys-13-held-after-jewish-graves-are-daubed-with-nazi-swastikas.1403948936>

Mosque attack conviction 'mad' - Richard Dawkins

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/celebrity/mosque-attack-conviction-mad-richard-dawkins-1-3455037>

Hate crimes unacceptable MSPs told

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2670737/HATE-CRIMES-UNACCEPTABLE-MSPS-TOLD.html>

FM: Zero tolerance to demonisation of Scots Muslims

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/fm-zero-tolerance-to-demonisation-of-scots-muslims-1-3457852>

Drunk princess made racist comments and tried to strip

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/celebrity/drunk-princess-made-racist-comments-and-tried-to-strip-1-3458122>

Christian Heathrow worker takes unfair dismissal claim to court of appeal

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/jun/25/christian-heathrow-worker-dismissal-claim-court-appeal>

'Shoes' fit in bid to beat bigotry

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/shoes-fit-in-bid-to-beat-bigotry.1403864230>

Britain First's Facebook Page Banned For 'Hate Speech' ... Then Put Back Just An Hour Later

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/06/28/britain-first-facebook_n_5539413.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

[TOP](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum

UK Parliament Debate

Scotland: Independence

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140624-0001.htm#14062437000451>

Scottish Government Press Release

Scottish Government to launch major public information campaign

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Scottish-Government-to-launch-major-public-information-campaign-e55.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Gypsy Travellers (Education)

John Finnie: To ask the Scottish Government what assistance it provides to local authorities for the education of Gypsy Travellers. (S4O-03406)

Reply from the Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan): The Scottish Government provides core funding to the Scottish Traveller education programme, whose role includes the provision of advice and support for both families and professionals. Within STEP's remit was the production of guidance for local authorities, schools and support services, which was entitled "Inclusive Education: Approaches for Scotland's Travelling Communities within the context of interrupted learning". The guidance was published in March 2011 and was disseminated through the Traveller education network, of which 22 Scottish local authorities are members. That resource is now available online through Education Scotland.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education also produced a publication in 2005 entitled "Taking a closer look at: Inclusion and Equality—meeting the needs of Gypsies and Travellers", which built on the self-evaluation guidance that is given in "How good is our school?" The guide can be used by schools to evaluate the quality of their approaches to inclusion and equality in relation to Gypsy Travellers and to provide examples of best practice.

John Finnie: I am grateful to the minister for that detailed response. The minister is aware of the level of disengagement that there is with the educational process among the Gypsy Traveller community. That is particularly the case in secondary education and it is particularly the case with young men. Will he look at ways of having contact with the Gypsy Traveller community to explore how to ensure that their lifestyle is supported by education rather than the education system excluding them?

Reply from Alasdair Allan: The member is right to point out the very specific needs of the Traveller community. Of course, the Scottish education system and the curriculum for excellence are founded on the idea that all children, regardless of their ethnic group or their background, have a right to an education that meets their needs and to a system that is flexible enough to cope with their needs rather than demanding that they conform to it. Institutions such as the Traveller education network have done a great deal to promote that further understanding

Other Scottish Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

and to ensure that we all listen to the very specific concerns that that community rightly made clear.

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9285&mode=html#iob_83710

Press Releases

Beginning of Ramadan

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Beginning-of-Ramadan-e57.aspx>

Police and Muslim community working together

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Police-and-Muslim-community-working-together-e28.aspx>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Annual Report

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Annualreportsandaccounts/SP_Annual_Report_2013_14.pdf

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Sharia Law Student Loans

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140624/debtext/140624-0003.htm#14062442000003>

Parliamentary Questions

Islam: Marriage

Sharon Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with (a) the Muslim Institute, (b) the Muslim Council of Great Britain and (c) the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain on the legal status of Islamic marriages in England and Wales. [201473]

Reply from Simon Hughes: I have not discussed the legal status of Islamic marriages with any of the organisations listed.

There are no plans to change the law to recognise in English law Muslim marriages and divorces which do not conform to the Marriage Act 1949.

Sharon Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to provide support for and protect the rights of Muslim women in unrecognised marriages in England and Wales. [201476]

Reply from Simon Hughes: The Government is committed to the protection and promotion of the rights of women, families and children. This includes raising awareness of the legal consequences of 'religious only' marriages and encouraging mosques to register in order to be able to carry out legally recognised marriages in their various facilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140625/text/140625w001.htm#14062554000014>

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) Press Releases

Ramadan 2014: David Cameron's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ramadan-2014-david-camerons-message>

Ramadan 2014: message from Nick Clegg

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ramadan-2014-message-from-nick-clegg>

Foreign Secretary Ramadan statement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-ramadan-statement>

Baroness Warsi's Ramadan message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/baroness-warsis-ramadan-message>

Stephen Williams' Ramadan message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/stephen-williams-ramadan-message>

Ramadan message from Eric Pickles

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ramadan-message-from-eric-pickles>

Campaign to end early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/campaign-to-end-early-and-forced-marriage-and-female-genital-mutilation>

New Publication

Evidence and the Welfare of Farmed Animals Part 1: The Evidence Base

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/files/Evidence-and-the-Welfare-of-Farmed-Animals-Part-I-The-Evidence-Base.pdf>

News

Plans for 'sharia' student loans

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2668318/PLANS-FOR-SHARIA-STUDENT-LOAN.html>

[TOP](#)

New Publications

Measuring Up – online self-assessment tool for charities

<http://inspiringimpact.org/measuringup/>

Research match-maker – website to enable organisations that work with migrants and researchers to connect with each other.

<http://www.asylum-network.com/about-the-project/>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Faster change needed to eliminate female genital mutilations

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

Muslim Council of Britain says female genital mutilation is 'un-Islamic'

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jun/23/female-genital-mutilation-muslim-council-britain-unislamic-condemn>

Female Genital Mutilation Is Un-Islamic, Declares Muslim Council Of Britain

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/24/female-genital-mutilation-un-islamic-fgm_n_5523095.html

Twitter launches Ramadan 'hashflags'

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/jun/26/twitter-launches-ramadan-hashflags-muslim-iftar-imsak>

'The birthplace of Islam in Britain': Kensington's Victorian mosque reopens

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-28018673>

Who Is More Likely To Be Ashamed To Be British - Scots Or Muslims?

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/06/27/muslims-british-values_n_5536705.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

Regulation and transparency are key to public trust in charities

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/regulation-key-to-confidence/>

People Powered Health & Wellbeing (PPHW) Reference Group recruitment

PPHW works with other Third Sector partners to support Health and Social Care Services. The Reference group provides a platform for people who use supports and services and carers to influence and provide a lived-experience of those services. For more information contact Lisa 0141 404 0231 / Lisa.Gardner@alliance-scotland.org.uk or see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/14vi_pphw.pdf

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/69604.aspx>

Criminal Justice Bill

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

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament (continued)

Modern Slavery Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/modernslavery.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

Scotland's Electoral Future: delivering improvements in participation and administration (closing date 11 July 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00448004.pdf>

** Proposed Organ and Tissue Donation Bill (closing date 25 September 2014)

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

Scottish Independence Bill: A consultation on an interim constitution for Scotland (closing date 20 October 2014)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452762.pdf>

(summary: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0045/00452784.pdf>)

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

Light on: perceptions and interpretations of expressions (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BPJCY6J>

Advancing Migrant Access to health Services in Europe (no closing date given)

<http://www.amase.eu/wp/be-part-of-amase/>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** new or updated this week

Homecoming Scotland 2014

Wide range of events throughout the whole of 2014. For information see the full programme <http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014/events/>

**MULTICULTURAL
HOMECOMING 2014**

BEMIS, in partnership with Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government has launched 'Multicultural Homecoming 2014', a programme of events to showcase Scotland's rich cultural diversity, and a small Grants Programme to help community groups put on local events. For information see <http://bemis.org.uk/project/multicultural-homecoming-2014/>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People:

7 (9.30am-4.30pm) & 8 (9.30am-12.30pm) July 2014 in Edinburgh

Shakti course aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of issues facing Minority Ethnic women, children & young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <http://www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/training&events.html> or contact 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

22 July 2014 in Edinburgh (7.00 – 9.00)

BEMIS event in partnership with CEMVO Scotland to discuss the Independence Referendum with representatives of the Yes ,and Better Together campaigns. For information and book a place, contact Danny Boyle danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk / 0141 248 4830.

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network

1 September 2014 in Glasgow (7.00 – 9.00)

BEMIS event in partnership with CEMVO Scotland to discuss the Independence Referendum with representatives of the Yes ,and Better Together campaigns. For information and book a place, contact Danny Boyle danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047 or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk / 0141 248 4830.

**** Racism: From the Labour Movement to the Far-Right**

5-6 September 2014 in Glasgow

Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity conference to consider the continuing mutation and expansion of racism into new 'cultural' forms and the electoral consolidation of parties of the far-right. For information see <http://racismconference14.wordpress.com/>

**** Holocaust Memorial Day workshop**

10 November 2014 in Edinburgh (1.15 – 4.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to explore the HMD 2015 theme "Keep the memory alive", hear more about activity organising, and meet others who are planning to mark HMD in your area. Free but booking essential. For information contact 020 7785 7029 / enquiries@hmd.org.uk.

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

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

Scotland's Referendum: Qs&As <http://www.scotreferendum.com/questions-and-answers/>

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

Useful Links (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.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/>

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) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

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

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

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

[TOP](#)



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



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



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