

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish 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.

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 16 February 2015. The UK Parliament will be in recess from 12 to 23 February 2015.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-12219 Kevin Stewart: Congratulations to the Sunnybank Community Centre and SLOVO—That the Parliament congratulates the Sunnybank Community Centre Association and the Russian education and support centre, SLOVO, which are both based in the Aberdeen Central parliamentary constituency, on being awarded £9,825 and £5,130 respectively by Awards for All Scotland; understands that the community centre will use its award to provide English classes for non-native speakers in order to improve their employment opportunities and that SLOVO will offer classes promoting Russian language and culture to people of all ages and deliver workshops, seminars and publications for people who have come to Aberdeen from the Baltic states or from the

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

other eastern European countries and Asia, and hopes that similar groups will also take advantage of such opportunities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12219&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Translation Costs

Dominic Raab: What steps he is taking to reduce translation costs in the delivery of local services. [907332]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles): My Department has issued crystal clear guidance to councils that they should cease translating into foreign languages. Translation is a waste of taxpayers' money and encourages segregation and division. Promoting English is the best way to ensure integration.

Dominic Raab: ... Does he agree that the enormous translation costs for public services that grew up under the previous Government were not just a huge waste of taxpayers' money, but sent a message that if someone moves here from abroad, they do not need to speak English or to integrate, and that has proved a major policy mistake?

Reply from Eric Pickles: Yes; the cost worked out at something like £140 million a year. It is not good enough to say, "Don't translate"; we must make a real effort to ensure that people can speak English. That is why my Department has invested £6 million in six programmes to deliver courses for more than 24,000 adults with the lowest levels of English. Those people are the most isolated because they are unable to speak English. The courses have been targeted principally towards Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Somali women.

Chi Onwurah: I recently met the profoundly deaf communities in my constituency through DeafLink, and they highlighted how isolated they felt because of the lack of British sign language translation services available when accessing services. What will the Secretary of State do to support them?

Reply from Eric Pickles: The hon. Lady makes a reasonable point: sign languages in English should be available. I shall look into the matter very carefully and, because she has made a reasonable point, respond to her.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150202/debtext/150202-0001.htm#1502022000013>

Police: Translation Services

Jim Shannon [223192] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce translation and interpretation costs in police forces.

Reply from Mike Penning: The provision of translation and interpretation services is an operational matter for the Chief Constable of each force in England and Wales. These services fall into one of the categories in which Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables have agreed to move to standardise specifications of their requirements and to aggregate buying power to improve the value for money they obtain.

Under this Government, collaborative procurement of goods and services has delivered £200 million in savings for the taxpayer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223192/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Community Relations

Lord Hylton [HL4425] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the existing policies of European Union states to promote the integration as citizens of all members of immigrant communities, across ethnic and religious boundaries; and whether they consider any such policies to be relevant to the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Government participates in exchanges of good practice on integration with other EU Member States at meetings of the EU network of National Contact Points on Integration. In relation to our domestic policies on integration, I refer the Noble Lord to the Written Ministerial Statement on Integration by my Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 18 December 2014, *Official Report*, column 110WS.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-26/HL4425/>

The Ministerial Statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141218/wmstext/141218m0001.htm#14121843000004>

Immigration

Lord Marlesford [HL4548] To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to accommodate immigrants arriving in the United Kingdom from Bulgaria and Romania who have no financial resources and nowhere to sleep.

Reply from Lord Bates: EU nationals who are not fulfilling the residency requirements set out in the Free Movement Directive, for example those who are begging or sleeping rough, and who have no right of residence in the UK should leave. Following changes this Government made from 1 January 2014, those who do not depart voluntarily can be administratively removed and barred from returning to the UK for 12 months unless they can show that they have a valid reason to return.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-29/HL4548/>

Illegal Immigrants

Lord Marlesford [HL4547] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the status of immigrants from (1) Bulgaria, and (2) Romania, who arrived in the United Kingdom illegally before January 2014; and what is the total number of such cases that have been detected.

Reply from Lord Bates: The previous Labour Government signed the EU Accession treaty with Romania and Bulgaria, which granted Romanians and Bulgarians a right of entry to the UK from 1 January 2007. From that date, Romanians and Bulgarians have been able to travel to the UK legally, though their access to the UK labour market was restricted under the transitional arrangements, which the present Government extended until 31 December 2013, the maximum possible period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-29/HL4547/>

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

David Hanson [222054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many companies were fined for employing illegal immigrants in each of the last five years.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Mike Penning: The information requested is in the following table. The figures are based on the number of civil penalties issued to individual employers during each of the last five complete financial years. This includes public and private limited companies, sole traders, partnerships and franchises.

The government is committed to taking effective action against employers of illegal workers. Illegal working drives illegal immigration which leads to exploitation of workers and is also linked to non payment of the national minimum wage, harmful working conditions and tax evasion. Illegal working also undercuts legitimate businesses and adversely impacts on the employment of people who are lawfully resident in the UK.

The government has therefore taken measures to strengthen our approach to rogue employers. In 2014, we doubled the maximum civil penalty that can be levied against an employer to £20,000 per illegal worker and we used the Immigration Act 2014 to make it easier to enforce unpaid penalties in the courts. We have also extended our enforcement reach by working more closely across government departments to identify where illegal working is taking place and to enforce a range of sanctions against employers of illegal workers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-26/222054/>

Asylum

David Hanson [221244] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum case work staff were employed in dealing with asylum claims in each year since 2010-11.

Reply from Mike Penning: The total number of asylum decision makers currently employed by UK Visas and Immigration is 416. In January 2014, we employed 309 decision makers and in April 2013 there were 345 decision makers employed. Prior to April 2013, this information is not held in a reportable format and to provide this information would only be possible at a disproportionate cost. The numbers provided have been taken from internal management information and as such are provisional and may be subject to change.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-19/221244/>

Asylum

David Hanson [221261] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been waiting for an initial decision on their claim for (a) six months or more and (b) one year or more.

Reply from Mike Penning: At the end of October 2014, 9,844 asylum applications from main applicants were pending initial decision for six months or more and, of those, 5,423 for one year or more.

The figures provided are a subset of latest published statistics for applications received for asylum since April 2006 and published by the Home Office on a monthly basis. A copy of the latest release Monthly Asylum Applications October 2014 is available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-asylum-application-tables>.

The Home Office has robust plans in place and is working to ensure that straightforward asylum applications made before 1 April 2014 receive initial decisions by 31 March 2015 and straightforward asylum claims made after 1 April 2014 are decided within 6 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-19/221261/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Scotland

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Cathy Jamieson [222152] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that asylum seekers resident in Scotland are able to submit evidence on their claim to offices in Scotland.

Cathy Jamieson [222153] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on asylum seekers in Scotland of the recent changes to rules which provide that evidence related to asylum claims must be submitted in Liverpool.

Cathy Jamieson [222154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received about the rule change which means that asylum seekers must submit claims in Liverpool.

Reply from Mike Penning: The changes to the further submissions process only apply to failed asylum seekers whose claims have already been carefully considered and refused and, where applicable, had any appeal against that decision rejected by an independent court. Asylum seekers who are yet to receive a decision on their claim are unaffected by the new arrangements. They are given every opportunity to disclose all relevant evidence and remain able to submit it by post or at offices in Scotland.

Home Office officials meet asylum partners on a regular basis through the National Asylum Stakeholders Forum (NASF) and several sub-groups of this forum. The Government is familiar with the range of views about the asylum system and how it is operated and these views were considered when developing this policy change. NASF were notified of the change in a letter dated 13 January and Home Office officials met partners on 22 January to discuss their concerns. We will continue to discuss these issues with partners and have scheduled forthcoming meetings for this purpose. We are not aware of any direct approach from Scottish stakeholders.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222152/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222153/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222154/>

Asylum: Middle East

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL4384] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Northover on 13 January (HL Deb, col 652) and the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 21 January (HL4111) what is the difference between the 3,800 "Syrian nationals and their dependents" to whom they say they have given sanctuary and the 90 people whom they say were relocated to the United Kingdom under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme; what is meant by the phrase "given sanctuary"; how many of those given sanctuary were invited to the United Kingdom; how many came under their own steam; how many of the 3,800 Syrians have been given asylum or granted re-settlement; how many arrived in the United Kingdom before the present disturbances; and how many refugees in the United Kingdom are from Iraq or other parts of the Middle East region.

Reply from Lord Bates: The latest published figures show that between April 2011 and the end of September 2014, a total of 3,468 Syrians were granted protection in the United Kingdom. This number represents those people who have

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claimed asylum in the United Kingdom, and includes those who have left Syria since the onset of the crisis, as well as those already residing in the United Kingdom who are unable to return safely. It is not possible to break the data down further to show how many people have arrived in the UK since the onset of the crisis, as opposed to those who were already residing in the UK.

The 90 people who were relocated under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) between March 2014 and end of September 2014 are in addition to the number quoted above. Potential beneficiaries of the scheme are referred to us from Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt by UNHCR on the basis of vulnerability.

The next set of asylum and VPRS statistics will be published on 26 February.

The phrase 'given sanctuary' is defined as those given protection by the United Kingdom. The table below shows the number of people from the Middle East who have been granted a form of protection or other leave after claiming asylum in the UK. It includes those granted asylum, discretionary leave, humanitarian protection, as well as other grants outside these three categories. The data also include dependents.

Q2 2011 – Q3 2014

Country Grants

Syria 3,468

Bahrain 108

Iran 4,472

Iraq 421

Israel 5

Jordan 3

Kuwait 111

Lebanon 27

Oman 0

Occupied Palestinian Territories 123

Qatar 1

Saudi Arabia 35

UAE 4

Yemen 72

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-23/HL4384/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150113-0001.htm#15011360000284>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-13/HL4111/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [221902] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the UK Human Trafficking Centre report, A strategic assessment on the nature and scale of human trafficking in 2012, published in August 2013, and the National Crime Agency strategic assessment, The nature and scale of human trafficking in 2013, published in September 2014, how many of the (a) 402 victims of trafficking in 2012 and (b) 594 victims of trafficking in 2013 who received a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism have subsequently claimed asylum in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: In 2012, 234 victims who received a positive

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

conclusive grounds decision claimed asylum; and in 2013, 220 victims who received a positive conclusive grounds decision claimed asylum.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221902/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [221907] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the National Referral Mechanism Review, published in November 2014, if she will publish the terms of reference of the proposed National Referral Mechanism Pilots.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The Government has accepted, in principle, all the recommendations set out in the National Referral Mechanism review report. Pilots will be established to test the core recommendations to ensure that our approach to identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery is robust and fit for purpose. Details of the pilots, including the terms of reference, will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221907/>

Slavery

Paul Blomfield [221875] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the terms of reference of her Department's evaluation of the effectiveness of its campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The findings of the campaign evaluation will be published by 30th June; this will state the background, purpose and methodology of the evaluation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221875/>

Human Trafficking

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Paul Blomfield [221878] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the efficacy of existing civil torts in enabling victims of human trafficking to claim damages from their traffickers.

Paul Blomfield [221879] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what damages were awarded to victims of trafficking in actions under existing civil torts since 2010.

Paul Blomfield [221883] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many victims of trafficking have brought claims against their traffickers under existing civil torts in the last five years; and how many such claims have resulted in awards for damages.

Reply from Mike Penning: Modern slavery is an appalling crime that has no place in today's society. It is an affront not just to the dignity and humanity of the people crushed by it but to every one of us.

That's why the Government has introduced a Modern Slavery Bill, the first of its kind in Europe.

But we are clear that legislation is only part of the answer. We have also launched the Modern Slavery Strategy setting out co-ordinated action across government departments, agencies and law enforcement in the UK and internationally to tackle slavery.

We believe that the remedies available to victims of trafficking under the civil law of tort are adequate and effective. In addition to damages to compensate the victim for the harm he or she has suffered, the law also allows for aggravated or exemplary damages to be awarded depending on the circumstances of the case.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

We are confident that the courts will award such damages wherever it is appropriate to do so.

Figures in relation to the number of civil claims brought by victims of trafficking and damages awarded are not available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221878/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221879/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221883/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [221880] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many cases of (a) trafficking for sexual exploitation, (b) trafficking for other exploitation and (c) forced labour, slavery and servitude (i) were prosecuted and (ii) resulted in convictions in 2013.

Reply from Mike Penning: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts of offences under Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (relating to forced labour, slavery and servitude), Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 (relating to trafficking for other exploitation) and Section 57 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales (relating to for sexual exploitation) from 2009 to 2013 can be viewed in the table.

Modern slavery is an appalling crime that has no place in today's society. It is an affront not just to the dignity and humanity of the people crushed by it but to every one of us.

That is why the Government has gone beyond the above legislation and introduced a Modern Slavery Bill, the first of its kind in Europe.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of offences under selected legislation, England and Wales, 2009 to 2013 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Legislation	Outcome	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Section 71 Coroners and Justice Act 2009 ⁽³⁾	Proceeded against	-	1	22	4	10
	Found guilty	-	-	1	1	9
Section 4 Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004	Proceeded against	14	6	11	13	12
	Found guilty	7	2	-	6	2
Section 57 to 59 Sexual Offences Act 2003	Proceeded against	33	24	10	16	28
	Found guilty	23	10	8	10	12
'-' = Nil						

(1) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence 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.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

(2) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

(3) Offences in section came into force 6 April 2010

Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Ref: PQ 210323 210324 210325

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221880/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [221908] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to paragraph 6.3.11 of the National Referral Mechanism Review published in November 2014, if he will review the provision of legal aid to potential victims of human trafficking.

Reply from Mike Penning: Civil legal aid is currently available to help victims of human trafficking in relation to applications for leave to enter or remain in the UK, and also for claims for damages or under employment law brought by victims of human trafficking arising in connection with their exploitation.

My officials are working with the Home Office on implementation of the Review's recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-23/221908/>

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty : How many people have been convicted of human trafficking offences in the last four years. [907375]

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Grayling): That question does not sit within the responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice; it is a question for the Home Office. However, I can inform the hon. Gentleman that between 2010 and 2013—the latest year for which figures are available in relation to human trafficking offences on an all-offences basis—the number of convictions increased by nearly 66%. The Government are committed to stamping out this abhorrent crime, building on the United Kingdom's strong track record of supporting victims and fighting the perpetrators.

Michael Connarty: I am sorry to learn that the Secretary of State for Justice thinks that convictions for trafficking are not really his responsibility. I should have thought that those at the Ministry of Justice were the very people to deal with them. In Scotland, the Minister for Justice takes responsibility for trafficking convictions there. My criticism of the new Modern Slavery Bill is that all the laws for which it provides are exactly the same as those that have operated up to this moment.

I do not know what "66%" means: 66% of nothing is nothing. We want to know why the Ministry of Justice did not argue for the new laws that Lord Judge and Peter Carter recommended to the Joint Committee that was set up to look into the issue.

Reply from Chris Grayling: In response to the hon. Gentleman's first point, I can tell him that it is a simple matter of fact in Government that this issue is looked after by the Home Office. As for his second point, I do not believe that any past Government have done more than the present Government to tackle human trafficking. Work is being done across Government and across the public sector to deal with a crime that we all believe is abhorrent, and that we all want to see

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

stamped out.

Meg Hillier : The Secretary of State says that the issue of human trafficking is not his responsibility, but the issue of convictions is, and one of the key challenges is gathering evidence. In my constituency, I often meet victims many years after the trafficking offences have been committed. The Home Office may be responsible for some of these matters, but what is the right hon. Gentleman's Department doing to improve the evidential chain and ensure that the evidence is there in court to secure convictions?

Reply from Chris Grayling: The securing of evidence to bring prosecutions to court is a matter for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, but our Department will always do all that it can to facilitate their work. I expect our reforms of the court system to improve the process in both those organisations, but we depend on the very good work done by our police service and the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure that people are prosecuted.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150203/debtext/150203-0001.htm#15020343000022>

New Publications

English as an Additional Language (EAL) and educational achievement in England: An analysis of the National Pupil Database

http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/uploads/pdf/EAL_and_educational_achievement2.pdf

A systematic review of intervention research examining English language and literacy development in children with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/uploads/pdf/EAL_Systematic_review1.pdf

News

VisitScotland chief criticises foreign graduates plan

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/visitscotland-chief-criticises-foreign-graduates-plan-1-3676774>

Scots are cold and harsh, say Spanish immigrants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4344695.ece>

Britain tops table for immigrants per head among EU big players

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4345634.ece>

Ahead of the general election, let's be honest about the positives of immigration

<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/feb/05/general-election-honest-debate-immigration>

It's immigration, not immigrants, that British people say they don't like

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/02/immigration-immigrants-british-people>

Only one in 10 pupils at east London primary speaks English as first language - down from nine out of 10 in 1999... and now they speak SIXTY different

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2944102/Only-one-10-pupils-east-London-primary-speaks-English-language-nine-10-1999-speak-SIXTY-different-languages.html>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

More than 1,000 fraudsters wed British women to get visas - not ONE is deported due to Home Office 'shambles'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2944306/One-thousand-fraudsters-wed-British-women-visas-not-ONE-deported-Home-Office-shambles.html>

Children held at Campsfield House immigration centre

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-31098846>

Andrea Gada's family granted visas for funeral

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-sussex-31157656>

Andrea Gada's family granted visas to attend funeral

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/05/andrea-gada-family-granted-visa-funeral-zimbabwe>

Funeral visas for crash girl family

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2942343/Funeral-visas-crash-girl-family.html>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Race Relations

Dan Jarvis [221305] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to promote tolerance of different minorities.

Reply from Stephen Williams: Our approach to promoting tolerance of different minorities is through supporting integration in communities. I refer the hon. Member to the Written Ministerial Statement of 18 December 2014, *Official Report*, Columns 110-118WS, which details my Department's integration approach, as well as current integration projects and activities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-20/221305/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm141218/wmstext/141218m0001.htm#14121843000004> (second item)

News

Mosques open their doors for the day to reach out and reassure

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/01/uk-mosques-open-day-tolerance>

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Equality

UK Parliament Question

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Lord Avebury [HL4475] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will provide an assurance that the proposed garden cities will feature appropriate accommodation for caravan-dwelling Travellers.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: There are no special planning provisions for locally-led garden cities. National planning policy requires local authorities to plan for the needs of their traveller communities in the same way as they are required to plan for the settled community.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-27/HL4475/>

New Publications

Equality and Human Rights Commission Guidance on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014

Guidance on equality and human rights implications for marriage and the law in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/mc2ux4g>

Guidance on equality and human rights implications for public authorities in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/mxxj7rb>

Guidance on equality and human rights implications for the provision of school education in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/ple3v7h>

Guidance on equality and human rights implications for religious or belief bodies in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/mxc2z8o>

Guidance on equality and human rights implications for the workplace and service delivery in Scotland

<http://tinyurl.com/k62lluz>

Freedom of Expression Legal Framework

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/FoE%20legal%20framework%20guidance.pdf

Aiming Higher Race, Inequality and Diversity in the Academy

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Aiming%20Higher.pdf>

News

Army needs more minority recruits - Gen Sir Nick Carter

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31158062>

Trevor Phillips interview: 'Lenny Henry's celebrity has allowed us to be heard' - bringing ethnic diversity to Britain's boardrooms

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/trevor-phillips-interview-lenny-henrys-celebrity-has-allowed-us-to-be-heard--bringing-ethnic-diversity-to-britains-boardrooms-10016688.html?origin=internalSearch>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-12229 Neil Findlay: Remembering Auschwitz and Srebrenica—That the Parliament congratulates West Lothian Council on organising a special Holocaust Memorial Day event in Livingston; notes that this event was held to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and that the event also remembered the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica in Bosnia, and welcomes the planting of a tree in the grounds of Howden Park Centre as a permanent memorial of these horrific events.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12229&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Questions

Caste: Equality Act 2010

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for implementing the legislation to incorporate caste as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: My Lords, we have no immediate plans to incorporate caste into legislation. We are aware of the recent *Tirkey v Chandok* Employment Appeal Tribunal judgment and are considering its implications for discrimination law. The judgment opens the possibility of a legal remedy for claims of caste-associated discrimination under existing legislation, in the ethnic origins element of Section 9 of the Equality Act 2010. We note this potential protection and have always stated that we completely oppose caste discrimination.

Lord Avebury: My Lords, can my noble friend give an undertaking on behalf of the Government that, if they are re-elected in May, they will pursue this matter to completion, as recommended by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination? As regards the tribunal case of *Tirkey* that she mentioned, have the Government considered the opinion of the EHRC that it is not binding on all future cases of caste discrimination and that an express provision in the Equality Act, which has already been decided by Parliament, is necessary for reasons of legal clarity?

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: My Lords, I cannot make promises on behalf of a future Government not yet elected, but post-election, of course, the incoming Administration will need to consider how to discharge their legal obligations in respect of the outstanding duty to legislate. On my noble friend's second question, we of course take note of what the EHRC says, but I should make it clear to the House that this view was expressed by the commission in its submission on the *Tirkey* case and not part of the judicial decision.

Baroness Thornton: My Lords, it is almost two years since this House voted by a very large majority that caste should be considered for inclusion in the Equality Act 2010. As the noble Lord, Lord Avebury, has said, the recent employment tribunal judgment reinforces the point that caste discrimination is an issue coming before the courts and that clarity of the law is required. This issue cannot be ignored or sidelined, so what exactly is the Government's timetable for taking this forward after this terrible delay?

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: My Lords, we are conscious of the delay in this matter. During the passage of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, when the need for explicit caste legislation was debated extensively, it was generally acknowledged that a full public consultation should be undertaken, not least because there was no general consensus on even basic concepts, such as a workable definition of caste itself. Because of a number of delays, there is no

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

longer sufficient time before the election to put it through.

Lord Deben: My Lords, my noble friend will remember that in those debates this House specifically refused to support the Government's position and refused to accept the delay. We voted for a change in the law. We are now two years later and that change has not been implemented. The Government owe it to this House to say that they will implement it, and that any future Government made up of the two parties of this Government will also implement it.

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: My Lords, I recognise the frustration around the Chamber over this matter. However, the debates during the final stages of the then Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill made clear that caste is a controversial and difficult issue, and that the Government would need to proceed carefully, involving public consultation. I believe that the *Tirkey v Chandok* case, which was unknown at the time those debates took place but which has potentially significant implications for the law in respect of caste and race discrimination, clearly illustrates the need for caution.

Lord Harries of Pentregarth: Does the Minister agree that it would be quite inadequate to leave issues of racial and gender equality to employment tribunals? What is different about caste discrimination, when the judge in the *Tirkey v Chandok* case said that his judgment applied only to the facts of that particular case, and did not make any ruling about caste in general?

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: Indeed, my Lords, but the Employment Appeal Tribunal is an authoritative court and, for the time being at least, its judgment in that case is the law of the land. The EHRC intervened in the appeal and I imagine would wish to consider another intervention, if it thought that was necessary.

Lord Cashman: My Lords, all discrimination is difficult to deal with, but such procrastination is entirely unacceptable when more than 200 million people experience caste discrimination every single day. Therefore, will the Minister please report back the strength of feeling in this House that the procrastination is entirely unacceptable?

Reply from Baroness Garden of Frognal: I will, indeed, report back the frustration of this House but I come back to one of the difficulties, which is that there is no agreed definition of caste. Many cases which are in the pipeline could be brought under the ethnic origins discrimination legislation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150202-0001.htm#1502029000456>

Antisemitism

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Chris Evans [222289] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect British Jews from anti-semitic attacks.

Crimes of Violence

Chris Evans [222290] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect British Muslims from Islamophobic attacks.

Homophobia

Chris Evans [222288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect LGBT people from homophobic attacks.

Lynne Featherstone: The UK Government takes all forms of hate crime very seriously. We deplore all attacks motivated by religion, race or sexuality. Everyone should be able to live their lives free from fear of targeted hostility, harassment or violence on the grounds of a particular characteristic.

The Government's action plan on hate crime brings together the activities of government departments that work with local agencies, voluntary organisations

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

and an independent advisory group to meet three main objectives to challenge attitudes and behaviours, increase the reporting of hate crime, and improve the operational response to it.

Our work includes encouraging anyone who is a victim of a hate crime or subject to religion or race-related abuse or attack to have the confidence to report it to the police so that the offenders can be dealt with appropriately. As part of this, we issued guidance in 2014 to police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on dealing with hate crimes. This which includes advice on responding to incidents and how to monitor and deal with community tensions.

We have also worked with organisations, including Show Racism the Red Card, the Anne Frank Trust and the Jewish Museum to raise awareness of prejudice with children and young people, to prevent hate crime from happening in the first place.

A progress report was published in May 2014 and provides an overview of our achievements, which include working with football authorities to help drive racism and homophobia out of football, worked with organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card, the Anne Frank Trust and the Jewish Museum to raise awareness of prejudice with children and young people and supported the work of Tell MAMA to address anti-Muslim hatred. We have also seen the first conviction(s) for offences of stirring up hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation under Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 (as amended). The progress report also includes case study examples which demonstrate how work is being carried out locally. The report is available in the House of Commons Library.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222289/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222290/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-27/222288/>

Antisemitism

James Morris [222008] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the terror threat to Jewish targets in Europe.

Reply from Tobias Ellwood: We work closely with our international partners in the EU and beyond to tackle the threat that terrorism poses to all communities, with regular discussions on security and counter-terrorism issues. Currently, we are working with European partners to further strengthen areas of operational and policy co-operation, to support information and international data sharing, to implement a common strategy to counter the threat from 'foreign fighters', and to counter radicalisation both within and outside the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-26/222008/>

Freedom of Expression

Lord Ahmed [HL4387] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria must be applied when classifying acts as hate speech or incitement to hatred and violence; and whether they have any plans to redefine those criteria following the recent attacks on the offices of the Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord Bates: Part 3 and Part 3A of the Public Order Act 1986 (as amended by the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008) cover a range of offences relating to inciting hatred on the grounds of race, religion and sexual orientation.

For offences under both parts of this legislation, the criminal threshold has to be met in order for a person to be found guilty. For racial hatred the threshold test is that the words or behaviour used have to be 'threatening', 'abusive' or 'insulting' and intend to stir up racial hatred or having regard to all the circumstances racial hatred is likely to be stirred up. For hatred on the grounds of religion and sexual orientation, the threshold test is different; the words or behaviour have to be 'threatening' and the person must intend thereby to stir up hatred on the grounds of religion or sexual orientation. This part of the Act also sets out a provision for the protection of freedom of expression.

The government has no current plans to make amendments to this legislation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-23/HL4387/>

News

UK anti-Semitism hit record level in 2014, report says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31140919>

Report: Glasgow sees ten-fold rise in anti-Semitic abuse

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/report-glasgow-sees-ten-fold-rise-in-anti-semitic-abuse.117736519>

Antisemitic attacks in UK at highest level ever recorded

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/05/antisemitic-attacks-uk-community-security-trust-britain-jewish-population>

Antisemitic incidents hit record high last year

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/antisemitic-incidents-hit-record-high-last-year-10024151.html?origin=internalSearch>

Three attacks a day on Jews as Britain faces rise in hate crime

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4344519.ece>

Anti-Semitic attacks more than double in UK

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11391156/Anti-Semitic-attacks-more-than-double-in-UK.html>

'Jews aren't safe in Britain any more'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11393427/Were-leaving-Britain-Jews-arent-safe-here-any-more.html>

Anti-Semitic attacks in UK have doubled: Hate crimes exceed 1,000 for first time after being fuelled by violence in the Middle East

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2940371/Anti-Semitic-attacks-UK-doubled-Hate-crimes-exceed-1-000-time-fuelled-violence-Middle-East.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

Man who sung sectarian song ahead of Old Firm clash facing jail

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/man-who-sung-sectarian-song-ahead-of-old-firm-clash-facing-jail-196232n.117596755>

Being Black and Brown in Britain

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/joshua-virasami/race-britain-black-brown_b_6565606.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Debate

Ending Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9767&i=89501>

Parliamentary Motions

S4M-12241 Alex Neil: Working in Partnership to End the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation—That the Parliament notes that 6 February 2015 is International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); condemns female genital mutilation as an unacceptable and illegal practice, a form of child abuse, violence against women and a violation of the human rights of women and girls; supports the Scottish Government's commitment to tackling and eradicating this intolerable behaviour from Scottish society through working together with partners across the public and third sectors; welcomes the launch by the Women's Support Project of the FGM training and public education resources on 6 February 2015; further welcomes the publication of the Scottish Refugee Council's report on FGM in Scotland, Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in Scotland: A Scottish Model of Intervention, in December 2014; acknowledges the positive developments made through partnership across Police Scotland, NHS Scotland, education, social services, voluntary and third sector organisations with the establishment of the Female Genital Mutilation Short-Life Working Group; commends the valuable contribution that voluntary and third sector organisations, such as Dignity Alert Research Forum, the Women's Support Project and Scottish Refugee Council, make to the shaping of Scotland's approach to FGM; notes the Scottish Government's commitment to fund a programme of work to tackle FGM in Scotland and protect those women and girls at risk of harm from this human rights abuse, and supports Lord McConnell's proposed Girl Summit to be held in Glasgow on 9 March 2015 to mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2015.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12241&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-12241.1 Ken Macintosh: Working in Partnership to End the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation—As an amendment to motion S4M-12241 in the name of Alex Neil (Working in Partnership to End the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation), insert at end "; is disappointed that, despite these efforts, there have been so few prosecutions, and calls on the Scottish Government to review its investment to ensure that it is effective and supports long-term sustainable community development in at-risk communities".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12241.1&ResultsPerPage=10>

Other Scottish Parliament and Government (continued) Press Releases

People power

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/People-power-157d.aspx>

Zero tolerance for FGM

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Zero-tolerance-for-FGM-15a4.aspx>

Lord Advocate signs statement opposing Female Genital Mutilation

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/981-lord-advocate-signs-statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation>

A register of lobbying should be established, says Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/86488.aspx>

New Publication

Procedures and Public Appointments Committee report: Proposal for register of lobbying activity

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Reports/stpR-15-01w.pdf

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Baroness Tonge [HL4611] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that the ritual manner of slaughtering animals for kosher and halal meat is in accordance with European Union regulations on animal welfare; and if not, what action they are taking.

Lord De Mauley: Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009, on the protection of animals at the time of killing, permits the slaughter of animals in accordance with religious rites. It also contains strict requirements that need to be observed when carrying out such slaughter and allows individual Member States to put in place additional, national rules that provide greater welfare protection. The UK has maintained its long-standing existing national rules on religious slaughter in addition to the European regulation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-02/HL4611/>

Forced Marriage

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4279] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 9 January (HL3493), how many of the 1,302 cases identified for advice or support in 2013 were about British girls sent abroad to marry in that year.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4280] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 9 January (HL3493), whether the 1,302 cases of advice or support related to a possible forced marriage can be broken down into figures for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; and if not, whether they can be

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

broken down in future years.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4281] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 9 January (HL3493), whether the Forced Marriage Unit operates across the whole of the United Kingdom; and if not, what arrangements for co-ordination exist with the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Reply from Lord Bates: The number of reported cases to the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) each year does not reflect the full scale of the abuse, as many more cases go unreported. 82% of the reported number of 2013 cases involved female victims. The FMU operates across the whole of the UK, where support is provided to any individual of any nationality. It also operates overseas where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

The data held by the FMU cannot specifically be broken down to identify cases for advice or support relating to British girls sent abroad. To provide more detailed information on the figures for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, would involve a disproportionate cost. We also have no plans to publish figures in this format in future years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-20/HL4279/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-20/HL4280/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-20/HL4281/>

Female Genital Mutilation

The following two questions both received the same answer.

Lord Blencathra [HL4445] To ask Her Majesty's Government on average how many cases of female genital mutilation are reported to the police for investigation per day.

Lord Blencathra [HL4446] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to criminalise the failure to report a suspected case of female genital mutilation to the police.

Reply from Lord Bates: Information on the number of cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) that are reported to the police for investigation is not collated centrally.

The Government has consulted on the introduction of a new mandatory reporting duty to require professionals to report cases of FGM. The consultation sought views on how best to introduce this new duty, including what the sanctions should be for failure to report. The consultation closed on 12 January and we are carefully considering the responses. We will announce the results of the consultation shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-27/HL4445/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-27/HL4446/>

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New Publications

European Union Factsheet: Female Genital Mutilation

http://eeas.europa.eu/factsheets/docs/20150206_factsheet_female_gender_mutiliation.pdf

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Other News

Crown Prosecution Service: Statement: Female Genital Mutilation Trial

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/cps_statement_female_genital_mutilation_trial/

New measures to end FGM on International Day of Zero Tolerance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-end-fgm-on-international-day-of-zero-tolerance>

Breaking silence, disproving myths first steps towards eliminating female genital mutilation – UN chief

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50015#.VNeIY1OUcp0>

Joint Statement on the International Day against Female Genital Mutilation

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4180_en.htm?locale=en

European Commission actions to fight FGM in the EU and worldwide

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4201_en.htm?locale=en

Zero tolerance: European Parliament to debate how to end female genital mutilation

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150205STO19404/html/Zero-tolerance-EP-to-debate-how-to-end-female-genital-mutilation>

OSCE/ODIHR human rights and gender issues chiefs call on states to protect women and girls from genital mutilation

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/139356>

'I'm not whole' – female genital mutilation survivor speaks out

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50024#.VNeIPVOUcp0>

Ignorance of FGM 'worryingly high'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ignorance-of-fgm-worryingly-high.117602108>

FGM is a form of torture, but the law alone cannot end it in this country

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/fgm-is-a-form-of-torture-but-the-law-alone-cannot-end-it-in-this-country-10029739.html>

FGM trial: CPS accused of 'show trial' as UK's first female genital mutilation case collapses

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fgm-trial-cps-accused-of-show-trial-as-uks-first-female-genital-mutilation-case-collapses-10024487.html>

FGM trial: DPP to face questions over failed court case against doctor

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/fgm-trial-dpp-to-face-questions-over-failed-court-case-against-doctor-10027476.html>

Other News (continued)

Female cutting is abuse. That's what ministers have to relay

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/female-cutting-is-abuse-thats-what-ministers-have-to-relay-10028452.html>

Doctor found not guilty of performing FGM

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-31138218>

Ukip calls for ban on non-stun slaughtering in abattoirs

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/11388345/Ukip-bans-non-stun-slaughtering-in-abattoirs.html>

Slaughter policy 'targets Muslims, not Jews'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4343510.ece>

Row grows over halal food

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4347358.ece>

Rites and Wrongs

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article4343581.ece>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

** Assisted Suicide Bill

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

Stage 1 evidence session, Health and Sport Committee

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9762&i=89417>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_SubordinateLegislationCommittee/Reports/sur-15-11w.pdf

** Community Empowerment Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/77926.aspx>

Stage 1 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9761&i=89413>

Criminal Justice Bill

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

Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/84356.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)

Assisted Dying Bill (England and Wales only)

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

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

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

**** Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill 2014-15**

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150202-0001.htm#1502029000464>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150204-0001.htm#15020480000432>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150204-0002.htm#150204102000259>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0092/amend/ml092-II.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0093/amend/ml093-I.htm>

Bill as amended on Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0093/15093.pdf>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

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

**** Modern Slavery Bill**

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

Proposed amendment

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0069/amend/am069-e.htm>

UK Borders Control Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Mapping Exercise of Employability Services, Service Providers and Existing Government Schemes in Scotland, particularly aimed at Minority Ethnic Groups
(closing date 13 February 2015)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D2FB2PY>

Constitutional implications of draft Scotland clauses (closing date 19 February 2015)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/political-and-constitutional-reform-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/draft-scotland-clauses-inquiry/>

Consultations (continued)

Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 February 2015)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/85581.aspx>

Educational attainment gap (closing date 7 March 2015)
<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsSurvey>

Age and Social Isolation (closing date 13 March 2015)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/855810.aspx>

Proposed Bill Relating to Burial and Cremation and Other Related Matters in Scotland
(closing date 24 April 2015)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00468846.pdf>

**** Students' Experiences and Perception of Xenophobia** (no closing date given)
http://nussurveys.org.uk/Surveys/Policy/xenophobia_research.htm

Experiences of Race and Religion-Related Hate Speech in the UK (no closing date given)
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HR7RBZ3>

Advancing Migrant Access to health Services in Europe (no closing date given)
<http://www.amase.eu/wp/be-part-of-amase/>

Inquiry into the recruitment and appointment practices on company boards
(no closing date given)
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/our-legal-work/inquiries-and-assessments/inquiry-recruitment-and-appointment-practices-company-boards>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

SCVO Digital Challenge Fund

Closing date for applications: 13 February 2015

Grants of between £200 and £10,000 to enable groups and organisations to digitise content, build digital networks and improve the digital skills of their members, so that they can continue to thrive in the digital world. For information see
<http://digital.scvo.org.uk/challenge/>

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: small grant

Closing date for applications: 25 February 2015

Grants between £500 to £2,000 for locally based faith groups in Scotland to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see
<http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/how-to-apply/>

Funding Opportunities (continued)

**** Refugee Festival Scotland Community Celebrations Fund**

Closing date for applications: 27 February 2015

Grants of up to £500 available for community groups interested in organising an event during Refugee Festival Scotland 2015. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/mamsoeu>

Volunteering Support Grant

Closing date for applications: 27 February 2015

The Volunteering Support Grant offers funding to third sector organisations to create new or enhanced volunteering projects, increasing the diversity of volunteers, especially those from disadvantaged groups, and improving opportunities, skills and personal development through volunteering.

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/volunteering-support-grant/>

Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund: major grant

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2015

Grants of up to £15,000 over three years for locally based faith groups in Scotland to undertake practical action in response to community need, particularly in the economically poorest urban and rural communities. For information see

<http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/faith-in-community-scotland-action-fund/how-to-apply/>

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** *this week!***

Working With People Affected By Forced Marriage

11 February 2015 in Edinburgh (10.00 – 4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid seminar to demystify forced marriage and help delegates to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact booking@scottishwomensaid.org.uk / 0131 226 6606 or see <http://tinyurl.com/ovxofgs>.

**** The Gathering**

25-26 February 2015 in Edinburgh

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations event people working in the third sector to network, showcase their work and learn from each other, and for people interested in finding out more about the third sector to come along and get involved. For information see <http://gatherscotland.org.uk/>

**** Recruiting a diverse board**

26 February 2015 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 12.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator event to explore the importance of recruiting a diverse board, highlight alternative recruitment methods, and recommend sources of help and support. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/nmns7ql>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland 2015 Organise an Event Information Session**

26 February 2015 in Glasgow (4.00 – 6.00)

Scottish Refugee Council workshop providing information about Refugee Festival Scotland, and support for organisations putting on events during the festival. For information contact Suzi MacIver suzi.maciver@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 248 9799 or see <http://tinyurl.com/qzmvwlx>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Article 12 in Scotland's Young Gypsy/Travellers Lives Project**

4 March 2015 in Glenrothes (11.00 – 4.30)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop providing an opportunity to work in partnership with members of the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community to identify, and begin to address, the key barriers to the lack of community engagement in support and service development and delivery. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/oe7bxuw>

**** Meet the Charity Regulator**

7 March 2015 in Dumfries (9.30 – 1.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) event to provide information about OSCR and its future plans, fundraising practices, and local support for trustees. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/q6z6uyv>

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children, and Young People

25 (9.30-4.30pm) & 26 (9.30-12.30pm) March 2015 in Edinburgh

15 (9.30-4.30pm) & 16 (9.30-12.30pm) April 2015 in Edinburgh

Shakti Women's Aid course to raise awareness and understanding of issues facing minority ethnic women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. For information see <https://shaktibmetraining.eventbrite.co.uk/> or contact Ola or Mridul 0131 475 2399 / info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

18 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

25 February 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

3 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

15 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

20 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

28 May 2015 in Glasgow (volunteers only) (9.30 – 4.00)

2 June 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an introduction to the issues and legal systems affecting people seeking safety in Scotland. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Scotland, People, and Language

20 February 2015 in Glasgow (9.00 – 1.00)

BEMIS/Gathered Together event to share experiences of actively promoting language diversity, and working with people whose first language is not English. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/qehrbu9>, or register for the event at <http://tinyurl.com/oscbmen>

Migration Matters Scotland

26 February 2015 in Edinburgh 19.30 – 4.30)

COSLA event to outline learning from local engagement activities and facilitate migrant and council dialogue, showcase the new migration policy database resource, and test user preferences for the updated migration policy toolkit. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/nmv4or3>

Introduction to Politics in Scotland

9 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to improve understanding of Scotland's political landscape at local, Scottish and UK government level. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/499-introduction-to-politics-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Introduction to Equality in Scotland

17 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course will help participants to understand key equality concepts and explore how the law protects people from discrimination. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/81-front-page-articles/500-introduction-to-equality-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

Working with Interpreters

18 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

14 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of how to communicate clearly and effectively with people when working with interpreters. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Women in Employment: Advancing Equal Opportunities

24 March 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

BEMIS conference in partnership with STUC, Scottish Refugee Council, Scottish Women's Convention and GRAMNet. For more information see <http://bemis.org.uk/events/> or contact events@bemis.org.uk

Supporting Refugee Women

28 April 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide an understanding of the issues and legal systems impact specifically on refugee women. This includes discussing issues of FGM and sexual violence. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

Essentials of Asylum

6 May 2015 in Glasgow (9.30 – 1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council training to provide information about the UK asylum process, including the difference between an asylum seeker and a refugee, asylum support, and rights and entitlements. For information contact Martha Harding martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

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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/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

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

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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://onescotland.org/>