

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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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.

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The Scottish Parliament returns from in recess until 16 February 2015. The UK Parliament will be in recess until 23 February 2015.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S4M-12265 Ken Macintosh: Restricted Access to Asylum in Scotland—That the Parliament condemns what it understands is the impending rule change by the Home Office that will further restrict access to the asylum process in Scotland; believes that the change will require asylum seekers whose applications have been refused to travel to Liverpool in person to submit any new evidence in support of their claim; notes the calls for an urgent review of this proposal; is concerned that it will apply regardless of where people live; understands that no support will be offered to help people meet it, unless exceptional circumstances, which are currently undefined, pertain; believes that the people affected are, by definition, without financial support; considers that the rule change will further restrict access to the asylum system; notes the existing restrictions in access that are experienced by newly-arrived asylum seekers across the country

Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Motion (continued)

including in the West Scotland region, who must travel to Croydon to register their claim, without support or recognition by the Home Office; believes that this new rule will not only have an adverse impact on new and refused asylum seekers but will further add to the barriers faced by women survivors of violence in accessing the asylum process, which requires them to disclose experiences of violence, sometimes despite their children being present, through often a male interpreter or interviewers who lack specific training, an issue which has been highlighted by the Protection Gap campaign; expresses doubts about the legality of the proposed change; notes the view that consideration should be given to abandoning it in light of its possible impact on refused asylum seekers, including the danger of increased destitution and greater vulnerability to exploitation, which could render asylum seekers, including women survivors of violence, unable to access any international protection, and notes the recommendation by the Smith Commission that the UK and Scottish governments should work together to explore the possibility of asylum seekers in Scotland being able to lodge both new and fresh asylum claims to the Home Office from where they reside.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12265&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Immigration Detention

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): I have today commissioned an independent review into the Home Office policies and operating procedures that have an impact on immigration detainee welfare. Immigration detention plays a key role in helping to secure our borders and in maintaining effective immigration control.

The Government believe that those with no right to be in the UK should return to their home country and we will help those who wish to leave voluntarily. However, when people refuse to do so, we will seek to enforce their removal, which may involve detaining people for a period of time. But the wellbeing of those in our care is always a high priority and we are committed to treating all detainees with dignity and respect.

I want to ensure that the health and wellbeing of all those detained is safeguarded. Following the work I commissioned into the welfare of people with mental health difficulties in police custody, I believe it is necessary to undertake a comprehensive review of our policies and operating procedures to better understand the impact of detention on the welfare of those in immigration detention. The purpose of this wider-ranging review is to consider the appropriateness, and application, of current policies and practices concerning the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people in immigration detention, and those being escorted in the UK. I am committed to considering any emerging findings made by the review and to taking action where appropriate.

I have asked Stephen Shaw CBE, the former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman for England and Wales, and a widely respected expert in this field, to lead the review. The terms of reference can be found on the Home Office website and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150209/wmstext/150209m0001.htm#150209100006>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Questions

British Nationality

Mike Hancock [223524] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people seeking British nationality have been waiting more than (a) nine months and (b) one year for their application to be processed having paid all due fees.

Reply from Karen Bradley: (a) between 9 – 12 months 369 people. (b) More than 12 months 487 people.

These figures are as of the end of September 2014, in line with the latest published data.

This compares with a peak in 2007-08 of 2592 people waiting between 9 and 12 months and 4166 people waiting more than 12 months.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-05/223524/>

Immigration

Sarah Teather [223224] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals have applied for an administrative review under paragraph 34M of Part 1 of the Immigration Rules since 20 October 2014.

Reply from James Brokenshire: According to internal management information, 138 people applied for an administrative review under paragraph 34M of Part 1 of the Immigration Rules between 20 October 2014 and 31 December 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223224/>

Immigration

Paul Blomfield [223109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people granted discretionary leave to remain in the last three years have subsequently been (a) granted and (b) refused a further grant of leave to remain.

Reply from Karen Bradley: In the three years up to September 2014, 101 people were granted further leave to remain following an initial grant of discretionary leave to remain, whilst 190 people were refused a further grant of leave to remain.

This applies to those individuals who were granted discretionary leave to remain between October 2011 and September 2014, and who during that period have received a decision on a subsequent application for further leave to remain. A grant of further leave to remain may include the following; a grant of asylum, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave, further leave as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child or leave to remain on the basis of an individual's private and/or family life.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223109/>

Immigration: Scotland

Pamela Nash [219752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unresolved (a) asylum and (b) immigration cases there were in each (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) local authority area in Scotland since May 2010, up to the latest period for which figures are available in 2013.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The number of outstanding asylum and immigration cases recorded as associated with each Scottish parliamentary constituency can be found at Table 1 below. The number of outstanding cases recorded as associated with each Scottish local authority area can be found in Table 2. The figures that have been provided below relate to main applicants who have made

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

an immigration application or an asylum claim between 1 May 2010 - 31 December 2013, and whose claim was recorded as unresolved on 31 December 2013. For data protection purposes, cohorts of fewer than 10 people have been indicated with a *.

The data has been compiled by identifying the latest valid postcode on the Case Information Database (CID). For Scottish postcodes, this was then matched to the ONS Postcode database to associate it with a parliamentary constituency and local authority as far as possible. This postcode is the most recently recorded postcode for correspondence purposes and may not be represent the applicant's of place of residence or be the same postcode provided at the time of applying.

To read the lengthy tables see

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-05/219752/>

Asylum

Sarah Teather [221183] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many fresh applications for asylum have been (a) made and (b) accepted, in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: There were 905 fresh claims, from main applicants, for asylum in the United Kingdom in 2009, 1,621 in 2010, 969 in 2011, 849 in 2012 and 866 in 2013 (provisional figure). This data can be found at as_01 and as_01_q at

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

2014 fresh claims data will be released on 26 February 2015.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-19/221183/>

Asylum: Appeals

Mike Hancock [223525] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people who are currently waiting for appeals relating to asylum applications have been waiting over (a) one year and (b) two years.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The First-tier Tribunal (Immigration & Asylum Chamber) hears appeals against decisions to refuse a claim for asylum. The Upper Tribunal (Immigration & Asylum Chamber) hears appeals on a point of law against a First-tier Tribunal decision.

(a) As of 9 February 2015 case management records show there are 211 outstanding asylum appeals in the First-tier Tribunal and 121 outstanding asylum appeals in the Upper Tribunal that were received at least one year ago.

(b) Of these records, 55 First-tier Tribunal appeals and 83 Upper Tribunal appeals were received at least two years ago.

Only a tiny percentage of cases take more than a year, and when they do it is because they raise complex issues. Official statistics published on the 11 December 2014, available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2014> show that the average time taken to dispose of an asylum appeal within the First-tier Tribunal was 12 weeks between July and September 2014.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-05/223525/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Appeals

Sarah Teather [223220] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many appeals against decisions (a) not to award and (b) to stop support provided under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 there have been in each of the last five years.

Reply from Shailesh Vara: Appeals relating to Asylum Support are heard in the First-tier Tribunal Social Entitlement Chamber (Asylum Support) which is administered by HM Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS). The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes official statistics on the operation of HMCTS which includes the number of Asylum Support appeals received in each of the last five years. These statistics are published on a quarterly basis and the most recent official statistical publication (covering the period up to the end of September 2014) can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics>.

HMCTS does not collate information on the volume of cases received broken down by decision type. This information could only be provided at a disproportionate cost by manually checking individual tribunal files for the period in question.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223220/>

Asylum: Children

Sarah Teather [223221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children granted discretionary leave to remain were subject to an enforced removal after turning 18 in each of the last five years.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not return Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) whose claims have been refused, unless adequate reception arrangements are in place in the country to which the child is to be returned. If adequate reception arrangements are absent, most unaccompanied children are granted UASC Leave (formally known as UASC discretionary leave) which usually lasts until their 18th birthday.

When a child passes the age of 18 and UASC Leave expires, they are no longer considered to be a UASC and are therefore required to take steps to voluntarily return or seek further leave to remain. If the individual does not seek to regularise their stay through further applications or leave is not granted they may be removed in accordance with the Immigration Rules and Published Home Office policy should they fail to leave voluntarily. The table below outlines the number of individuals removed in each of the last five years who had previously been granted discretionary leave to remain as an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child but has since passed the age of 18 and had not regularised their leave or left the UK voluntarily.

Year	Total
2009	3
2010	43
2011	119
2012	57
2013	88
2014	40
Grand Total	350

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223221/>

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Asylum: Housing

Sarah Teather [223236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 have been receiving that support for more than (a) two, (b) four and (c) six years; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The total number of main applicants supported under Section 4 is now well below the peak of 12,019 in the Quarter 3 of 2009, standing at 3,566 in the Quarter 3 of 2014.

The number of main asylum claimants receiving Section 4 support for more than two, four and six years is set out in the table below.

Duration	Number of people
More than 2 years and up to 4 years	1,405
More than 4 years and up to 6 years	869
More than 6 years	329

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223236/>

Asylum: Syria

The following two questions both received the same answer.

Tim Farron [221697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities have (a) applied for and (b) received funding from her Department for the purposes of resettling Syrian refugees; and what the total value was of that funding.

Tim Farron [221687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of Syrian refugees resettled by local authorities in the UK to date.

Reply from James Brokenshire: A number of local authorities across the UK accept Syrian refugees under normal asylum procedures. Over 3,400 Syrians have been granted asylum or other forms of leave since the crisis in Syria began in 2011. Furthermore, Syrian asylum seekers who are not being accommodated by the Government, can choose to live in any local authority area.

In addition to this the Home Secretary launched the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme last January to provide sanctuary for those displaced Syrians who are most at risk, particularly survivors of torture and violence, women and children at risk and those in need of medical care.

Following the launch of this scheme the Home Secretary wrote to the Chairman of the Local Government Association on 11 February 2014 encouraging local authority participation and this letter has been cascaded across local authorities. So far, three local authorities have received refugees under the scheme and we continue to engage closely with additional local authorities who have expressed an interest in participation. We therefore remain confident that we can continue to meet the needs of arrivals in the UK under the scheme as planned but we welcome further offers of support from other local authorities as the scheme progresses.

Full costs borne by the local authorities will not be known until the refugees have been in UK for a full 12 months. Costs will depend on the particular vulnerabilities of those brought to the UK, and we are keeping costs under close review.

Central government is responsible for the overall funding of the scheme, but we will recover costs wherever possible, including from international aid funding schemes and potential EU funding schemes. We have put forward proposals to obtain funding from the new EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and are

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Questions (continued)

hopeful of a positive outcome. The UK's National Programme is yet to be agreed and until this is signed off by the EU Commission, costs to the Home Office specifically will not be finalised.

Ninety people were relocated to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme between the first group of arrivals on 25 March and the end of September. This is the latest publicly available figure, as numbers are released as part of the Home Office official statistics each quarter. The number of arrivals under the scheme up to the end of December 2014 will be published on 26 February.

We have said that we expect the scheme to help several hundred people over three years, and we remain on track to deliver that commitment.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-22/221697/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-01-22/221687/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Andrew Smith [223425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to extend or renew the current service level agreement between her Department and the National Offender Management Service on the use of prisons to hold immigration detainees.

Reply from James Brokenshire: The current service level agreement between the Home Office and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), which includes the use of prisons to hold immigration detainees, ends on 31 March 2015. The Home Office is in negotiation with NOMS to renew the agreement

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-04/223425/>

Deportation

Lord Marlesford [HL4549] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) Bulgarian, and (2) Romanian, passport holders are awaiting deportation from the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bates: Most immigration offenders are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK and are not deported. Deportations are a specific subset of removals which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good.

The question has been taken as meaning all enforced removals.

The table below shows the number of Romanian and Bulgarian nationals as of 30 January 2015 awaiting either removal or deportation as a combined total, with removal directions scheduled and set for removal.

Removal Directions set

Romania 20

Bulgaria 5

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-29/HL4549/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [223156] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answers of 2 February 2015 to Questions 221907 and 221908 if he will review the provision of legal aid to potential victims of human trafficking in advance of their referral to the UK national referral mechanism.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Shailesh Vara: Provision of legal aid to victims of human trafficking in immigration matters is an exception to the general removal of immigration matters from the scope of civil legal aid, and one that we have extended to all victims of modern slavery through the Modern Slavery Bill. Applicants are required to have engaged in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process, which also provides specialist accommodation and support, to the point that a positive reasonable grounds or conclusive determination has been made, in order to ensure that limited resources are made available in the cases parliament identified as justifying public support. A review of the NRM, published in November 2014, recommended a range of changes to the current system including changes to align the referral process and the reasonable grounds decision. The point of access to legal aid will be considered as part of our wider consideration and piloting of the NRM review recommendations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223156/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield [223158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 2 February 2015 to Questions 221902, how many of the asylum claimants referred to in the Answer were granted leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Karen Bradley: The answer of 2 February 2015 to Question 221902 stated that of the human trafficking victims who received positive conclusive grounds decisions in 2012 and 2013, 234 and 220 victims applied for asylum respectively.

This answer was based on Home Office internal management information extracted in June 2014. To answer the current question, the dataset has been fully refreshed, and updated to now include victims who have applied for asylum since June 2014.

As such, the latest data shows that of those who received positive conclusive grounds decisions in 2012 and 2013, 235 and 270 victims respectively have since applied for asylum.

Of the 235 victims of trafficking who received a positive conclusive grounds decision in 2012 and have since applied for asylum, 156 have been granted asylum.

Of the 270 victims of trafficking who received a positive conclusive grounds decision in 2013 and have since applied for asylum, 126 have been granted asylum.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/223158/>

News

Spouse migration rules 'unfair' to UK citizens, admits minister

<http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-31377750>

New chief inspector of borders and immigration revealed

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31381912>

Ex-MI5 officer appointed as immigration watchdog

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/10/ex-mi5-officer-appointed-borders-immigration-watchdog-david-bolt>

Immigration and Asylum News (continued)

Liverpool mayor criticises 'asylum apartheid'

<http://m.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-31353963>

4800 pupils need help to speak English

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/education/4800-pupils-need-help-to-speak-english-1-3684305>

BBC 'bias' hinders immigration crackdown, says report

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11406531/BBC-bias-hinders-immigration-crackdown-says-report.html>

Theresa May announces review of immigration detainees' welfare

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/08/theresa-may-immigration-detention-welfare-review>

Immigration advisers 'stress' vulnerable clients with 'unrealistic' legal challenges

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11401165/Immigration-advisers-stress-vulnerable-clients-with-unrealistic-legal-challenges.html>

Visa red tape will be cut to help businesses, Theresa May announces

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11404368/Visa-red-tape-will-be-cut-to-help-businesses-Theresa-May-announces.html>

Detection of illegal attempts to enter UK through ports have doubled, MPs told

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/10/illegal-enter-uk-ports-doubled-mps-border-force>

30,000 migrants heading for UK are held in Calais: Record numbers have been stopped at borders since April last year

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2948498/30-000-migrants-heading-UK-held-Calais-Record-numbers-stopped-borders-April-year.html>

Migration control 'is hampered by meagre funding and BBC bias': New report claims foreign aid budget SIX times greater than money available to secure British borders

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2950016/Migration-control-hampered-meagre-funding-BBC-bias-New-report-claims-foreign-aid-budget-SIX-times-greater-money-available-secure-British-borders.html>

Low pay misery blamed on influx of migrant workers

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article4352879.ece>

Discord between immigration bodies weighing on detainees, report says

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/09/immigration-detention-centres-report-tavistock>

Nationwide poster campaign aims to 'celebrate, not vilify' immigrants

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nationwide-poster-campaign-aims-to-celebrate-not-vilify-immigrants-10035022.html?origin=internalSearch>

Has British comedy learned how to portray foreigners?

<http://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2015/feb/10/has-british-comedy-learned-how-to-portray-foreigners>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Illegal immigrant who was ordered to leave Britain in 1997 is still living here and fighting deportation nearly 18 years later

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2952176/Immigrant-loses-latest-bid-stay.html>

High price paid by asylum seekers on reaching Europe's affluent nations

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/15/uk-asylum-deaths-detention>

Asylum obstacle course gets new hurdle

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2587_asylum_obstacle_course_gets_new_hurdle

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Question

Community Relations

Baroness Afshar [HL4503] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce measures to help prevent Muslims born and bred in the United Kingdom from being labelled by their faith and excluded from the mainstream.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My right hon friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Eric Pickles) made a Written Ministerial Statement on 18 December, *Official Report* Column 110WS, setting out the Government's work on integration. As the Statement notes since 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government has spent £45 million on supporting integration projects. It also makes clear that we are rising to the challenges, championing what unites our country across class, colour and creed and making clear that Britain is a stronger nation because of its faith communities. We are also taking initiatives and supporting communities in addressing anti-Muslim hatred.

We are clear that British values are Muslim values and there are incredible and powerful examples of Muslim social action and charitable contributions made by Britain's Muslim communities. Britain has a proud track record of multi-faith cooperation and we are confident that our communities work together in strengthening society. This cannot be achieved by Government alone and local communities and faith leaders are in a unique position in working with Government in ensuring that no British citizen feels marginalised.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-28/HL4503/>

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Equality

New Publication

Review of Equality Evidence in Rural Scotland

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00469898.pdf>

Equality (continued) News

Theresa May needs to hear what it's like to be black and mentally ill in Britain

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/11/theresa-may-black-mentally-ill-britain-human-nhs>

David Oyelowo: black history should be taught in British schools

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/feb/09/david-oyelowo-black-history-should-taught-in-british-schools>

David Oyelowo: UK doesn't tell stories with heroic black characters

<http://www.theguardian.com/film/2015/feb/11/david-oyelowo-uk-stories-heroic-black-characters-selma>

Education's black history gap must end

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/feb/12/educations-black-history-gap-end>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question

Recorded Religious Hate Crimes

Stewart Maxwell: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of recorded religious hate crimes in 2013-14 expressed as the number of incidents per 1,000 members of each religious affiliation, also broken down by incidents recorded under section (a) 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 and (b) 1 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S4W-24173)

Reply from Michael Matheson: The reports titled Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2013-14 and Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 in 2013-14 were published on 13 June 2014 and presented information on the number of charges that were reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) by the police in 2013-14 under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 and section 1 and section 6 of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012.

The following table shows religious aggravation charges that were reported to COPFS in 2013-14 for conduct which was derogatory to each religion under the two pieces of legislation. The final column presents the number of charges per 1,000 members of each, as recorded in the 2011 census.

It is important to note that reported charges only contain information about the nature of the offensive conduct and not about the religious affiliation of the victims of incidents. In 48% of charges, the victim of the conduct was a police officer (an increase from 40% in 2012-13), and in 11% of charges the victim was a worker (decreased from 12% in 2012-13). The occasions when religious abuse targeted people within the 'general community', and not a particular individual, represented 26% of all charges (a decrease from 34% in 2012-13).

This suggests that for many of the charges it is unlikely the accused knew the religious affiliation/belief of the victim at the time of incident, and that the attacks were more arbitrary in nature.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

Table: Religious aggravation and offensive behaviour at football charges derogatory to religions in Scotland in 2013-14 per 1,000 members

The religion that the conduct was derogatory towards ⁵	Religious aggravation charges in 2013-14 ¹			Offensive behaviour at football charges in 2013-14		
	Number of charges ²	Number of members ³	Charges per 1,000 members	Number of charges ²	Number of members ³	Charges per 1,000 members
Christianity ^{4, 5}	540	2,850,199	0.19	57	2,850,199	0.02
of which: Roman Catholicism	367	841,053	0.44	46	841,053	0.05
of which: Protestantism	169	1,717,871	0.10	11	1,717,871	0.01
Judaism	9	5,887	1.53	3	5,887	0.51
Islam	48	76,737	0.62	2	76,737	0.03
Unknown	5	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A
Other	2	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A

Table notes:

1. Information on religious aggravations is taken from Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2013-14 and information on offensive behaviour at football charges is taken from Charges reported under the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, published on the Scottish Government website on 13 June 2014.

2. The number of charges refers to the religion that the conduct was derogatory towards and not the number of charges where victims had the relevant affiliation. Information about victims' religious affiliations is not recorded by the police.

3. Religious group membership information data are taken from the 2011 census. These were published in census release 2A, on 26 September 2013. Previous calculations of the number of incidents per 1,000 members for 2011-12 and 2012-13, presented in response to previous parliamentary questions (S4W-15809 and S4W-11536), were based on membership data as presented in the 2001 census: <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/documents/censusresults/release2a/StatsBulletin2A.pdf>

4. There are four charges in the Christianity total for religious aggravations charges that referred to conduct which was offensive to Christianity in general and were not directed towards Protestantism or Roman Catholicism.

5. Religious group membership data is based on self-reported affiliation in the 2011 census. Christian denominations are presented in the census under three categories: 'Roman Catholic', 'Church of Scotland' and 'other Christian.' For the purpose of this table only 'Church of Scotland' membership has been attributed as 'Protestant' because 'other Christian' may include a mixture of Protestant and non-Protestant denominations. As a consequence this may lead to an under-reporting of the 'charges per 1,000 members' in the Protestant category.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24173&ResultsPerPage=10>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination (continued)

UK Parliament Question

Religious Hatred

Baroness Afshar [HL4504] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce measures to combat Islamophobia in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: This Government has done more than any other to tackle anti-Muslim hatred:

We have set up the first ever cross-government working group on anti-Muslim hatred which was established to consider and take forward proposals to tackle anti-Muslim hatred. The Group engages with Muslim communities and advises Government on how best to take forward key priorities;

Provided start-up funding to the Tell MAMA initiative to record incidents and support victims of anti-Muslim hatred;

Established a UK Srebrenica Memorial Day which recognises the fatal consequences of hatred and division;

Run social media workshops to build the capacity of community organisations to use social media effectively;

Held 8 integration roadshows with communities to find out what more Government can do to integrate communities and tackle anti-Muslim hatred. Further roadshows are planned throughout 2015;

Following the attacks in Paris, My Right Honourable Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I wrote on 16 January to mosques across England reassuring them of Government help if they experience anti-Muslim hatred. The Department has also assured faith and community leaders of its support to their commendable efforts to foster mutual understanding and shared respect;

Proactive engagement with the police to combat anti-Muslim hatred;

Initiated roundtable discussions with representatives of Muslim communities, including Imams and Muslim youth leaders;

Regular ministerial engagement and attendance at Muslim community events.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-28/HL4504/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (774) Tackling Anti-Semitism – That this House notes the publication of a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism; welcomes the cross-party nature of the report and the positive engagement of a wide range of stakeholders in the process; further welcomes the inquiry panel's action plan to address the concerns of the Jewish community, such as enhancing police and other relevant guidance, encouraging responsible public debate and language, enhancing inter-communal co-operation and raising awareness through education; and further calls on the Government, police forces, the Crown Prosecution Service and social media platforms to work on tightening their existing frameworks on combating anti-Semitism in line with the report and to respond fully to the recommendations of the inquiry.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/774>

New Publications

Report of the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism

http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/themes/PCAA/images/4189_PCAA_Antisemitism%20Report_spreads_v9%20REPRO-DPS_FOR%20WEB_v3.pdf

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications (continued)

Sub-Report commissioned to assist the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism

<http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/themes/PCAA/images/DAVID-FELDMAN-SUBREPORT.pdf>

All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism: Addendum Consideration of Law and Prosecution Related Issues

<http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/themes/PCAA/images/Legal-Sub-Report-Anti-Semitism%20Addendum.pdf>

Antisemitism Poll Summary

<http://www.antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/themes/PCAA/images/Polling-Anti-Semitism-Summary%202015.docx.pdf>

News

Ban racists from social media, anti-Semitism report says

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31246808>

Internet 'Asbos' for hate crimes

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/internet-asbos-for-hate-crimes-1.830434>

Anti-Semitism a 'worsening issue'

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/anti-semitism-a-worsening-issue.117991110>

Hit racial hatred trolls with 'internet asbos' and treat them like sex offenders, MPs say

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/the-new-antisemitism-treat-racial-hatred-trolls-like-sex-offenders-and-hit-them-with-internet-asbos-mps-propose-10032580.html>

Racist trolls could be banned from social media using "sex offender" powers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11398855/Racist-trolls-could-be-banned-from-social-media-using-sex-offender-powers.html>

Ban this hateful antisemitic abuse, Welby tells social media giants

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article4348300.ece>

Teen admits painting Nazi symbols at kids' park

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/teen-admits-painting-nazi-symbols-at-kids-park-1-3687551>

Man threatened to kill Muslims after Paris attack

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/man-threatened-to-kill-muslims-after-paris-attack-1-3690396>

Scots roadsweeper fined for 'kill Muslims' call

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/scotland/top-stories/scots-roadsweeper-fined-for-kill-muslims-call-1-3690223>

Sikhs or Muslims, racists don't discriminate

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11410809/Sikhs-or-Muslims-racists-dont-discriminate.html>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

News (continued)

When a joke backfires: fury over bar's gigs guide to 'terrorists' and 'foreign scroungers'

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/glasgows-bars-offensive-gig-guide-slammed-196994n.118149581>

'My aunt died because doctors assumed domestic violence is normal for Asian women'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11408535/Asian-women-doctors-assume-domestic-violence-is-normal-for-them.html>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Questions

Meat: Ritual Slaughter

Laurence Robertson [223906] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the labelling requirements are for the sale of halal meat.

Reply from George Eustice: There are no specific EU or national requirements governing the sale and labelling of Halal meat but where any information of this nature is provided it must be accurate and must not be misleading to the consumer.

The Government believes that consumers should have the necessary information available to them to make an informed choice about their food. We are awaiting the results of a European Commission study on method of slaughter labelling which is due within the next few months. We will look at possible options in light of that report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-09/223906/>

Female Genital Mutilation

The following three questions all received the same answer.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4572] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 January (HL3454), whether the female genital mutilation community engagement initiative funded by the Home Office covers the whole of the United Kingdom or just England and Wales.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4573] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 January (HL3454), whether the new female genital mutilation unit is conducting nationwide outreach across the whole of the United Kingdom or just England and Wales.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale [HL4574] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 6 January (HL3454), what process is in place to handle enquiries received by the female genital mutilation unit from individuals or organisations based in Scotland.

Lord Bates: The Government is clear that female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Home Office has provided £100,000 through the FGM Community Engagement Initiative. The fund was open to organisations across all parts of the UK to bid for up to £10,000 to carry out community work to raise awareness of FGM amongst women already affected by FGM, young at-risk girls, as well as men in the community.

Other UK Parliament and Government Parliamentary Questions (continued)

The Government's specialist cross-Government FGM Unit launched on 5 December. The Unit will provide outreach support to local areas in England and Wales, act as a hub for effective practice, work with the police and develop cross-government policies on FGM.

The Unit does receive enquires from individuals and organisations in Scotland which are dealt with through appropriate consultation with partners in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-29/HL4572/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-01-29/HL4573/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Kelvin Hopkins [907501] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Government's strategy for ending female genital mutilation.

Reply from Lynne Featherstone: Female genital mutilation is a crime and it is child abuse. This Government is determined to stamp it out.

At last year's Girl Summit we announced an unprecedented package of measures to tackle it.

We have made real progress through strengthening the law to offer victims greater protection, consulting on mandatory reporting, establishing a cross-Government FGM unit, and delivering tailored resources for professionals and communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-03/907501/>

Forced Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL4587] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to gather data on the number of girls under the legal age of marriage who had married abroad and have been brought back to the United Kingdom, as part of the work of the Forced Marriage Unit.

Reply from Baroness Anelay of St Johns: The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) provides a range of support and assistance in cases where British nationals are at risk of forced marriage abroad. In 2013, the FMU gave advice or support related to a possible forced marriage in 1302 cases. Where the age was known, 15% of cases involved victims below 16 years and 25% involved victims aged 16-17. Where a victim is repatriated back to the UK, this is individually recorded on case notes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-02/HL4587/>

New Publication

Introducing mandatory reporting for female genital mutilation consultation – summary of responses

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403436/Government_response_to_the_Consultation_on_the_Mandatory_Reporting_of_FGM.pdf

Other UK Parliament and Government (continued) News

Law to make reporting of FGM mandatory

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31448049>

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New Publications

British Muslims in Numbers

Report

http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MCBCensusReport_2015.pdf

Infographic

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/MCB-Muslims-in-Numbers-infographic-final.jpg>

Policing Ethnic Minority Communities in Scotland

<http://hmics.org/sites/default/files/publications/Ethnic%20Minority%20Consultation%20-%20January%202015.pdf>

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Other News

LinkedIn launches volunteer matching service

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/management/linkedin-offers-new-service-for-voluntary-groups>

Muslim pupil numbers in England and Wales double since 2001

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31433665>

Muslim population rises by 1m

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/muslim-population-rises-by-1m-1.837148>

Muslim population in England and Wales nearly doubles in 10 years

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/11/muslim-population-england-wales-nearly-doubles-10-years>

Number of 'Muslim' children in Britain doubles in a decade

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11406700/Number-of-Muslim-children-in-Britain-doubles-in-a-decade.html>

Number of Muslim children in England and Wales doubles in a decade with one in 12 school pupils now brought up in Islamic faith

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2950372/Number-Muslim-children-England-Wales-doubles-decade-one-12-school-pupils-brought-Islamic-faith.html>

Muslim population has almost doubled in England and Wales since 2001 – but nearly half live in the most deprived areas

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-population-has-almost-doubled-in-england-and-wales-since-2001--but-nearly-half-live-in-the-most-deprived-areas-10040495.html>

Other News (continued)

Cartoonists 'should not offend Muslims' says former Lord Chief Justice

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article4350117.ece>

London council defends criticism over claims pork was banned in its primary schools

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/london-council-defends-criticism-over-claims-it-banned-pork-from-primary-schools-10041519.html>

Pork is removed from school menus across London borough

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4352773.ece>

Abortion on grounds of gender must be outlawed, religious groups say

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11399344/Abortion-on-grounds-of-gender-must-be-outlawed-religious-groups-say.html>

Female genital mutilation: New English laws to make reporting of FGM mandatory should be followed in Scotland, say politicians

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/female-genital-mutilation-new-english-5158370>

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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>

**** British Nationality (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015**

House of Lords Grand Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150210-gc0001.htm#15021046000272>

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

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

Third Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150209-0001.htm#15020910000792>

House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0171/15171.1-7.html>

Explanatory Notes on House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0171/en/15171en.pdf>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150210/debtext/150210-0004.htm#15021066000001>

Bill returned to House of Lords, agreed to

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150211-0004.htm#1502123000125>

Royal Assent

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150212/debtext/150212-0002.htm#15021269000006>

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>

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!**

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/85810.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>

**** Modern Slavery and Supply Chains Consultation** (closing date 7 May 2015)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403575/2015-02-12_TISC_Consultation_FINAL.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

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/>

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>

Funding Opportunities (continued)

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!*

Contact Police Scotland – Your Say, Your Way

19 February 2015 in Aberdeen (11.00 – 4.00)

20 February 2015 in Inverness (11.00 – 4.00)

24 February 2015 in Glasgow (11.00 – 4.00)

25 February 2015 in Kincardine (11.00 – 4.00)

2 March 2015 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 4.00)

10 March 2015 in Dumfries (11.00 – 4.00)

Police Scotland event in partnership with the Scottish Disability Equality Forum to work with communities to ensure that everyone in Scotland has fair and equal access to contact Police Scotland. For information contact Vicky Innes 01259 272 064 / vicky.innes@sdef.org.uk or to register for an event see <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/contact-police-scotland-your-say-your-way-7909024322>

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>

**** Introduction to Politics in Scotland**

9 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to introduce the 'political spectrum', explore key political structures, look at how legislation is developed, and think about the role of political lobbying. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/introduction-to-politics-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

****Parent Council Training – Equalities and Engagement**

11 March 2015 in Glasgow (6.00 – 8.00)

BEMIS & Gathered Together training designed for Parent Councils wanting to engage with all the parents in their school, particularly parents from Ethnic Minorities. The training will explore in detail equalities practice and practical steps that Parent Councils can take to promote greater participation. For information contact Marion Fairweather marion.fairweather@bemis.org.uk or see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Adelphi-12-March-PC-Flyer.pdf>

**** Introduction to Equality in Scotland**

17 March 2015 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.30)

CRER training course to explore basic equality concepts, look at equality law in Scotland, consider different types of discrimination, and identify some ways of promoting equality. For information see <http://www.crer.org.uk/training/introduction-to-equality-in-scotland> or contact Nadia Rafiq nadia@crer.org.uk

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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/gehrbu9>, 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

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>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

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/>

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/>

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