

## 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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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Question

#### Human Trafficking

**Jenny Marra:** To ask the Scottish Government how many suspected or confirmed survivors of trafficking have been (a) arrested, (b) charged and (c) reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service on suspicion of committing a crime in each year since April 2009; what the (i) offence and (ii) outcome was, also broken down by (A) age, (B) gender and (C) nationality, and what information it has on (1) the nature of the trafficking and (2) how many convictions or sentences have been subject to appeal. (S4W-24432)

**Reply from Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government does not hold the requested information. In his letter of 21 January 2013 to the Convener of the European and External Relations Committee, the Lord Advocate explained the system which prosecutors must follow when it is identified that a person accused of a crime may be a victim of human trafficking. The Lord Advocate's guidance

## Immigration and Asylum Scottish Parliament Question (continued)

requires prosecutors in these circumstances to instruct further inquiries into whether the individual may have been trafficked. Where there is credible evidence that the crime was committed by the individual as a direct consequence of his or her trafficked status, there is a presumption not to prosecute. Where, in the interests of justice, it is decided to proceed with prosecution, this decision must be reviewed by the National Lead Prosecutor for Human Trafficking. The Lord Advocate's letter confirmed that these measures are compatible with Article 8 of the EU Directive on combating and preventing trafficking of human beings. In line with the terms of Article 8, final decisions about prosecution in all circumstances are a matter for the Lord Advocate.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-24432&ResultsPerPage=10>

## UK Parliament Questions

### Entry Clearances

**David Hanson** [223897] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who overstayed a visa in each year since 2010.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** It is not possible to accurately quantify the number of immigration offenders in the UK as, by their very nature, those that deliberately evade immigration control to enter and stay in the country illegally are not officially recorded until they come to light and are arrested.

The Immigration Bill has provided new powers to implement exit checks, which the last Labour Government scrapped in 1998. This will allow the Home Office to screen those who leave the UK to identify threats and persons of interest to Border Force, immigration enforcement and other law enforcement bodies, and to enable an appropriate response.

The Home Office continues to prevent abuse, pursue offenders and increase compliance with immigration law—our immigration compliance and enforcement teams across the UK target illegal migrants who have no right to live and work in the community.

The Immigration Bill will stop migrants using public services to which they are not make it easier to remove people who should not be here.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-09/223897/>

### Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

**Christopher Chope** [224185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken for the determination of applications for Tier 4 visas Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies certificates was in the last period for which figures are available; and what the average time taken for applications equivalent to those applications was in the period before that period.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** Information on the average time taken to decide a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies request application is not routinely published.

There are two types of Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) requests that a sponsor can submit:

An 'annual CAS request' for an allocation of CAS to cover a 12 month period

An 'in-year CAS request' if additional CAS are needed at any point during the year.

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The Home Office introduced a published service standard on 1 January 2014 of 18 weeks and aims to conclude all such cases within that timeframe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224185/>

### Immigration

**Paul Blomfield** [224640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people granted discretionary leave to remain between October 2011 and September 2014 who have subsequently made an application for further leave are awaiting a decision on the subsequent application.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** The total number of main applicants who have been granted discretionary leave between October 2011 and September 2014, who have made an application for further leave to remain during this specified period is 2901.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-20/224640/>

### Children in Care: Asylum

**Craig Whittaker** [224649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 in order to ensure that there is no discrimination against care leavers who were taken into care as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** There are no plans to amend the law. The existing legislation ensures that unaccompanied children who apply for asylum receive the same support and care from local authorities under the Children Act 1989 as any other child in need.

When a person reaches 18 years of age their position is different if their asylum claims have been finally refused and any appeals dismissed. In these cases, any further support may only be provided if it is necessary to do so to prevent a breach of their human rights. This will depend on an assessment of the particular circumstances, but examples include cases where there is an unavoidable obstacle preventing their return to their own countries - for example if they are too sick to travel or need time to obtain a necessary travel document.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-20/224649/>

### Asylum: Syria

**Julian Huppert** [224090] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to explore the possibility of resettling Syrians to the UK via private sponsorship from individual British citizens who have expressed interest in offering accommodation to Syrians in need; and what discussions she has had with the Local Government Association on ways in which local authorities can indicate their interest in resettling Syrians in their communities.

**Reply from James Brokenshire:** We have not considered a private sponsorship model for the resettlement of Syrians through the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. We do not believe this is appropriate given the vulnerabilities of those arriving in the UK as we need to ensure that the correct level of support and accommodation is in place before they arrive in the UK.

After launching the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme last January, the Home Secretary wrote to the Chairman of the Local Government Association on 11 February 2014 encouraging local authority participation and the

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

contents of this letter have been cascaded across local authorities. As the scheme has progressed, we have continued to engage closely with local authorities who have expressed an interest in participation.

Following the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) pledging conference in Geneva on 9 December 2014, a number of additional local authorities have also expressed an interest, and we are in discussions with them. We are grateful to the local authorities who are supporting the scheme, and we remain confident that we can continue to meet the needs of arrivals in the UK under the scheme as planned. We expect the scheme to help several hundred Syrians over three years, and we welcome further offers of support from local authorities as the scheme progresses.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-10/224090/>

### Yarl's Wood

**Baroness Bakewell:** To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements were set in the contract for Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre recently reawarded to Serco regarding the dignity and privacy of women detained there.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Bates):** My Lords, contracts for the operation of immigration removal centres require service providers to comply with the Detention Centre Rules 2001. This is in addition to the contracts' operational specifications, which contain measures to ensure the dignity and privacy of women.

**Baroness Bakewell:** ... In June last year Yarl's Wood was the subject of 31 allegations of sexual misconduct. Those were investigated and a number of staff were dismissed. None the less, in November the Serco contract for Yarl's Wood was extended for eight years. However, the harassment goes on. The January report by Women for Refugee Women documented inappropriate behaviour by male staff towards female inmates—themselves already the victims of sexual abuse. Can the Minister tell us when innocent women who have committed no crimes can expect to be treated with respect?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** I think that the answer to the noble Baroness is: right now. I believe that the standards provided by Serco, the current operators of the scheme, are of a very high level. Yarl's Wood was inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and he found it to be a safe and secure place. In addition, there is an independent monitoring board. Just two weeks ago, my right honourable friend the Home Secretary set up a special review of all immigration removal centres to ensure that they are of the highest standard. I read the report by Women for Refugee Women very carefully and the most critical point was that it was felt that women's privacy was invaded and that there were insufficient female staff. One of the key elements in the contract offered was that the proportion of female staff should increase. The proportion is going up from 42% to 60%, and that is a step in the right direction.

**Lord Dholakia (LD):** My Lords, my noble friend may have read the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission about deaths in custody, published only recently. Does he accept that the organisations and institutions do not deliver the standards outlined and recommended in the EHRC report and that they are therefore at risk of being in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights? In the light of that, does he accept that it is time for HM Inspectorate of Prisons to carry out a thematic review of how these standards are being observed at the Yarl's Wood centre?

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Her Majesty's inspectorate's last visit was in June 2013. These are not planned visits; they are meant to be surprise visits to try to get an accurate picture of what is going on. They are meant to happen every two years,

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

so we are expecting one fairly soon. Following the very serious allegations, some members of staff were suspended, and Bedfordshire Police is undertaking criminal investigations in that respect. The inspectorate returned to Yarl's Wood to undertake 50 further interviews to make sure that its conclusion that it was a safe and respectful place could be upheld.

**To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see**  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150224-0001.htm#15022463000144>

### Slavery

**John Randall** [224195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her modern day slavery strategy will contain plans to prevent victims of modern day slavery being re trafficked (a) within the UK, (b) within the EU and (c) elsewhere.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The Modern Slavery Strategy, published on 28 November 2014, sets out this Government's approach to tackling modern slavery. The strategy places considerable focus on support for victims of slavery and trafficking, to enable them to recover from their ordeal and move on with their lives. This includes strengthening support for victims to help them avoid being re trafficked. Commitments include activity to support adult and child victims, both where they remain in the UK or wish to return home.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224195/>

### Human Trafficking

**John Randall** [224198] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the risks of re trafficking within the UK once a victim of trafficking has completed his or her period of reflection in a government-funded shelter and is no longer permitted to remain in the shelter accommodation.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** Protecting victims is at the heart of the Government's strategy on modern slavery. Addressing the risk of re trafficking is a key factor in the review of the National Referral Mechanism and the provision of support through Government funded safe houses. Our strategy focuses on strengthening support for victims so that they can increase their resilience to being re trafficked. This includes Government funded support providers who work with victims to support safe reintegration based on each individual's needs, taking into account any particular risk of re trafficking. The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's role also includes promoting good practice in the prevention of modern slavery offences, including prevention of re trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224198/>

### Slavery

**John Randall** [224197] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of how many suspected victims of modern slavery were subsequently re trafficked after being referred to the National Referral Mechanism in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The information requested is not available as it is not routinely recorded as part of the National Referral Mechanism process. However, the NCA's 'Strategic Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2013,' which was based on additional information and intelligence, identified that there were three cases where a potential victim had experienced a secondary period of exploitation following recovery during the period 1 January 2013 to 31

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

December 2013. Similar intelligence assessments were produced in 2011 and 2012 which contained no data relating to the number of potential victims that may have been re-trafficked.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224197/>

### Offences against Children

**John Randall** [224196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many calls have been logged in total since the government-funded trafficking helpline run by the NSPCC was established; and how many confirmed victims of human trafficking have been identified as a result of such calls.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The Modern Slavery helpline was set up on 31 July 2014 as part of a wider national communications campaign. Between 31 July 2014 and 29 January 2015, the NSPCC helpline received a total of 654 contacts. These contacts comprise 383 referrals, 82 advice cases, and 189 enquiries. The helpline ensures that potential victims are referred to the appropriate agencies, including law enforcement, for immediate support and assistance. As a result, the NSPCC does not record the number of confirmed victims of modern slavery, including human trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224196/>

### Human Trafficking

**John Randall** [224411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse was of the Salvation Army shelters for victims of human trafficking in (a) 2012 and (b) 2013; whether the Government's funding of those shelters is dependant on the number of victims identified or the length of time they stay in the shelter; and for what average number of days victims have stayed in such shelters in 2014.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The total cost of the Government-funded Adult Victims of Trafficking Care Contract was £3.7 million in 2012 and £3.6 million in 2013. The cost of this contract is dependent on both the number of potential victims who enter the service and the length of time potential victims stay in the service. In 2014 the average length of stay in a safe house was 81 days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-12/224411/>

### Human Trafficking

**John Randall** [224410] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been identified in each of the last five years as having been referred to the National Referral Mechanism more than once.

**Reply from Karen Bradley:** The current National Referral Mechanism (NRM) system is not designed to be able to accurately identify this type of information. Personal details collected at the point of entry to the NRM are not currently recorded in a way which permits the definitive identification of individuals who have been referred more than once. This is due to a number of factors in the way the data is provided by both responding agencies and potential victims, as well as how it is collated and recorded. The recommendations of the NRM review, when implemented, will make provision for this type of data in the future.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-12/224410/>

## Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

### Human Trafficking

**Paul Blomfield** [224205] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 9 February 2015 to Question 223157, how many times (a) aggravated damages and (b) exemplary damages have been awarded following a civil claim brought by (i) victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and (ii) victims of trafficking for labour exploitation or forced labour.

**Reply from Mike Penning:** I refer the Hon. Member to my Answers of 2 and 9 February to Questions 221878, 221879, 221883, the answer to which can be found on the Parliamentary website at:

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

and 223157, the answer to which can be found on the Parliamentary website at:

[http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clords&uin=223157)

[answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clords&uin=223157](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-questions-answers/?page=1&max=20&questiontype=AllQuestions&house=commons%2clords&uin=223157). Figures in relation to the number of civil claims brought by victims of trafficking and the award of aggravated and exemplary damages are not available. However, we are confident that the courts will award such damages wherever it is appropriate to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-02-11/224205/>

### Illegal Immigrants

**Lord Taylor of Warwick** [HL5091] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to deal with illegal immigrants who are forced to work in brothels or used for pickpocketing.

**Reply from Lord Bates:** Regardless of an individual's immigration status, all victims of human trafficking are entitled to support and assistance. This support, provided through the National Referral Mechanism, includes appropriate and safe accommodation, material assistance (including financial assistance), assistance in obtaining healthcare services, and access to translation and interpretation services. The Government published a review of the National Referral Mechanism in November 2014, which called for wide ranging reforms to the identification and support of victims, including the extension of support to all victims of modern slavery. The Home Office has accepted all recommendations in principle and will establish pilots to test the recommendations as part of a planned implementation of these changes.

The Government is determined to stamp out modern slavery and has outlined its comprehensive approach to achieve this aim in the Modern Slavery Strategy, published in November 2014. The Modern Slavery Bill, currently being considered by Parliament, will give law enforcement the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensure that perpetrators can receive suitably severe sentences for these appalling crimes, and enhance support and protection for victims.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-02-23/HL5091/>

## Press Releases

**Digital jobs and paramedics recommended for the shortage occupation list**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/406772/MAC\\_shortage\\_2014\\_press\\_release.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406772/MAC_shortage_2014_press_release.pdf)

## Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

**Migrant workers bring improvements to British business performance and productivity says new study**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migrant-workers-bring-improvements-to-british-business-performance-and-productivity-says-new-study>

**The Court of Justice of the European Union clarifies the conditions in which a third-country national who has deserted may be granted asylum in the EU**

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2015-02/cp150020en.pdf>

## New Publications

**Partial review of the shortage occupation lists for the UK and for Scotland**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/406775/Partial\\_review\\_of\\_the\\_SOL\\_for\\_UK\\_and\\_Scotland\\_Report.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406775/Partial_review_of_the_SOL_for_UK_and_Scotland_Report.pdf)

**The impacts of migrant workers on UK businesses**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/406760/bis-15-153-impacts-of-migrant-workers-on-uk-business.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406760/bis-15-153-impacts-of-migrant-workers-on-uk-business.pdf)

**Immigration statistics, October to December 2014**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2014/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2014>

**Migration statistics, quarterly report: February 2015**

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/february-2015/index.html>

**Monthly asylum application tables**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/407095/asylum-dec2014.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407095/asylum-dec2014.ods)

**Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/407092/children-detention-jan2015.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407092/children-detention-jan2015.ods)

**Immigration Enforcement data: February 2015**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/407182/immigration\\_enforcement\\_transparency\\_data\\_q4\\_2014.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407182/immigration_enforcement_transparency_data_q4_2014.ods)

**Temporary and permanent migration data: February 2015**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/407174/temporary\\_permanent\\_migration\\_transparency\\_data\\_q4\\_2014.ods](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407174/temporary_permanent_migration_transparency_data_q4_2014.ods)

**Home Office immigration statistics: user guide (updated)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/406242/user-guide-immigration-statistics.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406242/user-guide-immigration-statistics.pdf)



## **Immigration and Asylum** (continued) **News**

### **UK not easy option for migrant workers**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-not-easy-option-for-migrant-workers-1-3698344>

### **Scots-Romanians angry at immigration documentary**

<http://www.scotsman.com/what-s-on/tv-radio/scots-romanians-angry-at-immigration-documentary-1-3699022>

### **Foreign students 'vital for UK's future prosperity'**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/11429712/Foreign-students-vital-for-UKs-future-prosperity.html>

### **Asylum seeker faces deportation**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/asylum-seekers-faces-deportation-198496n.119357934>

### **Cash runs out for Roma project**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/cash-runs-out-for-roma-project-198423n.118800245>

### **Government should stop playing a numbers game with migration figures, says TUC**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/international-issues/migration/workplace-issues/employment-rights/government-should-stop-playing>

### **300,000! That was the overall number of migrants last year - and 190,000 were from outside the EU. So much for the PM's target of tens of thousands**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2970032/Humiliation-Cameron-net-migration-hits-298-000-despite-promise-cut-tens-thousands.html>

### **Net migration up to 298,000 as Conservative target missed**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-31638174>

### **Cameron fails to hit target of big cut in migrants**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/cameron-fails-to-hit-target-of-big-cut-in-migrants-1-3703553>

### **Cameron pledge destroyed by 298,000 migrants**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4366158.ece>

### **David Cameron immigration pledge in tatters as net immigration stands at 298,000**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11436403/David-Cameron-immigration-pledge-in-tatters-as-net-immigration-stands-at-298000.html>

### **Migration figures expected to shatter Cameron's 'tens of thousands' pledge**

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/feb/26/migration-figures-expected-to-shatter-camersons-tens-of-thousands-pledge>

### **Net migration to UK higher than when coalition took office**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/26/net-migration-to-uk-higher-than-when-coalition-took-office>

### **We need workers from overseas, say business chiefs**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/industrials/article4365580.ece>

## Immigration and Asylum

### News (continued)

#### Immigrants accused of importing poor maths

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/education/article4366020.ece>

#### Britain's losing out in the maths brain drain: Numeracy worse in immigrants than those quitting the UK

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2969389/Britain-s-losing-maths-brain-drain-Numeracy-worse-immigrants-quitting-UK.html>

#### Immigration to Britain has not increased unemployment or reduced wages, study finds

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-to-britain-has-not-increased-unemployment-or-reduced-wages-study-finds-10075047.html>

#### 'Give human trafficking victims legal protection'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/give-human-trafficking-victims-legal-protection-1-3704195>

#### Lawyers want immunity for victims of trafficking

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article4368354.ece>

#### Our immigration policy creates only misery for the vulnerable

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2015/feb/27/immigration-policy-misery-vulnerable-lawyers>

#### 'Let them slash their wrists': a guard's care for immigrant detainees

[http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk\\_news/National/article1525358.ece](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1525358.ece)

#### Catholic leader Vincent Nichols: 'Test parties on immigration'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-31681187>

#### Staying Power: Photographing the black British experience

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-31660553>

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## Community Relations

### News

#### Recognising the role of faith in Britain

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/recognising-the-role-of-faith-in-britain>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions

#### Armed Forces: Diversity

**Mike Freer:** What steps is [the Minister for the Armed Forces] taking to promote diversity in the armed forces. [907671]

## Equality

### UK Parliament Questions (continued)

**Reply from the Minister for the Armed Forces (Mark Francois):** The Ministry of Defence is committed to creating a more diverse work force, better able to represent the nation it serves and defends. That is why we are developing a comprehensive defence diversity and inclusion programme to increase the diversity of the whole work force, both military and civilian.

**Mike Freer:** I thank the Minister for that answer, but will he reflect on the comments of the Chief of the General Staff who said this month that “recruitment from the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities has been improving...but it is nowhere near where it needs to be.” What steps is the Army taking to ensure that it reflects the society that it protects?

**Reply from Mark Francois:** I thank my hon. Friend for his support for the Chief of the General Staff’s initiative, but as the CGS has made clear more needs to be done. For instance, a significant amount is already being done to increase the diversity of the Army, such as targeted recruitment campaigns and high-profile engagement events aimed at the Sikh and Muslim communities, including the establishment of an armed forces Muslim forum. ...

**Nicholas Soames:** That is very helpful, Mr Speaker. Thank you so much. My right hon. Friend the Minister will be aware of the extraordinary gallant and distinguished service by Sikhs to this country down the generations. Does he not agree that it is high time to do away with the political correctness that infects some of this thinking and raise a Sikh regiment to serve in the country and make up a very serious gap in our armed forces?

**Reply from Francois:** ... With regard to his specific suggestion, he is one of a number of Members of Parliament who have made the suggestion with me recently. We have passed the proposal on to the Chief of the General Staff, who is now considering the issue, and we are awaiting the CGS’s comments. The idea might well have merit.

**Rory Stewart :** ... will the Minister specifically consider the notion of a Sikh company within the reserves as a starting point? There seems to be much more possibility within the reserves to begin what seems like an excellent idea.

**Reply from Mark Francois:** I thank the Chairman of the Select Committee for his additional suggestion. I said earlier that the idea might have merit, and we are considering as one specific option the possibility of a reserve company that would inherit many of the proud traditions of Sikh regiments in the British Army going back many years.

My hon. Friend the Minister responsible for the reserves is leading on that aspect and he, too, remains in contact with the CGS on the matter.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150223/debtext/150223-0001.htm#1502231000015>

## Press Release

**More robust data and stronger analysis is needed to safeguard fairness says Commission**

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/more-robust-data-and-stronger-analysis-needed-safeguard-fairness-says-commission>

## New Publication

**Future Fair Financial Decision-Making**

[http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication\\_pdf/Future%20Fair%20Financial%20Decision-Making.pdf](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/Future%20Fair%20Financial%20Decision-Making.pdf)

## Equality (continued) News

### White pupils improve as much as ethnic minorities

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/white-pupils-improve-as-much-as-ethnic-minorities-10065151.html>

### Sikhs make our Armed Forces even stronger

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/11432357/Sikhs-make-our-Armed-Forces-even-stronger.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**S4M-12425 Bob Doris: Cross-party Solidarity with the Jewish Community**—That the Parliament welcomes the coming together of political leaders, including the leaders of all the main parties in Scotland, to sign a joint statement of support for the Jewish community, which has also been supported by other leading figures in Scottish public life; believes that such public support and reassurance is vital following the horrific anti-Semitic terrorist attacks on Jewish targets in Europe and the recent rise in anti-Semitic incidents recorded by the police in Scotland in the second half of 2014, and contends that all elected representatives, including MSPs, should show leadership in their own communities by condemning all acts of anti-Semitism and reaching out to a Jewish community feeling anxious and vulnerable, echoing the words contained in the statement to "join together to express sadness and concern about the recent anti-Semitic terrorist murders in Paris and Copenhagen, the rise in anti-Semitism across Europe that has been highlighted by several recent reports, and the raising of the security threat level in the UK. We celebrate Scotland's traditionally positive relationship with its Jewish population but understand why events elsewhere can undermine their sense of security, belonging, and well-being, and come together unreservedly to condemn all manifestations of anti-Semitism in Scotland and to assert Scotland's warm desire that Jewish people living in Scotland should feel safe, completely at home, and a key part of the multicultural Scottish community".

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-12425&ResultsPerPage=10>

### UK Parliament Question

#### Discrimination Claims

**Kate Green:** What change there has been in the number of people bringing discrimination claims since the introduction of tribunal fees. [907736]

**Reply from the Secretary of State for Education (Nicky Morgan):** Although the number of people bringing discrimination claims to the employment tribunals is not collected centrally, the number of complaints of discrimination from ET claims is collected. From July to September 2014, there were 5,475 complaints of discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, or of having suffered a detriment or unfair dismissal due to pregnancy, or complaints relating to equal pay. This compares to just over 18,000 in the quarter from April to June 2013, a fall of 71%.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150226/debtext/150226-0001.htm#15022646000031>

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

**Almost nine in ten Scots think sectarianism is a problem for Scotland**

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2015/feb/24/almost-nine-in-ten-scots-think-sectarianism-is-a-problem-for-scotland>

**Report warns of sectarian tensions in Scotland**

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/report-warns-of-sectarian-tensions-in-scotland-1-3700020>

**Community reps: report into Irish-Scots significantly flawed**

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/community-reps-report-into-irish-scots-significantly-flawed.119300731>

**Cross-Party Solidarity with the Jewish Community**

[http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15ii\\_solidarity.html](http://www.scojec.org/news/2015/15ii_solidarity.html)

**West Ham: zero-tolerance if fans found guilty of antisemitic singing on train**

<http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/feb/23/kick-it-out-west-ham-fans-alleged-anti-semitic-song>

**Anti-Semitic songs 'aimed at fans'**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2965129/Anti-Semitic-songs-aimed-fans.html>

**Spurs condemn 'vile' chanting**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2965307/Spurs-condemn-vile-chanting.html>

**Alleged West Ham fans caught chanting anti-Semitic song on the tube heading to Tottenham derby clash**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-2964354/Alleged-West-Ham-fans-caught-chanting-anti-Semitic-song-tube-heading-Tottenham-derby-clash.html>

**West Ham supporters filmed singing anti-Semitic song on a train on the way to Tottenham game**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/west-ham-supporters-filmed-singing-antisemitic-song-on-the-train-on-the-way-to-tottenham-game-10063034.html?origin=internalSearch>

**West Ham chants aimed at Tottenham fans labelled 'vile' by Spurs: Kick It Out contact police over anti-semitic video footage**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/west-ham-chants-aimed-at-tottenham-fans-labelled-vile-by-spurs-kick-it-out-contact-police-over-antisemitic-video-footage-10064286.html?origin=internalSearch>

**Chelsea fan sorry over Paris Metro incident**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31575913>

**Chelsea racism row: Ex-policeman insists he's not racist as he 'apologises for involvement' in Paris incident**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/chelsea-racism-row-ex-policeman-insists-5211371>

**Rylance: I've taken the antisemitism out of Shakespeare**

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/stage/article4363580.ece>

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### News (continued)

**Shakespeare's antisemitic lines must be censored at times, says Rylance**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/23/shakespeares-antisemitic-lines-must-be-censored-at-times-says-rylance>

**Shakespeare anti-Semitic - Rylance**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-2965622/Shakespeare-antisemitic--Rylance.html>

**Glasgow man bullied for being Jewish and gay trying to stamp out hate crime**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/glasgow-man-bullied-for-being-jewish-and-gay-trying-to-stamp-out-hate-198286n.118885376>

**Rangers may have 'no case to answer' in the wake of sectarian singing**

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/rangers-may-have-no-case-to-answer-in-the-wake-of-sectarian-singing-198358n.119222410>

**Far-right Pegida eclipsed by its opponents at first UK demonstration**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/28/newcastle-pegida-unites-far-right-march-islam-protest>

**UK Pegida rally met with counter-protests in Newcastle**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/five-arrested-at-antiislam-pegida-protest-rally-in-newcastle-10077351.html>

**Anti-Islamic group Pegida not welcome in Newcastle, say campaigners**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/antiislamic-group-pegida-not-welcome-in-newcastle-say-campaigners-10076308.html>

**Anti-Islam Pegida protest attracts 300 supporters to Newcastle city**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/anti-islam-pegida-protest-attracts-300-5248052>

**Concern as anti-Muslim group Pegida plan Edinburgh rally**

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/concern-anti-muslim-group-pegida-plan-5253747>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Equal Opportunities Committee

**Evidence session: Inquiries into the Lives of Gypsy Travellers**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9792&i=89765>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### Debate

#### **Animal Welfare (Non-stun Slaughter)**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm150223/halltext/150223h0001.htm#1502232400001>

### Press Release

#### **Chinese New Year 2015 reception: Prime Minister's speech**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chinese-new-year-2015-reception-prime-ministers-speech>

### New Publication

#### **Female genital mutilation, experimental statistics: January 2014**

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB17021/fgm-jan-2015-exp-rep.pdf>

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## General Election (UK Parliament)

### Register to Vote

The General Election, to elect MPs to the UK Parliament, will be held on **Thursday 7 May 2015**. In order to be able to vote, you need to be listed on the **Electoral Register**.

To find out whether you are already on the Electoral Register, contact your local Electoral Registration Office. You can find out the address, phone number, and e-mail address of your local Electoral Registration Office by typing your postcode into the box at <https://www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/local-authority/lookup>

If you are not already registered, **you must apply by Monday 20 April 2015** in order to be able to vote in the General Election.

You can apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Or you can print the form from the following weblink, fill it in, and post it to your local Electoral Registration Office.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/359494/ITR-S-W.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/359494/ITR-S-W.pdf)

Or you can ask your Local Electoral Registration Office to send you a form to complete.

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If you want to **vote by post** instead of at the polling station, you must apply by **21 April 2015** by completing the form at the following link and posting it to your local Election Registration Office. (If you are not already listed on the Electoral Register, you must also apply for registration, as above.)

[http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/177408/Postal-vote-general.pdf](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/177408/Postal-vote-general.pdf)

## General Election

### Register to Vote (continued)

If you would like to nominate someone to vote on your behalf, you must apply by **21 April 2015** by completing the relevant **proxy vote application form** at the following link, and posting it to your local Election Registration Office. (If you are not already listed on the Electoral Register, you must also apply for registration, as above.)

<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/register-to-vote/apply-to-vote-by-proxy>

In cases of emergency – for example, if you are ill on election day, you can apply for a proxy vote up to 5pm on the day of the election.

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## Other News

**Apple adds racially diverse emoji, and they come in five skin shades**

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2015/feb/24/apple-adds-racially-diverse-emoji-and-they-come-in-five-skin-shades>

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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>

#### **\*\* Community Empowerment Bill**

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

Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee, Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9801&i=89866>

#### **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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB\\_15-12\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_and\\_Exploitation\\_Scotland\\_Bill.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_15-12_Human_Trafficking_and_Exploitation_Scotland_Bill.pdf)

#### **\*\* Scotland Act 1998 (Modification of Schedules 4 and 5 and Transfer of Functions to the Scottish Ministers etc.) Order 2015**

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111127551/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111127551\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111127551/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111127551_en.pdf)

Motion to Approve, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150226-0001.htm#15022651000708>



## Bills in Progress UK Parliament

### **Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill**

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

### **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>

### **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>

Report Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150223-0001.htm#15022311000448>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150223-0002.htm#15022332000694>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150225-0001.htm#15022595000535>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/150225-0002.htm#150225113000154>

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2014-2015/0069/amend/ml069-II.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!**

**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](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403575/2015-02-12_TISC_Consultation_FINAL.pdf)

## Consultations (continued)

**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: 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**

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](mailto: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>

**\*\* this week!**

**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>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:marion.fairweather@bemis.org.uk) or see <http://gatheredtogether.bemis.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Adelphi-11-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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk) / 0141 223 7951 or see <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training>

## Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.gov.scot/>

**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](http://www.acas.org.uk)

**SCVO** <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

**Volunteer Development Scotland** [www.vds.org.uk](http://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](http://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](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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