

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities in partnership with BEMIS.

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.

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Migrants

Margo MacDonald: The genesis of this debate lies in a spell that I had in hospital about three years ago, when I made the acquaintance of Monika, who had recently arrived from Poland and was putting in 12-hour shifts cleaning mainly toilets and bathrooms in the infirmary. Had she not come to Scotland with the first of the young Poles after her country became a European Union member, she would have been studying for her third-year exams in law. That made me quite interested in Monika, and I got to know her. Her English was not great and my Polish is on a par with my command of Urdu or Gaelic, but she had a bureaucratic problem that my office was able to resolve for her. Since then, we have kept in touch and have worked out a couple of other wee difficulties—concerning housing, as I recall—and, through her, I have gained an insight into the community that we are all aware of but which we cannot quantify. We do not know what size the community is or what the average age of people in the community is, even though the overwhelming majority of Scots have—I am happy to say—welcomed these hard-working migrants from eastern Europe and their skills.

I will concentrate on the Polish community because—although we do not know for sure—there appears to be a greater concentration of Poles in and around Edinburgh than of other people from eastern Europe, and it is certainly the group that I know a bit about.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate (continued)

The welcome that the Poles have received is not just because of the delicious treats to be found in the new Polish delis, or even because of the universal appeal of Polish plumbers, but because they have filled a gap in Scotland's aging, shrinking population. Last year was the first year in

quite a while in which our population grew. However, there are no figures showing how many of those welcome children were born to migrant mothers or how many are likely to stay long enough to pull on the dark blue jerseys of Scotland's sporting teams.

The motion asks for a better way of incorporating all the positive aspects of this new pattern of migration into Scotland, both for those who stay here to become new Scots and those who live and work among us for some months or a few years.

The Irish, in particular, are philosophical about the people who go to Ireland for a few months or years and then go back to their country of origin. The Irish want them to have as good an experience of Ireland as possible, so that, when it comes to doing business or organising school or university exchanges and so on, those people have the best possible opinion and experience of Ireland. That is another good idea that we can copy.

With the fresh talent initiative, the previous Executive, under Jack McConnell, set the tone of the relationship between migrants and indigenous Scots. He is to be congratulated on and thanked for his foresight. We should cheer him for his persistence in the face of the lack of interest and even hostility that was displayed by Whitehall and Westminster. However, now that the Scottish advantage that was established by the fresh talent initiative has been eroded by Westminster's adoption of the same procedure for keeping overseas students around for longer after graduation, we need to refresh fresh talent. That is the spirit in which I would approach any strategic overview in relation to the people who have come from eastern Europe.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0130-02.htm#Col5636>

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Kenneth Gibson (S3O-2078): To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it will take to encourage the teaching of eastern European languages in schools.

Reply from Maureen Watt: It is up to local authorities, in dialogue with schools, to decide what range of languages will be offered in schools to reflect local needs and priorities. Ministers are aware that some education authorities are under pressure to accommodate the needs of children who have English as an additional language. Officials have had meetings at senior level with representatives of the Educational Institute of Scotland and the Scottish English as an additional language co-ordinating council to discuss those issues. The recently announced funding and delivery partnerships between the Scottish Government and local government contain measures to address additional support needs in education, including those arising from EAL.

Kenneth Gibson: Does the minister agree that encouraging social, cultural and economic links with eastern European accession states and non-European Union nations such as Russia and Ukraine is vital to secure bilateral economic growth and political stability in the east? Does she further agree that encouraging the teaching of eastern European languages in our schools, alongside French, Spanish, German and indigenous Scottish languages, will help to ensure that Scottish businesses have the personnel available to market our country in eastern Europe and thus secure jobs and investment here in Scotland?

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Maureen Watt: Yes. As I said in reply to a previous question, learning more languages will help to strengthen economic and political benefits. As many people are coming to Scotland from the eastern European accession states, it is right that schools embrace the languages of those cultures. In some schools, the children themselves are asking to learn the languages of the new pupils. That is great because in the long term it will secure economic and political benefits for Scotland and help business growth in Scotland, which is precisely what the Government wants.

The Presiding Officer: A brief supplementary, please, from Rhona Brankin.

Rhona Brankin: The minister mentioned that pupils who speak other languages are covered by additional support for learning. The Scottish National Party's manifesto promised an additional £30 million for an additional support for learning fund. Where is it? Is it another example of another broken promise?

The Presiding Officer: An equally brief answer, please, minister.

Reply from Maureen Watt: It is still there.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0131-02.htm#Col5714>

Bill Butler (S3W-9350): To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to tackle human trafficking.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-01e.htm>

Bill Butler(S3W-9351): To ask the Scottish Executive what support it is giving to local authorities to combat human trafficking.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-01e.htm>

Westminster Ministerial Statements

Liam Byrne (Minister for Borders and Immigration): Last year the Government introduced a new strategic approach to charging for immigration and nationality services. This meant that we moved away from simple cost recovery fees in a number of areas, setting fees at levels that reflect the value of the service to the would-be migrant. Certain fees saw increases which will help contribute to the doubling of resource for enforcement activity over the next few years. As set out in the "Enforcement Strategy" published in March 2007, this resource will help to continue building on our success in strengthening our borders and to ensure and enforce compliance with the immigration laws by those who we allow to come to the UK.

The Government review fees for immigration and nationality services on a regular basis and makes appropriate changes as necessary. We believe that significant increases are not necessary for 2008-09 but that we should continue to develop the strategic approach of setting fees on the basis of the value of the service.

Some fees will continue to be set at or below levels that reflect the administrative costs of the service. These fees must be set out in regulations before both Houses of Parliament and are subject to the negative procedure. Those fees that are set at levels above the normal administrative costs of the service—either to allow us to set certain fees below cost recovery or to contribute to the true end-to-end costs of the immigration system—must also be specified in regulations before both Houses, but are subject to the affirmative process.

Yesterday I laid regulations setting fees for certain areas of the immigration system, including the first parts of the new Points Based System to be implemented.

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

These regulations propose fees for applications for:

Tier 1- General leave to remain;

A licence to sponsor prospective migrants who will apply to come to the UK under Tier 2;

Certain existing entry clearance routes;

Certificates of entitlement of right of abode.

These fees are set above normal cost recovery levels.

Today I am announcing our proposals for all the immigration and nationality fees we intend to charge during 2008-09 in order that Parliament may consider fee regulations made yesterday in context.

We will make regulations setting out other proposed fees for appropriate scrutiny by Parliament shortly before implementation, including for the rest of the Points Based System and for biometric ID cards.

Fees for new services under the Points Based System are proposed at broadly the same level as their existing comparator services. We do not intend to make further changes in 2008-09 to fees charged for applications made in the UK, including where a biometric ID card is to be issued to a successful applicant.

For a full table of fees proposed for 2008-09 see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080130/wmstext/80130m0001.htm#08013061000010>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080130/wmstext/80130m0002.htm>

Jacqui Smith (Secretary of State for the Home Department): Earlier this month I set out the ten key changes to Britain's border security and immigration system that we will deliver in 2008. As part of these reforms I said that it was important that we act more sensitively to the children in our care and to the victims of human trafficking. I would like therefore to update the House on measures being taken forward by the Border and Immigration Agency in relation to children.

First, I am pleased to announce to the House today the commencement of the public consultation exercise on the draft code of practice for keeping children safe from harm. The consultation will last for 12 weeks and copies of the consultation paper and the draft code of practice have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. As part of this consultation we will be talking to children to get their views.

The code will guide BIA in fulfilling its new legal duty to keep children safe from harm. In drafting it the Border and Immigration Agency has already consulted widely. During the period of the consultation Border and Immigration Agency officials will hold a series of conferences so that interest groups can express their concerns to us in detail and in their own words. These conferences will be devoted to the themes that have been put to us so far as important, such as children in detention, referrals to statutory agencies, and other key areas where children come into contact with our immigration system; as well as seeking to identify what can be learned from others. In particular there will be conferences on children's issues in each of the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Secondly, I also today publishing the responses to the public consultation exercise "Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children". We have considered carefully the responses to this document and taken account of the clear consensus that central Government and local authorities need to work together to improve the way in which these children are referred to, cared for and supported by local authorities. Our main areas of reform in this area are:

Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Ministerial Statements (continued)

Placing unaccompanied asylum seeking children a network of with specialist local authorities to ensure they receive the expert services they need.

Better procedures to assess age in order to ensure children and adults are not accommodated together. We will establish a working group with key stakeholders to gain consensus on how we move forward in this complex area of public policy.

Ensuring that we resolve a child's immigration status more quickly and therefore enable care planning to focus on integration or safe early return to the country of origin for unaccompanied young people.

Putting in place better procedures for identifying and supporting asylum seeking children who are the victims of trafficking paying particular attention to those who are at risk of going missing or at risk of further harm or exploitation. We will ensure that proposals around reform are developed in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Thirdly, the Home Secretary announced a review of the UK's reservation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child on 14 January. I know this review has been widely welcomed. I am therefore launching a consultation today to run in parallel with that on the code of practice. I wish to take full account of the views of others in deciding whether the time is now right to withdraw the reservation.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080131/wmstext/80131m0002.htm#08013152000017>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Jenny Willott [178987]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questionnaires for asylum seekers under the Legacy Casework Programme have been (a) issued, (b) completed and returned and (c) returned incomplete since the programme began; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: There have been nearly 9,600 questionnaires issued since May 2007 and around 8,400 of these have been completed.

The questionnaire is only for applicants whose cases are among the older, unresolved ones that are not being considered by our teams in regional offices around the country.

Not all applicants will receive a questionnaire. Applicants will only be sent a questionnaire if we think we need more up-to-date information on the applicant's case before we review it. If the application is a straightforward one, or the applicant has recently been in touch with us, we will not need to send a questionnaire.

In her recent update to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 17 December 2007, Lin Homer (chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency) gave an undertaking to provide further updates to the Committee every six months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080128/text/80128w0020.htm#08012839000062>

Damian Green [173029]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projections she has made of the likely percentage of asylum seekers who will be recognised as refugees and granted asylum as an initial decision in (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Projections of the likely percentage of asylum seekers who will be recognised as refugees and granted asylum at initial decision in (a) 2007, (b) 2008 and (c) 2009 are not available. Every asylum application is considered on its individual merits.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080128/text/80128w0020.htm#08012839000062>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [177472]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases enforcement action to remove was successfully carried out in respect of non-UK citizens who were (a) illegal entrants and (b) overstayers in each year since 1997.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Published information on persons removed as a result of enforcement action is broken down by the type of enforcement action initiated. Enforcement action is broken down into three main categories: illegal entry action, administrative removal action and deportations.

Section 33(1) of the 1971 Act, as amended by the 1996 Act, defines an illegal entrant as a person:

(a) unlawfully entering or seeking to enter in breach of a deportation order or of the immigration laws, or

(b) entering or seeking to enter by means which include deception by another person, and includes a person who has so entered.

An overstayer is a person who stays beyond the time limited/specify/given by his/her leave and is liable to administrative removal under section 10. Prior to 2000, such persons were liable to deportation as distinct from administrative removal.

The breakdown has not been available since 2003, but for information prior to 2004, it has been published in the Command Paper Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom.

Copies of this publication and others relating to immigration to the UK are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhsrd/cm080128/text/80128w0022.htm#08012839000071>

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for work permits were (a) initially refused and (b) subsequently granted on appeal as a percentage of total appeals in each of the last five years. [178538]

Reply from Liam Byrne: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Work permit individual and group applications refused and successful on review between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007

	Refused	Total appeals on review	Successful on review	Successful (Percentage)
2003	19,750	8,650	2,955	34
2004	28,755	5,360	565	11
2005	20,855	6,615	820	12
2006	17,595	5,590	760	14
2007	22,970	7,920	665	8
Total	109,925	34,135	5,765	17

Notes

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.

2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are 'not' provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhsrd/cm080128/text/80128w0022.htm#08012839000073>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Chris Grayling [166516]: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions his Department has checked the immigration status of applicants for national insurance numbers since 2006; and how many applications were refused as a result.

Reply from James Plaskitt: Applications for national insurance numbers for employment purposes have automatically been subject to a proof of right to work check since July 2006.

Management information shows that between July 2006 and 30 November 2007 8,643 such applications were refused on the basis of not satisfying the right to work requirement. Details of these cases have been passed to the Border and Immigration Agency.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080129/text/80129w0003.htm#080129127000046>

Jim Cunningham [180079]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to make immigration law easier to understand.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Following the review of the immigration system in July 2006, we made a commitment to strengthen and simplify immigration legislation—replacing existing laws in this area and establishing a clear, consistent and coherent legal framework which supports the control of our borders and the management of migration.

An initial consultation paper “Simplifying Immigration Law - An Initial Consultation” published on 6 June 2007, set out principles for simplification and invited views. An analysis of responses was published on 6 December 2007.

We will be consulting on more specific proposals for simplification shortly. We will then publish draft clauses for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Subject to the parliamentary timetable, this will allow us to introduce comprehensive new legislation in the next session.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080131/text/80131w0003.htm#08013168000013>

Louise Ellman (182068): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints have been received about the International Training Agency's removal of failed asylum seekers from the UK; and how many have been substantiated.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80125w01.htm>

Jim Cunningham (180079): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government plans to take to make immigration law easier to understand.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80131w01.htm>

Press Releases

A compassionate immigration system for children

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/compassionateimmigrationsystem>

New fees ensure firm but fair immigration system

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newfees>

New immigration fees announced

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/new-immigration-fees1>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Immigration 'stretches police cash'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Immigration-39stretches-police-cash39.3715981.jp>

UK paying for 'migrant baby boom'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7215624.stm>

Migrant baby boom cost to NHS soars

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Migrant-baby-boom-cost-to.3723614.jp>

Airport 'welcome centre' plan to help immigrants land a job

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/politics/Airport-39welcome-centre39-plan.3724419.jp>

Demand prompts college to launch Polish classes

<http://www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=149664&command=displayContent&sourceNode=149490&contentPK=19726626&folderPk=85696&pNodeId=149221>

Call for children to learn Polish

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/education/article3295320.ece>

Pupils offer a language boost to Poles

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/scotland/Pupils-offer--a-language.3730042.jp>

Asylum children face deportation

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7220014.stm>

Gay Asylum Seeker Wins Fight To Stay In Scotland

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/02/01/gay-asylum-seeker-wins-fight-to-stay-in-scotland-86908-20305477/>

No right of appeal for failed visa applicants

http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2251600,00.html

Foreign doctors face ban on training posts

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;jsessionid=M1SLBSJDGMDRRQFIQMGSFF4AVCBQWIV0?xml=/news/2008/02/03/ndocs103.xml>

Child asylum-seekers to be forcibly deported

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-asylumseekers-to-be-forcibly-deported-776747.html>

Dungavel set to close as Holyrood and Westminster pilot new detention scheme

http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2014950.0.dungavel_set_to_close_as_holyrood_and_westminster_pilot_new_detention_scheme.php

End child detention

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2014934.0.end_child_detention.php

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Race Relations

Westminster Early Day Motion

George Galloway (839) Stop and search and social cohesion - That this House recalls the systemic use of police stop and search powers in the 1970s and 1980s, and the social consequences - in the form of the inner city riots of 1981 and 1985 - which followed; is mindful of the increased use of stop and search in recent years and the deleterious consequences which that has had for social cohesion; is further mindful of the evidence which shows that not only is stop and search an ineffective method of dealing with crime and terrorism, but also that its widespread use leads to the alienation of the very communities whose co-operation is vital to tackling extremism; and is therefore alarmed at the apparent willingness of the Government and the official Opposition to encourage still more use of stop and search, and abandonment of checks and balances which were part of the lessons learned from the tragic murder of Stephen Lawrence.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80131e01.htm>

New publication

Developing active networks in local communities

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2168-networks-local-communities.pdf>

News

Hundreds hail ethnic event a big success

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Hundreds-hail-ethnic-event-a.3724411.jp>

'Celebrate' multi-faith education

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7224023.stm>

Salmond: let's celebrate Catholic schools rather than grudgingly accept them

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2014910.0.salmond Lets cel ebrate catholic schools rather than grudgingly accept them.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2014910.0.salmondLetsCelebrateCatholicSchoolsRatherThanGrudginglyAcceptThem.php)

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Equality

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee discussion on "Mainstreaming Equal Opportunities in Scottish Parliament Committees"

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-0202.htm#Col283>

Equality (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent by his Department (a) in total and (b) on staff costs on promoting equality and diversity in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many people are employed by his Department for this purpose. [173817]

Reply from Angela Eagle: The Treasury is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda. In the last three years the Treasury has promoted equality of opportunity for all, supported internal employee-diversity networks, funded diversity and equality events in the Department and funded diversity awareness raising seminars.

The Treasury has spent the following amounts on reasonable adjustments for staff with disabilities, on promoting equality and diversity by awareness raising events and on subscriptions (for example membership of the Employers Forum on Disability):

	Amount (£)
2004-05	46,000
2005-06	61,679
2006-07	96,196

The Treasury introduced a Child-Care Voucher Scheme in 2004 as part of its work to promote equality and diversity. The costs for child-care vouchers are:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	120,000
2005-06	172,531
2006-07	139,370

In 2004-05 the staff costs for the Treasury's diversity team (three members of staff) were £91,000.

Following a restructuring, in 2005, the staff costs for one member of staff were:

	Amount (£)
2005-06	26,500
2006-07	27,000

Another 80 to 100 employees are involved in promoting diversity in the Department i.e. members of diversity support groups, diversity champions and senior staff sponsors. Staff costs for this work are not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080125/text/80125w0027.htm#08012540000184>

John McDonnell (182932): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what monitoring systems are in place on diversity, equality and employee rights standards for departmental work awarded by contract to external providers.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80128w01.htm>

Mark Harper (178735): To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what progress the Government Equalities Office has made on the production of a long-term strategy to tackle persistent inequalities; and if she will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80130w01.htm>

Equality (continued) **News**

Not enough Muslim counter-terrorism officers
<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/9769.htm>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Committee

Equal Opportunities Committee evidence session on "Attitudes to Discrimination in Scotland: 2006"

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-0202.htm#Col255>

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Bill Butler (S3W-8850): To ask the Scottish Executive how it plans to challenge and monitor sectarian attitudes in and around Scotland's higher education institutions during 2008.

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: Higher education institutions are responsible for challenging and monitoring all unacceptable behaviours among staff and students. They have legal responsibilities to ensure that their students and staff are protected from discrimination. The government will lend its support to any specific activities that individual institutions choose to pursue on the issue of sectarianism
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0131.htm>

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

Kenneth Gibson (S3M-1221): Holocaust Memorial Day—That the Parliament recognises the significance of Holocaust Memorial Day; remembers all of the victims of Nazi persecution, including the six million Jews murdered in a systematic, state-sponsored campaign of persecution and extermination, and others who were targeted on ethnic, racial or political grounds; further remembers those affected by later genocides and reflects on present day discrimination; reaffirms the need to educate and motivate people individually and collectively to ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimisation committed during the Holocaust and more recent genocides are neither forgotten nor repeated, and invites MSPs to light a "virtual memorial candle" on the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust website at <http://www.hmd.org.uk/> to demonstrate their commitment to remembering the past, reflecting on the present and creating a better future for all the communities that contribute to Scotland's vibrant tartan.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-01-28f.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred (continued) Westminster Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080131/debtext/80131-0007.htm#08013153000001>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Danny Alexander [181378]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and more recent genocides on Holocaust Memorial Day.

Reply from Kim Howells: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears) represented the Government at the UK's main commemoration event at the London Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool on 27 January along with 1,600 other guests, including Holocaust and genocide survivors, young people from Liverpool, dignitaries and ambassadors. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in London and around the world also attended many of the hundreds of events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Government are deeply committed to promoting Holocaust education and remembrance, and to combating all forms of racism and anti-Semitism. To this end, we strongly support the work of the International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, which works to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust across the world.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080128/text/80128w0012.htm#08012831000033>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Andrew Dismore (797) Armenian Genocide - That this House unreservedly condemns the desecration of the Armenian Genocide Monument in Cardiff on Holocaust Memorial Day 2008; congratulates all bodies which have recognised the truth of the Armenian Genocide including The International Association of Genocide Scholars, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, The Aegis Trust, The European Parliament, The National Assembly of Wales, The Edinburgh, Ealing and Gwynedd Councils, The United Nations Association Wales, The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, and the Kurdish parliament in exile; and calls upon the UK Government formally to recognise the 1915 genocide of Armenians and Assyrians.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80130e01.htm>

Press Releases

National Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/01/25162509>

International Holocaust Memorial Day: Lessons not yet learned...

<http://www.enar-eu.org/en/press/2008-01-28.pdf>

ENAR issues a seven-point call for action to the Slovenian Presidency

<http://www.enar-eu.org/en/press/2008-01-31.pdf>

Racism and Religious Hatred

Press Releases (continued)

Family's Race Hate Ordeal

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2008/01/30/family-s-race-hate-ordeal-86908-20302801/>

Campaigns alone 'not enough to end racism'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Campaigns-alone-39not-enough-to.3723341.jp>

Gang attack 'was racist'

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2007134.0.gang_attack_was_racist.php

Colour your picture: European-wide Action Week against Racism

http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/pages/Info3_08.htm

MEPs highlight "ghettoisation" of Roma and call for EU anti-discrimination measures

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/019-19940-030-01-05-902-20080129IPR19931-30-01-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm

New publication

Memorandum to the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union Synergy between all Members of Society in Europe

http://www.enar-eu.org/en/policy/memo_slovenia2008_EN.pdf

News

All faiths commemorate Holocaust

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7211529.stm>

Pupils recount death camp visit

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/01/28/newsstory10857708t0.asp>

BBC in race law row over advert for a 'zany Asian'

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=511981&in_page_id=1770

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Other Holyrood

Ministerial Statement

Effective Government

Alex Salmond (The First Minister): This Government has made a firm commitment to simplify Scotland's public services to deliver more effective government and contribute to our core purpose of creating a more successful country by increasing sustainable economic growth. We aim to achieve fewer national public organisations with less duplication and less bureaucracy, as part of the Government's wider programme to renew and reform Scotland's public services.

Today, I will set out how we will meet our commitment to reducing the list that we published last October of the 199 national public service organisations by at least 25 per cent. Let me explain first how the Government will approach those reforms. Clearly, our objective is not to get numbers down to zero. Public organisations in Scotland do vital work—their functions are a necessary part of Scottish life. I am thinking about roles such as protecting our natural environment, generating jobs and prosperity for the people of Scotland, and running our prisons. The Government is acutely aware of the importance of excellent public services in supporting a strong and dynamic economy.

To continue reading this lengthy statement see:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0130-02.htm#Col5567>

Press Releases

Simplifying public services

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/01/30142848>

Amendments to Budget Bill

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/01/01113352>

New publications

Being Young in Scotland 2007

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/210142/0055524.pdf>

How to Complain to the Scottish Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/210296/0055591.pdf>

Closing the Opportunity Gap (CTOG) Programme: Phase 1 Evaluation Report

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/206218/0054797.pdf>

Annexes <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/206237/0054800.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Travelling Community

Brian Donohoe: I have been campaigning on the issue of the travelling community since I was elected in 1992, with limited success. I have tried to deal with and resolve the problems that affect the travelling people in my constituency and, I believe, across the whole country. When I came to this House I had a romantic view of travelling people; I believed that the Gypsy population was made up of good God-fearing people who listened to and understood the law, and who carried out their duties within it. Over the time that I have been a Member of Parliament my opinion has been substantially eroded. Those people have become a threat to the community, and the powers that be seem powerless to intervene effectively. As individual MPs, we face a brick wall while the problem escalates by the year.

Julie Morgan: I am listening closely to my hon. Friend. Does he agree that most of the difficulties between Gypsies, Travellers and the settled community in the UK are caused by the lack of official sites and stopping places for Gypsies and Travellers? Does he agree that the relationships would be much better if there were sufficient places for them to stop?

Brian Donohoe: I know that the hon. Lady spends a tremendous amount of time advocating that cause, and I applaud her for that. The difficulty is that in my constituency we have two of those camps, yet I still find myself faced with illegal tippers and the other problems that come along with the Travellers.

Several hon. Members *rose* —

Brian Donohoe: I shall give way two or three times, but time is obviously against me.

Jim Sheridan: In my experience, the problem is that when we provide camps for travelling people or Gypsies, they then trash the camps. If there is a camp they have to live in it, but they want to travel throughout the country. The legislation means that if a camp is provided, they have to go to it. In my experience, they trash the camp so that they can go wherever they want in the community.

Brian Donohoe: I understand that problem; I have seen it in the sites that I have visited. There is a perception that dealing with the travelling community is a devolved issue, and obviously I represent a Scottish constituency. However, we require multi-agency solutions. The Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and all sorts of UK-wide agencies are involved. I shall address that point later.

It is clear that we need a debate. We need a rounded discussion, which must involve a review of the legislation in England and Wales and in Scotland in light of all the barriers. We will need cross-party support for such a review. On the basis of my experience and that of other hon. Members from all parties, it is clear that the issue raises its head across the whole of the UK.

To continue reading the debate see:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhänsrd/cm080130/debtext/80130-0023.htm#0801308300002>

Press Release

Gordon Brown launches the Muslim Women's Advisory Group

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/680335>

Other Westminster (continued) **New publication**

Vulnerable workers: preliminary findings from the Citizens Advice client research
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44089.pdf>

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New Publication

Report of the Commission on the Future of Volunteering and Manifesto for change
http://www.volcomm.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0B8EC40C-C9C5-454B-B212-C8918EF543F0/0/Manifesto_final.pdf

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Other News

New law will aim to protect women facing forced marriages
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/New-law-will-aim-to.3734482.jp>

Life devastated by forced marriage
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7224109.stm>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Budget Bill
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/05-Budget/b5s3-introd.pdf>
Accompanying documents
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/05-Budget/b5s3-introd-ad.pdf>
proposed amendments [**see “Other Holyrood” section above for explanatory press release**]
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-02-01g.htm>

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill (Westminster Bill)**

Legislative Consent Motion (*a Legislative Consent Motion is a mechanism by which the Scottish Parliament can give permission for the UK Parliament to legislate for Scotland on a devolved issue*)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0130-02.htm#Col5627>

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/04-GlasgowCommGames/b4s3-introd.pdf>

Public Health Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/03-PublicHealth/b3s3-introd.pdf>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/2008063.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/063/2008063.pdf>

**** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmbills/015/08015.i-vii.html>

See above for consideration of the Legislative Consent Motion in the Scottish Parliament

Proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/am016-q.htm>

Human Rights Act 1998 (Meaning of Public Authority) Bill

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmbills/043/2007043.pdf>

**** Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/006/2008006.pdf>

Report Stage: House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80128-0002.htm#080128800006>

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/025/amend/am025-c.htm>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

Policy proposals for secondary legislation associated with the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (12 February 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/201935/0053824.pdf>

Marriage Visas: Pre-Entry English Requirement For Spouses (27 February 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/preentryenglishrequirement/englishforspouseconsultation.pdf?view=Binary>

Marriage to Partners from Overseas (27 February 2008)

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/marriagetopartnersfromoverseas/marriagepartnersfromoverseas.pdf?view=Binary>

Paying for water services 2010-14: A consultation on the principles of charging for water services (29 February 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/204476/0054421.pdf>

Diversity Delivers: Consultation on the proposed strategy for enhancing equal opportunities in Scotland's ministerial public appointments process (7 March 2008)

<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/DiversityDeliversConsultationNov2007FINALPDF.pdf>

- **Annex A: Summary of the Ministerial Public Appointments Process in Scotland**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexA-TheMinisterialPublicAppointmentsProcessinScotland.pdf>
- **Annex B: Summary of research conducted**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexB-SummaryofResearchConducted.pdf>
- **Annex C: Stage One Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexC-StageOneResearch.pdf>
- **Annex D: Stage Two Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexD-StageTwoResearch.pdf>
- **Annex E: Summary of Stage Three Research**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexE-StageThreeResearch.pdf>
- **Annex F: Summary of Previous Research on Diversity in Public Appointments**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexF-SummaryofPreviousResearchonDiversityinPublicAppointments.pdf>
- **Annex G: Legal Duties**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexG-LegalDuties.pdf>
- **Annex H: The Public Appointments Hallmark**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexH-ThePublicAppointmentsHallmark.pdf>
- **Annex I: Rapid Impact Assessment for the Proposed Strategy**
<http://www.ocpa-scot.org.uk/consultations/documents/AnnexH-ThePublicAppointmentsHallmark.pdf>

Consultations (continued)

"Face-to-Face and Side-by-Side": A framework for inter faith dialogue and social action

(7 March 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/613367>

Visitor Visas (10 March 2008)

<http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/visitorsconsultationpaper/visitorvisaconsultation.pdf?view=Binary>

Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 – Relevant Third Party (14 March 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/consultation-31-07.pdf>

Focusing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) on Community Cohesion (4 April 2008)

<http://www.esolconsultation.org.uk/>

IMPACT Programme: Equality, Diversity and Privacy (4 April 2008)

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Equality_Diversity_and_Privacy_Consultationv1_0.pdf

Meeting the Charity Test (7 April 2007)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=5455d7cc-a60c-456e-9d06-e623144e8359>

**** Border and Immigration Agency: Code of practice - Keeping children safe from harm** (25 April 2008)

http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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Funding Opportunities

***** closes on Monday!***

Equality and Human Rights Commission Interim Grant Programme (closing date for applications 4 February 2008)

Three broad Priority Areas have been developed to offer the flexibility applicants may need to cater for particular local needs and demands. The funding Priority Areas for 2008/09 are: Promoting Good Relations, Promoting Equality and Human Rights, and Casework. For information see

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate%20info/grant%20forms/Interim%20Grants%20Guidance%20notes.pdf>

and for application form

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Corporate%20info/grant%20forms/EHRC%20Grant%20Application%20electronic%20form%20English.doc>

(See also grant-funding seminars in next section)

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Events-Conferences/Training

***** New or updated this week***

***** this week!***

Meeting the Charity Test (consultation events)

4 February 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 4.30; 5.00 – 7.30)

6 February 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 5.00)

13 February 2008 in Perth (9.30 – 12.30)

18 February 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 5.00)

25 February 2008 in Aberdeen (10.30 – 1.30)

27 February 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 12.30; 2.00 – 5.00)

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator published its guidance “Meeting the Charity Test” in 2006, a guide as to how OSCR applies the charity test under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Since then there has been considerable development in the application of the charity test, and OSCR is now consulting on its revised draft guidance. For information, and to book a place, contact Martin Tyson on 01382 346892 / consultations@oscr.org.uk

***** this week!***

Diversity Delivers (consultation events)

7 February 2008 in Edinburgh (10.30-3.00)

12 February 2007 in Glasgow (10.30-3.00)

22 February 2007 in Inverness (10.30-3.00)

The Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland consultation events about enhancing equal opportunities in Scotland's public appointments process.

For information contact Corynne MacLean 0131 718 6309 / info@publicappointments.org

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** Equalities Awareness Training**

21 February 2008 in Kilmarnock (9.30 – 4.30)

28 February 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

7 March 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 4.00)

27 March 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO training course to raise awareness of the key concepts of equality, and gain an understanding of equalities legislation and its implications. For information contact Cathie Rowall 0141 225 8003 / cathie.rowell@scvo.org.uk

**** Embedding Equalities within your organisation**

25 February 2008 in Kilmarnock (9.30 – 4.30)

17 March 2008 in Inverness (9.30 – 4.30)

20 March 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30 – 4.30)

28 March 2008 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO training for organisations who are looking to broaden their understanding of equalities issues and to those who are looking to incorporate equalities in to their everyday functions, including the design of services. For information contact Cathie Rowall 0141 225 8003 / cathie.rowell@scvo.org.uk

Let's improve Equal Opportunities in rural Scotland

26 February 2008 in Inverness (10.00 – 4.00)

SCVO conference to take stock of barriers to social inclusion and draw up a list of practical suggested improvements that will inform the future vision of the Equality & Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Government and Community Planning Partnerships. For information contact Morag Redwood 01463 258800 / morag.redwood@scvo.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures

http://www.onescotland.com/onescotland/osmc_display_home.jsp?pContentID=2&p_applic=CCC&pElementID=1&pMenuID=1&p_service=Content.show&

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Useful Links (continued)

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

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

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** 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. <http://www.j-scot.org.uk/>



BEMIS is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies.

<http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>