

MEMO



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.

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Race Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism and Religious Hatred](#)

[Other Holyrood](#)

[Other Westminster](#)

[New Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events/Conferences/Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Debate

Earned Citizenship

Jacqui Smith: I should like to make a statement on immigration and the path to British citizenship. Today I laid copies of the earned citizenship Green Paper in the Library of the House.

Britain is a tolerant and fair-minded country. The British public know that carefully managed migration brings great benefits for the UK—economic, social and cultural. However, I also recognise and understand concerns about the impact of migration on local public services. At a time of change, we have responded to the need to control migration to the benefit of Britain, and to protect our borders.

We have made substantial progress in recent years, and we are seeing the results: record numbers of foreign national prisoners were deported last year; fingerprint checks are now in place for all visas for those travelling to Britain; and asylum applications are now being processed more quickly than ever before. This year, we are delivering further radical changes to the UK's immigration system.

First, we are ensuring that those who come to Britain do so in Britain's interests. The Australian-style points-based system, which goes live at the end of this month, will allow only those whom we need to come to work and study. Secondly, we have strengthened

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Debate (continued)

how we police the system and protect our borders. We will soon have systems in place to count people in and out of the country. From 1 April, the UK Border Agency will bring together the work of the Border and Immigration Agency, UKvisas and Customs at British ports of entry. Later this year, we will begin to introduce compulsory identity cards for foreign nationals who wish to stay in the UK, making it clear whether they are allowed to work and how long they can stay.

Building on those measures, today's Green Paper sets out our plans for the third phase of immigration reform—ensuring that the path to British citizenship reinforces our shared values. Today we are setting out a new deal for citizenship, in which the rights and benefits of British citizenship are matched by the responsibilities and contributions that we expect of newcomers to the UK.

Our proposals are based on a UK-wide programme of listening events that we have conducted over the past five months with the British public, and in framing our proposals, we have listened to their views. They were clear about what we should expect of newcomers who choose to come to the UK and start on the path to citizenship—that they should speak English; that they should work hard and pay tax; that they should obey the law; and that they should get involved in and contribute to community life.

British people want the system to be fair and transparent, and I am clear that progress to citizenship should be earned. The Green Paper proposes that all migrants coming to the UK will be admitted as temporary residents. A limited number of categories—highly skilled and skilled workers, those joining family and those granted our protection—will then be able to apply to become probationary citizens for a time-limited period. Probationary citizenship is a new and crucial stage in our immigration system, and it will determine whether a migrant can progress to full citizenship or permanent residence.

The Green Paper sets out clear expectations of migrants as they move through the stages of that journey. We will expect the vast majority of highly skilled and skilled workers entering under the points-based system to speak English, and we are consulting on whether spouses entering on marriage visas should be able to speak some English before arrival. In order to become a probationary citizen, we will expect everyone to demonstrate English and knowledge of life in the UK.

Refugees who legitimately require our protection will continue to receive their current entitlements. We will continue to expect temporary residents to support themselves without general access to benefits. We now propose to defer full access to benefits and services until migrants have successfully completed the probationary citizenship phase, so that they are expected to contribute economically and support themselves and their dependants until such time as they become British citizens or permanent residents. It is at that point that they will have full access to our benefits and services.

We expect people coming to this country to obey our laws. As well as deporting record numbers of foreign national prisoners, we will refuse applications to stay or progress from anyone given a prison sentence, so that they will be denied access to British citizenship and will lose their right to stay. There should also be consequences for those given non-custodial sentences. We propose, therefore, that minor offences should slow down progress to the full benefits of citizenship. Such offenders should need to demonstrate compliance with our laws over an extended period to earn the right to progress in the journey to citizenship. I believe that criminality should halt, or slow down, progress on the path to British citizenship, but also that we should reward those who play a more active role in the community. We will therefore enable people to move more quickly through the system where they have made a positive contribution to British life by, for example, volunteering with a charity.

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Debate (continued)

I am today proposing a fund to help local service providers to deal with the impacts on our local communities of rapid changes in population. Money for the fund will come from charging migrants an additional amount on immigration application fees.

At a European level, we are making a concerted effort with member states to deal, for example, with criminal activity by European economic area nationals. We deported 500 EEA nationals last year, and we will continue that robust approach by identifying ways to return them more easily to their countries of origin. I can today announce that we are setting up two new units to work across Departments on how in turn we work with European Union partners to tighten our provisions on criminality and benefits. We will also work closely with employers to ensure that workers can speak the necessary standard of English.

Finally, the Green Paper sets out proposals to simplify and consolidate immigration law, allowing us to increase the efficiency of decision making, strengthen public confidence in the system, and minimise the likelihood of delays and inconsistency in decision making.

Our proposals will make it easier for migrants, decision makers and the public as a whole to understand the rules and have confidence in their operation. This is a comprehensive package of measures to strengthen our immigration system and reinforce our shared values. It will deliver a clear journey to British citizenship that balances rights and benefits with responsibilities and contributions. I commend the statement to the House.

To read the House of Commons debate on the above statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080220/debtext/80220-0004.htm#08022083000002>

To read the House of Lords debate on the above statement see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80220-0002.htm#08022081000011>

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

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

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government is undertaking a wide-ranging programme of action to combat human trafficking. The UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, published by the Home Office and the Scottish Executive in March 2007, outlines the work being undertaken to combat human trafficking in four broad areas: prevention of trafficking; investigation, law enforcement and prosecution; providing protection and assistance to adult victims of trafficking, and child victims of trafficking. Copies of the action plan are available from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib. number 42595). For further information on the detailed actions being taken to combat human trafficking, I refer the member to the answers to questions S3W-2320, S3W-2321, S3W-2322 on 13 August 2007, S3W-6087, S3W-6088 on 14 November 2007, S3W-7040, S3W-7041, S3W-7042, S3W-7043 on 5 December 2007 and S3W-7993 on 23 January 2008. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/wa.search>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0218.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

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

Reply from Kenny MacAskill: The primary responsibility for enforcement action to combat human trafficking lies with the police. However, local authorities also have an important role, especially in relation to the provision of care and support to victims of human trafficking.

The Scottish Government provides funding to the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA), part of Glasgow Community and Safety Services. TARA provides specialist support to adult female victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. The Scottish Government has recently provided TARA with additional funding of £70,950 to enable them to enhance support for adult female victims across Scotland.

In December 2007, the Scottish Government issued a letter to all local authorities regarding provision of support to victims of human trafficking during Operation Pentameter 2. The Scottish Government has set aside provision that can be drawn down by local authorities on a case-by-case basis to cover the cost of providing support to adult victims of human trafficking (other than women supported through the TARA project) who would not otherwise have recourse to public funds.

The Scottish Government is also in the process of producing guidance for use by local authorities and other agencies on the safeguarding of children who may have been trafficked. Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to provide support to children in need within their area. This would include victims of trafficking. A model protocol outlining how agencies should respond to cases of child trafficking discovered as part of Pentameter 2 was issued by the Scottish Government at the start of October.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-08/wa0218.htm>

Prime Minister's Speech

Managed Migration and Earned Citizenship

The vision of British citizenship that I believe in - and that I believe will make us even prouder of Britain - is founded on a unifying idea of rights matched with responsibilities.

Today I want to talk about those rights and responsibilities in detail.

And I want also to describe what that concept of citizenship means for managing migration: that for people coming to Britain, and wanting to become British, citizenship should not only be a matter of their choice but should depend upon actively entering into a contract through which, by virtue of responsibilities accepted, the right of citizenship is earned.

First, let me make it clear why citizenship matters so much in the modern world.

Citizenship is not an abstract concept, or just access to a passport. I believe it is - and must be seen as - founded on shared values that define the character of our country.

Indeed, building our secure and prosperous future as a nation will benefit from not just common values we share but a strong sense of national purpose. And for that to happen we need to be forthright - and yes confident - about what brings us together not only as inhabitants of these islands but as citizens of this society. Indeed there is a real danger that while other countries gain from having a clear definition of their destiny in a fast changing global economy, we may lose out if we prove slow to express and live up to the British values that can move us to act together.

Immigration and Asylum Prime Minister's Speech (continued)

So the surest foundation upon which we can advance socially, culturally and economically in this century is to be far more explicit about the ties - indeed the shared values - that make us more than a collection of people but a country.

This is not jingoism, but practical, rational and purposeful - and therefore, I would argue, an essentially British form of patriotism.

Patriotism is the sense that 'all-of-us' matters more than 'any-of-us'. It defines a nation not by race or ethnicity, but by seeing us all as part of a collective project from which we all gain and to which we all contribute. Society is - as the great thinkers have long told us - a contract, even a covenant, in which we recognise that our destinies are interlinked. For rights only exist where people recognise responsibilities; responsibilities only exist where people have a sense of shared fate; and shared fate only exists where there is a strong sense of collective belonging. So Britain is not just where we are but in an important sense part of who we are.

This is the context in which I will set out my proposals today.

To continue reading the speech see

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/output/Page14624.asp>

Ministerial Statement

Lord West of Spithead (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office): My honourable friend the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration and Minister for the West Midlands (Liam Byrne) has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

Over the next year, the Government will deliver the biggest shake up of the immigration system for more than 45 years. At the beginning of the year I said reform would include new measures to attack the cause of illegal immigration which is illegal working.

To stop illegal journeys we must stop illegal jobs. For this reason I am bringing into force new powers to stop illegal migrant working. Employers who employ illegal migrants as a result of poor recruitment and employment practices from 29 February will face civil financial penalties of up to £10,000 per worker. Those who knowingly employ illegal migrants will face an unlimited fine and/or a maximum two year prison sentence.

Secondly, we will require businesses which want to employ skilled workers from outside the EEA to apply for a licence, to help safeguard against deliberate undercutting of UK wages and exploitation of migrant workers. We will begin accepting applications for these licences from the 29 February. To earn and hold a licence, businesses must satisfy us that they are trustworthy, and must agree to fulfil certain duties. We published a statement of intent setting out our detailed policy last November. We have carefully studied and taken account of responses to that statement in finalising the sponsorship rules, which I am publishing today. We are also publishing an assessment of the impact of sponsorship on employers and others affected. Copies of both documents have been placed in the House Library. Other prospective sponsors, including educational institutions, will be able to apply for a licence from the summer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80222-wms0001.htm#08022278000005>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

David Davis [185087]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers had their benefits withdrawn under section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 in each year since it came into force.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The use of section 9 was introduced by way of a pilot scheme which ran from December 2004 to December 2005. During this time asylum support was withdrawn from 26 families. Six of these families are on support again, having become eligible during 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080220/text/80220w0019.htm#080221132000007>

Mark Hoban [173170]: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether eligibility for the new training places announced on 16 November are restricted to British citizens.

Reply from Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities 2008-11 and the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and the Department for Children, Schools and Families published on 16 November set out the Government's funding strategy for learning and skills over the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11).

The funding strategy reaffirms the Government's commitment to up-skilling British people to provide them with the skills required in a more competitive labour market, to get them off benefits and into jobs and to help them to advance from low skilled to higher skilled jobs. We will continue to help those who need to improve their skills—the overwhelming majority of whom, but not all are British.

The eligibility rules apply to any learner wanting to access the LSC funded learning places the Government announced on 16 November. For example, British citizens who have been ordinarily resident in the UK for the three years prior to the start of their course will be eligible for funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). In addition, a national of any European country (or the spouse, civil partner or child of an EU national) who has been ordinarily resident in the European economic area (EEA) for the three years prior to the start of their course, will also be eligible for LSC funding.

Other categories of learners including EEA migrant workers, nationals of non-EU countries, refugees and asylum seekers may also be eligible for LSC funding. The full set of eligibility criteria for access to LSC funded provision is set out in full in the LSC Learner Eligibility Guidance 2007/08. This can be found at www.lsc.gov.uk

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080221/text/80221w0012.htm#080221135000122>

David Davis (185626): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many deportations of persons seeking asylum were not completed because the receiving country refused to accept them (a) before and (b) after the flight returning them had left the UK in the last 12 months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80218w01.htm>

Andrew Rosindell (186905): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the average age was of immigrants to the UK in 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80218w01.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Andrew Rosindell (186932): To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, from which 10 countries the greatest number of migrants entered the UK in 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80218w01.htm>

David Davis (187290): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in how many cases the detention of children under immigration law for more than 28 days has been subject to written ministerial authorisation in each year since 2004; and if she will make a statement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80219w01.htm>

James Paice (188599): To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment she has made of the effect on public services in rural communities of immigration from countries acceding to the EU in (a) 2004 and (b) 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80221w01.htm>

James Paice (188600): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of levels of immigration to rural communities in England of people from countries which acceded to the EU in (a) 2004 and (b) 2007.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80221w01.htm>

Westminster Early Day Motion

Chris McCafferty (992) **Proposed changes to domestic worker visa** - That this House notes the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to exploitation and forced labour and the benefits of the existing domestic worker visa, which does not allow recourse to public funds, but does give the right to change employer, renew a visa (if in work) and apply for settlement after five years; believes strongly that the proposal to introduce a business visitor visa that will remove the right to change employer and restrict the maximum stay to six months will dramatically increase the power of abusive employers and the incidence of domestic slavery in the UK; and therefore strongly urges the Government to drop this proposal and retain the protections in the current visa system.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/80221e01.htm>

Press Releases

Contract for citizenship

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/contract-for-citizenship>

Prime Minister launches contract for foreign national seeking British citizenship

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

New publication

More Responsive Public Services? A Guide to Commissioning Migrant and Refugee Community Organisations

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2166-migrant-service-provision.pdf>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **News**

Deported criminals barred on return to home countries

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/uk/Deported--criminals-barred-on.3790841.jp>

'Fire risk' for crowded migrants

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7253678.stm>

Immigrants face higher fees to cover future service-use

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/Immigrants-face-higher-fees-to.3794332.jp>

British citizenship tests planned

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7253933.stm

A new way to earn UK citizenship

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7254926.stm

New citizenship rules for migrants

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/New-citizenship-rules-for-migrants.3797379.jp>

Immigrants to pay more for public services

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2060791.0.Immigrants_to_pay_more_for_public_services.php

Citizenship will have to be 'earned' by new migrants

<http://news.scotsman.com/world/Citizenship-will-have-to-.3799681.jp>

Foreign brides who plan to live in Britain 'must speak English'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3405621.ece>

Influx of migrants brings a 'brain gain' for the UK

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article3406153.ece>

Passports alone don't make us British

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/newscomment.html?in_article_id=517122&in_page_id=1787

Bosses called on to fund English lessons for staff

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/feb/24/immigration.immigrationpolicy>

A welcome debate on immigration

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/feb/24/immigrationpolicy.immigration>

The baby-boomers finally see sense on immigration

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/feb/24/immigration.immigrationpolicy>

[TOP](#)

Race Relations

News

Islam and us

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland/Islam-and-us.3793802.jp>

What drives a Scot to convert?

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/features/display.var.2060778.0.What_drives_a_Scot_to_convert.php

Bashir Maan's glowing tribute to 'tolerant' Scots

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2064490.0.Bashir_Maans_glowing_tribute_to_tolerant_Scots.php

Multi-faith radio marks birthday

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/7255854.stm>

'Most Britons belong to no religion'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article3412734.ece>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Philip Davies [186204]: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in HM Prison Service have completed race equality action team training; and how much this training has cost;

(2) [186205] how many people in HM Prison Service have completed the race equality officer training course; and how much this training has cost.

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Race Equality Action Team (REAT) training was rolled out in October 2006. Five training for trainers courses have taken place, training 79 associate trainers. In total, 1,576 REAT members had been trained by 31 December 2007—this includes 1,317 Prison Service employed REAT members, 166 prisoner representatives and 93 external representatives.

The Race Equality Officer (REO) training was rolled out in September 2007. 81 REOs have been trained to date.

The revised courses, including all course literature, were developed 'in-house' by two members of the Race Equality Action Group (REAG). Responsibility for the delivery of the training is shared between REAG, area offices and training services, and no figure for the cost is collected centrally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080219/text/80219w0029.htm#080220116000048>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of the recent Race Equality Action Group Conference held at the Emirates Stadium; and how many HM Prison Service staff attended the conference. [186254]

Reply from Maria Eagle: The Race Equality conference held on 27 September 2007 at the Emirates Stadium, London, entitled 'Uncovering Hidden Racism: The Next Challenge', was attended by 323 delegates at a cost of approximately £34,000.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080219/text/80219w0029.htm#080220116000049>

[TOP](#)

Racism and Religious Hatred

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

John Mann (188752): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to Libya on the preparatory meetings of the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism taking place on Jewish holidays.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80222w01.htm>

John Mann(188753): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what criteria he will use in determining whether the UK will participate in the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80222w01.htm>

John Mann (188816): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what proposals the Government has made on the agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80222w01.htm>

John Mann (188817): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the UN on the inclusion of Holocaust education on the agenda for the 2009 UN World Conference Against Racism.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmordbk1/80222w01.htm>

News

Anti-English feeling 'is not widespread'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2051203.0.AntiEnglish_feeling_is_not_widespread.php

Residents unite to beat racists

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2051384.0.residents_unite_to_beat_racists.php

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Woman in court over racial abuse

<http://www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=149664&command=displayContent&sourceNode=149490&contentPK=19915227&folderPk=85696&pNodeid=149221>

Girl charged over Sikh incident

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7254700.stm

Saudi school 'preached race hate'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7257695.stm>

Store guard suffers racial attack

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/7256839.stm

Police issue racial abuse witness plea

<http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Police-issue-racial-abuse-witness.3800894.jp>

Irish cop suffers racial abuse (from man with Irish roots)

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/edinburgh/Irish-cop-suffers-racial-abuse.3803812.jp>

Pupils show leaders how they beat bigots

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2064549.0.pupils_show_leaders_how_they_beat_bigots.php

By Making Holocaust Personal to Pupils, Sarkozy Stirs Anger

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/16/world/europe/16france.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

New DNA 'will nail' Lawrence suspects

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article3423609.ece>

[TOP](#)

Other Holyrood

New publication

Religious Male Circumcision

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212548/0056530.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Michael Gove [185398]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families regarding how many Muslim schools OFSTED has raised concerns with his Department in the last five years.

Reply from Ed Balls: Maintained and independent schools, including those designated as Muslim schools, are inspected by OFSTED on a regular basis. There are currently nine Muslim schools open in the maintained sector. Since 2005, when the three year cycle of inspections was introduced, six have been inspected and all judged by OFSTED to be satisfactory or better in terms of their overall effectiveness. The other three were opened since September 2006 and will be inspected, as usual, in the second year of operation. In the independent sector there are 115 Muslim schools of which 83 have been inspected since 2003, with inspections at a further 18 schools scheduled this school term. The remaining schools were all opened since September 2003 and were inspected against independent schools standards before opening and will be inspected again in due course, as part of the three year cycle of inspections which OFSTED will commence in the summer term. Inspection reports, which are published on OFSTED's website, provide an overview of provision in all inspected schools, detail of whether or not the statutory standards for independent schools are met where appropriate and include recommendations for improvement.

On one occasion OFSTED referred a specific concern raised with it about a Muslim school to the Department. The case was investigated and found to have no substance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080220/text/80220w0016.htm#08022111000009>

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what arrangements are in place for the inspection of independent Muslim schools. [185401]

Reply from Ed Balls: All independent Muslim schools are currently inspected by OFSTED against standards set out in The Education (Independent School Standards)(England) Regulations 2003, as amended. These cover the quality of the curriculum and teaching; the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; and their health, safety and welfare. Reports of independent school inspections are published on the OFSTED website.

The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate (BSI) has recently been approved in principle to undertake inspection of around 110 independent schools affiliated to the Christian Schools Trust (CST) and the Association of Muslim Schools UK (AMSUK). BSI inspections will assess schools against the same statutory criteria as OFSTED and their inspectors will also assess the religious ethos of CST and AMSUK schools. Any inspection work BSI carries out will be monitored by OFSTED, which will produce a published annual report on its performance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080220/text/80220w0016.htm#08022111000009>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has appointed a specialist to deal with Muslim media issues. [178886]

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The Home Office press office has had, since June 2006, one post whose work includes engagement with black and minority ethnic media. Some of this work naturally includes work with Muslim media.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080220/text/80220w0023.htm#080221132000017>

Helen Southworth [184353]: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ensure that information on helplines and access to support for victims of forced marriage or persons in fear of forced marriage is available in secondary schools to teachers and pupils; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Jim Knight: Schools have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of their pupils, and we have encouraged them, through guidance, to make available information about helplines and access to support for victims or people in fear of forced marriage. School staff should also be alert to the risk of forced marriage, as with other potential risks of harm to their pupils. They should not attempt to mediate in suspected cases, but should contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080219/text/80219w0008.htm#08022079000072>

Lord Hylton asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1647]: Whether they will ensure that all police officers are trained to respond appropriately to complaints about planned forced marriages; and whether they will issue guidance to the courts on suitable sentences for honour killings, marriage coercion and related violence.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The issue of forced marriages and how to respond is covered in the initial police learning and development programme (IPLDP) training material on domestic violence. All new police officer recruits undertake the IPLDP.

In addition, in 2005 the Forced Marriage Unit issued guidance for police officers on dealing with cases of forced marriage. The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act, which received Royal Assent in July 2007, makes provision for these guidelines to be reissued on a statutory footing.

Last year, the Sentencing Guidelines Council consulted on guidance on sentencing for assault which included advice that offences committed in the "context of an attempted honour killing or in an effort to force a victim into an arranged marriage" should have the general aggravating factors "abuse of trust" and/or "abuse of power" applied to the assessment of the level of seriousness, and therefore severity of sentence. Definitive guidelines are in the process of being published. Sentencing for murder is governed by statute (Section 21 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003) and, as such, no guidance is issued in relation to murder.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80220w0002.htm#08022089000015>

Other Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Lord Lester of Herne Hill asked Her Majesty's Government [HL1751]: Whether they will discuss with the Governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh the possibility of introducing further measures to deter forced marriages and to give civil protection to the victims or potential victims taken from the United Kingdom to those countries to be forced into marriages.

Reply from Lord Malloch-Brown): The Government have discussed with the Governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh ways to tackle forced marriage. Our high commissions provided consular assistance in 158 cases relating to forced marriage in these countries last year. We could not have done this without the support of the Governments and local authorities. We will continue to work with these Governments and encourage them to take steps to prevent forced marriages taking place.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldhansrd/text/80221w0001.htm#08022196000005>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Growing up in Scotland: Year 2

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212225/0056476.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other News

Islamic finance and the Square Mile

<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article3372571.ece>

Muslims accuse firm over supply of meat

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2060891.0.Muslims_accuse_firm_over_supply_of_meat.php

City children face illegal circumcision

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2051361.0.city_children_face_illegal_circumcision.php

Sandy Reid Tells How He Was Taken From Traveller Family And Sent To Australia

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/real-life-stories/2008/02/21/sandy-reid-tells-how-he-was-taken-from-traveller-family-and-sent-to-australia-86908-20326051/>

Other News (continued)

Fresh call for exemption from water charges

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/NewsAndEvents/ViewArticles.aspx?f=h&al=t&pid=6902>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

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>

Stage 1 evidence from Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health,

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-08/he08-0502.htm#Col573>

Bills in Progress Westminster

** Counter-Terrorism Bill

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

Corrected Explanatory Notes

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

** Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill

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

proposed amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/ml016-iii.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldbills/016/amend/su016-iiia.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>

[TOP](#)

Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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>

**** closes this week!**

Marriage to Partners from Overseas (27 February 2008)

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

**** closes this week!**

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>

Other News (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

The Role of Further Education Providers in Promoting Community Cohesion, Fostering Shared Values and Preventing Violent Extremism (6 May 2008)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/Community%20Cohesion%20PDF.pdf>

Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland (9 May 2008)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/212495/0056525.pdf>

**** The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System** (14 May 2008)

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

Cohesion Guidance for Funders (26 May 2008)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/681891>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

Funding Opportunities

'Youth in the world'

Closing date for applications: 15 April 2008

European funding to support youth projects to promote the exchange of experience and good practice in the field of youth and non-formal education, contribute to the development of youth policies, youth work and the voluntary sector, as well as to capacity-building and leadership development for youth organisations/structures, and to develop sustainable partnerships and networks between youth organisations. Projects must deal with one of the following themes:

- Strengthening of civil society, citizenship and democracy
- Fight against racism and xenophobia
- Inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue
- Post-conflict resolution and reconstruction
- The active role of women in society
- Minority rights

For information see http://www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=16494&langue=EN

[TOP](#)

Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

**** this week!**

Meeting the Charity Test (consultation events)

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

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

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

**** this week!**

Equalities Awareness Training

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

BEMIS / Community Health Exchange (CHEX)

Begins April 2008 in Glasgow (half day/week for 6 months)

Recent developments in health and social inclusion policy within Scotland have resulted in an increase in programmes/initiatives that target health inequalities and community involvement in health (e.g. community health projects and healthy living centres). Health Issues in the Community, a national training resource, is ideally suited to help equip local people who find access to mainstream educational difficult, for the real challenges that they face in developing community responses to health issues and becoming more active citizens. Accredited by the University of Edinburgh. For information contact Adnan Miyasar 0141 548 8047 / adnan.miyasar@bemis.org.uk

Research into funding priorities of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

4 March 2008 in Glasgow (2.00 – 4.00)

SCVO-organised focus group on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) to identify examples of good funding practice and key areas where there are gaps in funding awarded to equality organisations. This research has the potential to influence the EHRC's policy in how it prioritises funding to organisations working on the equalities issues in the voluntary sector. For information contact Janice Ralston 0141 225 8032 / janice.ralston@scvo.org.uk

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Working with Interpreters

4 March 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to address the practical, ethical and professional issues regarding working with interpreters, including briefing on legal obligations and entitlement to services. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=61>

An Introduction to the Needs of Refugee Women

6 March 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to develop a gender perspective to inform all work with refugee and asylum seeking communities, examine how the UN Refugee Convention relates to women's asylum claims, improve understanding of barriers which prevent refugee women from accessing services, and explore practical ways of improving service provision for refugee women. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=65>

European Anti-Discrimination & Diversity Training

8-9 April 2008 in Glasgow

Two-day Runnymede Trust seminar, in association with the STUC, on the role of Non-Governmental Organisations and trade unions in the UK in combating discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, age, disability, religions or belief and sexual orientation. For information see <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/10/30.html> or contact Sarah Isal 020 7377 9222 / sarah@runnymedetrust.org

An Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

22 May 2008 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course is for people working with asylum seekers and refugees who need a comprehensive understanding of the core issues affecting those seeking sanctuary in Scotland; particularly relevant to people working in social work, housing, welfare, education, employment, health, community development or the justice system. For information contact the Scottish Refugee Council 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=67>

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

Useful Links (continued)

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>

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

[TOP](#)



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>