

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

Supported by



Contents

Immigration and Asylum	New Publications
Community Relations	Other News
Equality	Bills in Progress
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Consultations
Scottish Independence Referendum	Funding Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events/Conferences/Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links

Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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

The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 21 December 2013 to 6 January 2014, and the UK Parliament from 19 December 2013 to 6 January 2014. The next issue of MEMO will be on 13 January.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Debate

Home Office Go Home Campaign

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8720&mode=html#job_78873

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration (Bulgaria and Romania)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131219/halltext/131219h0001.htm#13121969000001>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Modern Slavery

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): Modern slavery is a brutal crime which knows no boundaries and does not discriminate on gender, age, creed, culture or race. Traffickers and slave masters exploit whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This is simply unacceptable in modern day Britain. We will not, and cannot let this continue.

That is why I have set up a new modern slavery unit in the Home Office, and it will be responsible for ensuring that we tackle this problem from every angle, while always keeping the plight of victims at the very heart of our policies and everything we do.

Today, I have published a White Paper which includes a draft Modern Slavery Bill (CM 8770) to strengthen our response and reduce the number of victims of this abhorrent crime. This flagship Bill will be the first of its kind in Europe, and sends a strong message, both domestically and internationally, that the UK is determined to put an end to modern slavery.

The Bill will simplify legislation, toughen sentences for slave drivers, and enable the courts to restrict activity where individuals may be at risk. This will mean that more traffickers are pursued, disrupted and brought to justice. The Bill will also create an Anti-Slavery Commissioner who will galvanise law-enforcement's efforts to tackle modern slavery.

We have already asked the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) to lead a series of evidence sessions. The draft Bill will now be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny and copies will be available from the Vote Office. Both the Member for Birkenhead's report and the Joint Committee's report will inform development of the final Bill and an action plan which will be published in the spring.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131216/wmstext/131216m0001.htm#131216800010>

UK Parliament Questions

NHS: Foreign Workers

Tony Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of migrant health workers from developing countries working in the National Health Service. [180357]

Reply from Daniel Poulter: The Department is not able to make an assessment as the number of migrant health workers from developing countries is not collected centrally.

Although in earlier years the national health service relied quite heavily on recruiting staff overseas, efforts to recruit, train and retain staff in this country have paid off in recent years. The NHS now has many more health care professionals, and is much closer to self-sufficiency—in line with World Health Organisation recommendations.

However, given the size and complexity of the NHS it is likely that it will still need to recruit some doctors (and other skilled staff) from overseas to fill gaps in service provision.

The United Kingdom has signed the World Health Organisation Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel and the UK was a member/donor of the Global Health Workforce Alliance.

NHS organisations are strongly advised to adhere to the Code of Practice in all matters concerning the international recruitment of health care professionals across all disciplines—including the appointment of medical staff, nurses, dentists,

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

radiographers, physio- therapists, occupational therapists and all other allied health professionals.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131218/text/131218w0002.htm#13121870000090>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the total number of (1) successful, (2) unsuccessful, and (3) dropped appeals against refusals of non-European Economic Area spouse entry clearance and further leave applications lodged in (a) 2011, and (b) 2012.[HL3760]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The requested figures are shown in the following tables:

	Appeals outcome		
Year	Successful	Unsuccessful	Withdrawn
2011	3,705	2,303	436
2012	2,422	1,739	437
Grand Total	6,127	4,042	873

Year	Successful	Unsuccessful	Struck out/ abandoned	Total
2011	181	176	10	367
2012	145	104	8	257
Grand Total	326	280	18	624

Notes: 1. All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. The data relate to First Tier Appeal Outcomes only. 3. Data relates to partners and spouses of non-EEA Nationals and 4. Withdrawn appeals are listed separately in table 1 as overseas appeals data is recorded in less detail than in country data. In Table 2, the number of successful appeals includes those Allowed and Withdrawn by the Home Office; the number of unsuccessful appeals includes those Dismissed and Withdrawn by the appellant; and the number dropped refers to those Struck Out and Abandoned.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131217w0001.htm#13121755000535>

Immigration

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the average and maximum times taken to process applications for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom; what is the average time taken to process 95 per cent of such applications; and whether they plan to prioritise applications from people who are stateless.[HL3744]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: For postal Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) applications dispatched between 1st July 2012 and 30th June 2013:

- Average time to conclusion was 91 days.
- Average time taken to conclude 95 per cent of applications was 66 days.

In relation to maximum time taken to process applications for ILR, this will depend on the complexity of the application type. As at 12 December 2013, for the most complex work stream, Settlement Other (SET O) cases, casework teams are working on ILR applications submitted a maximum of 206 days earlier.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

There are currently no plans to prioritise applications purely on the grounds that an individual may be stateless.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131218w0001.htm#13121851000496>

EU: Migration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements are in place to monitor and count migrants from European Union member states, in particular Bulgaria and Romania, who enter the United Kingdom after 1 January 2014. [HL4097]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The first national data release which will provide information on Romanian and Bulgarian nationals in employment in the UK after the lifting of transitional controls will be the quarterly Labour Force Survey. This is scheduled for publication on 14 May and released by the Office for National Statistics at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

This release will include employment numbers and rates by nationality and country of birth, covering the period January to March 2014.

The Office for National Statistics also publish their Migration Statistics Quarterly Report at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/index.html>

The release on 28 August 2014 will include provisional estimates of long term international migration for the year ending March 2014, including estimates for the European Union.

On 22 May, the Department for Work and Pensions will publish statistics for National Insurance Number allocations to foreign nationals for the first quarter of 2014 available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions>

The previous information collected by the Home Office on Romanians and Bulgarians in connection with the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme and the Sector Based Scheme will end at the same time as the transitional controls as these schemes also then come to an end.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131218w0001.htm#13121851000474>

Vaccination: Immigrants

David Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2013, *Official Report*, columns 107-08W, on vaccination: immigrants, which group is responsible for the commissioning of the specific vaccination programmes recommended by the World Health Organisation and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence for newly-arrived migrants from areas with high prevalence of a particular disease; and who is responsible for commissioning hepatitis B vaccinations for newly arrived migrants from areas of high prevalence of this disease. [180568]

Reply from Daniel Poulter: NHS England's area teams commission vaccination programmes recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI's advice takes into consideration recommendations from the World Health Organisation and guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Specialist public health staff employed by Public Health England are embedded in these teams to provide accountability and leadership for the commissioning of the programmes and to provide system leadership. Clinical commissioning groups are responsible for assessing the local need for provision of outreach immunisation services which includes commissioning of hepatitis B vaccination for newly arrived

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

migrants from areas of high prevalence who are not registered with a general practitioner (GP). Migrants who have registered with a GP are offered vaccines in line with national guidance on immunisation against infectious diseases.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131219/text/131219w0002.htm#1312198000017>

Illegal Immigration

Philip Hollobone: What estimate he has made of the number of illegal immigrants in Scotland. [901635]

Reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland (Alistair Carmichael): Given the ability of illegal and clandestine immigrants to move freely within the UK, it is not feasible to produce separate estimates for each part of the UK.

Philip Hollobone: It would appear that the Government do not really know how many illegal immigrants there might be in Scotland. Given the attraction of the whole of the UK to people from other countries, I suspect that the problem might be rather greater than the Secretary of State imagines, particularly in cities such as Glasgow and Edinburgh. Will he reassure the House that he will work closely with the UK Border Agency to ensure that Scotland is not an easy route into the UK for illegal immigrants?

Reply from Alistair Carmichael: Certainly there should be no easy routes for anyone in these circumstances, but I would caution the hon. Gentleman against devoting too much Government resource to the compilation of figures that do not help us to tackle the problem.

Graeme Morrice: What discussion have the UK Government had with the Scottish Government about the operation of border controls in an independent Scotland?

Reply from Alistair Carmichael: We have had no such discussion so far. The truth of the matter is that either we can have an open area with no border controls or we can have closely aligned immigration policies—unlike the position of the Scottish National party, we cannot have both.

Angus Brendan MacNeil: For years, immigrants have been vital to the economy—in my constituency, I see the importance of Filipino fishermen—and, since the Union, the problem in Scotland has been emigration, not immigration. But what can we do for Syrian refugees, to enable them to come here as legal immigrants? Although the Secretary of State might have failed to get his colleagues to vote for war in Syria, what might he do this Christmas to help refugees come from Syria, especially given that Germany is taking 80% of the European total and the UK is taking zero, which Amnesty International says should cause heads to hang “in shame”?

Reply from Alistair Carmichael: This country has a long and proud record of offering asylum to those who seek it and those who deserve it and need it. That will continue to be the case.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131218/debtext/131218-0001.htm#13121855000023>

Asylum: Finance

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards her Department has put in place to ensure that Azure Payment Cards issued to those receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are used only in accordance with her Department's rules for the card; and what steps she takes to monitor compliance. [179813]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office works closely with its contractor and the retail outlets affiliated to the Azure card scheme to ensure that the card's rules are applied properly, including the prohibition on purchases of alcohol, tobacco, vehicle fuel and gift cards.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

The card also contains various automated features designed to ensure compliance with the relevant rules—for example by capping the amount of credit that can be carried over into the following week. The Home Office also has access to data that can be used to analyse transaction histories for each card holder.

Barry Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the value to organisations certified for receiving payment with Azure Payment Cards of receiving payments made through that scheme; and if he will take steps to increase the number of retailers participating in the scheme. [179814]

Reply from Mark Harper: There are no plans to estimate the value to retailers of participating in the Azure Card scheme. It is difficult to envisage how such an estimate would be made.

The Azure Card is already accepted by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrison's, the Co-operative, Boots, Peacocks, The British Red Cross, The Salvation Army and a few small independent retailers.

There are ongoing discussions with other retail outlets who may be interested in joining the scheme.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131216/text/131216w0001.htm#13121631000009>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arrived in the United Kingdom (1) in 2012, and (2) thus far in 2013. [HL4107]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): In 2012 there were 1,125 applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children (excluding dependants). There have been 835 applications in the first three quarters of 2013.

The Home Office publishes annual and quarterly statistics on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum seeking children in tables as_08 and as_08_q (Asylum data tables Volume 2) of Immigration Statistics. A copy of the latest release Immigration Statistics July — September 2013 is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2013> and will be placed in the Library of the House. Data for Q4 2013 will be available from 27 February 2014.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131218w0001.htm#13121851000465>

Immigration: Holding Facilities

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what improvements have been made to the short-term holding facilities at Heathrow Airport since they were the subject of critical reports by the Independent Monitoring Board; and when they now expect the deficiencies noted by the Board to be remedied. [HL3778]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Heathrow Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) published their annual report on 10 June 2013.

The provision of accommodation facilities at ports of entry are provided by the port operator, at Heathrow Airport this is Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL).

The Home Office has been working very closely with HAL to progress accommodation improvements to the short term holding facilities at Heathrow Airport.

Some improvements including re-decoration have already been implemented since the publication of the Independent Monitoring Board's Annual Report.

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

Border Force and HAL have agreed and signed off a scope of works that covers all the recommendations of the IMB report and more.

This includes expansion of the family room in Terminal 2 and Terminal 5; provision of showers and a toilet lobby in Terminal 5; re-configuration of the family accommodation at Lima 23; and a complete re-build of the holding room accommodation in Terminal 3 and Terminal 4.

HAL have produced a detailed project plan and the earliest that the works will be completed is December 2014. This is primarily because of the high level of costs associated with the works and that the funds do not become available to HAL until 1st April 2014 (new regulatory finance period). The works at Terminal 2 will be complete in time for opening of the terminal in June 2014.

HAL, Border Force and the Home Office are currently in the detailed design stage with HAL due to go to tender for a contractor to carry out the works in March 2014.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131217w0001.htm#13121755000536>

Human Trafficking

Frank Field: How many young people currently in young offenders institutions and specialist children's homes are being held on human trafficking offences. [901657]

Reply from the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims (Damian Green): From 2008 to 2012, no children and young people were sentenced to custody for human trafficking as the principal offence. This Government are committed to combating human trafficking. On Monday we published the draft Modern Slavery Bill to strengthen our response and to underpin the work of law enforcement agencies.

Frank Field: As the Lord Chief Justice has ruled that victims of slavery should not be prosecuted for crimes they undertake under the direction of their slave owners, will the Minister undertake an audit of young people in offender institutions to establish how many are there, even if they have been charged under a lesser crime, in order to see whether their cases should be reviewed?

Reply from Damian Green: Yes, as part of the extra work we are doing under the aegis of the draft Modern Slavery Bill, to which the right hon. Gentleman has contributed significantly, we are obviously looking at the individual effects on those who might have been victims of trafficking and enslavement. He makes a perfectly valid point.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131217/debtext/131217-0001.htm#13121744000019>

Human Trafficking

The Lord Bishop of Derby: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were arrested, prosecuted and convicted for human trafficking-related offences in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.[HL3443]

reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Wallace of Tankerness): Information on the number of arrests made by the police for human trafficking offences is not held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Crown Prosecution Service data is available through the Case Management System (CMS) and associated Management Information System (MIS). The CPS collects data to assist in the effective management of its prosecution functions. The CPS does not collect data which constitute official statistics as defined in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Official criminal justice statistics are

Immigration and Asylum UK Parliament Questions (continued)

published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The CPS does however maintain a central record of the number of cases flagged as involving human trafficking where there have been prosecutions, including convictions, by way of a monitoring flag, introduced in April 2010. The flag is applied at the onset of a case; and remains in place even if the charges are subsequently amended or dropped.

The number of human trafficking flagged prosecutions and convictions for the last three calendar years for which data is available, is as follows;

	Convictions	Unsuccessful		TOTAL	
2010	43	70.5%	18	29.5%	61
2011	98	67.1%	48	32.9%	146
2012	103	69.6%	45	30.4%	148

These figures should be used as an indicative guide only for the reasons set out above.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131217w0001.htm#13121755000534>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Frank Field (888) Romanian and Bulgarian citizens intending to work and live in the UK from 1 January 2014 – That this House notes the lifting of Transitional Provisions set out in Article 20 and Annexes VI and VII of the European Communities No. 2 (2005) Treaty from 1 January 2014 with reference to the movement of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens intending to work and live in the UK; acknowledges that there are nearly one million young people out of work in this country; and therefore urges the Government not to lift Transitional Provisions on the movement of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens intending to work and live in the UK while unemployment and youth unemployment remain so high in this country.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/888>

Press Releases

Advisory services for asylum seekers

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/december/90-funding>

Uniquely Scottish approach to Migration

<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Uniquely-Scottish-approach-to-Migration-771.aspx>

Modern slavery white paper published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/modern-slavery-white-paper-published>

Need to confiscate proceeds of trafficking crimes, unconditional assistance to victims, parts of forward-looking update to Action Plan to combat human trafficking

<http://www.osce.org/cthb/109751>

Respect migrants' rights, reject xenophobia, UN says on International Day

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46766&Cr=migra&Cr1=#.UrHIUmQW24Y>

Immigration and Asylum Press Releases (continued)

Border, migration and asylum laws need to comply with fundamental rights, says FRA
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2013/border-migration-and-asylum-laws-need-comply-fundamental-rights-says-fra>

Changing the debate on migration through art
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DebateOnMigrationThroughArt.aspx>

Promote and protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E>

New Publications

Monthly asylum application tables
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266678/asylum-oct2013.ods

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266680/children-detention-nov2013.ods

Changing Patterns of Global Migration and Remittances
<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/12/17/changing-patterns-of-global-migration-and-remittances/>

News

Curbs on EU benefits to come into force on 1 January
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25421086>

Migrant benefits curbs won't break EU law - Cameron
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/migrant-benefits-curb-won-t-break-eu-law-cameron-1-3238674>

David Cameron rushes in curbs on the rights of migrants to claim benefits to head off backbench revolt
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-rushes-in-curbs-on-the-rights-of-migrants-to-head-off-backbench-revolt-9011458.html>

Tories rush through curbs on benefits access for Romanians and Bulgarians
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/18/david-cameron-benefits-romanians-bulgarians>

Benefit controls rushed through: EU migrants will now have to wait three months before they can claim out-of-work handouts
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525580/Benefit-controls-rushed-EU-migrants-wait-months-claim-work-handouts.html>

Benefits delay is obstacle for jobless immigrants, says Iain Duncan Smith
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/18/benefits-delay-immigrants-iain-duncan-smith>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Moves to cap immigration from other EU countries

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/wider-political-news/moves-to-cap-immigration-from-other-eu-countries.22956712>

David Cameron takes his biggest gamble yet as he gets tough on Europe over immigration

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-takes-his-biggest-gamble-yet-as-he-gets-tough-on-europe-over-immigration-9018899.html>

Immigration cap 'would force Britain to quit EU'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3950210.ece>

Curb migration or we'll veto new EU states, says Cameron

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/economics/article3955541.ece>

EU immigration could be capped at 75,000 a year

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/eu-immigration-could-be-capped-at-75-000-a-year-1-3234372>

Slam the door on EU migrants and it is Britain that will get hurt

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/comment/regulars/guestcolumn/article1355221.ece>

Cable says 75,000 cap on EU migrants 'will not happen'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25484456>

European Union migrant cap plan illegal, says Nick Clegg

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25398612>

Clegg blocks more curbs on migrants

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1355829.ece

Nick Clegg says he'll block more curbs on immigrants from within the EU

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2527851/Clegg-says-hell-block-curbs-immigrants-EU.html>

May at centre of row over free movement of workers

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/may-at-centre-of-row-over-free-movement-of-workers-1-3235624>

Theresa May distances herself from plan for cap on EU migration

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/17/theresa-may-cap-eu-migration>

MPs debate immigration from Romania and Bulgaria

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25445888>

'We're importing a crime wave from Romania and Bulgaria': Tory MPs round on ministers as immigration curbs are lifted

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2526486/Were-importing-crime-wave-Romania-Bulgaria-Tory-MPs-round-ministers-immigration-curbs-lifted.html>

Should Britain fear a surge of east European migrants?

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/21/romanians-bulgarians-immigration-debate>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Families that need £18,600 to spend Christmas together: The shameful earnings threshold imposed on British citizens wanting to bring their foreign spouses here
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/families-that-need-18600-to-spend-christmas-together-the-shameful-earnings-threshold-imposed-on-british-citizens-wanting-to-bring-their-foreign-spouses-here-9013882.html>

UK immigration policy is punishing Britons with non-EU spouses
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/15/uk-immigration-policy-britons-spouses-trauma>

Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols attacks immigration targets
<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/15/archbishop-westminster-vincent-nichols-attacks-immigration-targets>

Catholic leader brands immigration policies 'inhumane'
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/10519879/Catholic-leader-brands-immigration-policies-inhumane.html>

UK parties struggling to address immigration
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-parties-struggling-to-address-immigration-1-3242076>

Anti-slavery law: Human traffickers to get life
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/anti-slavery-law-human-traffickers-to-get-life-1-3235280>

Modern Slavery Bill to be published, Home Office confirms
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25389760>

Modern Slavery Bill: 'Appalling' human traffickers to receive life sentences under draft legislation
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/modern-slavery-bill-appalling-human-traffickers-to-receive-life-sentences-under-draft-legislation-9007460.html>

MSP says UK move proves case for anti-human trafficking legislation at Holyrood
<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/msp-says-uk-move-proves-case-for-anti-human-trafficking-legislation-at-holyrood-1.166347>

On immigration patrol with British police in Romania
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25368670>

Immigration fears raised in study
<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk/immigration-fears-raised-in-study-1.166350>

Scottish independence: migrants' families welcomed
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scottish-independence-migrants-families-welcomed-1-3236179>

MSPs accuse Home Office of using far right language in campaign urging illegal immigrants to 'go home'
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/msps-accuse-home-office-using-2944133>

Campaign branded 'racist'...
<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/campaign-branded-racist-146047n.22995872>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

French border chief says UK 'a magnet for illegal immigrants'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/french-border-chief-says-uk-a-magnet-for-illegal-immigrants-9010760.html>

Immigration bill could lead to racism and homelessness, say MPs and peers

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/18/uk-immigration-bill-homelessness-racism-mps>

Britain's migrant population soars by 4m since 2001

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article3952097.ece>

Where UK immigrants were born: 1951-2011

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/interactive/2013/dec/17/where-uk-immigrants-born-1951-2011-census-ons>

SNP plans to increase asylum seekers' rights

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/article1355640.ece>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

Press Release

First ever EU legal instrument for Roma inclusion adopted

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1226_en.htm

[TOP](#)

Equality

New Publications

Scottish Ministers' proposals to enable the better performance of the Public Sector Equality Duty 2013-2017

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00440910.pdf>

Ethnicity and deprivation in England: How likely are ethnic minorities to live in deprived neighbourhoods?

<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/census/CoDE-Deprivation-Census-Briefing.pdf>

News

NHS Lothian leads in helping ethnic minorities rise

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/health/nhs-lothian-leads-in-helping-ethnic-minorities-rise-1-3235920>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

New Publications

An overview of hate crime in England and Wales

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266358/hate-crime-2013.pdf

Antisemitic Discourse in Britain in 2012

<http://www.thecst.org.uk/docs/Antisemitic%20Discourse%20Report%202012%20WEB.pdf>

Invisible Difference and 'Race Equality' in Scotland: Problems, Challenges and the Way Ahead

[http://bemis.org.uk/documents/Bemis - Invisible minorities - Executive Summary and Outline Review.pdf](http://bemis.org.uk/documents/Bemis_-_Invisible_minorities_-_Executive_Summary_and_Outline_Review.pdf)

News

Glasgow worst area for racism to health staff

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/glasgow-worst-area-for-racism-to-health-staff.22973809>

Glasgow the worst offender as racist attacks against hospital workers across the UK rise by 65% in just four years

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/health/glasgow-worst-offender-racist-attacks-2933503>

Rise in racist attacks on city NHS staff

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/rise-in-racist-attacks-on-city-nhs-staff-145684n.22975630>

Six years for former soldiers who firebombed mosque after Lee Rigby murder

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/six-years-for-former-soldiers-who-firebombed-mosque-after-lee-rigby-murder-9018507.html>

[TOP](#)

Scottish Independence Referendum

UK Government Publications

Implications for development in the event of Scotland becoming an independent country

Vol 1 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmintdev/692/692.pdf>

Vol 2 <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmintdev/692/692vw.pdf>

UK Government Press Release

Treasury analysis shows £1.6 billion funding gap in Scottish independence White Paper

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/treasury-analysis-shows-16-billion-funding-gap-in-scottish-independence-white-paper>

Scottish Independence Referendum (continued)

News

Scottish charity workers sign up to pro-independence campaign

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/news/1224915/Scottish-charity-workers-sign-pro-independence-campaign/>

[TOP](#)

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

Dumbarton to be the home of Parliament for the day

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/71352.aspx>

[TOP](#)

Other UK Parliament and Government

Parliamentary Question

Female Genital Mutilation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to implement the recommendations in the report, Tackling FGM in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [180279]

Reply from Jane Ellison: The Government welcomes the inter-collegiate report Tackling FGM in the United Kingdom, published recently. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is child abuse. We are committed to preventing and tackling FGM and are clear that safeguarding, prevention and a multi-agency approach are important to protect girls and young women from this abhorrent procedure. It is a priority of the Department to continue working with the medical Royal Colleges and other organisations supporting this report, Government departments and the Director of Public Prosecutions towards eradicating FGM in England. I recently met with stakeholders and representatives from Royal Colleges involved in the development of the inter-collegiate report to discuss the report's recommendations, and the group will meet again in the new year to continue this dialogue. The Department is currently looking at how best the national health service could collect and share information on FGM, with options in development to collect information on prevalence. With this work under way I will be looking to make an announcement in the new year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131216/text/131216w0005.htm#1312174000029>

[TOP](#)

New Publication

Who feels British? The relationship between ethnicity, religion and national identity in England

<http://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/census/CoDE-National-Identity-Census-Briefing.pdf>

[TOP](#)

Other News

The French way: a better approach to fighting FGM?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/the-french-way-a-better-approach-to-fighting-fgm-9006369.html>

M&S tells Muslim staff they CAN refuse to serve customers buying alcohol or pork

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2527820/Marks-Spencer-tells-Muslim-staff-CAN-refuse-serve-customers-buying-alcohol-pork.html>

[TOP](#)

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Suicide Bill

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

**** Children and Young People Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Education and Culture Committee: Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8715&mode=pdf>

proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b27s4-stage2-ml2.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b27s4-stage2-ml2.pdf)

**** Criminal Justice Bill**

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

Justice Committee: Stage 1 consideration of evidence

(from col 4012)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8717&mode=pdf>

**** Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/64983.aspx>

proposed amendments

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b36s4-stage2-ml1.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b36s4-stage2-ml1.pdf)

and

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/websiteamendments18.12.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Marriage%20and%20Civil%20Partnership%20(Scotland)%20Bill/websiteamendments18.12.pdf)

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Return to Nearest Safe Country) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumseekersreturntonearestsafecountry.html>

Asylum (Time Limit) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/asylumtimelimit.html>

Bills in Progress

UK Parliament (continued)

Charitable Status for Religious Institutions Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/charitablestatusforreligiousinstitutions.html>

Collection of Nationality Data Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/collectionofnationalitydata.html>

Face Coverings (Prohibition) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/facecoveringsprohibition.html>

Foreign Nationals (Access to Public Services) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/foreignnationalsaccesstopublicservices.html>

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/illegalimmigrantscriminalsanctions.html>

**** Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigration.html>

Joint Committee on Human Rights: Report

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201314/jtselect/jtrights/102/102.pdf>

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

Lobbyists (Registration of Code of Conduct) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/lobbyistsregistrationofcodeofconduct.html>

**** Modern Slavery Bill (draft)**

Draft Bill as published

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266165/Draft_Modern_Slavery_Bill.pdf

Memorandum: European Convention on Human Rights

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266167/ModernSlaveryECHRmemo.pdf

Impact Assessment

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266168/ModernSlaveryIA.pdf

Romanian and Bulgarian Accession (Labour Restriction) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/romanianandbulgarianaccessionlabourrestriction.html>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes in two weeks!**

Inquiry on Lobbying (closing date 10 January 2014)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/CfELobbying.pdf

Consultations (continued)

**** closes in two weeks!**

Call for evidence on local policing (closing date extended to 10 January 2014)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/69420.aspx>

Proposed Bill: Promoting greater accountability and transparency in local government (closing date 20 January 2013)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_MembersBills/John_Finnie_final_consultation.pdf

Inquiry into Scotland's Economic Future Post-2014 (closing date 31 January 2014)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/Inquiries/Economic_Future_Inquiry_-_Remit_and_Call_for_Evidence.pdf

Draft Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill (closing date 7 February 2014)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00438109.pdf>

**** Female Genital Mutilation** (closing date 12 February 2014)
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/female-genital-mutilation/>

Water and Sewerage Charges – Exemption Scheme for Small Third Sector Organisations (closing date 14 February 2014)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00437855.pdf>

**** The Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Bill** (closing date 19 February 2014)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_FinanceCommittee/Revenue_Scotland_and_Tax_Powers_Bill_call_for_evidence.pdf

Inquiry into the procedures for considering legislation (closing date 21 March 2014)
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/gettinginvolved/70605.aspx>

**** In our own words: undocumented migrants and their supporters** (closing date 30 March 2014)
<http://picum.org/en/our-work/undocumented-migrants/terminology/-in-our-own-words-call-for-submissions-from-undocumented-migrants-and-their-supporters>

Scottish Football Association Equality Survey (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VKJQQ95>

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

Faith and Belief Scotland (no closing date given)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/faithandbeliefscotland>

[TOP](#)

Job Opportunities

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

[TOP](#)

GRAMNet Film Series

15 January 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 February 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

12 March 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

14 May 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

18 June 2014 in Glasgow (6.00)

Film Series is organised in partnership between GRAMNet (Glasgow Refugee and Asylum Network), BEMIS, and The Iona Community, showcasing films and documentaries with a theme of Homecoming and Hospitality. Following each film, invited local organisations and community groups will suggest positive actions that can be undertaken locally to address one or more of the issues raised in each film. For information see http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_292556_en.pdf

Refugee Voices in the Scottish Referendum Debate

17 January 2014 in Glasgow (1.30 – 4.00)

Public meeting following the Scottish Refugee Council AGM to hear both the 'Better Together' and 'YES Scotland' campaigns to set out their visions for the future of Scotland with a particular focus on refugee issues. For information, and to book a place, contact Anna Cheung or Donna Gibson 0141 248 9799 / events@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Discrimination Law in 2014

20 January 2014 in Edinburgh (9.55 – 4.15)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to summarise the practical implications of new legislation and key judgments over the past year. For information see http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/Scotland/Legal/discrimination_law_2_014_edinburgh_publicity.doc or contact Angela Barclay 0141 228 5951 / equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

Ethnic Minority 3rd Sector Network Consultation on Scottish Government White Paper on Independence

20 January 2014 in Glasgow (12.30 – 4.00)

4 February 2014 in Inverness (12.30 – 4.00)

6 February 2014 in Kirkcaldy (12.30 – 4.00)

BEMIS in partnership with CEMVO events to enable ethnic minority communities to engage with the Scottish Government White Paper on Independence. For information contact Tanveer Parnez tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk or Fiaz Khan fiaz.khan@cemvoscotland.org.uk

Scottish Refugee Council Education Conference

25 January 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about education. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Migration and the Referendum Debate

7 February 2014 in Edinburgh (9.00 – 4.00)

Conference to enable politicians from Local, Scottish and UK Government, senior officers from across the public sector, academic experts, representatives from the third sector and the migrant community to engage in dialogue on migration in Scotland. For information contact Kirsty Anderson kirsty.anderson@cosla.gov.uk or see <http://www.migrationscotland.org.uk/news/2013/11/cosla-conference-migration-and-referendum-debate>

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Scottish Refugee Council Health Conference

22 February 2014 in Glasgow

Conference in association with the Scottish Refugee Policy for asylum seekers and refugees to find out their rights and options, share experiences and raise issues about health. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ktevalr> or contact 07734 030760 / communities@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

[TOP](#)

Useful Links

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

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

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

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

[TOP](#)



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

The copyright of each article belongs to the publisher on whose website it appears, and it may only be copied or reproduced in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions. Full details of these, and the publisher's contact information, are available on each website.