

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.

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

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

Immigration and Asylum

Press Releases

New policy on judicial reviews that challenge removals

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/policychangeonjudicialreviews>

Early success of new points system for foreign workers

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/Early-success-new-points-system>

Keeping children safe from harm

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/UKBA-keeps-children-from-harm>

Immigration and Asylum (continued) **New publications**

Addressing the Irregular Employment of Immigrants In The European Union: Between Sanctions And Rights

http://www.iom.hu/PDFs/Addressing%20the%20Irregular%20Employment%20of%20Immigrants%20in%20the%20European%20Union_Between%20Sanctions%20and%20Rights.pdf

Memorandum to the Czech Presidency: Redefining the building blocks of the Common European Asylum System

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Memo_Czech_Presidency.pdf

News

Nepalese man in fight to stay in country

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/12/24/newsstory12424165t0.asp>

Criminal deportations target met

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7799879.stm>

New immigration system 'won't work', experts warn

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/3966799/New-immigration-system-wont-work-experts-warn.html>

A callous immigration system

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/27/zimbabwe-asylum-immigration>

Mother's last-ditch plea to Home Office against deportation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mothers-lastditch-plea-to-home-office-against-deportation-1213855.html>

Passengers leaving Scotland to be screened at border

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2478180.0.Passengers_leaving_Scotl_and_to_be_screened_at_border.php

Digital borders

http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/editorial/display.var.2478114.0.Digital_borders.php

Scotland's Poles split over plan to set up their own schools

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Scotland39s-Poles-split-over-plan.4840614.jp>

Foreign students in visa test group

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/01/03/newsstory12453893t0.asp>

White working class feels ignored over immigration, says Hazel Blears

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/jan/02/immigration-working-class>

Gordon Brown's 'bluff' on migrant permits

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5439490.ece>

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

Court translator costs quadruple

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2479379.0.Court_translator_costs_quadruple.php

Pitching in to help refugees

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/display.var.2479516.0.pitching_in_to_help_refugees.php

Cabinet minister admits immigration 'free for all'

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5489536.ece>

Would-be citizens face another year's wait

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jan/11/economic-migrants-british-passport-bill>

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Race Relations

Press Releases

PM sends Chanukah greeting

...Friends this has been a truly momentous year for Britain's Jewish community. This year we have celebrated together as Israel reached its 60th birthday and as so many community charities and organisations increased their inspirational work to make Britain a better place.

So during these days of Chanukah I hope you find time to reflect on the symbol of the Menorah placed at the window - a reminder of how a small flame can light up a dark night, and how in bringing light into our own homes we give light to all those around us.

As you gather to light the Menorah in homes and synagogues across our country, know that our thoughts are with you as you retell and draw strength from this remarkable story of resilience and bravery.

Please do pass on my very best wishes for a happy Chanukah to your friends, family and members of your community.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17811>

Chanukah greeting from Hazel Blears

Chanukah is the festival of lights when Jewish people celebrate the rededication of the Temple. The lighting of the Menorah candles reminds us of the persistence of hope and endurance through difficult times. The attacks in Mumbai highlight the relevance of the message today.

But there is a tradition of mutual respect between all our communities in the united Kingdom. That is something that I'm really proud of, and I'm confident that it will continue to grow.

I just want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a really happy holiday."

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/hazelchannukah2008>

Race Relations (continued) **New publication**

Sources of resentment, and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1113921.pdf>

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Equality

New publications

Religion or Belief: A practical guide for the NHS (England/Wales only)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093133?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=181703&Rendition=Web

Ethnic Minorities in Politics, Government and Public Life

<http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/briefings/snsg-01156.pdf>

Continuing the Diversity Journey

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/pdf/pubst/stud/busicase08_en.pdf

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Racism and Religious Hatred

News

Teenager racially abused shop employee

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1005411>

'Prejudice in working-class communities a ticking bomb'

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2478892.0.Prejudice_in_workingclass_communities_a_ticking_bomb.php

Poorer whites feel betrayed, says report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/poorer-whites-feel-betrayed-says-report-1222859.html>

Muslim HBOS worker 'bullied'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Muslim-HBOS-worker-39bullied39.4854173.jp>

Gaza conflict 'being used as excuse for attacks on Jews'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Gaza-conflict---39being.4859190.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

"Why are your people doing this?" Bullying in the classroom and the situation in Israel

<http://timesonline.typepad.com/schoolgate/2009/01/why-are-your-pe.html>

UK anti-semitism 'surge' since Gaza attack

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/uk-antisemitism-surge-since-gaza-attack-1229111.html>

Poles in fear as economy takes a turn for the worse

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1021870>

Poles no longer feeling welcome

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1021572>

Prince's apology for racist term

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7822574.stm>

Poles call for anti-hate crime action

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/poles-call-for-antihate-crime-action-1254294.html>

Two guilty of inciting racial hatred against Jews

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/101_09.html

Whites may be more racist than they think

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/22/20090108/twl-life-us-racism-9020220.html>

Minister: recession may fuel racial tension

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article5489286.ece>

Recession will fuel racial tensions, Hazel Blears admits

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/financetopics/recession/4216543/Recession-will-fuel-racial-tensions-Hazel-Blears-admits.html>

Racism still persists in police

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/career_and_jobs/article5489228.ece

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Parliamentary Questions

Tavish Scott: I have a letter that was sent to all eligible staff at the Scottish Inter Faith Council on 11 December. It is their redundancy notice, which was sent by the convener of the executive committee, Major Alan Dixon. He writes:

"despite every reasonable attempt made by the SIFC Executive Committee on your behalf, core grant funding from Scottish Government beyond 16 January 2009 has not yet managed to be secured ... we are hereby giving you notice that your employment with SIFC will terminate on 16 January 2009."

Can the First Minister explain why it is the right time to risk closure of the Inter Faith Council through Government dithering and delay?

Reply from the First Minister: I am glad to inform Tavish Scott that the Inter Faith Council will not be closed, because the matter has been resolved. I hope that he believes that that is an example of effective action by the SNP Government.

Tavish Scott: I am delighted to hear that, but the First Minister needs to explain why redundancy notices were issued to all the staff at that time. If that is the case, we want that information to be put on the record and placed in the Scottish Parliament information centre today.

It is difficult to understand why, at this time of year, when the world is in the state that we see on our television news every day and when we have just had a parliamentary debate on Gaza, the Scottish Inter Faith Council was forced to issue redundancy notices before it could get straight answers from the Government. If the First Minister can now clarify exactly when the situation was resolved, we would all welcome that information.

Reply from the First Minister: Tavish Scott's correct response would have been to say, "I welcome the assurances that the First Minister has given. The Parliament should unite in welcoming the work of the Inter Faith Council." All organisations must submit their applications for funding, which must go through due process. Thanks to the intervention of the relevant minister, that due process has been completed. The Inter Faith Council's funding is secure and the damaging effects that Tavish Scott was worried about will not come to pass. In this new year, cannot he find it in his heart to welcome the Government's effective action?

Tavish Scott: I certainly welcome that action. All I am asking the First Minister to do is to put on the record in Parliament exactly when that action was taken and why redundancy notices had to be issued. Can he do that today, please?

Reply from the First Minister: I welcome the fact that Tavish Scott has got round to welcoming our action. The record is this: when the issue came to pass because the funding position had not been resolved, the relevant minister intervened and resolved it. That is what happened—that is the process of events. I would have thought that any reasonable person, of whom there are plenty in the Inter Faith Council, would regard that as an example of effective government in action. No matter how many times Tavish Scott asks the question, he should welcome the fact that the issue—about which he was, no doubt, genuinely concerned—has been resolved.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0108-02.htm#Col13822>

Johann Lamont (S3W-19245): To ask the Scottish Executive, with reference to the Accounts Commission report The impact of the race equality duty on council services, what steps are being taken to address the recommendation that the Scottish Government should ensure the availability of more up-to-date and useful social and demographic data on minority ethnic communities.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-09/bb-01-05e.htm>

Other Holyrood (continued) **Press Release**

First Minister's New Year Message

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/12/29115816>

New publication

Making the Scottish Parliament work for you

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/vli/publicInfo/mtspwfy/index.htm>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

Prime Minister's New Year message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17895>

Volunteers welcome criminal record checks to protect the vulnerable

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/Volunteers-welcome-CRB-checks>

New publication

Awareness of the CRB, and the impact of CRB checks on crime, the fear of crime and job applicants: Research with the general public for the Criminal Records Bureau

<http://www.crb.gov.uk/PDF/Final.pdf>

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New Publications

New online resource to help BME parents support their children in education

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/news/61/30/New-online-resouce-to-help-BME-parents-support-their-children-in-education-is-now-available.html>

Tell me what I need to know (about the Education system in England)

<http://tmwintk.realhistories.org.uk/>

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Other News

Stories on Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/StoriesHumanRights.aspx>

Butler-Sloss urges courts to recognise sharia divorces

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/lawandorder/3966680/Butler-Sloss-urges-courts-to-recognise-sharia-divorces.html>

Forced marriages society will be a defining issue of 2009

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5437965.ece>

The brutal memories of one who got away

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5437966.ece>

Anger in west Suffolk over plans for £738,000 site for travellers

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/labour/4092272/Anger-in-west-Suffolk-over-plans-for-738000-site-for-travellers.html>

More Asian women 'use hard drugs'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7809758.stm>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

**** Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Stage 1 evidence from ISEA (Scotland), and Goven Law Centre

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/ellc/or-08/ed08-3102.htm#Col1832>

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Sexual Offences Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Draft (Partial) Immigration and Citizenship Bill

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm73/7373/7373.pdf>

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Consultations (closing date) ** New or updated this week

Closes this week!

Discussion paper: Coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
(12 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0069128.pdf>

closes this week!

Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland (16 January 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238978/0065812.pdf>

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Strategic plan, Equality Scheme and Grants Programme

Consultation guides

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/consultations/pages/consultation08.aspx>

online consultation <http://equalityhumanrights.dialoguebydesign.net/>

UK Border Agency race, disability and gender equality scheme, 2009 to 2010

(28 January 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingforus/racedisability_genderscheme/

Publication of candidates' addresses at UK Parliamentary elections

(28 January 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/candidate-address-consultation.pdf>

Identity Cards Act secondary legislation (13 February 2009)

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

Proposed Palliative Care Bill (28 February 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/PalliativeCareConsultation.pdf>

Big Lottery Fund (28 February 2009)

<http://www.big-thinking.org.uk/consultationsurvey.aspx>

Consultation on the legislative framework for the regulation of alternative finance investment bonds (sukuk) (4 March 2009)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/consult_sukuk101208.pdf

End of Life Choices Bill (9 March 2009)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/MembersBills/pdfs/EndOfLifeChoicesConsultation.pdf>

Forced Marriage: A Civil Remedy? (28 March 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/248674/0071298.pdf>

**** Regulations to implement the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Act 2008**

(30 March 2009)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_092465?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=180685&Rendition=Web

**** Scottish Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan** (31 March 2009)

http://scottishhumanrights.com/documents/SHRC_StrategicPlan.pdf

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Job Opportunities

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

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

This week!

Scottish Refugee Council AGM

15 January 2009 in Edinburgh

For information contact Graeme Corbett 0141 248 9799 /

graeme.corbett@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Equality and Human Rights Commission

21 January 2009 in Stirling

11 February 2009 in Melrose

25 February 2009 in Inverness

18 March 2009 in Aberdeen

Opportunities for advice-giving and frontline representatives of voluntary, community, and educational organisations to meet the EHRC Legal Team and find out more about the Commission and how to work with it, and to let the EHRC know what issues are most significant to you and your service users. For information contact James Andrew 0141 228 5917 / David Reilly 0141 228 5967 / roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com

**** Make a difference in your community**

13 February 2009 in Glasgow (10.00 – 1.00)

Government Equalities Office event to encourage more women, especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds to consider standing as a local councillor. For information see http://www.equalities.gov.uk/women_councillors_taskforce/events.aspx

**** Equality and Diversity**

23 April 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30 – 4.30)

SCVO seminar exploring the myths and facts surrounding the six equality strands - race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age. For information contact Jane Baillie jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk / 0131 474 8019.

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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/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

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

Useful Links (continued)

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

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

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>
Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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>



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/>